



**HOWARD DEBECK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
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Mr. L. Hurst, Principal

## Welcome Back Newsletter – September 5, 2017

### Welcome Back To DeBeck



#### Home of the Dragons

We hope you have had an awesome summer break and are feeling ready for a great new year at DeBeck. The staff at DeBeck extends a warm welcome back to all of our students and families returning to our school and a special hello to those new to our learning community.

### With Sadness and Regret

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our Band teacher, Ms. Gonul Tahirgil. After a lengthy battle with kidney disease, Ms. Tahirgil passed away suddenly on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Gonul's family and friends in this very difficult time. "Ms. T", as she was affectionately known, will be fondly remembered as a kind and gentle teacher who loved teaching children of the joy of music.

### DeBeck Welcomes Returning and New Staff

Welcome back to the incredibly caring and dedicated team of educators who are returning to DeBeck once again. We are so very lucky to have you back with us this year.

**A special "Welcome Back" to Hanna Kim** who returns to us after doing an amazing job for us as Teacher Librarian – but this time, she is back in the classroom as an early primary teacher. We are all very thrilled that Ms. Kim has been able to rejoin the Dragons team!

***We are also very excited and pleased to add a number of talented and well respected new educators to our school staff for the 2017 – 2018 school year.***

1. **Kassan Borthwick**, who joins the Dragon staff as our Teacher Librarian – after many great years in the role at DeBeck.
2. **Meghan Turner**, an Educational Assistant who comes to us after working for many great years at Whiteside Elementary School.
3. **Kailey Greczmeil**, who joins our Intermediate teaching staff after recent work as a grade 6/7 teacher at Tait and Spul'u'kwuks Elementary schools.
4. **Kathryn Simpson**, who also joins the Dragon team as an Intermediate teacher – and who recently taught grade 5/6 at McKinney Elementary.

5. **Stephanie Kilby**, who comes to us from Currie Elementary as a K teacher and will also be teaching Kindergarten at DeBeck.
6. **Emily Ratcliffe**, who joins the Dragon primary teaching staff after a most recent position as a grade 2/3 teacher at Westwind.

It is promising to be exciting year of change at DeBeck and throughout the entire public education system in BC, and we feel extremely fortunate to be able to add to our already outstanding team of educators with these wonderful new staff members.

### Congratulations to Mrs. Shauna Hudson

We are excited to announce that Shauna is the proud mother of a new baby girl, Maya, who was born on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017. We are so happy for Shauna and her growing family. And the news keeps getting better! We are also pleased to announce that Mrs. Hudson will be back as our grade 1 teacher after she completes her year-long maternity leave.

### Plans For the Rest of This First Week



The first week back provides students with a chance to catch up on their summers with their buddies and perhaps make some new friends as well. We hope your child enjoyed their first day back to school today.

#### Returning Grade 1 – 7 Students:

*All Grade 1 – 7 students please report to last year's teacher for arrivals and dismissals.* Grade 1 – 7 students will participate in learning activities with an overall focus/theme on our ROARS program for 2017 - 2018.

#### New Grade 1- to 7 Students:

*All new students were placed today in a learning group with their grade level peers and will remain in these groups for these activities this week.*

#### Kindergarten Gradual Phase-in Schedule:

DeBeck's gradual phase-in schedule continues our kindergarteners coming to school in small groups over the next two weeks and gradually attending for longer days until their first "full day" on Thursday, Sept 14th. ***We wish our littlest Dragons all the very best in their first two weeks at DeBeck!***

## WE HOPE TO PLACE STUDENTS IN CLASSES BY FRIDAY SEPT. 8<sup>TH</sup>

Over a typical summer, some DeBeck families may move out of our neighbourhood and some new families will move in to our community. During the first week of the school year, our School Board asks us to take attendance and determine exactly how many students at each grade level will be attending DeBeck. We receive our final allotment of teachers and educational assistants based on these numbers. By Thursday evening, we should receive word on our staffing levels for the year and we hope to place students in their classes on Friday Sept 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Welcome Back Assembly

**Friday September 8<sup>th</sup> @9:45 am in the gym**

*Families are welcome to join us this Friday morning as we introduce new staff and students and usher in an exciting new year at DeBeck.*

### Welcome New Parent Tea



**Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 9:00 – 10:00 am in the DeBeck Library**

*All new families are invited to join us for a Welcome Tea hosted by our amazing PAC leaders and Mr. Hurst*

### Welcome Back to School BBQ

BACK TO SCHOOL  
**BBQ**

**Thursday September 21<sup>st</sup>**

**@ 5:30 – 7:00 pm**

*Please join us for a new event - a Welcome Back to School BBQ to kick off the 2017 – 2018 school year in true DeBeck style: an informal get together where we all can enjoy some great BBQ food and treats, welcome everyone to the 2017 – 2018 school year, introduce this year's staff, catch up with returning families and meet some of the staff, students and families who are new to our community. **We hope you can make it out to this fun evening!***

### FIRST PRO-D DAY

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup>**

- No School in Session –

### 2017 Terry Fox Run



**Thursday September 28<sup>th</sup>**

**@ 1:30 – 2:30 pm**

Please join us for this fun and important annual event -

and help us to keep Terry Fox's dream of finding a cure for cancer alive. Once again, as we build up to the Terry Fox Run, we will be gratefully accepting loonie and toonie donations to support the Terry Fox Foundation.

## DEBECK IS PROUD TO BE A "NUT AWARE" SCHOOL



Within our school community there are a growing number of students who have a potentially life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and nuts, such as cashews, walnuts, almonds, pistachios, pecans, hazelnuts and spreads such as peanut butter and Nutella. We feel that the best way to reduce the risk of accidental exposure to these students is to respectfully ask for the cooperation of the parents/guardians within this school to avoid sending peanut butters or products with peanuts or nuts listed in the ingredients with your child, either for snack or lunch, or if arrangements have been made with the teacher to send treats into class. If your child accidentally brings products with nuts or peanuts, they will be asked to eat them at a designated table and will then be asked to wash their hands.

**Note - New students with nut allergies, please inform the school office ASAP.**

## 2017-2018 School Hours

### Mondays Only:

8:30 am	School Opens
8:45 am	Classes Begin
10:25 – 10:40 am	Recess Break
12:20 – 1:11 pm	Lunch Break
2:00 pm	Dismissal

### Tuesdays Through Fridays:

8:45 am	Classes Begin
10:25 – 10:40 am	Recess Break
12:20 – 1:16 pm	Lunch Break
3:00 pm	Dismissal

### School Opens Door for Students at 8:30 am

Please note – Due to safety and supervisory reasons, no students are permitted in the building until 8:30 am. Also, we are responsible for your child's safety until they are dismissed, so please arrive promptly at dismissal time.

**CHECK OUT DEBECK'S UPDATED WEB-SITE...**

**[debeck.sd38.bc.ca](http://debeck.sd38.bc.ca)**

Help us to reduce our consumption of paper and to keep you informed and updated by checking out our web-site for important information and regular updates on the latest events and happenings, and newsletters/notices. Our next newsletter will ask you to provide your email address so that we can notify you of news and newsletters posted on the website.

**Our next newsletter will be posted Fri. Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>**