

PAC News

Deep Cove Elementary School / École Deep Cove



Newsletter Issue - December 2009

Message From the Presidents

It sure seems like things kick into warp speed the day after Halloween, but when I write this we have just made it through the Christmas Fair! This was the 30th year for the Deep Cove Fair and we hope that you had the time to come out and enjoy it. The numbers haven't been added up yet, but it sure seemed busy again. A big thank you goes to our five Fair Co-ordinators who worked so hard on planning such a successful event, but we also need to thank everyone that volunteered as well. We couldn't have pulled it off without you!

The fall season did go by so fast, and we managed to get a lot accomplished. The English Book Fair in October was a success, as usual, raising over \$4,600 for literacy in our school. Thanks go out to all the parents that volunteered their time at the book fair, only you know how popular those posters were! The courtyard has been fully planned and approved, a bit dryer weather is needed however in order to start the construction. Mr. Carere lined up a new chain link wall and gate to go in the covered area, which will allow easy access once construction begins and lets a whole lot more light into the covered area.

For a while now, the Canadian Parents for French position on our Executive had been vacant but it is vacant no longer! In fact, we have filled it three times, with three volunteers sharing the role! We welcome Lisa Coulson, Susan Fidyk and Vik Peck to the team.

Money raised by all of you has already contributed to so much this year. The guest potter has coached our children into making all sorts of wonderful things out of clay (most went home with them from the fair!) Eric Wilson, the author, has already made a popular visit to the older grades and other author visits are being researched. Administration and staff are taking steps to arrange for the Dansko team to join us again in the new year. Teachers are starting to purchase the items they asked for with Special Funding Requests. These items will benefit so many in the school.

Thanks again for all that you and do remember to check the lost and found which accumulates daily at the south door by the library. Have a great Christmas with your families and see you in the new year.

– Chris Swain & Karen Gartside

Upcoming Dates

- Jingle Bell Walk - **December 10**
- Christmas Assembly
December 17
- Hot Lunch Day - **December 18**
- Christmas Vacation
December 21 to January 1
- School Back in Session
January 4

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30th Annual Deep Cove Christmas Fair

Well Done Parents, Staff, and Community!!!

We did it again!!! The Christmas Fair was a roaring success thanks to our united efforts.

Thank you venue coordinators and volunteers.

So many parents, grandparents, siblings, Deep Cove students and teachers as well as Parkland students kindly signed up for over 300 shifts ... WOW, it is truly overwhelming. The fair would not be possible and certainly not successful without your generosity of spirit, time, and effort.

To all new parents, we hope that you and your children had a wonderful evening and have come to love the fair as much as the returning parents and children.

Many, many nods of appreciation must go out to those people and companies in the North Saanich community who donated items of food, silent auction and raffle prizes, sign painting, printing, etc. These people and companies will be sent thank you cards but if you know someone or are shopping at a store that provided us with a service or prize, please say a few grateful words! Most don't come to the fair and would be gratified to hear that their donation was welcome.

Speaking of thank you cards, are you able to attend the thank you card writing party? Stay tuned in January for the date and time!

In the mean time, please join the Christmas Fair committee in thanking

- The staff and administration for their enthusiasm and tolerance
- The Silent Auction team that help fill the mini-gym with such wonderful items and services and make them all so appealing
- Our PAC co-presidents, Chris Swain and Karen Gartside, as well as the Treasurer, Tara Houle (and ex-Treasurer, Ina Smith) for supporting the Fair behind the scenes
- All bakers, canners, and preservers who donated goodies to the bake sale ... YUM!
- All the students who sold raffle tickets
- All the families who donated stuffies, books, toys, and emporium treasures.

A very special thank you goes to Jack Johnson, our custodian, for his care and attention to our school. The fair goes up and comes down pretty quickly and, thanks to Jack and his team, the aftermath vanishes rapidly leaving the school looking as pristine when we return on Monday morning as it did before the whole Christmas ruckus began. Miracles DO happen around Christmas. We really appreciate your good cheer and helpfulness!!

30th Annual Deep Cove Fair Raffle Winners

1st Prize – one hour Helicopter Ride for 4 people from VIH Helicopters (value \$1600) – won by M & R Glickman

2nd Prize – four hour Fishing Trip for 4 people from Sidney Salmon Charters (value \$400) – won by Barb Bishop

3rd Prize - \$100 Deep Cove Chalet Gift Certificate – won by Christina Wiggins

Kids Draw Prize – won by Lauren Mosher

Selling the Most Raffle Tickets – three way tie (5 books each), won by Erin Rainforth, Evan Monteith, and Summer Smith

The total amount collected from the raffle this year is approximately \$5000. Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and congratulations to our winners.

Jingle Bell Walk

Attention Parents, Students, and Teachers:

The next **Way to Go Event** is coming up. We are having our 2nd annual **Jingle Bell Walk** to School Day on Thursday, December 10th.

We are asking that parents come prepared to walk with their children to the school so we ensure SAFETY of our children.

Santa's Walking Sleigh Leaves Denham Till Park (on Birch Road on the right side) at 8:15 am

The route is to walk through the trails at Denham Till Park to Clayton Road and up Clayton road to the crosswalk in front of the Deep Cove School.

We will plan to arrive at the school at about 8:30 am. We will be surveying students in the classroom on the morning of the 10th. If you would be available to help with this event please contact the Way to Go Committee at rsrebneris@shaw.ca.

The class with the greatest participation in this event will be able to display the GOLDEN SHOE in their Classroom until our next Way to Go Event!

Bring your bells,

Way to Go Committee – Shelley Rebneris, Laurie Irwin, and Lesley MacLaughlin

Education Funding Updates

Remember the provincial government's budget consultation survey? The results have just been released and many British Columbians have spoken out and made it clear that health care and public education are their top priorities. As a result, the Finance Committee made several important recommendations to the government about K-12 education funding.

The Finance committee recommends that the Government:

1. **Work with the boards of education to conduct a comprehensive review of the education funding formula.** With the current funding formula, each school district receives a grant based on the number of students enrolled. Many of the oral and written submissions made to the FC stressed that this system does not adequately cover additional expenses incurred by the districts such as increased labor costs and Medical Services Plan premiums, higher utility bills, busing costs, building maintenance costs and the carbon tax.
2. **Treat the Annual Facilities Grant as a high priority for funding in the 2010/11 Budget.** The grants provided districts with resources to undertake essential maintenance projects such as roof replacements, electrical systems

upgrades and asbestos abatement. The loss of the grant has placed many districts in a deficit position and some districts have declared that it will result in additional costs down the road as planned preventative maintenance will be deferred to future years.

3. **Ensure that the implementation of all-day kindergarten is fully funded.** In addition to the hiring of new teachers, there will be costs associated with moving portable classrooms to some schools, furnishing the classrooms and developing a full-time curriculum.
- 4) **Work cooperatively with the boards of education on a review of the administrative and reporting requirements for each school district and within the Ministry of Education.** During the consultation process, some districts noted that the workload for principals, vice-principals and senior staff has increased immensely, due to report preparation, data collection, implementation of government priorities, and reduced staffing.
5. **Enhance capacity within ministries and the community level so that planning and funding of adult literacy services are effective and well coordinated.**

Education Funding Updates con't

Voices From Across the Province

Slected excerpts of submissions made to the Finance Committee

"The government needs to provide a funding formula over a three-year cycle that is predictable, sustainable and meets the growing educational needs of our students, our schools and our communities. Investment in education today is an investment in the future. It must be the government's top priority."

– Sharel Warrington, Board of Education, School District No. 57 (Prince George)

"Transportation funding has not increased since 2001, in spite of rising fuel and labor costs. This has put increasing pressures on our system. Given that we bus approximately 50 percent of the students in School District No. 8, this is forcing us to supplement our transportation budget with funds from other sources, which has been exacerbated by the impact of the loss of the annual facilities grant."

– Patricia Dooley, Board of Education, School District No. 8 (Kootenay Lake)

"All-day kindergarten is another example of a commendable policy that will have a negative impact on all the rest of the education system...Where will the funds come from? Unless there is more funding, they can only come from reducing resources for other parts of the system."

– Irene Lanzinger, British Columbia Teachers' Federation, Written submission 686

"There continues to be pressures that hinder a reduction in administrative areas – provincial data collection systems, monthly financial and capital reporting, GRE reporting, criminal record check requirements, health and safety changes, carbon usage reporting and class size reporting."

– MaryLynne Rimer, Board of Education, School District No. 63 (Saanich), Written submission 212

"We're counting on a restoration of our facilities funding of \$10.6 million as we have work that must be done, such as asbestos abatement, building component upgrades, fire alarm testing and building envelope protection. If the annual facilities grant isn't restored, the funds to do that work will have to come straight out of classrooms."

– Patti Bacchus, Board of Education, School District No. 39 (Vancouver)

"Many boards have aging facilities in need of remediation or replacement. The recent loss of the annual facilities grant has significantly worsened the situation. Boards lost funds for roofing project or a significant heating-ventilation project. If there is an incident — an emergency roof repair or a boiler blows in some cases — boards really don't know what they're going to do at this point without those reserves in place."

– Connie Denesiuk, British Columbia School Trustees Association

"The increased mandate for boards of education to include community literacy, adult learning and early learning have put additional pressure on the system."

– Teresa Rezansoff, Board of Education, School District No. 51 (Boundary)

The entire report on the 2010 Budget Consultation can be found at <http://www.leg.bc.ca/CMT/39thpar/session-1/fgs/reports/HTML/Rpt-FGS-39-1-1stRpt-Budget2010Consultations-2009-NOV-13.htm#K12Edu>

Bless Your Sole!

This year for Christmas, will you consider giving a pair of shoes to a child at Motati School? We have so much and they have so little.

Lesotho is a mountainous country and the winters are cold, sometimes with snow on the ground. There is no heating in Motati School and the floors are made of cement. Many children have no shoes, or their shoes are so battered that they offer no protection. They often go to school and shiver all day for lack of proper clothing. Imagine trying to learn and concentrate when you can't even warm up. That is why the Lesotho group at Deep Cove School is organizing a campaign to give every child at Motati School who needs it a pair of decent shoes. It works like this: every Deep Cove student has received a card with a drawing of a shoe on it and a short message requesting a \$25 donation to Help Lesotho instead of a Christmas gift. We are hoping that somebody in your family will use it. I have sent an e-mail to all parents with a digital copy of the card in case your family wishes to use more than one. Please e-mail me if you would like me to send this again. Your child can color the card and make it look really pretty. The idea is that the person you give the card to will give you \$25 for Christmas.

You will then bring this donation to the Deep Cove School office early in January and we will collect it and send it to Help Lesotho. The donations can be in cash or in cheques made payable to "Help Lesotho". Please include a note with your name, address and phone number if you would like an official tax receipt. We are collecting money instead of shoes

for several reasons. The infrastructure is really bad in Lesotho and parcels often get stolen, so it is nearly impossible to send shipments over. Everything we send to our twin school travels in somebody's suitcase. Also, by buying shoes locally, we can stimulate the local economy and help more than one family. \$25 will buy a good pair of leather shoes that will last for a while and Help Lesotho has assured us that all the money collected in the shoe campaign will be used for shoes for Motati School students, and if we collect more than needed, then for other items of clothing and necessities.

A pair of shoes will make a big difference in a child's life. For more information, please contact Martine Lunke (martinelunke@shaw.ca; 656-5658)

Thrifty's Smile Cards

Thanks to our families for an early start on our Thrifty's campaign this year!! We already have \$197.50 raised and are on a good start for our overall goal of \$3000.00

If you would like more information on obtaining your Thrifty's card, please contact Janice Mosher (email: iam_jcmosher@yahoo.com). Thanks to you all!

Please check the Lost and Found for any missing items.

PCEC "1000 x 5" Children's Book Recycling Project

Continues to seek donations...

If you can donate gently used children's picture books, please leave them in the yellow bin in the school library. They will be forwarded to volunteers at KELSEY Elementary who process them for distribution to children and families on the Peninsula.

For further information, please contact: Daphne Macnaughton, PCEC "1000 X 5" Project Leader dlmvictoria@shaw.ca or go to the COPACS website at copacs.sd63.bc.ca

CPF – Canadian Parents for French

Thank you for your support of our Annual Magazine Drive! Did you know you can order subscriptions online anytime? Go to <http://www.qsp.ca> - enter the group code 16681.

If you became a CPF member during the membership drive (before October 31st) did you know that 90% of all the dues is returned to your local CPF chapter? And, if you missed the promotional membership drive early in the school year, but you would still like to join you can go online: www.cpf.ca, and still 80% comes back to our local chapter's bank account. This money helps to bring more French Cultural activities to your school.

If you would like to find out more you can contact your CPF reps at Deep Cove (Vik Peck Vik.Peck@viforpharma.com, Susan Fidyk sfidyk@centralmail.com and Lisa Coulson lmcoulson@shaw.ca) or check out the CPF web-site www.cpf.ca.

Do we Need a Transportation Committee?

Some of you might remember the transportation survey we completed a few years ago and our success in getting bus service for Deep Cove students coming from Dean Park. Do we still have transportation issues that need a voice?

Perhaps you are concerned about safety?
The environment?

Recently, parents have been expressing concern (looking ahead) about transportation difficulties getting children to Bayside. Is this a concern for you?

If you would like to voice your concerns please contact Victoria Fan victoriaf@shaw.ca or Lisa Coulson lmcoulson@shaw.ca as we look into these issues again.

*Happy Holidays
from all the
members of the
PAC Executive*

