

September 30,
2011



GREATER VICTORIA SCHOOL DISTRICT #61

Newsletter #2

View Royal K—5

'A CARING COMMUNITY OF LEARNERS'

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Dear Parents,



Thank you for all your support this month in getting the school year off to a successful start. We appreciate you filling out all the start of year forms, and getting students into their school routines. Students are now settling into their classes nicely, and a number of school-wide events are underway this week. Our first is the annual **Fall Food Drive**. Donations of non-perishable food items will be accepted in the boxes at the main entrance until Friday October 7, just before Thanksgiving Weekend. Donations will go to the Goldstream Foodbank for needy families. We also held our **Terry Fox Run** this afternoon. Students learned about Terry and his legacy this month in classrooms and at our last assembly. We were pleased to add our efforts to helping find a cure for cancer and supporting the Terry Fox Foundation.

This is an unusual experience this fall as we are working through the teacher job action and the provincial labour dispute. We were sorry to have to cancel the Meet the Teacher Night and Corn Roast that usually happens in September. Staff are working hard to ensure students are affected as little as possible during this time, and we are hopeful that negotiations will be successfully concluded soon. However, it is difficult to know how long the teacher's strike will last, or if it will escalate to full picket lines. Some events may be affected if it continues, such as Parent-Teacher Conferences, so please look for further information about any change to our school calendar this fall.

In the meantime, thank you to our PAC, staff and students for working together so well for a fantastic start to the school year!

Rob Parker, Principal

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY Friday, October 21,

Students will not be in attendance on this day as staff are taking part in a variety of professional development offerings.

DATES TO REMEMBER!!!!

- OCT. 10 THANKSGIVING
- OCT 11 PHOTO DAY
- OCT. 15 BOTTLE DRIVE
- OCT 20 FUN FOOD DAY
- OCT 21 PRO-D DAY
- OCT. 28 HALLOWEEN DANCE



PARKING LOT

Fall weather is approaching and more families are (and will be) driving their children to school. To keep all of our children (and their families) safe we would ask that you adhere to the following parking lot procedures:

- ⇒ Please follow the arrows around our school's parking lot, going in the opposite direction has resulted in cars and people meeting up unexpectedly with each other.
- ⇒ **Please, please, please** do not park your car in the **DROP OFF ZONE**. This area is just for the quick drop off of your children in the morning ~ parking in these spaces creates congestion all the way onto Helmcken Road as people cannot turn in the school parking lot.
- ⇒ Please ensure that the handicapped parking area (on Helmcken Road) is left for those parents/students who are not able to use the stairs to get into the school
- ⇒ Please do not park in the bus lane (in front of the school) after 2:30 p.m. as the school bus has nowhere else to park ~ the occasional ticket has been issued there so it is best not to park there at all.
- ⇒ Please remember this is a school zone and the speed limit is 30kmh.
- ⇒ THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!! ~



Cross-Country Season Begins Next Week!!



The Cross-Country season, for students in Grades 3-5, begins next week with the first race being held on Monday, October 3rd - 3:45 p.m. at Lambrick Park. Subsequent races are on Tuesday, October 11, and Monday, October 19th ~ both of these races also begin at 3:45 p.m. .

The cross-country finals will be held on Monday, October 24 at Beacon Hill Park at 1pm. Permission forms have been sent home with students who expressed an interest. Parents are responsible for arranging transportation to and from these meets.



Library News

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!

Our library cannot run smoothly without the help of volunteers. Mrs. O'Sullivan is looking for adults to help shelve library books on a weekly basis. If you could spare 15-30 minutes a week, at anytime during the school day, please see Mrs. O'Sullivan in the Library.



PARENT RESOURCES

The PAC and Mrs. O'Sullivan would like to have a collection of Parent Resources available in the Library. If you have a PARENTING BOOK that you are finished with and would like to donate it to the Parent Library or if you know of a great PARENTING BOOK title, please let Mrs. O'Sullivan know. If you would like to view/sign out one of the PARENTING BOOKS that are already part of the Parent Library, please see Mrs. O'Sullivan.

Healthy Lunches

Please consider the following ideas / requests:
Please send your child(ren) with Tupperware or other similar plastic, reusable containers for their snacks and lunch. Put in healthy choices such as carrot sticks, cut-up pepperoni, raisins, dates, grapes, pickles, cheese chunks.



Paperless Newsletters

EMAIL...this will be the first and hopefully the last hard copy of our newsletter. That means, we will now be sending your newsletter by email ~ this will have all the important dates, events, etc. Please send Jane Massy an email at jmassy@sd61.bc.ca, just type NEWSLETTER in the subject, and we will add you to our list. Families without access to the internet will still receive hard copies of the newsletter.

Lice at School

We would like to ask parents to help limit lice outbreaks by doing regular checks on children's hair at home. If your child does have lice, please treat them with the appropriate shampoo from the pharmacy and let the school know so we can alert other parents in the class. Thank you for your help in dealing with this annual challenge!

Safe Arrival

SAFE ARRIVAL

This program will be up and running on Tuesday, September 21 ~ if your child is away or absent please leave a message (250)479-1393. This year, all children will be enrolled in the program. If you would like your child removed please leave a message at the same number. Thank you.



Lost and Found

LOST AND FOUND...already!!! Some of it may be last year's leftovers ~ please have a look through the hallway and see if you recognize any items...shoes, boots, socks, coats, etc.!!!



School-Wide Run

The sunny weather has allowed classes to take part in the daily Whole-School Run at 11:45 am everyday. Students do laps around the school. In addition to promoting overall fitness, it helps the Cross Country Team members prepare for their upcoming Meets. Thanks to Mr. Fraser for getting this daily event going this fall!

Northridge PAC Presents: Safe Kids For Parents (Abduction Prevention)

When: Wednesday Nov. 16, 2011 from 7:00 - 9:00pm in the Northridge School gym

Who: Parents and Guardians only (sorry, no students for this seminar)...please help spread the word...any parent or guardian is welcome to attend (not just Northridge parents)

Cost: \$5.00/person

This seminar is designed to give parents and guardians the ability to “Keep your child informed, defensible, and safer”, by providing you with the information you need to know to keep your child safer. Darren and Beth Laur’s motto is to “Enlighten not Frighten”. This seminar is designed to provide the parents with the most “up to date” peer reviewed information available specific to abduction prevention. Topics covered in this seminar include:

- Current Stats and facts specific to abduction and sexual exploitation
- Who is the abductor
- How can we protect our children from stranger abduction
- Why teaching “stranger danger” does not work
- The “Lures” used to trick our children
- What about hands on self protection
- Walking to and from school
- What if my child does go missing
- Safety rules for the new millennium
- Parental responsibilities for child safety

Darren Laur is currently a staff sergeant with the Victoria Police department, with over 25 years of policing experience. In 1993, Darren and his wife, Beth, started their company, Personal Protections Systems Inc., which specializes in teaching safety awareness and self protection strategies. They have presented to thousands of organizations and have written several books, one of which has one a provincial award. This seminar promises to be an informative, entertaining and engaging. For more information on this Darren and Beth Laur please check out their website at <http://www.personalprotectionsystems.ca/>

