



Darwin Dolphin Dive: Saturday, September 23, 2023

Darwin School Families,

We have had a wonderful start to the 2023-2024 school year. We are proud of your children for their ability to re-engage with their learning at school after the summer break. They have welcomed new students and staff, learned new routines, and got involved in the life of the school. We have high hopes for the learning and growth that will take place this school year.

Keeping Our School Community Safe and Healthy

A communication will come out to all LRSD families in anticipation of the increase in respiratory illnesses we usually see during the fall and winter months. I would like to review what we know has worked well in the past to keep our school community safe and to ensure we are doing our part to take care of one another:

- Stay home from school / work when you are sick.
- Test for COVID-19 when you are experiencing symptoms
- Practice cough etiquette and hand hygiene {especially while at school}
- Mask up when you return to school / work after being sick

Members of our school community are being impacted by COVID 19 and we are asking for your support in doing what we can to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. We appreciate you sharing information with the school when your child is ill as well as your understanding of the importance of keeping them home when they are ill. We will work together to navigate the upcoming flu season and know that we appreciate all your support. Currently, we have masks available for students and staff, COVID 19 test kits for families and hand sanitizer to promote hand hygiene.

Edge Imaging Picture Day

Edge Imaging will back at Darwin School for Picture Retake Day on Thursday, October 12, 2023.

Terry Fox Coins For A Cure

On Monday, September 18, 2023, we welcomed Fred Fox, Terry's brother, to the school for a special assembly to kick off our *Coins For A Cure* campaign. Our school set a goal of raising \$350.00 dollars {one dollar for each student + staff member} and on Friday afternoon we were able to proudly announce that we surpassed our goal by raising \$398.84. If you are interested in donating and adding to Darwin School's total amount raised, please consider an online donation at <https://schools.terryfox.ca/Darwin>

Thank you for supporting *Coins For A Cure* and for your generosity.

K-4 Pod System

We will be hosting our first **K-4 Pod activity on Wednesday, September 27, 2023**, from 10:15am – 11:30am.

The Pod System allows us to make 10 small groups {10-11 students} from Kindergarten – Grade Four to be together for special planned activities throughout the school year. The goal is to foster a sense of belonging and have our students work with various students in K-4 as well as staff. Our K-4 Pod activities will be supported by our Grade 7&8 classrooms. We want to thank Ms. Neuendorff's Grade 7&8 class for their leadership in planning and running our 5 activity stations planned for Wednesday. This year's K-4 Pod Leaders are:

Pod Leaders

Pod # 1	Jennifer Kennedy
Pod #2	Danielle Wotton
Pod #3	Christine Yun
Pod #4	Annalee Lawrence
Pod #5	Cindy Pellerin
Pod #6	Alanna Roscoe
Pod #7	Erin Madden
Pod #8	Laura Kellough
Pod #9	Nicholas Kelly
Pod #10	Brad Fallis / Meagan Acquisto

Orange Shirt Day

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. For students that are unable to wear an orange piece of clothing, *Every Child Matters*, stickers have been printed for them to show their support. 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

Now that Cross Country Running and Volleyball are up and running, it is time to add in Flag Football for our students in Grade 5&6. Please see the schedule below for more details. We have 59 students in Grade 5&6 currently and we look forward to many of them attending the Flag Football event which is hosted at Investors Group Field in October.

If you have any questions about our Darwin School athletic programming, please contact Mr. Scott Church {Physical Education specialist} at scott.church@lrsd.net

- Monday, September 25** Flag Football practice Grade 5/6 at lunch from 11:45am-12:10pm
Volleyball exhibition game Grade 7/8 girls @ Darwin School
4:15pm-5:00pm
Volleyball exhibition game Grade 7/8 boys at Darwin from
5:15pm-6:00pm
- Tuesday, September 26** Cross Country practice Grade 4-8 from 8:00am-8:40am
Flag Football practice Grade 5/6 at lunch from 11:45am-12:10pm
- Wednesday, September 27** Flag Football practice Grade 5/6 at lunch from 11:45am-12:10pm
Sources of Strength meeting at lunch recess with Ms. Harrison
Cross Country Meet #2 Grade 4-8 at St. Vital Park from 3:30pm-6:00pm
- Thursday, September 28** Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 girls from 7:45am-8:40am
Flag Football practice Grade 5/6 at lunch from 11:45am-12:10pm
Volleyball practice Grade 7/8 boy's from 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

With all the talk of Parental Rights in the media, as the provincial election gets closer, what better way to show your support for public education than to get involved with the Darwin Parent Association. The DPA has a direct connection to the school and participating in the DPA is not a huge time commitment. The DPA will host 5 meetings in the 10-month school year. We have a small group of committed parents that make up the DPA, and they are always looking to have more voices at the table that represent the diversity of our incredible school community. **Please consider joining the DPA on Tuesday night at 7:00pm in the library** to learn more about what is planned for the upcoming school year!

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!

Important Dates to Remember

Tuesday, September 26	DPA Fun Lunch Monthly School Assembly 1:15pm – 2:15pm Early Dismissal – 2:30 pm DPA Meeting 7:00pm
Wednesday, September 27	K-4 Pod Activity 10:15am – 11:30am
Saturday, September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
Tuesday, October 3	Professional Learning Day – No Classes
Monday, October 9	Thanksgiving Day – No Classes
Friday, October 20	MTS PD Day – No Classes
Tuesday, October 24	Early Dismissal – 2:30 pm

Public Education in The News – Please find attached an article titled *Misleading messages undermine education* written by Susan Ciastko, Principal of St. George School in LRSD, that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on Saturday, September 23, 2023.

As we are at the beginning of a new school year, the lines that jumps off the page for me is:

“Educators strongly rely on parents as being their children’s biggest advocate.
Together we are a team and work hard to nurture this relationship”.

The advance polls are open all week at St. Vital Mall (Dynacare Entrance). I encourage all families to vote (and bring your children to the polls) as you consider and discuss the importance of a properly funded public education system.

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

Nicholas Kelly
Principal
nicholas.kelly@lrsd.net
(204) 257 - 2904 (Darwin School)
(204) 792 - 4813 (Cell Phone)

Laura Kellough
Vice Principal
laura.kellough@lrsd.net
(204) 257 - 2904 (Darwin School)
(204) 955 - 4034 (Cell Phone)