



## **Darwin Dolphin Dive: Sunday, January 13, 2024**

### **Darwin School Families,**

Welcome back to school and happy new year! We hope everyone had an enjoyable winter break and that the new year is off to a wonderful start.

We have been busy during our first week back welcoming new families to our school community. Our global village continues to expand as we welcomed new families from Turkey, Mexico and continue to grow our LRSD International student count with a new student from China. Our school population is 297 students and getting closer to that 300 mark! Please join our staff in welcoming all new families to Darwin School.

### **Grade 4-6 Ski Trip Opportunity**

We will be meeting with the Grade 4-6 students on Monday, January 15, 2024, to share details about a ski trip opportunity for them on **Friday, March 1, 2024, at Springhill Winter Park**. Hard copy packages will go home with each student and payment is to be completed online on or before Friday, February 9, 2024. I have attached an electronic copy of the Grade 4-6 Ski Trip Package that has more details. If your child has never tried downhill skiing, this is an excellent opportunity.

### **LRSD Powwow Club**

The LRSD Powwow Club will be starting up on **Wednesday, January 31, 2024**, and all sessions will be held at the Rene Deleurme Centre at 511 St. Anne's Road from 6:00pm – 7:30pm. I have attached the information poster that has the complete schedule as well as the student registration form. We will be meeting with students and families this week to begin the registration process. We are hoping to have students from K-8 involved in this Divisional Powwow Club.

### **Darwin School Grade 7&8 Band and Guitar Performance**

On Thursday, February 15, 2024, our school community is invited to the Grade 7&8 Band and Guitar Concert. There will be a **matinee performance at 1:30pm** as well as an **evening show at 7:00pm**.

In similar fashion to our K-6 Winter Concert, the doors will open at 6:00pm and our Grade 3&4 classes will be running a fundraising event prior to the concert. Please come early, put your coat on your selected seat and enjoy your time in the school with a cup of hot chocolate and some baked goods that will be available for purchase. All proceeds raised on concert nights will go to support the Darwin School Breakfast & Snack program as well as offset costs of upcoming field trips for our Grade 3&4 classes. We appreciate your support!

## **Darwin Parent Association**

The next DPA meeting will be held on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024, from 7:00pm – 8:00pm**. Child minding is provided in the gymnasium. If you have never been to a DPA meeting, please consider coming and learning more about your child's school and how families work to support it. If you have any questions for the Darwin Parent Association, please do not hesitate to contact DPA Chairperson, Mike Andersen, at [darwinparentsassociation@gmail.com](mailto:darwinparentsassociation@gmail.com)

## **K-4 Pod System Winter Activity Day at Greendell Community Centre**

Please **Save The Date of Monday, February 5, 2024**, as our next **K-4 Pod Activity Day**. We are planning for an exciting day of outdoor education for our K-4 students. We have rented the community centre, and we are looking forward to skating, jam can curling, playing shinny, building snow forts, creating winter art, warming up inside the community centre with low organized games in the gym, enjoying hot chocolate and spending time in our 10 K-4 pod groups.

We want to thank Ms. Yun's Grade 7&8 class in advance for helping facilitate the activities planned for this day and for joining alongside our K-4 students in our pods. More information will follow in the coming weeks.

## **Darwin School Extra-Curricular Athletics**

The **grade 7&8 basketball season** kicks off during the week of January 22 – 26, 2024, and I would like to thank our coaches for getting a jump start on the season before winter break by selecting teams, running practices, and hosting two tournaments. At Darwin School, our goal is to ensure all students that want to participate can be on a team. We look forward to meeting with families that have children participating on one of our six teams this year for a **parent meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024, from 7:30pm – 8:00pm in The Pit**. This meeting is to share information about the season and work through how we can support all players / families in getting to and from the 27 away games on the collective schedule.

## **Intramural Programming**

Mr. Church will begin Intramural Programming for Grades 1-6 during the week of January 22 – 26. We will continue to follow the day of the cycle schedule for which grade level has intramurals from 11:45am – 12:15pm. i.e. Day 1 = Grade 1, Day 2 = Grade 2. We encourage all students to try intramural programming and see if it is something they will enjoy one day per cycle during the lunch recess.

## **Important Dates to Remember**

Thursday, January 18, 2024	Grade 5&6    Field Trip to Max Bell
Tuesday, January 16, 2024	DPA Fun Lunch Online Orders Due <a href="http://www.healthyhunger.ca">www.healthyhunger.ca</a>

Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Darwin Social Justice Council K-8 Women's Rights Presentations
Thursday, January 18, 2024	Parent Meeting for Darwin Basketball 7:30pm – 8:00pm
<b>Tuesday, January 23, 2024</b>	DPA Fun Lunch Courage Assembly <b>Early Dismissal at 2:30pm</b> Dr. D.W. Penner School Grade 6 Open House 6:30pm DPA Meeting 7:00pm
Tuesday, January 23, 2024	DPA Fun Lunch
Friday, January 26, 2024	Grade 1&2    Field Trip to the Children's Museum
Wednesday, January 31, 2024	Grade 7&8    Field Trip to CMHR
Thursday, February 1, 2024	Grade 8 High School Transition: School Visits to Dakota Collegiate and/or Glenlawn Collegiate
<b>Friday, February 2, 2024</b>	<b>Professional Learning Day – No Classes</b>
Monday, February 5, 2024	K-4 Pod Activity Day at Greendell Community Centre
Friday, February 9, 2024	Grade 5&6    Field Trip to Manitoba Harvest
Tuesday, February 13, 2024	Glenlawn Collegiate Open House 6:00pm
Friday, February 16, 2024	Grade 5&6    Field Trip to Fort Whyte
<b>Monday, February 19, 2024</b>	<b>Louis Riel Day – No Classes</b>
Thursday, February 22, 2024	Dakota Collegiate Open House 7:00pm
Tuesday, February 27, 2024	DPA Presents Big Daddy Tazz at Darwin School K-2, 3-6 & 7&8 Sessions with Big Daddy Tazz DPA Fun Lunch Love Assembly <b>Early Dismissal at 2:30pm</b> DPA Open Gym Night 6:30pm – 8:00pm Special Guest: Big Daddy Tazz Parent Presentation
Friday, March 1, 2024	Grades 4-6    Ski Trip to Springhill Winter Park

Thursday, March 7, 2024	Grades 1-6	Field Trip to Glenlawn Collegiate to enjoy Ms. Roscoe's <i>Beauty and The Beast</i> High School Production
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Friday, March 8, 2024	Grade 7&8	Ski Trip to Holiday Mountain
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### 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.

**Public Education in The News** – Please find attached an article titled, *Math education needs high expectations and love*, written by Matt Henderson, that appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press on Friday, January 12, 2024. There has been a steady flow of articles about Math in the Winnipeg Free Press as of late with varying opinions and viewpoints. This article is a refreshing read that drives home the important role teachers play in helping students learn to know what it means to be human in this universe.

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

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