

Hello Guardians,

We are currently in the process of planning three different class field trips and so would like to take this opportunity to share some of the details with you. As you may or may not know, we are in the middle of a cross-curricular unit that is using sailing as a medium for the exploration of a range of subjects. Through activities relating to tides, currents, navigation, and sailboats, we have been able to delve into curriculum-based competencies and content for math, science, social studies, and Applied Design. To further encourage authentic knowledge growth, we have the following field trips planned:

1. Dodd's Narrows Hike

Date: 4 May, 2018

Details: Learners will depart from Departure Bay Elementary School (DBES) at 9:00am. They will then hike in 3 km to the narrows. During the hike they will be utilising GPS's to record speed and elevation gain/loss. Once at the shoreline, learners will then begin to record ocean current speeds through the collection of distance and time measurements. High tide is forecasted for 3:00pm and so the currents should be quite visible. Additionally, they will be taking notes on sea-life such as birds, sea lions, and whales. Learners will then hike back 3 km to the parking lot and return to DBES.

Cost: \$5.00 for the bus.

Volunteering: It would be wonderful to have guardians join the class on our hike and exploration of Dodd's Narrows. If you are able to commit to helping out during this trip, please contact Mr. Ranger or Mr. McDowall for more information.

2. Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSR) and Sea Wall

Date: TBA

Details: Learners will have the opportunity to visit the RCMSR Station near the Departure Bay ferry terminal to learn about water safety and get a tour of the facility and its boats. Learners will then walk 2 km to Maffeo Sutton Park where they will then join a local historian who will offer insights into the early history of Nanaimo. Following this, the class will then have the opportunity to test out a simple submarine that they are in the process of designing. A "Gopro" will be fitted inside the submarine to record footage of sea life. The bus will then pick students up at Maffeo Sutton park and bring them back to DBES.

Cost: \$5.00 for the bus.

Volunteering: We would greatly appreciate any guardians who might be able to volunteer their time in helping out with this trip. If you are able to commit some time, please contact Mr. Ranger or Mr. McDowall for more information.

2. Class Presentation to Nanaimo City Council

Date: Early/Mid May

Details: Learners will provide a children's perspective on how to develop the green spaces of Nanaimo's new Port Drive Waterfront development. By examining current research on playgrounds and creating a school-wide questionnaire, students will work together to create a final product that will be presented to mayor and council. Learners will decide on which of their five colleagues will present the information at the council chamber meeting. This activity will take place after school hours and so all participating students will require their guardians to drive them to the council meeting and then home again. One of the driving goals of this activity is to introduce learners to the democratic structures of their community and emphasize involvement and the importance of their own voices.

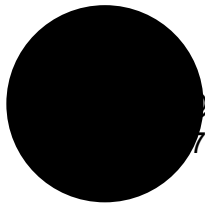
Cost: \$0.00

Volunteering: Guardians will be required to drive participating students to the council meeting which will either take place at 4:30pm or 7:00pm, and then stay with the learners until the activity is complete. They will also then drive the students home. More information will be forthcoming concerning dates and details.

We are greatly looking forward to having these opportunities to engage learners academically with the world outside of the classroom. The ability to apply skills and knowledge to real world scenarios is of great importance.

If you have any questions or are able to volunteer, please don't hesitate in contacting Mr. Ranger. Or Mr. McDowall Further details and information packs about these field trips will be sent home with learners shortly.

Regards,



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Mr. McDowall (Student-Teacher)

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