



Elementary School

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Principal: Fonda Papathanasiou

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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November 30, 2021

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SCHOOL MOTTO: Kindness to Ourselves, Kindness to Others and Kindness to This Place

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that the winter holiday is fast approaching! November has been busy, and the learning and engagement of both students and staff has been tremendous this past month. We have excitedly started up some teams and clubs that did not run last year as we begin to get back to some normalcy in safe ways such as: extracurricular volleyball for Grades 4 through 7, recess and lunch monitors for our early primary classes, School Safety Patrol, and buddy classes are all up and running.

We have also had many staff members plan special events within the school such as the Terry Fox Run, Great BC Shakeout Earthquake Drill, Halloween Parade, and our Remembrance Day Assembly. It is wonderful to see the leadership opportunities provided as well as the special school-wide events organized for our students and we are incredibly grateful to the staff who have volunteered to run these programs and activities.

Please read through the newsletter to find out information about the various ways we will be communicating student learning this year. We are excited to share your child’s learning with you and welcome the opportunities to work collaboratively with you on your child’s learning journey.

Communicating Student Learning at Montecito

Provincial Context (source: Draft K-9 Reporting Policy: Handbook for Piloting School Districts)

The redesigned curriculum came into effect in September 2016 and has offered an opportunity to rethink the way we assess and report on student progress in British Columbia. Informed by research on effective practices and by thorough engagement with parents and educators, the draft provincial Student Reporting Policy for K-9 encompasses key policy shifts. These include:

- ◆ more timely and flexible communication
- ◆ descriptive four-point provincial proficiency scale for K-9
- ◆ end of year student self-assessment of Core Competencies

All of our classes are using the BC Ministry of Education’s Proficiency Scale. The proficiency scale language that may be referred to in your child’s report or portfolio is below as a reminder.

Proficiency Scale	→			
	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

School Context

For many years, the teachers at Montecito have been involved in a pilot project to investigate forms of reporting student progress that reflect the changes in the BC curriculum. The formats for communicating student learning are supported by educational research in learning, assessment and motivation, and have focused on documenting and sharing your child's individual growth through portfolios, student-led conferences, and formal reporting documents. This process has included student voice and provided more insight into your child's learning and what we are exploring at school.

This year there will be five Learning Updates available to you throughout the year. We held Parents as Partners Conferences earlier in the year and will organize Student-led Conferences for the spring as two of the Learning Updates. The other three forms of communicating student learning this year are listed in more detail below:

1. December 2021- Informal report

2. February 2021: Formal report

- four-point proficiency scale (see graphic above) in each area of learning
- written comments focused on: student engagement and behavior, growth/progress in areas of learning, next steps

3. June 2021: Summary of Progress report

- four-point proficiency scale (see above graphic) in each area of learning
- written comments focused on: student engagement and behavior, growth/progress in areas of learning, next steps, and student reflection of the core competencies.

Effective Communication with Students and Parents is the Key to Student Success:

The goal of communicating student learning (through informal and formal reports) is to ensure that communication between home and school is effective and ongoing, so that:

- parents are well informed about their child's progress
- parents are involved as partners in a dialogue about their child's progress and the best ways to support and improve learning
- students are provided with information that is meaningful to them and helps them to improve their own learning

Communication requires ongoing interactions and dialogue about student progress throughout the school year, involving the teacher, the student, and the parent. Many children have also reflected on their own work throughout the term. Please reach out to your child's teacher at any time if you have celebrations, concerns or questions.

Thank-you for sharing in your child's learning. Please remember that the informal report provides an opportunity to discuss and celebrate accomplishments, as well as assist in setting new goals for the next term. As you sit down and look at your child's report and/or portfolio with your child next week, you may want to ask the following questions:

- * What did you enjoy learning the most?
- * What are you proud of accomplishing this past term?
- * What are your goals for next term and the next steps to achieving your goals?
- * What can we do at home to help you accomplish your goals?

With care,

Fonda Papathanasiou

Remembrance Day Assembly

We are proud of our virtual Remembrance Day Assembly. We learned a lot putting it together and are thankful for the many classes who contributed. It was a tremendous undertaking led by Mr. Smith. Thank you to Ms. Foy, Ms. Field, and Ms. Wood for their help in organizing and leading the ceremony.





Peace Similes By Division Four

Peace feels like being calm and content while sitting in your bed reading.

Peace sounds like my cat purring when I scratch him.

Peace tastes like the softness of a fresh baked blueberry muffin.

Peace looks like people always helping each other when they are in trouble.

Peace smells like the beautiful roses I give to my mother on Mother's Day.

Peace feels like soft fur from a tiny white cat.

Peace smells like the fresh air whooshing back and forth.

Peace tastes like ice cream that will never melt.

Peace feels like the world holding hands and showing love.

Peace looks like sitting around a bonfire side-by-side singing peaceful songs together.

Peace sounds like gentle laughter while playing board games with your family on a windy night while it's snowing.

Peace smells like fresh and crispy bacon still in the pan.

Peace feels like the pile of flakey fish food in my hands when I feed my extravagant angel fish.

Peace sounds like the rain pitter-pattering.

Peace looks like a herd of horses galloping on a beautiful grass field.

Peace smells like fresh air and the morning breeze.

Peace feels like my smooth bed that I sleep on.

Peace looks like lion cubs fiddling with a string.



TWEET TWEET...

Did you know that Montecito has a twitter account? If you want to check out some timely and exciting learning and event information throughout the year, please follow us at @montecitoSD41

CROSSWALK SAFETY:

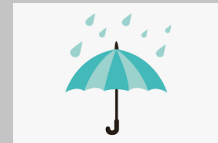
Please regularly review crosswalk safety with your child and ensure that they are using the crosswalk. We have been seeing many parents walking children across Montecito and not using one of the crosswalks! **As parents, please model safe behaviour and use the crosswalks at all times.**



STUDENT SAFETY PATROL

Our student patrol program is up and running. Please be patient with them as it's a new learning experience for all of us. A friendly reminder to please come to a complete stop when a student patrol's stop sign is up. Thank you for your cooperation!

West Coast Recess: Unless we are experiencing extreme weather, we plan to continue to send students outside at recess. For this reason, students are asked to dress appropriately for the weather, and it is a good idea to have an extra set of clothing at school. At lunchtime, if the weather is extreme, we may allow our students to stay inside.



School Visitors

For the time being, parents are required to stay outside the school building. If you need to contact someone at the school, please use email and, if required, set up an appointment. We hope that as conditions improve, we can return to our open community.



DECEMBER 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6 AM - Gr 6 & 7 – Immunization Program	7	8	9	10 Spirit Day—Festive Attire Day	11
12	13	14 PAC Meeting	15	16	17 Spirit Day—Pyjama Day Last Day of School	18
19 	20	21	22	23	24	25 
26 	27	28	29	30	31	

School Reopens January 4th, 2022