



# LOCHSIDE ELEMENTARY PARENT/GUARDIAN NEWS

Helena Takhar - Principal  
Leila Sinclair-Wise – Vice Principal

---

## October 2023

ÍY SÇÁCEL, Hello Parents & Guardians,

We hope this newsletter finds you all doing well. It is hard to believe that we are already half way through our first term of the school year. The past few weeks have been busy with Class Review meetings, identifying classroom strengths and needs, and IEP (Individual Education Plan) meetings. Both of these meetings involve thoughtful and constructive conversations with school teams, creating positive and successful plans for students. We thank our teachers, educational assistants and parents for their role in navigating and contributing to these conversations supporting our students' learning journey this school year.

We have been having a lot of fun over the past month and half at Lochside. So many events have already happened, such as our: Terry Fox Run, Photo Day, Welcome Back/Meet the Teacher event, Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada was hosted at our school for a week, two fire drills, Orange Shirt Day, and a fantastic Book Fair! A big thank you to LEPAC for supporting our students with treats & volunteers to enhance these events. Thank you to LEPAC for also supporting our classrooms with funding for classroom consumables and field trips! Thank you to Dodds Furniture & LEPAC for their support in purchasing new furniture for our front foyer. The space is so inviting, and our students are thoroughly enjoying spending time there. The gorgeous fish tank is also amazing! How lucky are we to have fish that have been imported from the bottom of Mount Kilimanjaro! We are very lucky to have such a strong, enthusiastic and generous PAC, as without these extra funds our students would not have so many rich experiences.

Lochside students are well into the swing of things, and we are so proud of them for being the best they can be each day. Students are working hard towards following our Lochside Beliefs of: taking care of themselves, taking care of each other, and taking care of this place. They are working hard being respectful in the hallways, in their classroom, and outside while playing during more unstructured times at recess. Students are reminded of using their WITS when solving problems: W for walk away, I for ignore, T for talking it out, S for seeking help if they need. Students are also reminded to take a moment to recognize how they are feeling through the strategies learned from our Zones of Regulation conversations. Ask your child about the Zones and what strategies they can access to help themselves co-regulate when they need it. Overall, Lochside Lizards are doing great and we are so excited to continue to watch them succeed throughout the year!

Leadership opportunities have started for our grade 5 students! Student leaders have been enjoying their time as lunch monitors and crossing guards! Thank you to Ms. Walker & Mrs. McDonnell for organizing the lunch monitors, and thank you to Mrs. Rothwell for organizing and training our crossing guards! Indoor soccer has started up, more information below, and Swim Club will be starting soon.

The upcoming month and half is going to be fast paced and a lot of fun. There is a lot of information below regarding upcoming events. You can stay in touch by checking our school website on a regular basis, and also by subscribing to our LEPAC website and Facebook page. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events. Reminder, this Friday, October 20 is a Non-Instructional Day, school is not in session for students.

Please know that you can come and meet with us at any time should you need to. We thank you for your continued support and trust in us.

With gratitude, HÍSWKE,  
Helena Takhar & Leila Sinclair-Wise

## CALENDAR

**Please Note: This calendar is in process - there will be updates going forward**

**Please continue to check the [school website](#) for updates.**

<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>	<b>December</b>
19 - Earthquake Drill 19 - Science World on the Road presentation 20: Non-Instructional Day (no school for students) 23 - 25: Bike Safety program Gr 4 & 5 students only 25 - Literacy Pumpkins due 26 - LEPAC Hallowe'en Fair 27 - Card Project Sale opens 30 - Hallowe'en Safety Assembly 31 - Hallowe'en	02: Fire Drill 03: Fun Lunch 07: Photo Retake 08: Popcorn Day 10: Remembrance Day Assembly 13: STAT 14: LEPAC General Meeting 17: Fun Lunch 20: Non-Instructional Day (no school for students) 23: LEPAC Board Game Night 28: Fruit and Veggie Delivery 29: Early Dismissal	01: Fun Lunch 04: Fruit & Veggie Delivery 06: Popcorn Day 07/08: Holiday Book Shop 15: Fun Lunch 22: Last Day before the Winter Break  Dec. 25 - January 5 : Winter Break  January 8: Return to School

## Information Items:

<p><b>LITERACY PUMPKINS</b></p>  <p>The poster features a banner at the top that reads 'LOCHSIDE LITERARY PUMPKINS'. Below the banner, it says 'GET CRAFTY AS A FAMILY AND PAINT, DECORATE, OR CARVE A PUMPKIN BASED ON A CHARACTER OR SETTING FROM A BOOK OF YOUR CHOICE'. At the bottom, it states 'BRING IN YOUR DECORATED PUMPKIN TO THE FRONT OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25 AND THEY WILL BE PUT ON DISPLAY! STUDENTS WILL BRING HOME THEIR PUMPKIN ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31.' There are illustrations of pumpkins and books on the poster.</p>	<p>Get crafty as a family and paint, decorate, or carve a pumpkin based on a character or setting from a book of your choice!</p> <p>Families are invited to bring in a decorated pumpkin to the front office on Wednesday, October 25 to be put on display!</p> <p>Pumpkins will be returned home on October 31, 2023</p>
<p><b>SCREAMFEST AT CLAREMONT</b></p>	<p>We have SCREAMFEST tickets for sale in the office for \$10.</p> <p>Screamfest will take place Oct 24/25/26 K-5 session is 6-7pm</p> <p><a href="#">POSTER</a></p>
<p><b>LEPAC HALLOWE'EN FAIR</b></p>	<p><b><u>Save the Date: Halloween Fair Oct 26 5pm-7.30pm</u></b></p> <p>Join us for dancing, games, literary Pumpkin hunt, Costume Walk &amp; a grade dance off!</p> <p>Plus, we will have a jar raffle, Royals tickets &amp; Night of Lights tickets.</p> <p>*This is a Family event. all children must be accompanied by an adult.</p>



### HALLOWE'EN OCT. 31



Students are invited to wear their costumes to school on Tuesday, October 31.

Please ensure that costumes are suitable for learning all day: ie: comfortable to sit in, participate in gym & play at recess outside.

Please also ensure that your child is not wearing a costume face mask or bringing costume accessories such as swords etc.

Students are welcome to wear black and orange if they would prefer to not wear a costume.

Please note that costumes have the potential to get dirty/wrecked if worn during the day at school. We will not be making accommodations during the day to avoid these circumstances.

On October 30th, our School Liaison Officer will be facilitating two Hallowe'en Safety assemblies : one for K-3 students and a second for Grade 4 & 5 students.

Parents, please ensure that your child does not bring more than one or two treats to school in their lunch following Hallowe'en.

Thank you to LEPAC for supporting our students with a healthy snack on November 01 following our Burn off the Sugar Run!

### FEEDING FUTURES FOOD PROGRAM

The ministry has provided school districts with funding to support food programs for students who are in need during the school day (options and availability will vary from school to school).

By completing the form at the link below, you can request food support for your student. **This information will be shared with school administration who will keep it confidential.**

<https://saanichschools.ca/form/food-program-form>

### PHOTO RETAKE DAY



Photo retakes will be held on November 7th.

Please email your child's teacher before this date to inform them if your child is getting a re-take.

**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.

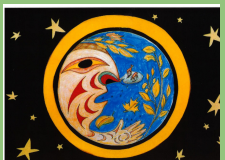
**Lost & Found**



Our Lost & Found bins runneth over.

Please check the bins and clothing rack by the Kindergarten entrance to claim.

**PEKELÁNEW**



This is the moon of the turning of the leaves white season (frost). This moon brings the first frost. The leaves lose their colours and turn pale. Deer hunting is the activity during this moon. The earth is cooling down and the people turn their efforts to hunting.

See the [link](#) for more information

**Soccer  
Intramurals**



Soccer Intramurals have started again at the school.

Grade 4 & 5 students who have signed up will play during their lunch recess.

This year we have approximately 37 students signed up to play 😊

Big thank you to coaches: Miss Howells, Mr. Koopmans, Mr. O'Connor, Miss Hardcastle & Mrs. Sinclair-Wise

**Swim Club**



Lochside is happy to announce that the Swim Club is back again this year!

**WHO CAN JOIN:** students in Grade 3 -5 who have at least Swim Level 5 and/or are capable of swimming one 25 m length unassisted in deep water.

**WHERE:** Commonwealth Pool (parents need to organize transportation to and from the pool)

**WHEN:** Wednesdays from 3:15pm-4:00pm

Starting date: November 8th

If your child is interested, they must attend the lunch time information session for more details. Date of the meeting will be shared in our morning announcement.

## REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY



This year our Remembrance Day Assembly will be observed on Friday, November 10th, 2023 at 10:00am in the Gym.

Students are invited to wear their Scouts, Cadets, Guides uniforms.

Due to gym capacity, 2 guests/ student from performing classes may attend the assembly.

More details will be shared in the coming weeks.

## Late Arrival or Early Departure For students



- 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.

## Parking Lot Protocol



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.

Please do not STOP right at the entrance to our parking lot. This causes cars and traffic to back up onto Royal Oak Drive.

Parents are reminded to not leave vehicles unattended in the Drive-Thru or Drop-Off lanes while picking up their child.

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.

## Non Instructional Days in 2023



Please mark the following **Pro D dates** on your calendar:

- Friday, October 20, 2023
- Monday, November 20, 2023
- Friday, February 16, 2024
- Monday, April 22, 2024
- Friday, May 17, 2024

## Early Dismissal Days in 2023



Please mark your calendars

Dismissal time is 1:48 pm on the following days:

- Wednesday, November 29, 2023
- Thursday, February 29, 2024

## Winter Performances



More details will follow closer to the date; however we can confirm that we will be doing two Winter Performances this school year.

Our grade 4 & 5 students will be performing in December before the Winter Break.

Our K-3 students will be performing at the end of January.

Dates and time will be shared next month.