

The D'Arcy Voice



SPECIAL ISSUE:

THE OPENING OF D'ARCY MCGEE HIGH SCHOOL

D'ARCY DAZED

KEAGAN LEROUX

We came from a building falling apart to a building barely together. The majority of D'Arcy students surveyed agreed that the school was not yet prepared for the new school year. Hundreds of students arrived expecting a functional school. Instead they were greeted by hard hats and heavy boots as they realized a school laid before them without lockers and with a gym covered in debris.

Some were concerned with safety. Many were concerned with a lack of food, since until the 7th of September there was no cafeteria kitchen. These were just a few of the more obvious pains that came with moving school buildings. Another constant at the new site has been the noise and distraction of the construction. Although the noise means the continuous progress of the school, it also means interruption of lessons. With

the general feeling of. "This sucks!" Students sit and wait for their school to be finished.

Yet through all these bumps some areas of the D'Arcy we knew still exist. Physical Education is still run although we are shuttled to a nearby park, there is nothing wrong with that. This new D'Arcy is full of potential; it remains to us the students of D'Arcy, to shape it.

FIRST DAY "FUN?"

RICHARD COELHO

Being received at the new building with open arms was merely an illusion. Where do we go? What do we do? Despite being given directions and a list of what to do, the cafeteria scene was one of chaos. "Is this where I'm supposed to be?" Was the general feeling of students flooding into the cafeteria.

It was a tough morning, the staff members had their hands full, a large crowd of students talking amongst themselves in a less than filling space for everyone must have been a major headache for all teachers and administrators present. In addition to being welcomed into a little madness we learned about our school's new rules. There will be no student parking, we are not to leave school property, and no one can smoke on school property. All of this happened on our first day and it was a lot to take in.

As the year goes on, the school will run smoother and more effectively. The first few weeks were hectic and crazy, but it was bound to happen when adjusting to a new school, let alone a building under construction. As a friend of mine said, "no one has to feel like the new kid trying to find their way, we are all lost."

While it was a frustrating time for all students, my sympathy also goes out to all teachers, administrators and anyone and everyone who helped our school try to open successfully.

ONE ON ONE WITH THE PRINCIPAL

ALI WRAY

You've seen her in the hallways, and heard her on the intercom. Who is she? Mrs. Millar! You probably haven't heard her expressing her opinions on the new D'Arcy environment as loudly as the students in the hallways, so we at the paper decided to ask her.

"I love the new building; it's bright with beautiful views. I love being in nature too. I do wish that things could have been finished for the opening,

but I understand, the problems with a big school. Mr. O'Shea (head of construction) only got the 'okay' to start building six months ago. It's a miracle they pulled all this off. Most of the construction workers get here at seven am and leave at eleven pm, basically just going home to sleep. They put a lot of blood, sweat and tears into this project so I am very happy with this school."

On the first day of school many of us remember the confusion, the chaos, being stuffed into the cafeteria like sardines when we had to get our schedules. But how did Mrs. Millar remember it – pretty much the same way. "The first day went pretty well, it was difficult in the morning because no one knew where to go and everyone was crowded into the cafeteria for schedules. Last year you could go into the cafeteria or outside, but this year no one could go anywhere, by the second period everything was going smoother." Last year if you got bored at lunch you could have gone for a walk, to the store, or hung out at Lac Des Fees. This year you cannot leave school property because there aren't any sidewalks and the big trucks and cars go down Vanier Road very fast. Mrs. Millar said that, obviously, they didn't want anyone getting hurt.

This year many students are disappointed that there will not be a football team. Mrs. Millar commented on that as well, "I am also disappointed that there is no football team, but it is due the field not being ready yet. We did have coaches this year but everyone felt that there would not be as much D'Arcy spirit because the team wouldn't be practicing or playing games at D'Arcy. When you are at another field for practice you might not have access to a phone if

STUDENTS RECOGNIZE THE EXTRA HOURS THE CONSTRUCTION CREWS HAVE BEEN PUTTING IN



someone gets hurt and you wouldn't have access to a bathroom or changing rooms. There will be a team next year."

When asked if she liked the new no smoking law at school Mrs. Millar replied, "I love it! I don't smoke and as a former physical education teacher I know what it does to a young person. It's a great law." As for the construction workers smoking, they aren't allowed either. The administration has told the head contractor to tell the workers to stop smoking on the property. Hopefully they will get the message.

Finally, this is what Mrs. Millar had to say to all newspaper readers, "I'm very happy with the new D'Arcy, our new home. It was sufficiently ready to be opened and we didn't what to open later and have to cut P.D days to make up for lost classes. Also, I love the landscape and the colors. It's a beautiful school."

PARKING: NOT FOR STUDENTS

DAVID SCHLACHTER

When some students found out about the school's new ban on student parking, they were concerned. Some lived too far away to take the bus; others would be involved in extracurricular activities after school, while others had their own reasons for needing to drive to school. They all had something in common, they wondered why they couldn't park.

Newspaper staff interviewed over 100 students to find out what they thought about the lack of student parking. Though, it doesn't apply to many, most students thought that it would be only fair that the school provides them with parking. One student put it this way, "If there was only parking for the principal and secretaries, teachers would demand parking. Teachers are an important part of the school community, and so they deserve parking. Us students are important to the school, and so we should have a place to park too."

Why isn't the school providing parking? Some students have speculated that the risk of vandalism, and ensuing liability, is to blame. It turns out that they may be wrong. Ms. Millar, principal, said, "There are only so many spaces that will be paved because, as you know, having a parking lot is expensive. You have to put down pavement and that takes up space. We want to keep that space for our fields and things like that. There are only going to be enough spaces for the teaching staff, and the working staff, at this school. If we started laying pavement and making spaces for all the students we might have to add another hundred spaces and, I mean, we can't give one person permission to park and say no to another. We'd have to open parking up for everybody, and we can't afford to do that."

Quite a few students agree that they would rather have a football field than a parking lot. Besides, they reason, the best way to get to school

is on a bus, since gas so expensive. Also, public transport is friendlier on the environment, and student's wallets.

All in all, quite a few students are concerned about not being able to park their cars. Those who are too young to drive are also concerned, as many plan to buy, or at least drive a car in the future. Others are satisfied with public transportation.

Although the lack of student parking continues to be an issue, one student said, "I feel that, with time, many students will accept this change. Some will still complain, but the majority will learn to adapt."

CLOSED CAMPUS, NO WAY!

CASSANDRA MONETTE THOMPSON

The majority of students polled said that we should speak, and try to change the regulations of not being allowed off of school property. One student said that. "Being kept in school all day is exhausting, and the urge to get out is unbearable."

When the principal was asked about the subject, she mentioned that. "The no smoking rule would be of no use if we allowed students off property. The smokers would just go off to the nearest corner and smoke. That is not our goal. Also there are no side walks, and we are not in a safe area."

While the students do want to get out, there isn't much to go see. This rule must be respected whether it annoys us or not. The unsafe roads and busy construction ironically means that school is the best place to be. A wise man once said: "What doesn't kill you only makes you stronger."

TEACHERS COMMENT ON NEW D'ARCY POLICIES

CANSU KOCH, SAMANTHA DUPONT, MADDY O'DWYER

With all the chaos going on around the starting of the school year, the teachers still had time to voice their concerns about the difficulties we have encountered as a new school.

"I was really hoping that the school would be finished. Starting the school year was a bit uncomfortable," replied a teacher when asked what her opinion was on the school opening without the completion of the building. The general idea being expressed by teachers was more or less the same. They all agreed on how unfortunate it is that the students are being educated in a construction

zone. Not to mention that dragging our heavy bookbags around for two weeks was not a pleasant experience.

Although the teachers are unsatisfied with the way the school year started, they are very pleased with the non-smoking policy. Teachers believe that with this new rule, students will be forced to re-think their habits, or wait until a proper age to start smoking.

Being as we are in our present location, the teachers are torn between letting the students go off school property and making them stay within property limits. Teachers hope that this is a temporary rule.

This is what one teacher had to say about the 'no student parking' rule, "I have no sympathy, with the price of gas these days we're doing the kids a favour." Most teachers don't have an opinion on this touchy subject because they are not directly affected by it.

With all that being said, how do you feel these changes are going to affect your year?

WORK ON THE BUS DROP-OFF AREA IS NOW NEARING COMPLETION



STUDENTS SPEAK OUT ON SMOKING BAN

ASHLEY MOFFATT

When asked how they feel about the new no smoking policy, everyone has opinions "I want my smoking section back!" said an angry smoker. "I should be allowed, I'm eighteen" says another. The non smoker's opinions are much different, which is what we had anticipated. "I like [the rule], if people don't smoke they can't get sick, they should chew nicotine gum and quit," says another non-smoker. Others didn't care either way. Many people have also raised the question, why can the construction workers smoke? They can't. Mrs Miller told TheVoice "they aren't supposed to. If you see one of them smoking, tell me." I would also like to point out that this is not a rule, it is a law. We are not allowed to smoke in or around a school building. So as much as the smokers fight the staff, it won't change. It's a law, not a rule for us to try and change.

INTERVIEW WITH MR. MASON

SAMANTHA DUPONT

Recently The Voice interviewed Mr. Mason, vice-principal, to find out his opinions on some issues related to the new school. Here is what was said:

With the new school not being completed how do you feel everyone is settling in?

I think that we as a school are settling in very well together in our new environment. We have a marvelous staff who is working really hard but the anticipation for the gym and cafeteria floors getting put in will be the icing on the cake.

With the new building, how do you think your work load will be affected?

Once everyone is settled in and has everything they need and everything is finished around the school, I would imagine that my work will be easier.

What is your opinion about opening day? Was it the way you wanted it to start?

No, we did not start the way that I had expected because we weren't able to have a school assembly. That will be something that we will try to focus on later in the year.

Are you pleased with the way the teachers and students handled the first day of school?

I am extremely pleased with the way that everyone handled themselves and the new location. There was a lot of effort shown from everyone.

What is your general feeling about the new school?

I love it. In my career, this is the first time I've worked in a new building.

Do you think that combining of two schools and two separate administrations can work well together?

Well we have two sets of really strong and driven principals and vice principals. Together we will try to find solutions to on going problems that both schools have to deal with.

Do you see any possible problems arising from this? Do you see any particular advantages in this arrangement?

Well I see the advantage of my office being positioned beside the Symmes vice principal. It is a good way to get to know children that will be coming to our school next year and I can get an insiders perspective.

Do you and your staff find it difficult working with construction all around?

I do find the construction annoying and distracting. We did talk to workers about toning down the noise during class hours, but we are professionals and we have to make accommodations.

What are your expectations for this school year?

I think that it is really good everyone is making adjustments. Our new school has a new rhythm and the D'Arcy culture will expand in new directions.

After the construction is complete will be "No-

Leaving-The-School-Yard" rule be lifted or remain in place?

Well, this rule was approved last year, there is too much traffic. It would be too dangerous for students to walk anywhere and there are no sidewalks on the street. We have enough room for students at the moment.

What is your opinion on not letting students go off property?

No, I agree completely with the policy. I grew up at a school with over 2000 students and our campus



was big enough. There was no use in leaving, there was plenty for us to do. We do have a responsibility for all the students in the school to be safe. Students will eventually adapt to the rule that when you go to school for the day you stay there all day.

After the school yard construction will there be a fence surrounding the school property?

I have no idea but I doubt it.

Do you think that there is a possibility that the parking lot will be expanded for student use?

No, the parking lot will not be expanded for students; if students want to drive to school they can park on the street. When it's finished.

With the No Smoking policy, how do you feel the students are coping with the rule?

Not well, the students keep breaking the rule. We can not get to all the students. They keep finding ingenious ways to smoke on property. We as an administration feel very strong about this rule and I will investigate whenever necessary.

Do you think that the Quebec government ban on smoking is an appropriate rule?

I am against smoking it gives students a nicotine dependency and is a life time addiction. It doesn't make sense to allow such a negative thing when we are trying to nurture minds.

What special opportunities do you see for D'Arcy in our new location?

I think we will have amazing opportunities. We have new courses this year like football. We have local facilities to bring students too. With the new school we can

build greater sense of community. It is very exciting and a lot of students are closer to home.

How do you feel about not having a football team this year?

I do not like it, but the coaches were faced with a difficult situation and made a very important decision. The lack of field has hampered this year season, but there will be a team next year.

BEAR WARNING!

COURTNEY WEEKS

Last year we had to worry about getting hit by a bus, this year we have to worry about getting attacked by black bears. Huge difference, if you ask me!

Fall is the most active time of year for black bears because they are expanding their territory in search of food before hibernating. School activities have already been cancelled due to these hungry scavengers.

If a black bear ever wanders into our courtyard, what would you do? Here is a quick read on what you should do if one ever crosses your path.

If you meet a black bear:

- NEVER RUN! Running can make a black bear chase you.
- Keep your distances, back away slowly, facing the bear. Avoid direct eye contact.
- Slowly and calmly leave the area. Talk out loud so the bear will become aware of you.
- Be extra careful around a female black bear with cubs. They are very protective.

Never, never, never approach a cub.

On no account should you throw food to distract a bear. This teaches them to approach people for food.

Fight back if you are attacked. Black bears have been driven away when people fight with rocks, sticks, binders, or even bare hands. DO NOT START THE FIGHT – Don't provoke the bear.

Although these are the recommended steps to take when you come across a black bear, don't forget that bears can be unpredictable. Use your best judgment and play it safe.

PARENTS POLLED

ANGELIQUE CUNNINGHAM-ALLARD

D'Arcy parents were given the chance to sound off on some hot topics in an informed poll last week. Although there are many people in this new building helping every step of the way, people sometimes forget about the parents. So what are some of their opinions? Lets start with smoking. "There should be no smoking. Period. It's disgusting," said one of the parents. A few had many strong opinions on this new Quebec government law, which bans smoking in and around school property. "It's the best thing they ever did," commented another parent. The general consensus of D'Arcy parents concerning the smoking ban is that

they are very impressed and to say the least, pleased.

This is not the only new rule that parents were asked about. Students are also not allowed to go off school property anytime during school hours. This means that any smoking in and around school is nonexistent. (Many student smokers at D'Arcy McGee are furious about the new rule but the parents agree it is probably for the best) However a few thought that by the time their kids were in high school, they should be trusted and given the right to go off school property.

What do the parents think about the new school not being finished? Let's just say that parents weren't too happy about sending their children every day to an unfinished school where students are literally dragging their overburdened book bags around because the lockers haven't arrived. So why was the school opened so early, even before the gym and cafeteria were complete? So, who wanted it opened? The school board. Most of the parents agree that the school board shouldn't have let the school open while under construction. "I don't like the idea of construction vehicles being on the school property," were the concerns of one parent. Some parents thought "it was ok as long as the students were safe".

And on the last topic, student parking. When we did our survey we discovered that there was a greater percentage of parents who liked the rule than those who didn't. "It's totally unfair, they should definitely be allowed," stated one parent. There is also that 27% minority of parents interviewed who agreed to this rule. "No cars, no issue," was the message one parent gave out. There will be no car vandalism and no cars being stolen with this new rule said some parents. "Students are old enough and should be trusted to be responsible," expressed one parent.

The school year did start on a difficult note. We just hope that the parents will be comfortable with the continuing progress at the new site.

IN HONOR OF TERRY FOX

CHRIS HADDOW & KEAGAN LEROUX

Most of us participated in the 25th anniversary Terry Fox Run on Friday September 16th. Schools across the nation remembered Terry by sending their students out to run during their lunch hour.

D'Arcy students had a great time walking and running, although many complained of sore muscles afterward. The rain held off for most of the activity period.

Who was Terry Fox? Terry fox remains an important Canadian icon, although he was basically unknown at the beginning of his run. By the time he finished everyone across the nation knew his name.

At the age of 18 Terry was diagnosed with bone cancer and had his right leg amputated above the knee. He then began to train, running on his new artificial leg. On April 12th 1980 he began his run starting in St Johns, Newfoundland to spread awareness in the country about cancer. He ran for 143 days (5, 375km at 42km/day) but Terry was

STUDENTS WERE MORE THAN HAPPY TO RECIEVE THEIR LOCKERS



forced to stop running just before Thunder Bay, Ontario after they found that he had developed lung cancer. This Heroic Canadian died June 28, 1981 of lung cancer. Since that time we have continued his efforts by participating in the run named in his honor. To date over 360 million dollars has been raised from the annual Terry Fox run.

Note: D'Arcy students raised approximately \$1800.00.

VIEWERS CORNER

We would like to encourage all D'Arcy members to contribute to the newspaper. If you have anything to submit, for example: Poems, Art, Comic Strips, Song lyrics or Short Stories, just drop them by Mrs. Goldsbrough's room, 140. If you have an upcoming event planned PLEASE TELL US ABOUT IT, SO WE CAN ARRANGE TO COVER IT IN THE NEWSPAPER.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN D'ARCY'S TERRY FOX RUN



THE CITRUS DRIVE

GEMMA WAGNER

Beginning the week of October 11th, a citrus drive will be held. We are fundraising for a sound system to be used for plays, dances, the burnt toast café, etc..

A percentage of the raised money will be donated to a charity. Cost is \$22.00 for a small box, and \$38.00 for a large one. Ask your parents, phone relatives, ask your neighbors, and get your parents to sell them at work.

The objective is to sell one case for every member of the school

(approximately 600). Money can be handed into the following teachers: Mrs. Goldsbrough (Rm 140), Ms. Richardson (Rm. 214), Mr. Fuchs (art Rm) and Mr. Eye (Drama Rm). If you can't find them, other teachers also collect. The drive ends October 26th. This drive will benefit everyone, so get cracking!!

EDITORIAL

WHEN LIFE HANDS YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE

For a month now, the voices of negativity have been trying to dominate the minds of both staff and students at D'Arcy McGee.

It's true that things were far from perfect when we drove up to the building for the first time.

It's true that everyone has been forced to deal with personally annoying and challenging issues.

It's true that change is difficult. We get knocked out of our comfort zones and are forced to adapt to a new environment. The feelings of displacement and loss can overwhelm us unless we make a strong effort to combat them.

One of the typical behaviors is to romanticize how nice it was before. I certainly do not miss the too small classrooms and smelly hallways created by an inadequate ventilation system at the old building. Furthermore I do not miss the leaky roof and peeling paint. When it was 80 degrees outside (yes, I am a Fahrenheit relic) it was 90 degrees in my classroom. Do I miss Hull, you've got to be kidding!

Life isn't perfect here, but it's getting better daily. We could never say that about the old site. Here we have potential for growth, where it wasn't possible before. People are overworked and stressed out you say...so what's new? Students had to carry book bags for a week, that was an inconvenience; we lived through it.

We've had our time to rant and whine. Now it's time to move on. Is there something here that you would like to improve upon? Then roll up your sleeves and get busy. Change is inevitable, so we might as well embrace it. We have the opportunity to create and build new traditions, as well as supporting the old ones. Not sure how to start? Drop by and I'll share a recipe for lemonade.

-C. Goldsbrough, newspaper advisor

SCHOOL LIFE WORD SEARCH

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EDREAOVLDAXE
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LMATHAIOPUSTT
MAPRSHBFRENCH

By
Brandon
Croisetiére
and
Christina
Chiasson

Find the words Math, History, D'Arcy, Music, Biology, Drama, English, Art, French, Geography, Schedule, Symmes, Agenda, Teachers.

A SPECIAL THANKS to all members of the newspaper staff for their contributions to this edition. Author's names are listed under articles. Additional staff members include Shane Duarte (artist), David Schlachter (layout editor), Jacob Skinner (photographer), as well as Felicia Brown Kelli Cockerell, Catarina Garcias, Cloe Hunter, Kasia Tkacz, Gemma Wagner and Mrs. Goldsbrough, advisor.

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