

# Annual Report to Families

January 2008

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.) determined the following goals for the 2007/2008 year:

- to improve student knowledge, skills and attitudes toward writing and oral expression
- to develop a positive attitude



*Little Readers*



*Using the laptop mini-lab*

toward mathematics and to increase the level of knowledge and skills related to numeracy and problem solving

- 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 our students

## Student Learning

The Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA's) are required provincial assessments for all students in B.C. in grades 4, 7 and 10. The assessments provide us with valuable information as to how our students are doing in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy (mathematics). Our students' results over the past 5 years have shown a steady improvement.

Deroche Elementary

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Here are our school's results for 2006/2007, with the District results following in brackets. The percentage of our students meeting or exceeding expectations in 2006/2007 were:

Grade 4 Results

-Reading Comprehension: 88% (75%)  
 -Writing: 88% (86%)  
 -Numeracy: 75% (84%)

Grade 7 Results

-Reading Comprehension: 63% (71%)  
 -Writing: 75% (80%)  
 -Numeracy: 71% (79%)

The District Assessment Reading Test (DART) assesses the reading comprehension skills of our students in Grades 3 to 7 in the spring of each year. Our results have shown a steady improvement over time (see table at top centre column):

**Social Responsibility -**

The following programs demonstrate the many opportunities provided for our

**District Reading Assessment Test (DART)**

Year	Not Yet Within Expectations	Meets Expectations	Fully Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
2004	28.13%	50.00%	21.88%	0.00%
2005	43.94%	37.88%	18.18%	0.00%
2006	31.67%	36.67%	31.67%	0.00%
2007	13.73%	60.78%	21.57%	3.92%

students to develop strong leadership skills: **Code of Conduct** - our code 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  
**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 an assortment 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.



Cops For Cancer arriving at Deroche

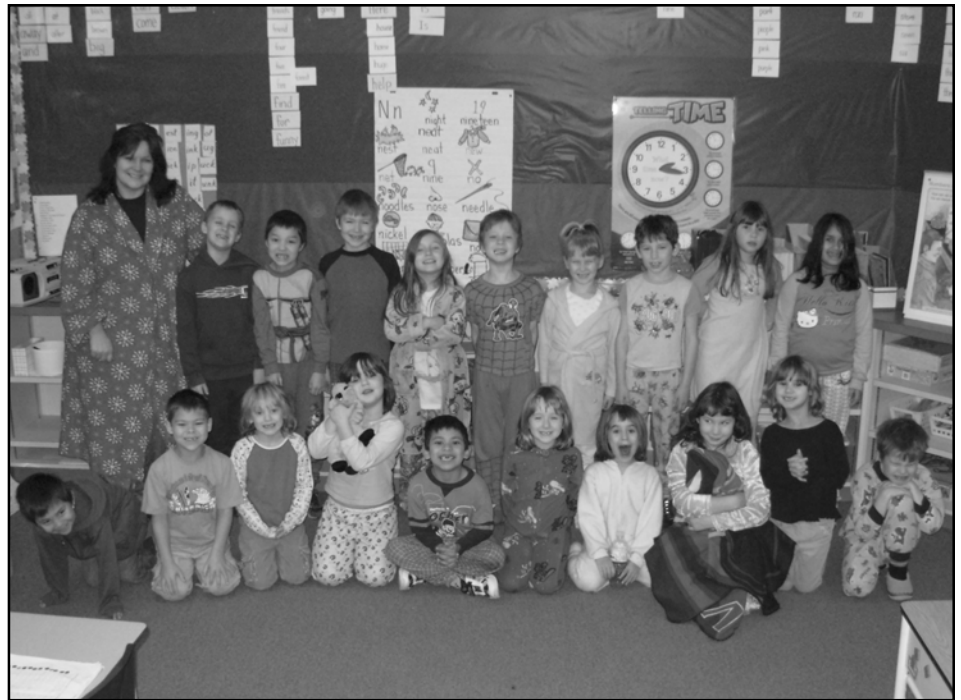
## Technology

Thanks to a grant obtained by the District's Aboriginal Department, our school was fortunate to receive a portable laptop mini-lab featuring 18 IBM Thinkpads. A new wireless internet system, coupled with state of the art IBM software, gives Deroche one of the most up to date computer labs in the District.

## Healthy Living

**Fruit & Vegetable Program** - Our school is participating in the B.C. Fruit & Vegetable Program. Twice a week, each of our students receives a serving of fresh B.C. produce for their enjoyment. A new product arrives at our school every two weeks and is distributed by parent volunteers to each class.

**Athletics Program** - Although the staff of Deroche Elementary is small in number, we provide



*Division 4 on Pajama Day*

students with a variety of athletic opportunities throughout the school year. These activities include soccer, cross country running, basketball, volleyball, floor hockey, and track & field.

The school encourages students to become involved in these athletic endeavours which promote physical fitness and encourage lifelong enjoyment of physical activity.

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*Nia and Sara working on a project*



*Kayla, Morgan, Lyndsey & Cyle Recycling*

## Literacy

**Library Program** - under the direction of our Teacher-Librarian, our library has been completely updated and reorganized; the primary section has been made more user friendly and functional. A new set of Encyclopedias was purchased last year with funds provided by our Parent Advisory Council.

**Ready, Set, Learn/Books 4 Lunch** - In this program parents have an opportunity to attend 5 sessions designed to help them prepare their preschool aged child for Kindergarten. They have access to informational sessions from Public Health and our Kindergarten teachers.

**Little Readers** - This program, run by parent volunteers, is new to our school this year. Parents of pre-school aged children are welcome to come to the library from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. every Wednesday.

Each session consists of a welcoming activity, shared reading, a craft activity and a snack.

## Numeracy

Last year Deroche Elementary purchased the Math Makes Sense Program (MMS) for our Intermediate Department (we were already using MMS with our primary students) and, with the help of the District's Math Helping Teacher, our staff began implementing the program school



*Parent volunteers -  
Fruit and Vegetable Program*

wide. At the Intermediate Level, Guided Math classes enable students of similar ability to work together, as teachers group students not by grade but by ability. Staff development will continue to focus on teaching methods and strategies designed to improve the numeracy skills of our students.

**Music Program** - Our Music Teacher delivers a primary program focusing on singing skills and rhythm instruments. The intermediate program focuses on the Orff instruments, recorders and some choral work.

## 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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