

DIAMOND SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

October, 2019

Dear Parents,

Autumn has officially arrived, and the new school year is off to a fabulous start! We have a busy month ahead filled with lots of exciting events. Attached is our school calendar for October.

The Grades Four to Six classes participated in the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up on Tuesday, September 24th. Our hearty group of students, parents, and teachers joined the many Canadians from coast to coast and cleaned up one of our local green spaces at Brookwood Park in Langley. All participants should be very proud of their efforts, knowing that they made a difference to our shorelines and waterways. A special thank you to all the parents who drove and supervised for this field trip!

The Grades Seven/Eight field trip to Sendall Gardens was a very successful and encouraging excursion. All of the students participated in the art/ mapping activities they were assigned, and each individual was able to pursue their interests by devoting more time to the activity that interested them the most. Everyone was very well behaved, and they all did a fabulous job socializing with each other; creating a good reputation for themselves, as well as the school. We would also like to thank our volunteer drivers for making this field trip possible!

A tremendous thanks goes out to Kim and the Grade Three class for organizing the Terry Fox Day event and donations. They did a wonderful job presenting information about Terry Fox at the school assembly and all the students from Kindergarten to Grade Ten enjoyed doing buddy laps together throughout the day. All donations brought in will go towards cancer research and we would like to thank everyone who contributed to this very worthy cause!

Understanding Communication – Communicating Student Concerns

As noted in the previous newsletter, the staff at Diamond School hope to improve our understanding of communication and we desire to practice communication with understanding. Good communication practices ultimately benefit students as they learn to develop confidence, good work habits, and the self-esteem necessary to be able to constructively voice concerns and effectively solve problems. As adults we are the example of creatively addressing the challenges that can and often do arise during the course of the school year. Please let us know if your child is having any difficulties at school, as it is very important to us that all our students are feeling comfortable socially and academically.

If you have a question or a concern, or simply wish to touch base with your child's teacher, please come into the school for a visit, or contact your child's teacher through Edmodo, a phone call, or through the teacher's email. Your child's teacher is the first person to go to with regards to any issues relating to your child's school experience. Most issues can be addressed with this parent/teacher contact. If you wish to seek further assistance you are encouraged to meet with one of our Administrative Coordinators (Kim, James, Krista or Sean). We are here to help in any way we can.

Beginning October 4th, the following email addresses will become active to further enable understanding communication between parents and teachers. Do please take advantage of this convenient form of communication.

alanna@diamondschool.ca
braydee@diamondschool.ca
deborah@diamondschool.ca
dennis@diamondschool.ca
eric@diamondschool.ca
hayley@diamondschool.ca
james@diamondschool.ca
joyce@diamondschool.ca
justine@diamondschool.ca
kelly@diamondschool.ca

kim@diamondschool.ca
krista@diamondschool.ca
loreta@diamondschool.ca
michelle@diamondschool.ca
nerissa@diamondschool.ca
rashmi@diamondschool.ca
samantha@diamondschool.ca
sean@diamondschool.ca

Graduation Program Planning Committee

On Friday September 27th, a Graduation Program planning committee composed of various representatives in the school met to discuss the future of the Diamond School graduation program. The committee decided that we would use a formal consultation process with three different constituents: Diamond School Teachers / Staff, Diamond School students (Grade Seven and higher), as well as the Diamond School parents and guardians. After all people have had opportunity to express their views, the committee will consolidate the results and frame them into a proposal which will be seen by the Diamond School Society board who will have the final decision on all recommendations put forward by the committee. You can expect to hear more about this planning committee and the consultation process in future newsletters.

Fire Prevention Week

From October 6th to 12th, fire departments across Canada and the United States are participating in Fire Prevention Week to raise public awareness about the dangers of fire and how to prevent it. We greatly appreciate two of our fire fighter parents volunteering their time to conduct safety talks for the Kindergarten to Grade Four students. For further fire prevention information and activities visit the website at www.firepreventionweek.org.

Thanksgiving Food Bank Drive

To enhance our community spirit, students and staff in Diamond School will be having a food drive and collecting items for the Surrey Food Bank throughout the week, until the morning of Tuesday, October 15th. The classes from the Kindergarten to Grade Three, Grades Four to Six, and Grades Seven to Ten modules with the greatest number of donated items for the food bank will win a *No Dress Code Day*, and the winners will be announced on Friday. Please check the expiry dates and be sure the food is in the original packaging when sending in any donated items. ***Please send in your non-perishable food items by October 15th for this very worthy community cause.***

Scholastic Book Fair

There will be a Scholastic Book Fair at the school beginning Tuesday, October 15th and continuing through Monday, October 21st. The book fair will run on these days from 3:05 p.m. until 4:15 p.m. Please help us to reach our goal of \$1600 in sales as this entitles the school to over \$900.00 to purchase library books and resource materials for the school. Scholastic has a wide range of books and other materials, so drop in and see what is available.

If you are available to help with the book fair on any of the days from 2:45 to 4:30 p.m., please phone or speak to Sue in the elementary school office.

Special Lunches

The special lunch for K to Grade Six students in October is as follows:

Friday, October 18th – Subway Lunch

An order form for this lunch is attached to the newsletter.

The Grades Seven to Ten classes will have the opportunity to order a Pita Pit Lunch on Thursday, October 24th.

Thanksgiving Day Holiday

The school will be closed on Monday, October 14th, for the Thanksgiving Day holiday.

Shake Out British Columbia Day

Thursday, October 17th at 10:17 a.m. has been reserved for the next *Shake Out B.C.* earthquake drill. This drill will further support public awareness and education of earthquake and emergency preparedness.

Professional Day

There will be no classes for students on Friday, October 25th, as there is a province wide professional day scheduled.

Student Photograph Retakes

Please note that Mountain West photograph retakes are scheduled for Wednesday, October 30th. If you require a photo retake, please contact Sue at the elementary office. Class pictures will be taken in the spring.

School Clothing

Please take a few minutes to **label all school clothing** to help us return lost items to their owners. Since the weather is becoming colder, students are reminded to bring a school sweater for class, as well as adequate outer wear and coats for outside play. In addition, boots are not considered appropriate footwear to wear in the classroom; however, students are welcome to wear them outdoors during break times.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS & SPECIAL EVENTS:

Bose Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze Field Trip – Grades Three & Four

On Friday, October 11th, the Grades Three and Four classes will be going to the Hazelmere Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze in Surrey. The students will participate in an informative program, presentation and wagon ride. They will also enjoy a petting zoo and corn maze. A permission form for this field trip is included.

Historic Stewart Farmhouse – Grade Five

The Grade Five class will be going to the Historic Stewart Farmhouse to participate in a workshop called *Immigrant Perspectives* on Tuesday, October 22nd. A permission form, along with further information, will be sent home next week.

Coastal Climbing Centre Field Trip – Grade Six

To promote team building and further promote a supportive environment within the class, the Grade Six class will participate in rock climbing at the Coastal Climbing Centre on Tuesday, October 15th. Further details, along with a permission form, are included.

Aldor Acres Pumpkin Patch – Kindergarten, Grades One & Two

The Kindergarten to Grade Two classes will be visiting Aldor Acres Pumpkin Patch in Langley on the afternoon of Thursday, October 24th. The students will also learn about fall vegetables, visit the petting zoo, as well as go on a hayride to the pumpkin patch where they will have the opportunity to choose a pumpkin to take home. Further details will go home later in the month.

Clover Lanes Bowling – Grades Seven - Ten

On Monday October 21st, the Grade Seven to Ten students will be taking part in a bowling field trip to Clover Lanes. We feel this is a good opportunity to fulfill the ministry expectation that we build students' competence and confidence in a variety of activities and environments, including both indoor and outdoor activities, throughout their lives, whether they are playing sports, dancing, engaging in recreational activities, or walking to work. Not only so, but bowling allows students to mix and socialize across grades in a relaxing environment with funny shoes! Stay tuned for further details.

Halloween Party

On Wednesday, October 31st, the students will be participating in Halloween activities in the afternoon. Students can either wear their costume to school on this day, or they can bring it with them and change before the party. A notice will be sent home later in the month with further details. ***Please note students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. on this day!***

Yearly Eye Examinations

As students grow, their eyesight changes; hence, it is important to take your child in for an eye examination every year. The cost of the visit to an optometrist for an eye examination for children under sixteen is covered by health care.

Some Reminders about Attendance...

* School begins at 8:55 a.m. for all students. For attendance purposes, please note that students arriving after the bell are marked late, and the late is recorded on the progress report attendance.

* Students who arrive late should check in at the office before going to class.

* Students leaving school before the end of the day should inform their homeroom teacher and someone at the office before leaving the school grounds.

* Please notify the office if your child is going to be absent from school.

* Please notify Sue or Laura-Lynn of any phone number and/or address changes.

Diamond School Staff