

Dear Don Ross Families,

I hope everyone had a restful long weekend and had an opportunity to pause and reflect on November 11th. I know for many families, mine included, the 11th can be both a solemn and painful time. On the 11th my family and I take time to remember those who have been lost to war and those who have returned but are never the same. I think about my brothers who served a combined four tours in Afghanistan, the friends they lost and the lasting impact that war has had on their lives. To all DRM families who have been impacted by the horrors of war, from my family to yours, we grieve and remember with you.

Remembrance Day at DRM, as it always is, was a special event. Students and staff worked together to create a live-stream of the ceremonies. Representatives from classrooms attended in person and shared poems, songs, art and words. Thank you Anthony Joseph for opening our ceremony with the Honour Song, Mr. Biln for the bagpipes, Ms. Kyle for her rendition of A Pittance of Time and Mr. Thomson for helping us close our ceremony with the Last Post. A thank you as well to our MC's from our Leadership class and all students involved. I would also like to thank Mr. Flynn, our music teacher, and the students from our Band class who pre-recorded an excellent rendition of [Oh Canada](#).

Below you will find a number of informational updates. Please note that many of these updates will also be shared on our [school news app](#) and posted on [our website](#). Please consider downloading this app onto your phone to stay up to date with school and district information. You can also find additional updates by viewing our school calendar which can be accessed [here](#).

Take care,

Cory Hartling
Principal
Don Ross Middle School

Please see below:

Parent/Teacher Night and Report Cards - November 24th is our first of two parent teacher nights. Please note that this will be an early dismissal day (2:00 p.m.). As with last year, these will not take place in person and instead will be conducted via video conferencing or phone. Your child's homeroom teachers will reach out to you to schedule a time to meet. I would encourage you to arrange for a separate meeting if you are looking for a conversation beyond a 15 minute time-slot or if you would like to come into the school for an in-person meeting. I would also like to encourage students to attend these meetings with their families.

If you would like to meet with one of our rotational teachers please contact them directly:

Mr. Biln (ADST): dbiln@sd48.bc.ca
Ms. Erskine (ADST) : aerskine@sd48.bc.ca
Mr. Flynn (Music): cflynn@sd48.bc.ca
Ms. Keyes (Drama): wkeyes@sd48.bc.ca
Ms. Leever (Art): sleevevers@sd48.bc.ca

Report cards will be sent home, using the MyEdBC platform, on Monday, November 22nd. For instructions on how to access this platform, and troubleshooting, please see here:

https://www.sd48donross.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1094697&type=d&pREC_ID=1378091

New parents to DRM (if you have not had an account before) will be receiving an automated message this week with your login info. If you have any questions please reach out to myedsupport@sd48.bc.ca.

Quarter 2 - At DRM all students participate in our exploratory classes (sometimes called rotations). As we move into quarter 2 of the school year students will be switching into a new exploratory class for the next ten weeks. I hope all students enjoy the opportunity to dive into a new curricular area.

Communicable Disease Plan - As flu season approaches a reminder to all members of the DRM community to please stay home if you are sick. A further reminder to every member of our community to, on a daily basis, complete a health check. For students, the [K-12 Health Check](#) app is a great resource for this.

Another very important aspect of the DRM communicable disease plan is an increased emphasis on spending time outside. A reminder to all DRM families that students are to go outside during breaks and lunches (unless participating in a supervised activity).

Enhancing Substance Use Prevention in BC Schools Survey - In Phase 2 of an ongoing engagement initiative, the Province is seeking input on how to help meet the challenge of youth substance use and its associated harms. Parents and caregivers please consider completing this [short survey](#) by **November 19**.

In the Know - Please see the message below from Family Smart

I would like to invite you to the "In the Know"

Beyond Behaviour: When is it more? What does it look like ages 13+

Why can it feel so tricky to tell if our kids are on track, going through a phase, as opposed to struggling with something more, or beyond behaviours? In this video conversation, a parent and a counsellor talk about the developmental stages of children who are 13 years or older.

Monday, November 22nd @6:30pm

We are meeting over zoom and will watch the webinar together, with a facilitated discussion afterwards. I hope you will join us.

To sign up, please follow this link: [Beyond Behaviour Registration](#)

School Sports - Please see the sports update from our Athletic Director Mr. Carter

School sports have started back up this year. We have had tremendous success with our Cross Country Running team with two boys and a team of grade 8 girls reaching the provincial finals.

The grade 7 volleyball tournament on Thursday was a roaring success with Don Ross fielding three teams, two of whom came joint second in the tournament. It was such a success that we will be doing it all again playing against the schools from the north end of the district on December 8th. Parents are welcome to watch.

Basketball starts soon and we are proud to say that we have coaches and players from all grades for boys and girls.

We are in the planning stages for our wrestling club and are working to ensure we are following all appropriate protocols while our golf players have been practicing alongside the players at HSSS in preparation for tournaments in the spring.

Go Eagles!

Our Amazing School Initiative - If you are a member of the DRM PAC Facebook page you will probably have seen a number of posts about some of the day to day happenings at DRM. If you are not on the PAC Facebook page stay tuned to our website as we are looking at a way to replicate onto that platform. DRM staff are actively sharing little tidbits about the day to day happenings at our school. We hope parents enjoy a window into our school. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you would like to come into our school for a tour or visit.