



## **Darwin Dolphin Dive: Friday, September 8, 2023**

### **Darwin School Families,**

Thank you for attending **Opening Day Conferences** and establishing the important connection between home and school. We look forward to working closely together over the course of the school year to support your child and family. The plan is to send the Darwin Dolphin Dive this year on a bi-weekly schedule. We appreciate you reading it to keep informed and we encourage you to inform others that may not always have a chance to read the bi-weekly school updates.

### **New Students & New Darwin School Families**

We have welcomed over 70 new students to Darwin School this year and our global village continues to grow stronger. Our kindergarten class is winning with respect to class size sitting at 13 students and it's always special to see the younger siblings of current and former Darwin School students get to make their start in school! We have welcomed 26 students from Dr. D.W. Penner School at the grade seven level. This is the highest number of students from Dr. D.W. Penner School to join us and we want to wish them all the best as they finish their middle school experience at Darwin School.

We continue to welcome students from the LRSD International Student Program and this year we have new families from Ecuador and China. In addition, we have also welcomed several newcomer families from Uganda, China, Dubai, Ukraine, and Colombia.

In addition to students / families moving to Winnipeg from other countries, we have welcomed students from northern Manitoba, Alberta, British Columbia, from various other metro school divisions in Winnipeg, the private school system, and our own French Immersion program in LRSD.

We currently have 288 students enrolled at Darwin School for the 2023-2024 school year!

### **Edge Imaging Picture Day**

Edge Imaging will be running our School Picture Day on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. Please see attachment for more information.

### **Darwin School Teaching Staff**

If you would like to contact a Darwin School classroom teacher, please find their e-mail address below.

Kindergarten Ms. Jennifer Kennedy [jennifer.kennedy@lrsd.net](mailto:jennifer.kennedy@lrsd.net)

Grade 1&2 Ms. Christine Yun [christine.yun@lrsd.net](mailto:christine.yun@lrsd.net)

Grade 1&2	Ms. Danielle Wotton	<a href="mailto:danielle.wotton@lrsd.net">danielle.wotton@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 3&4	Ms. Annalee Lawrence	<a href="mailto:annalee.lawrence@lrsd.net">annalee.lawrence@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 3&4	Ms. Cindy Pellerin	<a href="mailto:cindy.pellerin@lrsd.net">cindy.pellerin@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 5&6	Ms. Nissa Chmilowsky	<a href="mailto:nissa.chmilowsky@lrsd.net">nissa.chmilowsky@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 5&6	Ms. Tiana Friesen	<a href="mailto:tiana.friesen@lrsd.net">tiana.friesen@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 7&8	Ms. Anne Bachinski	<a href="mailto:anne.bachinski@lrsd.net">anne.bachinski@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 7&8	Ms. Sarah Harrison	<a href="mailto:sarah.harrison@lrsd.net">sarah.harrison@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 7&8	Ms. Jessica Neuendorff	<a href="mailto:jessica.neuendorff@lrsd.net">jessica.neuendorff@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 7&8	Mr. Ken Vince	<a href="mailto:kenneth.vince@lrsd.net">kenneth.vince@lrsd.net</a>
Grade 7&8	Mr. Chris Chapman	<a href="mailto:christopher.chapman@lrsd.net">christopher.chapman@lrsd.net</a>

### **Student Services Team**

K-4	Ms. Erin Madden	<a href="mailto:erin.madden@lrsd.net">erin.madden@lrsd.net</a>
5&6	Ms. Kerri Bush	<a href="mailto:kerri.bush@lrsd.net">kerri.bush@lrsd.net</a>
7&8	Ms. Laura Kellough	<a href="mailto:laura.kellough@lrsd.net">laura.kellough@lrsd.net</a>

### **Terry Fox Coins For A Cure + Fred Fox School Visit**

Monday, September 18, 2023, will be the kickoff of our *Coins for A Cure* campaign. Students in K-8 will be learning about Terry Fox's legacy, inviting Terry's brother, Fred Fox, to the school for a special assembly and raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation.

It's a great time to start putting aside your nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies and toonies to have them ready for the week of September 18-22, 2023.

### **Orange Shirt Day**

The **National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** takes place on Saturday, September 30, 2023.

We are committed to responding to the **TRC's Calls to Action**. We admire the persistence of this staff team in their effort to integrate Indigenous perspectives; teach about colonization and continue to educate our students about the Residential School system in Canada. Students are strongly encouraged to show their support of our reconciliation work at Darwin School on **Friday, September 29, 2023**, as we honor survivors of the Residential School system by wearing orange. Each year, collectively we learn more as staff and students, and the real work is keeping reconciliation at the forefront of what we do long past Orange Shirt Day in September.

## Darwin School Extra-Curricular Athletics

We look forward to seeing our students get involved in the extra-curricular athletic program. The year begins with Cross Country Running for students in Grade 4-8 as well as Grade 7&8 Volleyball.

Please find attached additional information about the Darwin School Athletic Program to learn more about participation and uniform fees. If you have any questions about our athletic programming, please contact Mr. Scott Church {Physical Education specialist} at [scott.church@lrsd.net](mailto:scott.church@lrsd.net)

Monday, September 11	Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 Girls	3:30pm-5:00pm
Tuesday, September 12	Cross Country practice Grade 4-8 Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 Boys	8:00am-8:40am 3:30pm-5:00pm
Wednesday, September 13	Cross Country practice Grade 4-8 Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 Girls	8 :00am-8:40am 3:30pm-5:00pm
Thursday, September 14	Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 Boys	3:30pm-5:00pm

## Attendance

Please let the office staff know if / when your child is unable to attend school. Give us a call at **204 257-2904**. We really appreciate knowing in advance if you have a family trip planned and don't hesitate to leave a message in the middle of the night if your child is ill and you know they will not be coming to school the next day.

## Darwin Parent Association

Parents can register at [healthyhunger.ca](http://healthyhunger.ca) to take part in monthly DPA Fun Lunch days. All proceeds support Darwin School. The first DPA Fun Lunch will be provided by **Subway** and **orders are due on or before Tuesday, September 19, 2023**. The DPA Fun Lunch takes place on **Tuesday, September 26, 2023**, which is also our first Early Dismissal Day {2:30pm}.

**The DPA will be hosting their first meeting of the year at 7:00pm on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, in the Darwin School library.** Childminding is provided by Darwin School students in Grade 7&8 that have completed the babysitting course. Childminding will take place in the Darwin Gym while parents meet in the library. We look forward to having your voice at upcoming meetings!

## Student Drop Off & Pick Up

The front of the school at drop off and pick up is a very busy place. Let's all work together to look out for children and ensure that everyone arrives and leaves school safely. When the school bus STOP signs are out, please respect the time it takes to safely load and unload students.

Our school bus is scheduled to arrive at 8:42am and leave each day at 3:36pm. If you would like to avoid the traffic congestion, please consider having your children walk across our back field and use Glen Meadow Avenue for a more convenient drop-off and pick-up location. There is lots of room to park and far less traffic.

Please pay attention to the posted parking signs on Darwin Street to avoid any unnecessary parking tickets.

In closing, a huge shout out to our students that walk, roll and bike to school during the months of the school year where it is enjoyable to do so. We love seeing the bike rack full, we can store scooters at the school and a special shout out to our few students trying to keep skateboarding alive in 2023!

### **Important Dates to Remember**

Monday, September 18	<i>Coins For A Cure</i> Assembly 1:00pm
Tuesday, September 19	DPA Fun Lunch Online Orders Due
Tuesday, September 26	DPA Fun Lunch Early Dismissal – 2:30 pm DPA Meeting 7:00pm
Saturday, September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
Tuesday, October 3	Professional Learning Day – <b>No Classes</b>
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day – <b>No Classes</b>
Friday, October 20	MTS PD Day – <b>No Classes</b>
Tuesday, October 24	Early Dismissal – 2:30 pm

**Public Education in The News** – Please find attached an article titled *School division bans 35 people who caused ruckus at June meeting* written by Maggie Macintosh that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on Wednesday, August 23, 2023.

If you have any questions, concerns or need clarification on anything included, please let us know.

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(204) 792 - 4813 (Cell Phone)

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Vice Principal  
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