

**School Council Annual Report  
Davidson Creek Elementary (DCE)  
School Year 2023 / 2024**

**Executive Members**

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- Chair, Lynn Walker  
This was Lynn's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Chair and she will be continuing for another 2-year term.
- Vice-Chair, Karli Butler  
This was Karli's 2<sup>nd</sup> year as Vice-Chair and has also held the position of Secretary in past years, she will be continuing for another 2-year term.
- Secretary, Rochelle Reed  
The position of Secretary was filled at the September 14, 2023 meeting by Rochelle. She was only able to fill this position for a 1-year term as her child will be graduating from grade 6 at the end of the 2023 /2024 school year. A new Secretary was not elected at the June 20, 2024 AGM and will be posted again for the September meeting.
- Wellness Committee, Candice Abraham  
Candice was elected part way through last year at the May 13, 2023 meeting and will remain in this position for another year until the end of her term 2024 / 2025 school year. Candice took on a major role with the Wellness Committee and has done an amazing job rejuvenating past wellness programs as well as new initiatives.
- Communications Officer, Hannah Parker  
Hannah was elected at last year's AGM on June 13, 2023 for a two year term. She has done a tremendous job keeping parents updated through the DCE parents Facebook page for all school events and activities. Hannah has resigned her position for personal reasons but will remain on the school's hot lunch program providing valuable support.  
Kari Hulter was elected as the new Communications Officer at this year's June 20, 2024 AGM for a 2-year term.

Representative from both School Council and DCE Fundraising Society manned a booth at the Open House on August 30, 2023. The goal was to bring awareness on the role of school council and engage new members to attend meetings or take more active roles whether it be a yearly position, committee involvement or other volunteer opportunities. We will continue to provide this service at next year's meet the teacher night on August 28, 2024. Representatives also attended the kindergarten parent information session in May.

**Meetings**

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The DCE School Council operating procedures require a minimum of five meetings to be held at the school. There is no set date or time these meetings are to be held. At last year's AGM, it was decided to move school council meetings to Thursday nights to allow parent representatives the opportunity to attend other school council meetings for their older children and in alignment with the school calendar. The following meetings were held this year:

- September 14, 2023
- October 12, 2023
- November 16, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- February 15, 2024
- March 16, 2024
- May 9, 2024
- June 20, 2024 (AGM)

In joint consultation with the school, School Council Chair and Fundraising Society President, the AGM's scheduled for June 13, 2024 was rescheduled to June 20, 2024 in accordance with operating procedures and proper notice was given. This change was made to accommodate our

parents and community for a scheduled Oiler's Stanley Cup playoff game and to ensure we were able to meet our quorum requirements.

At this year's AGM it was determined school council meetings will go back to Tuesday nights and will be held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month so not to conflict with other schools. The start time will also change from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 and meetings scheduled are in alignment with school priorities, activities and staff availability.

Trustee, Trina Boymook advised at the meeting we are the only school she represents which has their AGM in June. There was a consensus in the room to move the AGM next year to May. A motion will be put forward at the beginning of next year to move the AGM from June to May, as currently the DCE Operating Procedures have June listed as the AGM and will now need to be revised.

The following meeting dates were confirmed for the 2024 / 2025 school year:

- September 17, 2024
- October 15, 2024
- November 19, 2024
- January 21, 2025
- February 18, 2025
- March 18, 2025
- May 20, 2025 (AGM)

## **Committees**

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Committees are a great way for parents to engage and volunteer at the school. This year the current committees included:

- Hot Lunch;
- Grade 6 Grad;
- Summer Sizzler;
- Wellness Committee

All committees play a valuable role in the DCE culture, and we wouldn't be able to hold these activities and events without the volunteers working on these committees. However, the Wellness Committee played a significant role in school activities this year with the following;

- Book Drive  
DCE collected both adult and children's gently used books for a book trade / sale in conjunction with the DCE's Family Literacy Night on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Each family in attendance received one book from the book drive to take home for free! Any additional books could be purchased for \$1/book. All funds raised were used to help purchase decodable books for our kids to continue to learn to read using research-based methods!
- WOW (Walk or Wheel) Wednesday's  
October 4<sup>th</sup> was the first WOW Wednesday of the year and continued each first Wednesday of the month for the entire school year. It was a great way to keep students moving, learning the importance of prioritizing exercise and having fun! All participants needed was to walk, bike or scooter to school. For parents driving their kids to school, they were encouraged to park a little further away and walk in and students taking the bus were encouraged to walk or run around the soccer field twice at recess. Each WOW Wednesday, teachers tallied all the students in their class who walked or wheeled to school and at the end of the year the class with the highest total won a prize! This year's winner was Mrs. Hansen's Grade 4 class, for their efforts they won Jugo Juice for their class.

- **Holiday Locker Gifts Bags**  
Additional funds were raised this year, which we wanted to pass along to the students in the form of holiday gift bag. A total of 654 bags were distributed by teachers to each student's locker during the last day of classes before the winter break. Gifts were generic and age appropriate for all grade levels and were selected keeping in mind the mental health and wellness skills of students. Any items left over were left with the school to distribute as part of the Mustang Mentions. Items included were:
  - Mini Pop Fidget Key Chains
  - Fidget Soccer Spinner Balls
  - Invisible Ink Pen with Light
  - Animal Erasers
  - Rainbow Pencils
- **Pink Shirt Day Contest**  
In honour of anti-bullying and Pink Shirt Day on February 28<sup>th</sup>, DCE hosted a pink t-shirt art contest! One student from each division was chosen to display their art on a pink t-shirt printed by Tyleen and sold to families before February 28<sup>th</sup> in both child and adult sizes. Teachers helped students to create an anti-bullying-themed black and white design on one side of a heart. One design from a student in Division 1 (K-3) and the other from a student in Division 2 (4-6) were selected and then joined together to make one whole heart to be used on the t-shirt. Funds raised will be used to support Wellness Committee Activities. The following winners were chosen by parents on the Wellness Committee:
  - Division One winner: Madilyn M., Kindergarten;
  - Division Two winner: Tessa F, Grade 5.
- **Watermelon days**  
Watermelon slices were provided to all students at the track and field days.
- **Playground pals**  
In collaboration with school counsellors this new initiative was created to engage student leadership to help lead and implement games at recesses with different grade levels to develop inclusive play at DCE. The program was set up as follows:
  - 2x/ week on Mondays and Thursdays for three weeks for the weeks of April 8<sup>th</sup>, April 19<sup>th</sup> and April 22<sup>nd</sup> for training with leadership students and 2 – 5 parent volunteers.
  - Then the program will continue to run in full 2x/week for the next seven weeks (week of April 29<sup>th</sup> to week of June 10<sup>th</sup>).
  - The program will run for grades 1 and 2. Each class will split in half and participate in one day.
- **Mustang Mentions Donations**  
New this year was the Mustang Mentions Assembly to celebrate all DCE student who did a great job of demonstrating school expectations:
  - Be kind
  - Be safe
  - Be respectful
  - Be your best self

Throughout the year, when students won Mustang Mentions their names were automatically entered into the year-end prize draw. Thanks to the generosity of parents and local businesses, 140 prizes were collected from scooters to basketballs to Dollarama

gift cards and a week-long gymnastics camp and were handed out at the year-end assembly!

Future initiatives:

The Wellness Committee has committed to continuing with all the events and activities this school year into next. Additional events and activities they intend to provide is:

- Volunteers to assist teachers in setting up their classrooms at the beginning of the year and assistance at the end of the school year in cleaning up;
- Wellness night
- Heathy snack days 4 times per year adding in vegetables with watermelon day;
- Pink button vs. pink shirt
- School yard clean up.

## Communication

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Open communication continued to play an important role between the administration, parents and community stakeholders. We continued to utilize email, School Messenger, Mustang Memo's, Facebook pages, Twitter and Instagram as forms of communication.

- DCE Parent Group Facebook numbers grew from 549 to 576 members. Discussions were held at last years AGM on how the page should be administered as there are no guidelines currently in the School Council's Operating procedures. As the DCE parent Facebook page is not currently under School Council administration it was agreed by members at the meeting more consultation needs to be had with parents and a thorough review needs to be done to determine the best use of this social media platform, this work continues and guidelines will be added when the Operating Procedures are updated. To ensure the site was only being utilized by parents, the schools Business Manager, Christa Gawron, was added as an administrator to confirm new members were parents of DCE students and remove any who were not associated with the school. New members are now prompted to request access to the page.
- X (formerly Twitter) @DavidsonCreek grew from 221 followers to 226 and is managed by the school.
- DCE created an Instagram account in February for easier use of posting pictures and upcoming events and is managed by the school.
- Mustang Memo  
Parents continue to receive the Mustang Memo every Friday via email and Facebook, as well as posted on the school's website. This publication continues to be a valuable resource for parents and caregivers to stay connected with school activities and important issues and topics. The format is:  
Message from the Principal and Vice-Principal – general message or update on something new or exciting that's happened at the school. Opportunity to highlight events. With the memo online, it also provides the opportunity to share videos and pictures.  
Table of Contents:
  - Week at a Glance: provides an overview of the upcoming events for the week i.e.: hot lunches, early dismissal, lunch activities, field trips, etc.
  - Action: these are action items needing attention, anything from downloading the school calendar to filling out parent information on the school portal, etc.
  - Opportunity: opportunities for parents to engage with, from school council meetings, events at the school, etc. Also included in this section is:
    - Counsellor's Corner
    - Caregiver Series

- Information: general information, anything from morning drop off, links to school information such as the school handbook, EIPS notifications. This section also includes a series specifically for parents:
  - Parents Make the Difference series. Each week posts are made on interesting articles with tips to support the important work parents do at home.

## Activities & Events

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Here is an overview of the events and activities held at the school this year:

### September 2023

- Dot Day & Family Dance
- Terry Fox Run & Toonies for Terry
- Orange Shirt Day
- Truth and Reconciliation Awareness

### October 2023

- Giant Boggle Board Challenge
- Family Literacy Night
- Read In Week - read in lunch event
- Gr 2 Elk Island National Park
- Gr 3 Ukrainian Village
- Gr 4 Plant Growth (in school)
- Gr 5 Fort Edmonton Park
- Morphology Challenge
- Giant Turtle Floor Map
- Student Demo of Learning Interviews
- Halloween Parade

### January 2024

- DARE Grade 5 (Jan – Mar)
- Family Math Night
- Hats for Mental Health Day
- Smudge
- Gr 6 student lead assembly
- Gr 6 yearbook cover contest

### February 2024

- Pink Shirt Day contest
- Pink Shirt Day
- Gr 2 TELUS World of Science
- Gr 4 -6 Ski Trip
- Parent Teacher Interviews
- Random acts of Kindness
- Valentine's Day
- Smudge
- Black History Month
- Gr 1 100 days of school
- Gr 2 101 days of school

### November 2023

- Remembrance Day Ceremony
- Bullying Awareness Week
- Gr 3 Teacher's Pet
- Gr 4 Waste & Our World Presentations
- Gr 6 TELUS World of Science
- Gr 2 – 5 Earth Rangers

### December 2023

- Ugly Christmas Sweater Day
- 12 Days of Christmas Food Drive  
Strathcona County Food Bank. Collected 2,076 pounds!
- Christmas Concerts
- Gr 5 Greek Mythology Museum

### May 2024

- Jump Rope Kick Off!!
- D&D Wide up party
- Pokémon Tournament
- Speech Competition
- Soles 4 Souls Shoe Donations
- Gr 1 Arbor Day
- Gr 3 Art Gallery
- Family Dance Sports Theme
- KG Puppet Tree House
- Gr 1 Muttart Conservatory
- Gr 5 Elk Island
- Land Based Learning
- Wastewater Wetlands Presentation
- Gr. 6 Active School Challenge
- Art Gallery of Alberta
- Pancake breakfast

### June 2024

- PRIDE week Rainbow Day

**March 2024**

- Gr 6 Alberta Legislature
- Week of Inspirational Math
- KG Telus World of Science
- Gr 2 Teachers' Pet
- DARE Grad Grade 5

**April 2024**

- Volunteer Appreciation
- Gr 6CLB Band Rodeo
- Livestream author David Robertson
- Earth Day Assembly
- Adventures Caravan in-school
- Gr 2 Brain & stress presentation
- Gr 5 Josh Classen Weather Watchers

\*Smudge First Nations, Metis & Inuit students interested

- Sherwood Park Museum
- Sidewalk Chalk Decorating
- Button making
- Pokémon Tournament
- Track and Field Day
- Philip Campiou tipi teachings assembly
- AMA year end party
- Gr 5 Art Gallery
- Gr 3 Jurassic Forest
- Gr 5 Historical Canadian Museum
- Mustang Spirit Day
- Mustang Mentions Prize Assembly
- Snow Cone day
- Wish Day Dress as favourite Disney Character
- Gr 4 Telus World of Science
- Gr 3 Assembly Indigenous Peoples' Day
- Meet Your Teacher event
- Summer Sizzler

Swimming lessons for students in K - 3 were offered throughout the year but were not continued for older grades for the following reasons:

- Students in older grades reported feeling uncomfortable in change rooms. There are limited individual changing stalls with doors and not enough time to wait for an available stall before the bus leaves. This left some students feeling unsafe;
- Secondly, the new curriculum is very full and has significant jumps in content difficulty. On lesson days, including travel time, students spent around 80 minutes out of school. While 30 of those minutes would fall under physical education instructional time, 50 minutes of instruction would be lost twice a week for 8 weeks. Given the intensity of the curriculum, the administration could not justify the lost instructional minutes for an extracurricular activity.

There were many other activity days held during the school year, which included jeans and jersey days or pajama days. The school also continued to offer a variety of clubs during the lunch hour recess and extracurricular activities, they included:

- Art Club Gr 1 - 2
- Badminton Club Gr 6
- Basketball Intramurals Gr 6
- Beyblades Club
- Cute Things Club Gr 4 - 6
- Choir Gr 3 - 6
- Daebak Dance Club Gr 4 - 6
- Dungeons & Dragons Club Gr 4 - 6
- Games Club All Grades
- Gymnastics Club Gr 4 - 6
- Karaoke Clubs Gr 3
- Library Helpers Gr 5
- Patrollers Gr 5 - 6
- Pokémon Card Club Gr 2 - 6
- Propagation Pros Club Gr 3 - 6
- Running Club Gr 4 - 6
- Skipping Club All Grades
- Smudge
- Sprouts Club Gr 1 - 2
- Student Leadership Club Gr 6
- Volleyball Intramurals Gr 6

## **Engagement Opportunities Supporting the School Education Plan (SEP) Goals**

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Not only were there events and activities for the staff and students this year, but there were many engagement opportunities for parents and caregivers to attend, creating a community environment that is inclusive for everyone and in support of DCE's School Education Plans (SEP) goals.

1. *Continue to develop teacher capacity in evidence-based reading and writing instruction students will continue to demonstrate statistically significant growth in their reading comprehension scores and writing portfolios.*

- Professional development. During the morning teachers worked in grade level teams to collaboratively score and analyze student writing samples. They worked together to decide what next steps their students will need to move their writing into the next achievement level as well as what kinds of instruction they might do to support overall growth in student writing.

In the afternoon, teachers joined mixed grade level teams to look at student writing samples from kindergarten to grade 6 to see the progression of writing skills as compared to the English Language Arts and Literature curriculum. They finished off the day in their grade level teams to discuss key learnings and next steps that they will take to support student writing at each grade level.

- Read In Week 2023 Reading Reimagined  
Daily contest: Guess the book title in the announcements. Listen to a teacher read an excerpt from a book or give a summary of the book without giving away the title. Students can guess the name by filling out a slip of paper in the library with the book title name and their name and class. Prizes were drawn daily.

### Week of Events:

- Monday: Teacher Storytime Switcheroo. Two teachers agreed to swap classes for a short 10 minute read aloud;
  - Tuesday: Giant Boggle Board on library glass - how many words can you make?. Paper copies given out in class to students who wanted to try the challenge;
  - Wednesday: Read to Your Stuffy Day. Bring a stuffy and carry it and a book around all day. When you hear "read to your stuffy time" stop what you are doing and read for 10 minutes;
  - Wednesday Evening: Family Literacy Night
  - Thursday: Family Read In Lunch Event. Families were invited to come and read with student over lunch hour.  
Morphology Challenge. A word matrix was given on the video announcements and students completed the matrix and submitted their longest word to the office for a chance to win a prize.
- Family Literacy Night  
On October 4, 2024, families were invited to attend family literacy night. There were three rounds of activities in 20 minutes slots where families could pick and choose from special literacy activities led by the DCE teaching team or choose to attend special guest presenters.

Gr Level	Session Title	Description
K - 1	Alphabet/Letter Scavenger Hunt	Students will find the letter and write the letter in a multi-sensory way.
K - 3	Sing Me a Story	Music is Literacy! Sing along stories and learn more about how songs, rhymes, action songs are important tools to help children learn and improve fluency and expression.
K - 3	Raising Readers	How to best support your children while reading at home. Parents had the opportunity to explore and learn about decodable books together with their children.
Gr 1 - 3	Map the Snap	Learning ways to develop reading and writing skills at home. Demonstrating how to listen for the sounds in a word, identify how many sounds there are and match the sounds with corresponding letters and letter combinations.
Gr 1 - 3	Rainbow Words	Learn a strategy to segment words into sounds and syllables to support children how to read and spell.
Gr 1 - 3	Word Ladders	Students will use orthographic mapping to work on word ladders. They will manipulate the sounds in words, identify the letter(s) to be changed, the letter to add, and the appropriate placing of the letter. Students will check their answers by blending or reading the phonemes in the new word.
Gr 1 - 3	Making Words	Making Words is a hands-on activity in which students learn how adding and moving letters can create new words. Guess the secret word that uses all the letters?
Gr 4 - 6	Word Matrix	A word matrix shows written morphemes (affixes, roots, and bases) that can be combined to construct words. Students use a word matrix to create known words and new words that use a common base or root and a group of affixes.
K - 6	<i>Digital Literacy</i>	Discover digital resources available at the Strathcona County Library and provide safe researching skills on the internet.
K - 6	Library Tour	How DEC library is organized and the many books and resources that are offered to students.
Gr 4 - 6	Book Talk	Overview of books used in the class as a read aloud or book clubs. Also a list/synopsis of student favorite's.
All Grades	Indigenous Storyteller	Kohkom Linda will share stories as a knowledge keeper and elder representing her First Nation community
Gr 2 - 6	The Power of Story	Author Sigmund Brouwer on how STORY not only gives great purpose to writing, but is a wonderful way to strengthen connections with your children and encourage their literacy skills. With over 5,000,000 books in print, Sigmund Brouwer is the award-winning author of more than 100 titles.

2. *To build capacity for all teachers to implement best practices that support number sense and fax fluency, all students will demonstrate meaningful growth*

- Professional Development. DCE staff spent the day analyzing their current numeracy data and deciding on ways they can work both within their grade level teams and across



grade levels to support student learning in math. Then working on key math vocabulary that they should focus on in each grade level and makes decisions on how to improve fact fluency for all students in the school in fun ways.

The morning was spent within their grade level partners. Teachers analyzed all of their math data to identify gaps in student learning, to select key math vocabulary that each grade level needs to master, and to plan some ideas that we can do as a school to improve student math fact fluency.

Teachers then met in the afternoon and joined mixed grade level teams to compare learning gaps across the grade levels as well as to compare their math vocabulary lists and fact fluency ideas. It was a day full of deep and thoughtful conversations about how to best teach math as well a road map on how to move forward as a team to support excellence in math at DCE.

- Family Math Night

In January the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Family Math Night was held. Each grade level picked out a game that supports some important math skills for that grade level. As well, teachers prepared two versions of each game to play so both younger and older students could participate. This was a great way for families to interact together. There were also large math mat games set out in the gym for families to explore.

3. *To build mental health and wellness skills of student, staff and parents to foster a positive and healthy school community.*

- Mustang Mentions

Students who demonstrate examples of DCE's 4 expectations are nominated for Mustang Mentions.

- Be kind
- Be safe
- Be respectful
- Be your best self

Students nominated are given a Mustang Mentions on a piece of paper which includes their name, what expectation they were showing and a brief description of what they did that was so awesome and be signed by the person who nominated them. Students nominated are announced during our morning video announcements. They will then take their mention to the office so that we can celebrate them and cheer for them and are entered into a draw for a small prize as a little perk for making our school a great place! New this year was the Mustang Mention Assembly held at the end of the year. All Mustang Mentions were placed back into a draw barrel for prizes donated by parents and local businesses.

As a community we want everyone to experience success and feel like they are an important part of our school! By following these expectations, we can create a feeling of belonging for everyone.

- Professional development. DCE staff listened to a keynote presentation by Dr. Jared Cooney Horvath about impacts of stress, distraction and technology on student learning and ways we can help kids to work through them.

### Demonstration of Learning

On October 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, families were invited to the school to see how their child is doing. For students in grades 1 - 6, their first round of parent/student/teacher meetings were in the format of a demonstration of learning.

A demonstration of learning is when up to three families sign up for a 30-minute time slots. In those 30 minutes, students will show parents on their progress on learning outcomes in English Language Arts and Literature, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies. Parents will have the opportunity to see how their child is progressing by watching and listening to them engage in learning tasks related to the curriculum.

Kindergarten families will have traditional sit down interviews for 10 minutes at a time so that the teacher can discuss the results of the Early Years Evaluation Teacher Assessment (EYETA).