

Principal: Heather Kimmie	NEWSLETTER #7	Secretary: Tasia Nickell
Head Teacher: Scott Stefanek	January 31, 2020	Trustee: jen.mezei@burnabyschools.ca Jen Mezei

School motto: Kindness to Ourselves, Kindness to Others and Kindness to This Place

Happy 2020 Montecito students, parents and community members!

December was a very fun-filled month of community building activities. A special shout out to all the parent volunteers and community sponsors who helped make the gingerbread house buddy class activity, Santa photos, and pancake breakfast such memorable experiences. These pictures show our school spirit, Santa and the plethora of parents who helped out at the pancake breakfast this year, and some of the amazing gingerbread house creations. Thank-you, thank-you, thank-you to all of our event leads and helpers...you truly make a difference in the Montecito School community!



On another note, we have reviewed common language of WITS for problem solving with peers. Last school year we introduced this acronym to all students during our first week activities. This January classes have re-learned the four pillars of the program and we have recently put posters up around the school and in all the classrooms as a visual reminder of how to deal with conflict in safe and respectful ways. Div. 6 students also did a fabulous job presenting WITS through a skit at the recent COLA. We are encouraging all students to use their 'WITS' during challenging times with peers.

W = Walk away (leaving takes you out of the conflict)

I = Ignore (so you aren't giving a reaction to someone who may be wanting one)

T = Talk It Out (stand up for yourself and peers by using I messages or asking someone to stop)

S = Seek Help (go get help from a trusted adult)

What do you do if someone is **BOTHERING** you?



Use Your WITS!



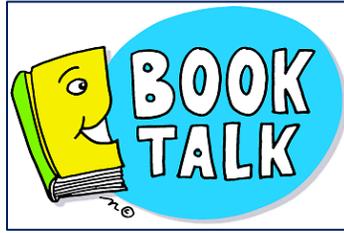
In January each year, we celebrate Family Literacy Week. At Montecito this year, we had many fun activities planned throughout the week. We had our Family Read event and it touched our hearts to see siblings together and the classes filled with grandparents and parents sharing books with their children. Reading in the Dark in buddy classes was a blast. Mystery guest reader, buddy poetry writing, and Family Tic Tac Toe including various literacy events, were all part of our activities this week. We ended the week with a COLA where students from each class shared some of their creative poetry!

How can you regularly help to develop literacy skills at home? Reading is one of the most important skills a child can learn. Prioritizing time to read at home every night has huge benefits, and helps your children build confidence and competence as readers. Asking questions helps to develop their thinking skills or comprehension. Please refer to some helpful prompts in the image to the right. Promoting reading at home daily and working in partnership with your child's teacher, we can develop literacy skills and foster a love of reading that will hopefully last a lifetime!

Happy Lunar New Year and celebration of Year of the Rat. May the year bring all of our families much prosperity and happiness.

Respectfully,

Mrs. Heather Kimmie – Principal



Here are some questions you can ask your children during their daily home reading to engage in conversation with your child and build their thinking and comprehension skills

Before reading:

- Looking at the title, cover and illustrations/pictures, what do you think will happen in this book? Why do you think this?
- What characters do you think might be in the book?
- Do you think there will be problem in the story? What could the problem be?
- What do you already know about the topic of this book?
- Does the topic or story relate to you or your family? How?
- Do you think it will be like any other book you've read? If so, which one, and how do you think it will be similar?

During reading:

- What has happened so far in the story? Can you tell me using sequence words? (first, then, next, finally, etc.)
- What do you predict will happen next? Why?
- How do you think the story will end? Why?
- Why do you think the character did _____?
- What would you have done if you were the character?
- How would you have felt if you were the character?
- When you read, what pictures did you see in your head?
- What are you wondering about as you read? What questions do you have?
- Think about the predictions you made before reading; do you still think the story will go that way? Why or why not? How do you think it will go now?

After reading:

- Why is the title a good title for the book/story? If you had to give it a different title, what would be another good title for it?
- Were your predictions correct? Where did you have to fix your prediction as you read?
- If there was a problem, did it get solved? How did the character try to solve the problem?
- Did any of the characters change through the story? Who changed, and how did they change?
- Why do you think the author wrote this book?
- What is the most important point that the author is trying to make in his/her writing?
- What was your favourite part? Why?
- If you could change one part, what would you change? Why?
- If you could ask the author a question, what would you ask?
- Can you retell the story in sequence order (use sequence words: first, second, then, next, etc.)?
- Is there a character in the story that reminds you of someone you know? If so, who are they like, and why do you think that?
- Does this book remind you of another book you know? Does it remind you of something you've experienced in real life?

For fun: Have your child act out a scene from the book, draw you a picture of their favourite part, or write a follow-up story or new ending to the story. Your child can pretend they are a book reviewer reviewing the book on TV, or they can write a letter or postcard to the author or a character. There are many creative ways to engage your child in reading and have him/her share their reading with you!

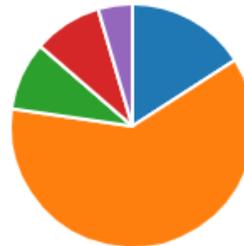
Report Card Feedback

Thank-you to all of the parents who took the time to complete the report card survey. At the time of writing this, here is the summary of results for the first three questions:

1. Did the report card give you a clear picture of your child as a learner?

[More Details](#)

Strongly Agree	7
Agree	27
Undecided	4
Disagree	4
Strongly Disagree	2



2. Did you appreciate reading your child's reflection on his/her learning as part of the report card?

[More Details](#)

Yes	37
Somewhat	5
No	2



3. Was the report card template easy to read and understand?

[More Details](#)

Yes	37
Somewhat	6
No	1



As for the written feedback questions, most of the comments were very positive and/or parents did not leave specific comments. As for a couple of parents suggesting they still prefer the old letter grade format, it is important to note that the shift to using the proficiency scale is not just a Montecito decision. B.C.'s Ministry of Education has shifted to using the proficiency scale (emerging, developing, proficient, extending) language across the province. In addition, a few parents suggested the report card did not give them all the details they were hoping for regarding their child's progress or learning profile. Please remember that you can always request a meeting with your child's teacher to clarify or learn more about your child's progress. On the report card envelope, there is a box to check off should you request an interview. Very few parents check this box but it is always an option, and you can meet at anytime throughout the year. As we are learning and growing as a staff on our assessment and reporting practices, your feedback is important to us. Thank-you for your honest and helpful survey responses.

TRAFFIC CONE CALL-OUT!

We need your help! As part of our Safe Streets initiative, cones are placed around the crosswalk on Montecito Drive. We thank Mrs. Fitterer for her extreme dedication to doing this all year however, she cannot do it alone! Volunteers are needed to set up and take down cones every Monday morning & every Friday afternoon. We are asking for a one-month commitment from our volunteers. That is a total of 10 minutes per month! Please speak with Mr. Stefanek for details and to sign up. If you prefer email, please contact him at scott.stefanek@burnabyschools.ca



Our Learning About Indigenous Music and Drumming

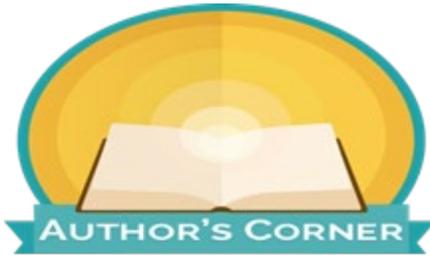
Montecito School staff and students would like to invite you to a sharing of our Indigenous Drumming Project. This project has helped us with reconciliation in building a greater understanding of Indigenous understandings in our school community.

We are currently in the midst of a two week 'Artist in the School' residency with Sandy Scofield who is working with classes to learn songs and protocols to share Indigenous songs. Alice Guss is also working with our Grade K/1 students. All classes will be sharing their drumming at a performance on Thursday, Feb. 6th at 11:00 in the Montecito gym. We would love to extend an invitation to all of you to join us.

Save the Date for Student-led Conferences

Student-led Conferences will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 25th. There will be an early dismissal at 2:00 and conferences will be held between 2:15 and 6:30.

This is a time for your child to share their learning with you, and for you to see and hear about their challenges, successes and growth. Student-led conferences help our students develop responsibility, take pride in their own learning, and utilize their communication skills. This is a special time to come into the school and classrooms, see what your child and the class have been focusing on, and even visit the Book Fair if you wish.



Winter is
Building snowmen
Making snow angels
Having a snowball fight
Wearing warm, dry winter clothes
Putting boots on
Feeling excited because snow is outside
Digging in the snow
Building snow forts
Cold outside
White, soft and puffy
Snowflakes falling from the sky
By Division 12

WHEN FALL COMES AROUND

When fall time floats into the city
It makes all the trees look super relaxing
When the leaves are about to fall, some
clouds come in their place
When all the kids help rake the leaves and
when they are done
They jump in the pile of
crunchy colourful leaves.

By Ethan L, Division 6

The Melting Snowman in the Field

Melting snowman in the field,
Why are you getting small?
Why are you melting so quickly?
Why are your pieces falling off you?

You see child,
Spring is coming soon.
There is no more snow.
I want to stay here.
But I must go!

By Tyler C, Division 6

Division 7 Haiku Poetry:

Gentle snowflakes fall
Drifting softly through the air
Glistening new snow

- Emma T

Frosty

It's a frosty day.
Will I see snowflakes falling?
I see people play

- Mohamed A

I Wish it was Summer

The fire is burning
My mittens are soaking
I wish it was summer

-Cooper B

Build a Snowman

When it snows outside
I like to build a snowman
It is very fun

-Isabelle M

Snow Day!

It is a snow day!
I will sled and play all day
It is very fun

- Hayley B



Odyssey Family Games Night (Feb. 21: 6pm-8:30)

Join us for a fun evening of creative problem solving. Based on the Odyssey program, family teams will work together to solve fun challenges with everyday materials. Sign up before Feb. 17 and take advantage of the early-bird rate of \$10 which includes a pizza slice, drink and Odyssey challenges. After Feb. 17, price goes to \$15 and walk-ins are welcome. Bring cash for concession, 50/50 and Heads or Tails. This is a fundraising event to help our Odyssey teams who win the opportunity to travel to World Finals. Registration forms will be coming out early February.

Spring Book Fair (Feb. 25-27) - Volunteers Needed

Our annual spring Book Fair is running during Student-led Conferences between Feb. 25-27. We need many parent volunteers to make this fair happen. Various volunteer times are available between 12:15-1:15 and 2:45-3:45 each day, and from 2:00-6:45 on Feb. 25th. If you can spare 1-2 hours to help in the library, it would be greatly appreciated. Sign-up online at <https://signup.com/go/mMMDugi>

Book Fair Volunteer Coordinator Needed! We need a new parent Book Fair Coordinator for next school year. Connie, who has been doing the fair for 4 years, is leaving our school as her child is moving to high school. We need a new parent(s) to step up if we are to continue the book fair. The book fair usually runs twice a year and is a great fundraiser for the school. All profits from our book fairs are used to purchase books and resources for our library and classrooms. We want to continue this event for our children but new parents are needed to lead it. For more information, contact pacmontecito@gmail.com.

Multicultural Day - May 15

We have a team of parents planning our Multicultural Day event for Friday, May 15. This event highlights the different cultures at our school and community. If you would like to help with this event by hosting an activity station that represents your culture or have an activity or craft idea for your country, please contact pacmontecito@gmail.com. The planning team is always looking for help and ideas to share with the school.

Pancake Breakfast - A Big Success!

Thank you to all the volunteers who came and helped with pancake breakfast in December. It was wonderful to see the many parents at this festive occasion. Special thanks to Christina M., Jessica W. Dave H. and Corrina A. for taking the lead for breakfast and handling the Santa photos too. We wouldn't be able to do this event without everyone's help.

Please visit our local businesses who kindly donated to our breakfast this year White Spot - Kensington, Safeway - Kensington, Starbucks - Holdom, SuperValu - Greystone and Save-On Foods - Madison Centre. We greatly appreciate their community support.

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



February 2019

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
2	3 Drumming with Sandy Scofield this week 12:25 Student Council	4 3:30 – Boys' Basketball game	5 PAC Hot Lunch	6 11:00 Drumming Performance 12:00 Div 6 & 7 Fortius 3:30 – Girls' Basketball	7	8
9	10 Gr. 6/7 Ski & Snowboard Program #1 12:25 Student Council	11 Fruit & Veggie day 3:30 – Boys' Basketball game	12 PAC Hot Lunch	13 12:00 Div 6 & 7 Fortius 3:30 – Girls' Basketball game	14  Happy Valentine's Day Wear Red or Pink today!	15
16	17 FAMILY DAY HOLIDAY – No school today	18 3:30 – Boys' Basketball Playday 7:00 PAC Meeting	19 PAC Hot Lunch	20 3:30 – Girls' Basketball Playday @ Bby. Mtn.	21 6:00 Family Games Night	22
23	24 Gr. 6/7 Ski & Snowboard Program #2	25 Bookfair 2:00 Early Dismissal 2:15 Student Led Conferences	26 PINK SHIRT DAY Bookfair PAC Hot Lunch	27 12:00 Div 6 & 7 Fortius	28 Non-Instructional Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	