

OCTOBER

DPAC Monthly Newsletter

dpac.doncaster@gmail.com



DPAC NEWS: October 2013



The defacto theme for the October has become SAFETY. Last week Doncaster Parent Auxiliary Council hosted Darren Laur of Personal Protection Systems Inc who gave a riveting discussion on *Abduction Prevention*. See overleaf for highlights. The evening was so well attended that he will be booked to present *Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention* in the New Year. That date is tentatively March 31st 2014. In the October 3rd DPAC meeting our School Police Liaison, Constable Heather Hunter of the Saanich Police, gave a quick overview of her "top 10" lists of

internet sites (she wants parents to be cognizant of). See side bar for the list of sites that promote bullying, are full of sexually explicit material or are inappropriately used by kids. Email the PAC if you would like her full notes on the subject. Her chat focused on internet safety and highlights are attached in the meeting Minutes. And, as the days grow short, and the nights long, let's all remain diligent in keeping a watchful eye on our children – as they venture out on Halloween night, and as they venture out in life.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Enlighten, don't
Frighten*

-Darren Laur

TIP OF THE MONTH

Constable Heather Hunter's
Top Ten sites (parents should
be aware of):

- Snapchat
- Ask.FM
- Pheed
- Twitter
- Instagram
- Vine
- Reddit
- Facebook - Flickr
- Tumblr
- MySpace
- Kik
- Pinterest

Month at a Glance: October

1. Oct 12-13 – Benito Work Weekend
2. Oct 14 - Thanksgiving
School Closed
3. Oct 15 – X Country Meet 3:45pm Clover Point
4. Oct 16-17 – Parent-Teacher Interviews
5. Oct 18 – Magazine Drive finishes
Order at www.qsp.ca, school code 3375
6. Oct 21 – X Country Meeting 3:45pm Lambrick Park
7. Oct 23 - Photo Retakes
8. Oct 24 – *Halloween Dance cancelled*
9. Oct 25 – Pro D Day – Students do not attend
10. Oct 28 – Final X Country Meet 1pm Beacon Hill
Park
11. Oct 29 – Hot Lunch
12. Oct 30 – Dance Club (first)

Dance Club:

Wednesdays at lunchtime
Grades 1 – 3
Meet in the gym
Every second Wednesday until April
April 17th, 2014 – performance

DPAC – dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

Cheques Payable to: Doncaster School Auxiliary Society

Abduction Prevention – Darren Laur

DPAC hosted Darren and Beth Laur this week for a parent session on 'Abduction Prevention'. Darren highlighted the categories of missing children (runaways, parent abductions, unknown/accident, stranger abduction), the children at the highest risk (alone on the playground, children who take shortcuts – isolated spots, children who blindly follow authority, children who do not trust their instincts and children starved for attention). The stats can be scary, but the good news is that in 2009 there were only five abductions that fall into the "stranger abduction" category.

Darren strongly dislikes "Stranger Danger" as it sends the wrong message to children: it either doesn't work and eventually the kids realize the parents are wrong (not all strangers are mean and scary) or that it works and makes the children afraid (and a frightened child makes them a target). He further adds he dislikes it because it implies strangers are the only bad people (and it's more likely to be someone they know harming them), but if the kids are in trouble they might not seek help from a stranger. Not allowing your kids to approach strangers will not let them develop and trust their instincts. **"From a child's perspective it's easier to understand a dangerous situation and actions than it is to understand 'stranger' profiles".**

Darren talked about the nine types of LURES a predator may use, and encourages parents to quiz the kid's on "what-ifs" (What if a nicely dressed man came with a picture of his puppy and a dog collar asking you to help look for his lost, puppy?):

- Assistance Lure (see example above) – adults do not ask kids for assistance. Designed to move kids out of a public place;
- Gift of bribery (money, candy, gifts) – used over time to break down the "stranger" stigma;
- Fun & games lure (to gain child's confidence);
- Authority lure (pretend to be a policeman/teacher);
- Emergency lure (mom's in the hospital and wants me to bring you to her, your house is on fire and you need to get home, etc.);
- Love & affection lure – all kids want love and affection;
- Fear lure – threatens child will hurt them, may show a weapon. Teach your child never to go and to yell "HELP, STRANGER!";
- Modelling lure – wants to take pics of your child;
- Job lure – wants to employ your child.

Safety rules include staying put and calling out your parents name if you get lost, go to a woman first for help (but OK to go to a male) and look for a safe place (safe place=busy place, BC Transit bus, friend's house, school, etc), call 911 and have a prearranged meeting place (for older children). Similarly, parents rules if your child is lost in a store include listening for your child's call, stop and yell the child's name, look around for what might have distracted them, do not hesitate to ask for help. Call 911 immediately.

When is my child ready to walk to school by themselves? For that answer you will have to check out the book, **"Enlighten not Frighten: Keeping Our Kids Informed, Defensible and Safe"** generously donated to the parent education library by Darren, Beth and Brandon Laur. Also recommended is to check out www.missingkids.ca for more tips. And look forward to the New Year when Darren will present "Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention" in another parent evening info session.

--DPAC

Halloween Safety

- Review expectations with kids before heading out
- Remind children to Look both ways before crossing streets
- Wear light-coloured costumes that fit (too long = tripping hazard)
- Do not eat candy before it's been inspected by a parent
- Do not eat open candy
- Use face paint instead of masks to aid children's vision
- carry a flashlight
- only go to homes with an outside light on
- accept treats at the door – do not go into a stranger's house
- trick-o-treating children should be accompanied by an adult at all time
- fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags
- walk – don't run – from house to house. Go up one side of the street and down the other



DPAC – dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

Cheques Payable to: Doncaster School Auxiliary Society

Money In

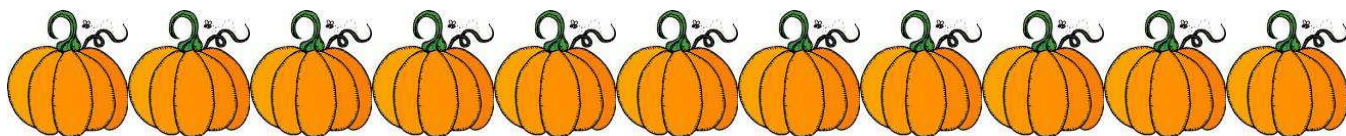
The PAC runs two to three fundraisers a year that are not associated with an event: SaveAround Town coupon books and the Magazine Drive in the Fall, and a "Dine Around Town" or "Fly-Away" raffle every second spring. Start thinking now of prizes that you might be able to donate or obtain for our spring 2014 raffle! Other PAC fundraisers are attached to an event: hot lunch, craft fair, back to school BBQ, etc.

SNAPSHOT SEPTEMBER 2013: The back-to-school BBQ raised \$900

Money Out

The PAC directly supports a multitude of activities and resources in the school including the ArtStarts program; music, books, technology resources; health-based programming; has savings towards a new playground (\$15K towards a goal of \$40K), and many others.

SNAPSHOT SEPTEMBER 2013: \$270 was spent on advertising for the craft fair in November.



Have you Noticed...



The Doncaster Parent Auxiliary Council (DPAC) has a new and improved website?

<http://doncaster.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/pac-overview/> or

<http://doncasterpac.wordpress.com>

Find an up-to-date calendar and check out more about what the DPAC does.

Can't make it to the meetings? Keep up-to-date with the Meeting Minutes at

<http://doncasterpac.wordpress.com/meetings/>

Looking Ahead:

DPAC is hosting its 21st Annual Holiday Craft Fair on **Saturday, November 16th**. Tell your friends, family and co-workers to head to Doncaster from 10am-3pm for over 80 tables of holiday must-haves. This craft fair is free to enter and offers a raffle at the top of every hour, a kid's craft room (by donation) and a Scholastic book fair in the library. Remember to drop off your baking for the bake table on Friday Nov 15th. More info coming soon. See you there!

Want to become involved with your child's experience at Doncaster? Check out the DPAC! We meet in the library on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm. Childcare is provided free of charge (please email ahead to confirm)

Next meeting is **November 7th**