

Annual Report to Families

September 2006

This annual report to the school community provides an overview of Deroche Elementary School's various programs as well as our goals for the future. We look forward to your feedback. It will help us to refine our school growth plan as we strive to provide your children with a well rounded education.

The student population of Deroche Elementary School is unique in that approximately 60% of our students are of Aboriginal heritage. Deroche Elementary is proud to be one of four schools in the District that offers a full-time kindergarten program for our Aboriginal families.

Mission Statement and Motto

The mission of Deroche Elementary School is to provide a safe and healthy environment where students are encouraged to believe in their abilities to learn so they will become responsible, life-long learners and develop the skills to meet their personal goals for a successful future. Our school motto is, "Deroche Elementary School. . .where children come first."

School Goals

Our staff and School Planning Council (S.P.C.) developed the following goals for the 2006/2007 school year:

- to improve student knowledge, skills and attitudes toward writing and oral expression



Beginning Our House Post Project



Making Jump Rope for Heart Posters

- to develop a positive attitude toward mathematics and to increase the level of knowledge and skills related to numeracy and problem solving
- to develop a competent level of knowledge and skills related to computer technology for all students
- to improve the social responsibility skills of our student population and for students to self-assess using the Social Responsibility Scales
- to maintain an awareness of the Aboriginal Culture for all students

Student Learning

Our data continues to demonstrate that we need to improve our students' literacy skills. "The purpose of working with oral language. . . is to help students understand that their thoughts can be talked about, written about, and read about." (Carmen Crevola & Mark Vineis in *Let's Talk About It*) To support this, we will deliver a balanced literacy program, covering the various aspects of Reading and Writing. We will make use of the B.C. Performance Standards for Writing a year-long focus for improving the writing skills of our students. To build the linguistic underpinnings of writing, we will continue to facilitate the development of oral language in kindergarten and grade one, and further support it through the English as a Second Dialect Program (E.S.D.) in grades two to seven.

Our data indicates that we need to

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improve our students' numeracy and problem solving skills. Last year we began implementation of the "Math Makes Sense" (M.M.S.) program in both the primary and intermediate divisions. This year Staff development will continue to focus on the teaching methods and strategies that are designed to improve the numeracy skills of our students. We plan on teaching specific problem solving strategies school wide, supporting at-risk students through a multi-age Guided Math group at the intermediate level, and purchasing supplementary materials to support the M.M.S. program.

The results of our Satisfaction Surveys of parents and students indicate low levels of satisfaction with computer technology. The staff is in agreement. Our students need a competent level of computer skills to better prepare them for secondary education. Since our computer lab was renovated in 2005/2006 to accommodate more computers, and we have purchased 30 PC computers via the "Computers for Learners" program, we are now poised to focus our time and effort on this goal.

Socially Responsible Students

The staff of Deroche Elementary works hard to develop socially responsible students. The following programs demonstrate the many opportunities provided for our students to develop strong social skills:

- Code of Conduct - our code



Cultural Fair Presentations



At Science World

of conduct encourages students to be "Responsible, Respectful, and Safe (R.R.S.)

- W.I.T.S. Strategies - the acronym W.I.T.S. stands for "Walk Away, Ignore, Talk About It, Seek Help" – four strategies that can be useful in helping students solve social problems peacefully
- Recycling - the students in Division 2 recycle all the tetrapaks, pop tins, and bottles which accumulate at lunch and recess
- Caring for Others - students at Deroche Elementary are learning to care for others through their participation in a variety of charitable programs. Traditionally, our students raise funds for the Terry Fox Foundation, the Tour for a Friend Foundation (Cops for Cancer), U.N.I.C.E.F., the Variety Club Telethon, the Easter Seals Campaign, and the B.C. & Yukon Heart and Stroke Foundation (Jump Rope for Heart)
- Student Council - the Deroche Elementary Student Council meets regularly to discuss a variety of student initiatives throughout the year. Each year they raise funds for a variety of non-profit organizations. Members of the Student Council lead our monthly Recognition Assemblies, plan School Spirit Days, and organize special events such as the School Wide Easter Egg &

Scavenger Hunt.

Healthy Living

This year our staff will be piloting the Healthy Buddies program, an initiative of B.C. Children's Hospital funded by the Provincial Health Services Authority. This program empowers elementary school children to live healthier lives by providing them with knowledge about, as well as encouraging positive attitudes toward, the three components of health: physical activity, healthy eating and feeling good about yourself.

Cultural Project

A major cultural project for this year will be the carving of our aboriginal House Post which, when completed, will welcome all those who come to our school. Tom Patterson has been commissioned to complete the project, which he began last spring. We plan to celebrate the completion of this project with a community feast and house post raising ceremony.

Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C.)

Deroche Elementary School has a small but very active Parent Advisory Council. This group of dedicated parents works extremely hard to support our students in a variety of ways. The students and staff appreciate the involvement of our P.A.C. and sincerely thank them for their efforts.

Deroche Elementary

"WHERE CHILDREN COME FIRST"

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