



Montecito News

September 2023

Hello from Mrs. Anderson!

Dear Families,

Today your children were placed in their classrooms for the 2023/2024 school year! This is an exciting time of year, for both children and caregivers. Educators have spent many hours discussing class placements. We look at each child individually, and decide where their best learning environment will be. Keep in mind that many factors are considered when placing children including:

- Classroom teacher and school-based team recommendations
- The overall make up of the class being created
- Learning styles
- Intellectual, emotional, social & physical development
- Behavioral issues
- Need for additional services such as learning assistance, ELL, and Education Assistants
- Student leadership skills
- Pre-existing conflicts between children
- Provincial legislation for class size and composition
- Pre-existing supportive relationships between children

Combined Classes:

We have many combined classes this year. Some of you may have concerns about your child being placed in a combined-grade class, where students from different grades learn together. I want to reassure you that combined-grade classes are a common and well-established educational practice in Canada. In fact, research indicates that one in every five Canadian students experiences a combined-grade classroom during their elementary years and thrives in classrooms structured this way.

I encourage you to be positive with your children as they come home from school today. When we show that we are scared, uncertain, or nervous about the new year, they too will feel these emotions. Staying positive, and sharing with our children that this is an exciting time of year will make your children feel better. If they are not placed with a friend they were hoping to be with, this is a great opportunity to practice and build resilience, and share that this will be a great opportunity to make even more friends!

I look forward to a wonderful year of learning with you.

With care,
Tanis Anderson
Principal, Montecito Elementary

September's Important Dates:

September 15 – School Photos and PAC Barbeque

September 22 – Terry Fox Run

September 25 – Professional Development Day – Students do not attend school

September 27 and 28 – Parents as Partners Conferences (more details to follow)

September 29 – Orange Shirt Day

A few reminders:

If your children are feeling unwell, please keep them home!

We practice “West Coast Recess and Lunch”, so please make sure your children are dressed for the weather.

We aim for litter-less lunches, so reusable containers are a great option. We are not able to heat up lunches, so consider a thermos and also reusable cutlery.

Welcome to our new staff:

Mr. Kirkby will be teaching Grades 6/7.
Ms. Ng will be teaching with Ms. Pavic.
Ms. Hill will be teaching Kindergarten.
Ms. Mahil is a new Education Assistant.
Ms. Worsley is our new band teacher.