



DUKE OF CONNAUGHT



DECEMBER 2019

Thanks to everyone for a fabulous Winter Concert!



The Giving Tree and Holiday Market



Once again, our Duke community showed its spirit with several Initiatives this holiday season. The Giving Tree and food drive were in support of Covenant House and the Christmas Market flourished again, thanks to the generous donations of our community.

Learning Business Initiative

Ms Astor's Grade 7/8 class took part in a holiday craft and bake sale, part of their Learning Business program in the classroom. Students created crafts and sold baked goods and hot chocolate in support of the Canadian Cancer Society.



Music Corner December 2019

December was a very BUSY month for Duke's Musical Ensembles as the Duke Music program was running along at full steam.

Our Students enjoyed singing songs together as ONE VOICE as they joined in our annual tradition of Carol Singing in our front lobby for two sessions during our last week of classes to spread some holiday cheer to one and all.



On December 18th, the **Senior Choir** was invited to participate in the **SING - Toronto A Capella Vocal Arts Festival TD SPONSORSHIP APPRECIATION DAY**. For the past 3 years Duke's Senior Choir has enjoyed a wonderful benefit of attending the **SING Vocal Arts FESTIVAL EDUCATION DAY in May** (which they will attend in 2020 as well). Duke's Senior Choir performed 3 songs in the main Lobby of the TD Centre for **SING** and TD executives -- and received glowing comments from an audience of over 300 people in attendance -- WELL DONE DUKE SENIOR CHOIR!!



Thursday, December 19th, several members of the Senior Choir sang for the annual East End Community Health Centre's Annual Holiday Drop-in. The choir had a fun time and they were well received by the visitors to the Drop-in. A huge thank you from Mr. Caruso. Well Done once again!!



Mr. Mercier's classes have been enjoying participating in Bucket Drumming during the month of December as they grooved to the beat and created their own rhythms! Mr. Caruso's Classes have been continuing to sing, play the ukulele as well as the guitar in his various classes.

The 2020 edition of **Duke's Got Talent** is taking place on Thursday, April 2nd, 2020. Sign up lists for auditions will be up for the first week of January -- Auditions will begin the 2nd week of January.

Thanks, once again, to the Duke Community for your continued support of Duke's Music Program.

Mr. Caruso and Mr. Mercier

SAC

Happy Holidays from your School Advisory Council (SAC) executive! 2019 is now almost behind us, and while we're all excited for some well-deserved down time over the break, we're also eagerly looking forward to a new decade brimming with opportunities to strengthen our community together.

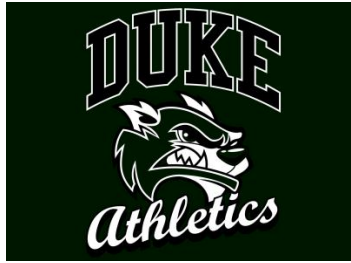
First of all, we'd like to extend a huge thank you to the entire Duke community for your generous donations to the Giving Tree again this year. This initiative supports Covenant House, the largest agency in Canada serving youth who are homeless, trafficked, or at risk through inclusive, intentional, and youth-driven programming centred on unconditional love, absolute respect, and relentless engagement. We are so grateful to Aron McGrath for organizing this worthwhile project, and to everyone who helped make it a success.

The free skate library offers an opportunity for every child to participate in this truly Canadian winter pastime! To arrange an appointment to borrow a pair of skates for the season during school hours, simply send an email to dukeskatelibrary@gmail.com. The skate library is located in the basement of the Duke building. Parents will need to sign in at the Main Office and then head down the staircase at the North end of the hall.

We are all always eager to meet and speak with as many parents as possible. [Please join us for free coffee on the first Friday morning of each month](#) during and immediately following drop-off. We set up at different spots around the yard (and even sometimes in the foyer when the weather is particularly bad!) to try and be accessible to as many community members as possible. Don't forget to bring your travel mug! Our [next coffee morning is Friday, January 10th](#). Hope to see you there! [Join us at our next SAC meeting on Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 pm](#), in the cafeteria. Childminding is available, and both the agenda and minutes from previous meetings can be found on the Duke SAC website at www.dukesac.ca.

SAC's Need to Read (NTR) newsletter contains updates, school info, and important dates. If you would like to receive the NTR, visit the SAC website to sign up at www.dukesac.ca

There are many ways for you to get involved at the school. We are always looking for volunteers to help with upcoming events and to help grow our community. If you'd like to get involved and help out, please email us at info@dukesac.ca. All of our community building and fundraising events happen through the generosity of volunteers like you. Bring a friend and come on out to see what it's all about! Let's continue to work together to keep Duke's school community strong!



Congratulations to the Grade 7 Boys Volleyball team who are your SOUTH CONFERENCE FINALISTS! The team finished 1st in their tournament defeating Earl Grey, Westwood, GA Brown and Glen Ames. The team continued their success, eliminating Winona M.S. in the Semi-Finals and then coming very close to defeating John G Althouse in the Finals. Thank you for an extraordinary season!



Congratulations to the Gr. 7/8 Girls basketball team who made it all the way to the conference semi-finals this year. Their dedication and commitment to the team was outstanding as they practiced competitively 3 times a week including a PA day. I would like to thank the team for a great season. Mr. St-Pierre



****Reminder****



SKI TRIPS TO SNOW VALLEY SKI RESORT **Gr. 5/6 - Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020** **Gr. 7/8 - Tuesday, Jan. 21, 2020** *Snow Valley Ski Resort*

Reminder to all students and families:

- **Meet at 7am sharp** in the Woodfield Gym (doors leading in from school yard will be open).
- Dress appropriately: adequate clothing for winter outdoor activity; layering principles, warm pants, a coat and gloves or mittens. Long scarves are not permitted.
- Lunch is not provided. You may bring your own lunch or you may bring money to purchase a lunch in the chalet.
- If you are bringing your own equipment, a properly fitted (as per manufacturer's guidelines) and properly worn snow sport helmet certified by a recognized safety standards association (e.g. ASTM F2040, CEN 1077, Snell RS98, CSA Z263.1) must be worn.

***** PLEASE NOTE GRADE 5/6 PARENTS/GUARDIANS *****

We will be returning at approx. 5pm (depending on traffic). A form regarding dismissal from the trip has been sent home and needs to be returned to Ms. Oliveira ASAP.

Please review the following with your child:

ALPINE RESPONSIBILITY CODE

THERE ARE ELEMENTS OF RISK THAT COMMON SENSE AND PERSONAL AWARENESS CAN HELP REDUCE. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU DECIDE TO USE THE SLOPES, ALWAYS SHOW COURTESY TO OTHERS. PLEASE ADHERE TO THE CODE LISTED BELOW AND SHARE WITH OTHERS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR A SAFE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCE.

1 Always stay in control. You must be able to stop, or avoid other people or objects.	6 Always use proper devices to help prevent runaway equipment.
2 People ahead of you have the right-of-way. It is your responsibility to avoid them.	7 Observe and obey all posted signs and warnings.
3 Do not stop where you obstruct a trail or are not visible from above.	8 Keep off closed trails and closed areas.
4 Before starting downhill or merging onto a trail, look uphill and yield to others.	9 You must not use lifts or terrain if your ability is impaired through use of alcohol or drugs.
5 If you are involved in or witness a collision or accident, you must remain at the scene and identify yourself to the Ski Patrol.	10 You must have sufficient physical dexterity, ability and knowledge to safely load, ride and unload lifts. If in doubt, ask the lift attendant.

**Know the Code - Be Safety Conscious
It is Your Responsibility**

© 2010 © CWBA

X Movement Comes to Duke

During the first week of December, all classes participated in a series of dance workshops facilitated by X Movement. The underlying concept is to teach self-empowerment and mindfulness through dance. Parents even got into the act at a special parent evening! Teachers have been given access to a link with follow up materials to help track student progress. Thanks to SAC for their help in organizing and contributing to bring X Movement to the school!



Intramurals



Grade 2 and 3 students now have another lunchtime option for play: we began an intramural program at the beginning of December, with students participating in a variety of games and sports on Monday and Wednesday. They are learning teamwork and sportsmanship, in addition to the joy of playing. Thanks to Mr. St-Pierre, Mr. Mercier, Mr. Aishford and Mr. Albrecht for generously donating some of their lunch hour to support our students.

Around the School



We thank Junior Achievement for visiting several of our classrooms to teach financial literacy.



Thanks to the city of Toronto for assisting our Eco Schools program with some informative recycling assemblies!



Jeremy is proud of his Lego structure – a city in his hands!



The students of Mme Kirk's 1/2 class in Room 18 applied plasticine techniques, inspired by children's author, Barbara Reid, to create a representation of a seasonal cycle.

Holiday Traditions

Winter Solstice:

The celebration of Winter Solstice (also known as Yule) is one of the oldest winter celebrations in the world. Ancient people were hunters and spent most of their time outdoors. The seasons and weather played a very important part in their lives. Because of this many ancient people had a great reverence for, and even worshipped the sun. The Norsemen of Northern Europe saw the sun as a wheel that changed the seasons. It was from the word for this wheel, *houl*, that the word yule is thought to have come. The ancient Romans also held a festival to celebrate the rebirth of the year. Saturnalia ran for seven days from the 17th of December. The festival involved decorating houses with greenery, lighting candles, holding processions and giving presents. Celtic priests would cut the mistletoe that grew on the oak tree and give it as a blessing. Oaks were seen as sacred and the winter fruit of the mistletoe was a symbol of life in the dark winter months. It was also the Druids who began the tradition of the yule log. Many of these customs are still followed today. They have been incorporated into the Christian and secular celebrations of Christmas.

Christmas

Christmas or Christmas Day is an annual festival commemorating the birth of Jesus Christ, observed most commonly on December 25 as a religious and cultural celebration among billions of people around the world. A feast central to the Christian liturgical year, it is prepared for by the season of Advent or the Nativity Fast and initiates the season of Christmastide, which historically in the West lasts twelve days and culminates on Twelfth Night; in some traditions, Christmastide includes an Octave. Christmas Day is a public holiday in many of the world's nations, is celebrated culturally by a large number of non-Christian people, and is an integral part of the holiday season, while some Christian groups reject the celebration. In several countries, celebrating Christmas Eve on December 24 has the main focus rather than December 25, with gift-giving and sharing a traditional meal with the family.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. It is observed for eight nights and days. It is also known as the Festival of Lights and the Feast of Dedication. The festival is observed by the lighting of the *menorah*. One additional light is lit on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. The typical menorah consists of eight branches with an additional visually distinct branch. The extra light, with which the others are lit, is called a *shamash*) and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest. Other Hanukkah festivities include playing dreidel and eating oil-based foods such as doughnuts and latkes.

Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration. It honors African and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving.^[1] Kwanzaa has seven core principles (*Nguzo Saba*). It was created by Maulana Karenga and was first celebrated in 1966–67. Kwanzaa was established as a means to help African Americans reconnect with their African cultural and historical heritage. Seven candles in a candelabra symbolize the seven principles of Kwanzaa. Kwanzaa celebratory symbols include a mat (Mkeka) on which other symbols are placed: a Kinara (candle holder), Mishumaa Saba (seven candles) mazao (crops), Muhindi (corn), a Kikombe cha Umoja (unity cup) for commemorating and giving shukrani (thanks) to African Ancestors, and Zawadi (gifts). Corn being the primary symbol for both decoration and celebratory dining.

Jeff Aichel
 Ms. Q.
 Danielle Astor
 Carol Shea
 James Jaccia
 Alla Hussai
 Lisa April
 happy holidays
 Amy
 K. Monty
 Lori Silk
 M. Dues
 Eunkilask
 Frank Kaplan
 J. Dupont
 Lori McKenzie
 Kathleen J.
 Maureen
 Alan Dreyfus
 Frank
 Caruso
 Shawn Bassett
 Carl
 Sambrook
 Wayne
 Dennis
 K. Love
 F. Lewis



Good Bye Ms. Helpert!



The Holiday season at Duke of Connaught is tinged with some sadness, as we say farewell to Ms. Helpert, who is moving to become Vice-Principal at Maurice Cody Public School in January. During her 5 years at Duke, she firelessly supported students and families and her work in Special Education also left an indelible mark on those she assisted – students, parents and staff alike. She leaves behind a legacy of caring, which will be hard to replace, and we wish her well as she begins the next phase of her professional journey! Bon chance, Ms. Helpert!