



LOCHSIDE ELEMENTARY PARENT/GUARDIAN NEWS

Helena Takhar - Principal
Leila Sinclair- Wise – Vice Principal

January 2024

ÍY SÇÁCEL, Hello Parents & Guardians,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We hope this message finds you well-rested and filled with wonderful memories from the holiday season. As we embark on a new term, we are thrilled to welcome our Lochside students back into the building. Now, with the start of the new year, we are eager to dive into the exciting adventures that our second term will hold!

The past term was filled with remarkable moments that brought our school community together and celebrated the achievements of our students. Some highlights that made a lasting impact are:

~ **Terry Fox Run**: Our students, parents, and staff joined forces for the Terry Fox Run, embodying the spirit of resilience and unity. Together, we raised awareness and funds (\$763) for cancer research, showcasing the power of community coming together for a meaningful cause.

~ **Board Game Night**: Laughter and camaraderie filled the air during our Board Game Night, where families connected over classic games and discovered new favorites. This event emphasized the importance of quality time spent together and strengthened the bonds within our school community.

~ **LEPAC Halloween Fair**: The LEPAC Halloween Fair was a spooktacular success, with creative costumes, thrilling games, dancing and delicious treats for everyone. This festive event provided a platform for families to come together in a spirit of fun and creativity.

~ **Story Maker Workshop** for our Grade 3 students: Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) has been a pillar of support for initiatives like Story Maker, enhancing literacy skills and sparking the imaginations of our young storytellers. The collaboration between parents and educators reinforces our commitment to providing a rich and nurturing learning environment.

~ **Intermediate Winter Concert**: The Intermediate Winter Concert organized and led by Mrs. Lisa Alexander was a musical delight, showcasing the talent, dedication and courage to perform by our students. The applause echoed the sense of pride we feel for our budding performers.

~ **Hamper Collaboration**: Lochside Lizards were able to come together again to close off our term in the spirit of unity and support, collectively building 40 hampers for our community to enjoy over this holiday season. This initiative is a testament to the strength of our community when we come together with kindness and compassion. It's a simple yet powerful way to show that, at Lochside, no one stands alone. On behalf of the entire community, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed to support this effort. Please see the video attached [here](#) sharing how each division's contribution came together to be a part of the whole hamper. Thank you to the students in Miss. Norris' class for creating this special video.

The upcoming term holds the promise of fresh opportunities for growth, learning, and fun. Our dedicated staff are ready to inspire and guide your children, and together, we will create an environment that fosters curiosity, creativity, and a love for learning.

Here are a few highlights that promise to make the upcoming months truly special:

~ **Welcoming our 2024/2025 Kindergarten Students and Families:** We are eagerly preparing to extend a warm welcome to the newest members of our Lochside family. The journey of learning begins with the first steps into Kindergarten, and we are excited to create a nurturing environment for our youngest learners and their families as they register at the end of January.

~ **Primary Winter Concert:** Our talented young performers are gearing up for the Primary Winter Concert, where the stage will come alive with music and singing. We are so excited to celebrate our primary students on January 30th.

~ **Focus on Literacy and Reading:** This term, we are placing a special emphasis on literacy and reading. Through engaging activities (such as our Family Literacy Day) , and a whole school read of the book The Wild Robot, we aim to instill a love for reading that will empower our students to become lifelong learners. We invite parents to join us in fostering a culture of literacy at home and in the classroom.

As we embark on these upcoming endeavors, and more, your continued support and involvement remain vital. Together, we can create an enriching and inspiring educational journey for every child at Lochside!

Looking forward to seeing everyone on Monday! Have a wonderful weekend.

With gratitude, HÍSWKE,

Helena Takhar & the Lochside Staff.

CALENDAR		
Please Note: This calendar is in process - there will be updates going forward		
Please continue to check the school website for updates.		
January: 06: Gr. 5 Tree chipping and bottle drive. 09: LEPAC mtg @ 6:30pm 10: Kindergarten Information Night (Virtual) 7:00-8:00pm 15: Fruit & Veg Day 16: Teacher Staff Meeting 17: EA Mtg 26: Fun Lunch 26: Family Literacy morning 29: Fruit & Veg Day 30: Primary Winter Concert: 1:40pm - Gym doors open 2:00pm - Show begins 30: K Reg 3:30-5:30pm 31: K Reg 12:30-2:30pm	February: 01 - K Reg 7:30-9:30am 02 - Maple Man 07: Popcorn Day 09: Fun Lunch 12: Fruit & Veg 16: NID 19: Family Day STAT 23: Fun Lunch 28/29: Russell Book Fair 29: Early Dismissal @ 1:48pm	March: 15: Last day of school before Spring Break Spring Break: March 18 - April 02 <hr/> - April: 03 - Return to school 10: Class Photo Day 22: Non-Instructional Day

Information Items Below:

BOTTLE DRIVE & TREE CHIPPING



Thank You for supporting our Grade 5 students!!!

Bring your empty bottles and old Christmas trees to the Lochside parking lot on **Saturday, January 6th from 10:00am - 2:00pm.**



LEARNING COMMONS & LITERACY AT LOCHSIDE NEWS

"The Wild Robot" is coming to Lochside Elementary

More information will come in the coming weeks - see [link](#)

January 26- This year is the 25th Family Literacy Day, it's theme is "Let's Have a Family Party."

From 8:50-9:15 am, family members and/or guardians will be welcomed into the building to read with students. Students and staff can optionally dress as a literary character of their choice, perhaps a character from The Wild Robot.

Please see this link for [these resources](#) in support of celebrating Family Literacy Day 2024.

Wet & Cold Season is upon us! Dress your child for the weather



We embrace our West Coast weather uncertainty and head outside every day, so please ensure your child has a:

- coat
- rain boots or appropriate outdoor footwear
- change of clothes in their backpack (socks, pants, shirt etc.). This is always important for all ages as students often get wet, or slip in the mud while playing outside. Wearing wet clothing can get rather uncomfortable :)

Indoor recess will only be during heavy downpours or inclement weather conditions.

Please ensure that your child's Jacket is labeled as this will help us get it back to them, rather than the Lost and Found.

NINENE








Moon of the Child:

The face of the young man represents youth, a new beginning, the rebirth of the animal world, and the new edible shoots. This is the Saanich New Year. The moon's yellow hair is the returning light to the world.

WEATHER: This is the time the Earth starts to move closer to the Sun once again. All things begin to warm up; everything in nature is being reborn. Although the cold, winds, and winter rains are still with us there are some good days and this is the first sign that a new year has begun.

See the [link](#) for more information

<p>Swim Club</p> 	<p>Swim Club will start back up again on January 10 for the swim club team.</p> <p>Time: 3:15-4:00pm</p> <p>Location: Commonwealth Pool</p>
<p>Late Arrival or Early Departure For students</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please remember to sign-in your child at the office counter when arriving late to school. • Please remember to sign-out your child at the office counter if your child is leaving early. • This allows us to adjust your child's attendance record. <p>Known absence can also be emailed in to : lochside_attendance@saanichschools.ca</p>
<p>Parking Lot Protocol</p> 	<p>Please take extra time and care when dropping students off and picking them up from school. Pay close attention to the Drop-Off areas and ensure that students are crossing the parking lot in a safe manner.</p> <p>Please do not STOP right at the entrance to our parking lot. This causes cars and traffic to back up onto Royal Oak Drive.</p> <p>Parents are reminded to not leave vehicles unattended in the Drive-Thru or Drop-Off lanes while picking up their child.</p> <p>Parents also need to remember that they should NOT be parking on Lochside Drive behind the school. This blocks access for homeowners with larger vehicles.</p>
<p>Non Instructional Days in 2023</p> 	<p>Please mark the following Pro D dates on your calendar:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, February 16, 2024 • Monday, April 22, 2024 • Friday, May 17, 2024
<p>Early Dismissal Days in 2023</p> 	<p>Please mark your calendars</p> <p>Dismissal time is 1:48 pm on the following days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday, February 29, 2024

Winter Performances



More details will follow closer to the date; however we can confirm that our Primary Winter Concert will take place on January 30

Doors will open to the Gym at 1:40pm

Performance will start at 2:00pm