

David Cameron Elementary School Parent Advisory Council Newsletter

“Support - Listen - Nurture - Advise”



September 2011

PRESIDENT'S PEN

Welcome Back David Cameron Families!



Change is an interesting thing. Some people thrive on it, some people are indifferent to it and some people are nervous about it.

Eight summers ago, while I was on vacation to my home town of Nelson, B.C, an abnormally high wind storm descended upon the town. Soon and very unexpectedly our 100 foot, 100 year old willow tree, that was the focal point in our backyard, came crashing down. In an instant the backyard was completely destroyed and changed forever. My family was numb in the hours and days after the storm. Every time we looked at our backyard, the security and comfort that our willow tree had offered was gone and replaced with apprehension and uneasiness. However, as the days turned into weeks and months, and new plans and opportunities for the backyard started to unfold, the uneasiness and apprehension turned into excitement and intrigue.

This summer brought some changes to David Cameron. There are many new faces at David Cameron this fall, but most notably, Mrs. Whittaker, our school secretary, who always had a friendly smile and a helpful hand for all students, parents and staff, has now moved on to working at the district office. Even though we will miss the staff and teachers who have moved on, we welcome all the new staff and teachers to our David Cameron school community and extend a warm welcome to our new principal Mrs. Collyer.

Another new change to our school this fall is full day kindergarten. Our new kindergarten students have the prestigious honor of being David Cameron's first full day kindergarten class. The teachers have worked hard this past summer to create warm and welcoming classrooms for the kindies. It is going to be very exciting to have kindies full time in the school. For the first time, the kindies will be able to participate fully in all the activities and opportunities David Cameron has to offer - like the hot lunch program, for example.

Finally, the DCPAC will be going green this fall by changing to electronic communications with the parents. This topic has been in discussions at many meetings over the past couple of years. To help the environment, to reduce paper cost, and to notify parents more effectively and efficiently, the PAC is moving towards emailing parents/guardians all notices and related information. Switching to electronic communications will create efficiencies for everyone involved. For instance, students will no longer have to remember their notices, parents will no longer have to look for them in the “backpack express”, and PAC will no longer have to spend hours photocopying and distributing these notices. The PAC is working closely with Principal Collyer to ensure this transition goes smoothly. Switching from paper notices to email notices will take several weeks and some new processes are required to ensure the new communication method is working well. Rest assured that emails will only be used for PAC communication. Therefore, please be patient during this time while all the “kinks” are worked out. The DCPAC is very excited about going green and being able to better communicate with the DC parents/guardians.

As stated previously, some students and parents may thrive on these changes, some may be indifferent, some may be nervous and some may wonder how their child will be affected by all these changes. All these thoughts and feelings are to be expected when so many changes are occurring all at once. David Cameron school community has a long-standing history of being inclusive and supportive of one another. Our strong sense of community will enable us to build on these changes and capitalize on the opportunities they create. Change does bring with it some trials and tribulations; however, patience and working together as a team will help ensure our children will continue to have a great school and wonderful school community to belong to.

At this time I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new and returning students, families, teachers, staff and administration to David Cameron. The David Cameron Parent Advisory Council is looking forward to working with our school community this year and is excited to see what wonderful opportunities lie ahead. If you have any questions regarding the DCPAC or school community please feel free to contact me at president@dcpac.ca

Welcome Back, - Kim Campbell, David Cameron PAC President

Quote of the Month: Change always comes bearing gifts. ~Price Pritchett

Be Brave For Your Children's Sake: Attend Your Very First PAC Meeting

Ever considered coming to a PAC meeting but chickened out? Our prediction is that you'll find yourself chatting with people just like you: busy, stressed, exhausted, wondering if you will get home in time to sneak in a glass of wine – and interested in knowing a bit more about the inner workings of your child's school.

Here's what to expect:

The meeting starts at 7:00 pm & usually includes:

- A round of how do-you-dos
- The inside scoop from the principal (Vivian Collyer) & the vice-principal (Dale Jarvis)
- PAC blahdeblah (i.e., hot dogs, fundraisers, soccer-mom fashion tips)

Now that you know what to expect, here's what NOT to expect:

- Getting signed up against your will to sell chocolate almonds**
- More acronyms***

We're hoping this will quell your fears -- and inspire you to come out and consider being part of the PAC! If you are really scared, bring a friend!

*Plus, here's a little known **secret** of the active PAC parent: You get to skip out on the "have you brushed your teeth-why aren't your pajamas on-yes you need to floss-what do you mean you left your favourite stuffy downstairs-no you can't have a snack NOW!" routine and look virtuous all at the same time!*

Questions? E-mail Kim Campbell (PAC prez) at president@dcpac.ca

***This doesn't occur until later in the year . . . and by then you'll be so inspired . . .*

****Except SPEAC, DRC, BCPSEA, PACE, BCESIS, DRP, BORING, DCPAC*



Your PAC Executive for 2011/ 12

President - Kim Campbell

Vice-president - Tammy Young

Treasurer - Melissa Hopkins

Michelle Bressan

Gaming Treasurer - Teresa Husu

Secretary - Tanya Demmings

SPEAC Rep - Swati Scott

Fundraising Coordinators - Trish Burnett/



Your PAC Coordinators for 2011/12

Emergency Preparedness - To be confirmed

Hot Lunch (Foodfest); Milk Program - Leanne Sivertson

Safe Arrival - Carrie Williams

Social Convenors - Rachelle TerVrugt, Teresa Husu, Jen Hoenen

Newsletter - Bonnie Doll

Website - Roger Whitson/Trish Burnett

Fruit & Vegetable Program - Jen Hoenen, Raquelle TerVrugt

Book Fair - Holly Mescheder

Elected to the School Planning Council

- Tammy Young

- Alys Pivetta

- Teresa Husu

Parent Financial Review

- Trish Burnett

- Kimberly Gantzert

Thanks to all the parents who took on these positions!

Safe Arrival—Safe Arrival is a program by which we help to ensure the safety of our children. If a child is absent from school, and a parent has not phoned the school to indicate that the child will be absent, we phone his/her home to make sure he/she is safe.

The Safe Arrival program is looking for volunteers to help out and make sure that our students arrive to school safely. It takes about 30 - 45 minutes a morning. So if you have some time to do this (even one day a month), please contact Carrie Williams, Safe Arrival Coordinator - safearrival@dcpac.ca.

Ongoing/Year-round Fundraisers

Cobs Bread - We are involved in Cobs Bread's "Dough Raiser Program" at Millstream and Westshore locations. Remember to say "David Cameron" when you purchase your baked goods at either Cobs Bread location.

Cobs Bread Millstream—Dough Raiser Extreme Program—Between October and December, 2011, the Millstream Village location of Cobs Bread is offering area schools the chance to receive \$1,000. For every dollar spent at the Millstream Cobs Bread (just say David Cameron when you are at the till) our school will earn one point. The first school to 1,000 points wins \$1,000. It's that easy. Tell all friends and family members to say "It's for David Cameron school" when they make their purchase. Only one school will win the \$1,000. For the remaining participants, all money spent will go towards the regular 5% dough raiser program.



Co-Op - Our membership number is 56855. Mention our membership number, or just say "David Cameron" when buying anything from the Co-Op.

Campbell's Soup - Save all labels/UPCs from participating Campbell's Soup products, including Goldfish crackers and V8 juices (see <http://www.labelsforeducation.ca/english/eligible.asp> for a list of participating products).

Island Farms - Cut out the UPCs from all of your favourite Island Farms products and bring them to the school. We receive 3¢ from every UPC saved.

Canadian Tire - We save Canadian Tire money and use it to cover some of our expenses for the Fun Fair.

2011/2012 Entertainment Books Now Available

You should have received an order form for Entertainment Books. For those of you who received a sample book with your order form, if you are purchasing one or more book(s), you can keep the sample book as your purchase.



If you are not purchasing any Entertainment Books, you must return the sample book to the school.

Please make sure all order forms have the student's name and teacher's name or division on them so your book(s) can be delivered to you. All orders or non-purchased books must be returned to the school by Friday, September 30th. If you pre-ordered book(s) in June, you should have received your 2011/2012 book(s) by now. Please contact fundraising@dcpac.ca if you have not received your new book(s).



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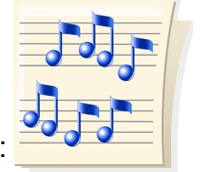
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Opera Club

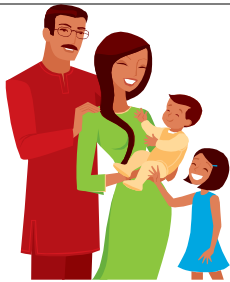


Hello all parents and interested students,

The 2011-2012 Pacific Opera Victoria Season is going to be amazing. Check out the lineup at: <http://www.pov.bc.ca/index.html>. The first dress rehearsal of the year is coming up quickly on Tuesday, October 4th, with Wagner's "The Flying Dutchman". The show starts at 7:30 pm and may go as late at 10:30 pm (great excuse to take a nap after school). The opera is performed at the Royal Theatre and parents must be willing to organize transportation to and from the theater for their child. Please connect with Mrs. Garry for all details. All intermediate students (grade 4-6) and older siblings can attend the performance. Students get to see the opera company's dress rehearsal for only \$10 – having attended dress rehearsals – I can tell you, it's pretty much the real thing. Parents confirm their child's spot by paying \$10 (student ticket price). The chaperone ration is 1 to 10 students. Mrs. Garry and I will be attending and if we get enough students signed up, we will draw names of interested parents who have come forward to be chaperones; chaperones' tickets are \$15. All DC students are required to attend a lunchtime information session to discuss the opera.. Older siblings who are no longer at David Cameron should check out the POV website at <http://www.pov.bc.ca/schools.html#reh> so they know what the opera is about and to enjoy the performance. We hope many students will sign up, as this is a wonderful opportunity to see a live opera performed by professionals along with a live symphony. If you miss this one, don't worry, there are three more operas in this year's season; one in November, one in February and one in April.

See you at the opera Swati

Healthy Living—Health Families



Now that we are back to school and back into the usual busy routines, life can get hectic and it can become challenging to balance life and take care of our health. Making healthy eating a priority helps to keep busy life running smoothly, but this is not always easy and there are no short cuts. Three excellent websites you may want to check out for interactive tools and fantastic resources at your fingertips include:

A great resource for all <http://healthyeatingatschool.ca/> focusing on healthy eating at schools including fundraising, recipes, and policies.

A new provincial resource <http://www.healthyfamiliesbc.ca/> focusing on healthy living for healthy families, packed with tips and ideas for busy lives.

An interactive website: <http://bettertogetherbc.ca/> devoted to the importance of family meals and cooking together, packed with tips and ideas for quick family meals.



Here's to a great start to the school year, Swati



Hot Lunch/Food Fest Days

This is a fun lunch held usually on the last Friday of every month. We are happy to provide the students with the following:

- Pizza – Thursday Sept 29, 2011
- Hot Dogs – Friday Oct 28, 2011
- Pizza – Friday Nov 18, 2011
- Subway - Friday Dec 16, 2011



Order forms will be sent home three times during the school year: September, December & March. The order form is also available on our PAC website (<http://dcpac.ca>). Late orders may be accepted please contact foodfest@dcpac.ca to arrange. Any questions may be directed to foodfest@dcpac.ca



September 2011



Safe Arrival 478-4363

DCPAC Website: www.dcpac.ca

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Assembly - 1:00 pm 	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Non- Instructional Day - no classes	20 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm	21	22 <i>Raptor Report</i>	23 PAC Newsletter ad submissions due	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Entertain- ment Book orders due	

Build Community While Building Your Business

David Cameron PAC has a unique advertising opportunity: Buy a business card-size ad in our newsletter and let other families in the school know where they can turn locally when they need a service or product. Your business will be recognized as a supporter our school, and only businesses run by David Cameron families are being offered this opportunity to reach more than 280 avid readers.

Introductory rate: \$10 per issue (or \$80 for all nine issues during the school year)

Please complete the advertising form and provide us with a copy of your business card, which will be scanned. Return the form, the cheque and the business card to the school by the 25th of the month (your child's teacher will leave the package in the PAC mailbox). You may also e-mail an electronic version of your business card to Bonnie Doll (newsletter@dcpac.ca).

Advertising deadline for October issue: Sept. 23

David Cameron Newsletter Advertising Order Form

Advertising Options

Please selection an option

Option 1	9 months for \$80	
Option 2	1 month for \$10	

- **Please make cheques payable to DCPAC**
- **All orders must be submitted by the date indicated for each month.**
- **Please send the following items together to the school: your business card, your cheque and your order form.**
- **OR send an electronic copy of your business card to secretary@dcpac.ca**

Student's Name	
Teacher's Name	
Business Name, Your Name, Phone Number and Email	