



# What's Up DVG?

(Info for DVG parents and students)

October 2015

## Important Dates

- Oct 2:** PD Day no school!
- Oct 3:** Come see the DVG table at the Cranberry and Health Fair (Rec Center)
- Oct 6:** CDC coming
- Oct 8:** Interagency Team meeting at DVG (3:30 pm)
- Oct 12:** Thanksgiving Monday—no school!
- Oct 14:** Gr 1-5 after school spooktacular science begins
- Oct 15&16:** Tim Green here for K-12 workshops in science!
- Oct 14:** orange shirt day (wear something orange to support the survivors of Residential Schools)
- Oct 22:** School Picture Day -dress your best!
- Oct 23:** Grad photo day and whole school photos
- Oct 23:** Earthquake and Fire Drill
- Oct 28:** DVG competes against Carmacks in volleyball
- Oct 28&29:** Gr 6-12 field trip in Whitehorse—career fair, museums, Yukon College
- Oct 30:** Kids Halloween Costume Parade at 11:25 followed by a small Halloween treat

## Principal's Blog



It has been a good month for middle and high school students. Earlier in September, students got to go canoeing on Fish Eye Lake and then many of them got to canoe a part of the Pelly River. Last week our DVG Grade 10-12 students were away in Dawson for the 3rd annual REM (rural experiential module). Over this intense week, students hiked, took elective course work (such as mountain biking, outdoor education, music, foods, and art), spoke to the Minister of Education, and got to attend a dance with other rural students from around Yukon. And the playground was installed—giving middle and high school students a lot more variety in what they can do outdoors at recess breaks.

And about that playground. Well, it has been a vexing process to get it here, and the frustrations aren't over yet. As you know, there is still a major piece coming in the Spring—which to my mind actually means the summer (but we'll see). However, as many have noted, the playground isn't quite what it was supposed to be. Not only did we get a glide track instead of a zip line (because the company that got the tender doesn't make zip lines), but the glide track is sticking in the middle—making it difficult for younger students to get across the entire span. There are a few other areas of deficiencies and we are working with our new Superintendent (Bill Bennett) to ensure the manufacturer fixes the issues. The Superintendent and I are also looking at seeing if we can get a bit more bang for our buck with some more equipment thrown in by the manufacturer. I am annoyed that half the cost of the playground was shipping and installation! This is an uphill battle, but we'll do our best. If you spot issues about the playground, please let us

know. As mentioned at last year's Final Assembly—the playground will be called the Wolf Eberlein Memorial Playground. Jurich (Jerzy) and Jeremiah Pilch are working on creating the dedication sign.

While September was busy, we certainly have a lot going on this October too, as you can see under the important dates list. Please note the 2 school closed days this month. I'm particularly excited about Tim Green visiting the school this month as part of the 'Scientists in Schools' program through Yukon College. Tim won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988 and has been a NASA space engineer, a United Nations translator, and now works for the Yukon Government. He will be running science activities tailored to the curricula for our K-12 science program. We also have after school science programs in place for Gr 1-8 students starting soon. This is all part of our growth plan's focus on science! See the last page of this newsletter for other goings on at DVG.

Some people might wonder what a principal does besides bossing students and staff around. One thing is I try to create or maintain programs that solve problems or provide greater opportunities for students. To that end, the School Council and I are researching the feasibility of allowing a daycare program to run in the school. This is in its infancy—so we'll see! I am also looking to start a math enrichment or recovery program at lunch time this year for Gr 3-9 students as part of our numeracy growth plan goal. I have loads of plans!

Please note that school photo day will be October 22nd (except for grad photos and possibly some whole class photos). Dana Bekk will be doing the photos this year and will be sending home order forms and more information later this month.

Take care everyone, Angela

## From the School Office.....

Please remember to call the office (994-2760) if your child is going to be away from school. This is to ensure that we record the correct information on your child's attendance record. Please leave a message on our answering machine if your call is not answered.



### More on the \$20 Student Fee

A student fee of \$20 per student per year was approved by School Council in June of 2014 and every penny taken in from this fee directly benefits students. The fee is used to cover student activities and expenses that are not covered by the school's budget. A one-time fee prevents the need for teachers to take in money throughout the year for various things like skating, swimming, BBQs, long distance bus fees, daily fruit snacks, special event supplies (ex arts and crafts), whole school meals, class baking projects, etc. In the past (1970-1990s), DVG collected these fees all the time and over the years we amassed a large surplus in our trust fund, which we've been using to supplement your child's program for years without asking for any money. However this surplus (\$11000!) went to paying for the new playground this year. We need your support. My hope is that all parents will see the value in contributing the \$20 so we can continue to offer these valuable student programs. Roxine in the office will take the fees in cash or a cheque made out to the DVG Trust Fund.



## Help Teach Your Child About Cyber Etiquette

Are you worried about what your child is texting or messaging to others? Kids are often impulsive and sometimes may say mean things to peers they later regret. If this is done online, they often call it cyber-bullying, which can be a serious offence. What can be done?

ReThink is a non-intrusive, innovative, patented software product that stops cyberbullying before the damage is done. When an adolescent tries to post an offensive message on social media, ReThink uses patented context sensitive filtering technology to determine whether or not it's offensive and gives the adolescent a second chance to reconsider their decision. Research shows that when adolescents are alerted to ReThink their decision, they change their minds **93%** of the time. Want to download it to your student's computers, phone, iPad or other devices? Go to: <http://www.rethinkwords.com/>

# Ongoing Activities at DVG

Despite having a small staff, we at DVG have big plans this year to offer a wealth of extra-curricular activities for our students. We thought you might want to know about some of them. The following activities are either underway or have been planned for this year.

- ◇ **Homework Club: Monday-Thursday 3:20-4:20**
- ◇ **Recycling Club**
- ◇ **Friday lunch hour sports for Gr 6-12 students: October-Dec: soccer, volleyball, badminton, January-March: snowshoeing, skiing**
- ◇ **Volleyball Team: Grade 6-12 Mondays 3:30-4:30**
- ◇ **Grade 3-9 Math enrichment/math recovery: Wednesday at lunch (October focus: multiplication)**
- ◇ **Gr 1-5 Science Club: Mondays and Wednesdays by pre-arranged group. (October focus: spooktacular science)**
- ◇ **Gr 1-8 Crafting Club: November, tba**
- ◇ **Destination Imagination—competitive science teams for Gr 3-8 students: start date tba**
- ◇ **Science Fair: tba**
- ◇ **Lunchtime music lessons: see Mr. de Jong to arrange private music lessons for your child (cost involved)**
- ◇ **Drama Club: Wed and Thurs after school**
- ◇ **Movie Nights: throughout the year, first one will be early November**
- ◇ **Christmas Concert**
- ◇ **Talent Show (Spring)**
- ◇ **Community Theatre: starting up early November (older students are welcome)**
- ◇ **Student Council: lunch club starting late October**
- ◇ **Artist in the School**
- ◇ **Canoe trips**
- ◇ **Math Night**
- ◇ **Class sleepovers**
- ◇ **Dawson REM (and perhaps Watson Lake REM)**
- ◇ **Field trips**
- ◇ **+ More!**