

Principal: Heather Kimmie
Head Teacher: Holly Lloyd

NEWSLETTER #7
FEBRUARY 23, 2017

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I would like to take this opportunity to welcome a few new staff to Montecito. Ms. Brittany Van Balkom has been hired with the increase of funding from the Ministry of Education and she is primarily providing early literacy support. Ms. Cook has taken an early leave and Ms. Layne Carson is the new teacher of Division 2. We also have a new noon hour supervisor duo of Ms. Charlotte Blight and Ms. Guilia Robinson. We are very fortunate to have them all join our team!

Thankfully the snow has melted and we finally have our field and playground back in full use! If you have been by the school, you will also have seen the recent progress with the construction. This is very exciting!

February is a month filled with activities surrounding friendship and care toward each other. It has been wonderful to hear and observe the students filling each other's buckets with kind words and gestures. We really appreciate the work that Ms. Cook, Ms. Ingham and Div. 2 students have done in creating video clips and introducing our school-wide initiative to all classes.

February also brings the Fraser Institute's FSA results and school rankings based on last year's test results. Since my arrival at Montecito in September, I have been getting to know the staff, students and parents in the school community, as well as learning about the values, strengths and areas we need to develop in as a school. I have been impressed in so many regards but do realize that we have room for improvement. The FSAs are just a snapshot of student learning and the results should be interpreted carefully. So what are we currently doing to support our students and move them forward in their learning? Some of the structures we have implemented this year are: flexible primary reading groups tailored to help meet the individual needs, math platooning in intermediate grades, smaller size ability math groups for Grade 6/7, and push-in and pull-out ELL and LSS support. In addition, I have been very impressed with the professional learning that the staff have been involved in this year. As a school, we will continue to have regular conversations about improving the learning for students at Montecito and I welcome your feedback.

Are there ways that parents can also help improve student learning? Absolutely. Ensuring your child arrives to school on time and has regular attendance at school is important. In addition, providing a time each night for your child to read and discuss their reading is helpful. Regular communication with your child's teacher and supporting your child to develop effective work habits and creating a routine for completing homework is also beneficial. Together, as parents and staff members, we can help the children of Montecito and I look forward to seeing further growth in thinking skills, academic and social-emotional areas.



Respectfully,
Mrs. Heather Kimmie – Principal

SKIING/SNOWBOARDING:

Grade 6 and 7 students completed their last ski/snowboard lessons this week and we are very thankful to Ms. Lloyd for organizing the series of lessons at Grouse Mountain! It was a big job! Thanks also to the various parent and staff members for helping supervise on the mountain. Kudos to Ms. Sutherland, Mr. Rego, Mr. and Mrs. Poledica, Mr. McConnell, Mr. Smith, Ms. Lloyd, Mrs. Nicoll and Mrs. Vaughan for helping out. We could not have attended the lessons without all of you. The skiers and snowboarders improved quite significantly in their abilities and were blessed by amazing weather and superior snow conditions this year. Every day was perfect!



GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM



In sports it is often said that it matters not how a season begins but how it ends. This was certainly true for the girls' basketball team. The highlight of their season was the spirited performance they put together in the game against Lochdale. They truly played as a team and it was evident in their enthusiasm how proud they were to represent their school. Congratulations then to Katrina W., Darya J., Andrea F., Hana R., Samantha L., Yasmin H., Annabel J., Saniya D., Carrie L., Ailin G., and Anne J.

Mr. Gomez – Girls' Volleyball Coach

BOYS' BASKETBALL TEAM

For the past couple of months, boys on the Montecito Basketball Team have been practicing a couple of times a week and participating in league play on Thursdays. Throughout the season, the boys have been developing their skills, showing good sportsmanship and playing as a team. They culminated the season with outstanding play at Burnaby Mountain and should be very proud of their efforts. We wish to congratulate the following boys on their commitment and contributions to the team this year: Tyler, Damien, Andy, Anthony, Enver, Frank, Jamie, Dennevin, Raymond, Luca, Brian, Alex, Azariah, Colin, Sam, Kevin, and Dion.



A few special thank-yous are in order. Firstly, thank-you very much to all the parent drivers. We couldn't have attended the numerous away games without your help! Secondly, thanks to Mr. Singer for running up and down the court refereeing our home games and supporting the team in many other ways throughout the season. Lastly and most importantly, we send a HUGE thank you to our parent volunteer, Mr. Ron Rego, for stepping up to coach the team this year. We are so thankful for your dedication, encouragement and support of the team!

Mr. Rego and Mrs. Kimmie

MONITORS OF THE MONTH

CASSANDRA MILLER – DIVISION 5

Ms Lloyd said: Cassandra is an excellent model for patrol. She consistently shows up for her shift, whether that is in the morning or afternoon. Even if it is snowing or raining, Cassandra is there. She schedules her time so she can be at her job on time. She works well with her team and is a valued team member.

Thank you, Cassandra, for your dedication to this position. It's tough to keep going for the year, and you are an excellent role model for us all!

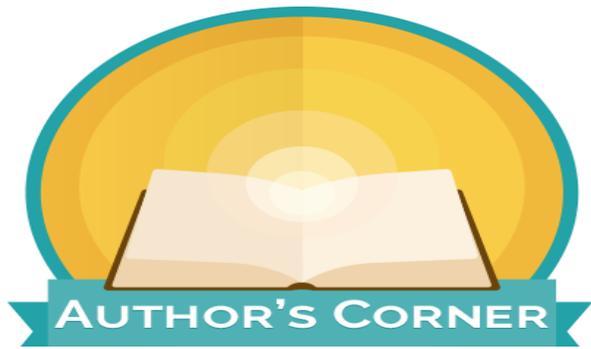


TYLER LIU – DIVISION 1

Mr. Smith said: Tyler has shown leadership skills through his role as a tech equipment monitor. He listens to instructions and is able to follow through. He works to be a contributing part of the Tech Team without trying to take over all roles. In addition, Tyler is responsible, he takes his job seriously, and we know we can count on him to do his best.

Thank you Tyler, for your efforts to make the Tech Team a smoothly running group. We appreciate your knowledge and expertise.





STUDENT WORK from Division 5

Students in Division 5 have been learning about the social and personal impact of residential schools this term. Using picture prompts from "When We Were Alone" by David A. Robertson and Julie Flett, the students wrote a piece from the perspective of a child at residential school. All the students in the class have shown a high level of empathy for the children from the past who experienced residential schools. The following three pieces were submitted to the Burnaby School district WORDS writing contest.

My Braid

When the nun was cutting my long braid, I felt that my whole world collapsed. A piece of me was just gone, I felt incomplete. After just seeing my braid, on the ground, lifeless, thinking how it used to sway around with life in the Arctic breeze, now dead on the cold floor, I almost wept. But I knew there was no time for that, time here at this school went much faster than in the arctic. It also would show how weak I was, and they would make me the one who had to do all the extra work. The other girls' braids had also been cut off too, they were just as sad as I was. At least 10-20 braids on the floor, and worst of all, they would sweep them up into the bucket like they were junk, they were worthless. But it was something to me, it was everything, it was my treasure. It is like a baby being taken away from a mom. The nun that cut our hair threw a lighter into the pile of braids. All our braids were burnt on a small fire, it was like they wanted to make us cry. I was glad this was over, but I worried what would be waiting next for me if this was only the beginning. What's next?

By Jonathan Guan

Hope

I feel hope to see my brother once again. For a long time we have been separated, but today is the day. After a long time I finally, sneakily get to meet my brother again. In the freezing weather I see a blurred shadow appear, after a while I know it is my brother trying to fight through the snow. When he is here, the first thing we do is we hold hands and we both can see the joy in each other's face. I can feel the warmth that both of us give to each other and how happy we are that we can have some time together. But after a while I feel sad once again when we have to separate. We do our mouse squeak whisper that says our last goodbyes. From that day forward I think of how gentle and how warm my brother's hands were, and I know he feels the exact same. After that, every day I am excited after evening passed because it is one step closer to when my brother and I will hold hands and go home.

By Jason Han

Faith

I was very lonely staring outside to the frigid winter snow. Longing for a rest in my own bed, I thought about what I would be doing with my family right now. Here at residential school we are never allowed to do anything with family. I kept staring at the blizzard outside it was like remembering a younger sister whom I had lost. It reminded me of the winters in my tent when we were still together. I blinked at the canvas drapes hanging down on my bed. Shuffling around in my scratchy uniform, I gazed outside where the snow was still falling thickly. I continued doing that until I finally fell asleep. I had a dream about my cozy little tent the night before I went to school. Suddenly I woke with a start. Sadly looking around. I was still in my dormitory. I gave a huge sigh knowing that it would be a whole year before I return home. Turning around, trying hard to imagine I was still home, I squinted my eyes trying to pretend that I was looking at the cold arctic blizzard through the tent window. It still did not work. I looked at the clock, 3:30. I took heavy breaths trying hard not to think about my family. Even thinking about it gave me an icy feeling. I thought about the warm smile of my mother, wondering what she was doing this exact moment. Only a faint glow of a candle could be seen in the eerie darkness. My eyes closed as I fell into a deep sleep, trusting that my dreams would bring me home.

By Amanda Li

THIS MAKES ME PROUD

All students in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 presented speeches in class on the topic, 'This Makes Me Proud'. Two nominees from each class were chosen to present to judges and a larger audience on Feb. 11th. It is one accomplishment to write a good speech, but another to be able to deliver it to an audience of peers. Congratulations to Anne, Tyler, Michelle, Teya, Kevin and Melissa for being selected to speak to the larger audience. Based on the criteria in the areas of content, style/form, and delivery, congratulations go to Teya V. and Melissa K. for winning spots to represent Montecito at the Burnaby School District's Grade 7 Public Speaking Challenge Zone Finals. Good luck!



LICE do not cause disease, they just bug us!

Head lice are common in school-aged children. They are small insects that live on human hair and are annoying to deal with, but are not a major public health concern. This information on lice is being passed on so that we can be pro-active at Montecito...thankfully we have had very few cases reported so far this year. Having head lice has nothing to do with poor personal hygiene. Did you know lice actually love clean hair? Lice do not jump, hop, or fly, but they are often spread by head to head contact. Bites from lice often make the scalp itchy. Lice can definitely be a nuisance so how can you help? Please check your child's head frequently throughout the elementary years. Also, remind your child not to share items such as hats, brushes or combs. Children with long hair may want to wear it up. Diligently check your child's scalp if your child complains of an itchy scalp or you observe scratching of the scalp. If your child does have lice, treatment is essential. This includes treatment to rid the scalp of lice and nits (lice eggs), as well as treatment of bedding, towels, stuffed animals, and clothes. Please see more information below.

In addition, please contact Mrs. Shuster at school if your child has lice, as a letter goes home with all students in the same class asking them to check their heads. We will keep the information confidential, but this allows us to communicate to parents in affected classrooms that they too should check their child's scalp for possible head lice. For further information on prevention or treatment of head lice, please refer to www.fraserhealth.ca or contact the school.

What do I do if I suspect my child has head lice?

You will need:

- your eye glasses (if you need them)
 - a bright light
 - a metal lice comb (optional)
 - a regular comb
 - hair clips for longer hair
 - paper towels
1. Explain to your child what you are going to do. Have them sit in a comfortable spot under bright light.
 2. Untangle long hair using a regular comb. Divide the hair into four sections and check one section at a time.
 3. You are looking for live lice and nits. Nits are the lice eggs that cement to the hair near the scalp. Nits are white, grey or yellowish and can be confused with fluff, dandruff or dirt – however – a nit will not move until you dislodge it.
 4. If using a lice comb, comb it through the hair close to the scalp and then wipe on a paper towel. Look at the paper towel for lice or nits.
 5. You must look through the entire head. Use hair clips to hold longer hair in place.
 6. If you find lice or nits – remove them using the lice comb, your fingernails or by cutting the strand of hair. Flush them down the toilet when finished.

Working together, we are better able to minimize the spread of head lice in our school. Your due diligence in lice control at Montecito is very much appreciated!

ME TO WE

Our Me to We group would like to thank you for your support with our cookie decorating fundraiser. We raised \$221.50! We have donated this money to Montecito School to help cover field trip costs and other expenses for families in need within our community.





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NEXT PAC MEETING: Thursday, March 30th: 7:00 p.m., free babysitting is available!

Spring Bottle Drive

Thank you for supporting our Bottle Drive these past 2 years...we have raised enough funds to buy our new water fountain/water bottle refill station!

Our Spring Break Bottle Drive will start us on our next long term goal: an Outdoor Recycling Station. Look for your notice home at the start of Spring Break.



Family Games Night

Please join us for a night of fun and games on Friday, February 24th.

Grade 7 Leaving

Call out to Grade 7 student parents! Purdy's Chocolate Bar Fund Raising is coming soon. Please contact Joanne Little at jolittle@telus.net to volunteer and help out.

The Burnaby School District invites applications for the following casual, on-call positions:

STUDENT SUPERVISORS &/OR CROSSING GUARDS

Student Supervisors provide support for students during the lunch break, ensuring student safety in and around our schools and work during the school lunch break period for 70 minutes.

Crossing Guards provide support for students arriving/departing from school, and work one hour before school, and one hour after school.

Applicants for these positions will have a Grade 12 education, and demonstrated ability and experience in working with children. Applicants must be available to work throughout the District when school is in session.

Applications can be submitted to:

Human Resources Department
Burnaby School District
5325 Kincaid Street
Burnaby BC V5G 1W5
applications@sd41.bc.ca

COMMUNITY
You can also check for Information at
www.sd41.bc.ca/community/

Please visit
<http://montecito.sd41.bc.ca/> (Scroll
 down to *Upcoming Events*) for the
 most up-to-date information.



MARCH 2017

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1 Tennis Program continues this week and next	2	3 Munch-a-Lunch today	4
5	6 Primary Days of Music for Gr. 2/3 @ Gilmore – a.m.	7 Spirit Day <i>Backwards</i> Day 	8 Gr. 7's visit Burnaby North 9:30 – 12:00 POP-UP Popcorn Day today	9 Div. 3 to Grouse Mountain	10 Pop-Up Library Munch-a-Lunch today Last day of Tennis Program today	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	 <h2 style="margin: 0;">Spring Break - March 13 - 17</h2> <h2 style="margin: 0;">School Closure - March 20 - 24</h2>					
26	27	28	29 POP-UP Cupcakes today Primary Puppet Theatre anti-bullying presentation – p.m. Report Cards go home today	30 PAC Meeting – 7:00 p.m.	31	