



# Montecito News

October 2023

Hello from Mrs. Anderson!

Happy October Montecito Families!

Students are settling into classrooms and are adjusting to routines and expectations at school. It has been lovely seeing children play outside each day, and seeing new friendships bloom.

September was a flurry of activity, as we moved into classrooms, and started to build community. Social agreements were created, as children worked collaboratively to share how their classrooms should look, feel, and sound. Setting a foundation of care for each other, ourselves, and this place is paramount to all that we do.

We had beautiful weather for the Terry Fox run, and we are so thankful to all the parents who volunteered to help. Thank you to everyone who supported with donations as well, for cancer research, and for supporting Terry Fox's legacy.

Thank you to all the families who came to school this past week to join us in our Parents as Partners conferences. This is such a valuable time, as we get to know our students through the lens of the caregivers. Your perspective helps us in our planning and design of curriculum.

Thank you to Ms. Chin, Ms. Kumar, and Ms. Kwok who have been working with our Cross-Country team! This is such a great experience for students. They are exercising, getting out in the fresh air, and making friends!

For September's Professional Day, teachers engaged in training on MindUP. This is a program that is based in neuroscience. MindUP teaches the skills and knowledge children need to regulate their stress and emotion, form positive relationships, and act with kindness and compassion.

On September 29, we acknowledged the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Teachers engaged in conversations with students in classrooms, read stories, and our learners contributed to a school wide project, where they wrote and drew about how children should feel at school.

## Coming Up...

We have exciting things happening in October. Our grade 7 students head to camp, which they have been very excited for! Thanks to Mr. Rawlins, Mr. Kirkby, and Ms. Foy for all the planning! Thanks to the PAC for your donation towards the cost. We also have a school wide performance planned called "Oopsie". This show focuses on teaching children the importance of having a growth mindset. The show involves shadow puppetry, music, and dancing. We are also excited for our pumpkin patch event coming up October 27! More information on this will be provided in the coming weeks.

## Affordability Fund

If at any time this year you are experiencing financial hardship, in the areas of food, fees, or school supplies, please communicate directly with Ms. Scigliano or myself about possible options for support.

## Insurance

There is a voluntary purchase of accident insurance available through the Family Accident Reimbursement Plan. For more information, click here:

[www.burnabyschools.ca/StudentAccidentInsurance](http://www.burnabyschools.ca/StudentAccidentInsurance)

Should you have any questions or comments, do not hesitate to contact me at school.

With care,

Tanis Anderson  
Principal



*School wide writing and art  
project to acknowledge  
National Day for Truth and  
Reconciliation*



*Ms. Jung's class taking  
learning outdoors!*

## October's Important Dates:

October 2 - School closed -  
National Day for Truth and  
Reconciliation

October 4-6 - Grade 7 camp

October 5 and October 12 - Cross  
Country meets

October 9 - School closed  
Thanksgiving

October 17 - PAC Meeting 7:00 pm

October 19 - Great Shake Out

October 20 - School closed  
Professional Development Day

October 25 - Photo Retakes

October 27 - Montecito's Pumpkin  
Patch

October 31 - Halloween Assembly

## A few reminders:

Please aim to have your children  
arrive to school on time! We aim to  
make the most of our school days.

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:

Welcome Ms. Hui, our new Education  
Assistant!



Follow us on Instagram!  
We are @ MontecitoElementary



## Make dental, hearing and vision checks part of a healthy routine

Health screenings help find issues early which can make treatment easier and more effective. It's important for your child to have regular eye exams and routine dental checkups. It is also important to recognize any hearing loss early as this is essential for speech and language development. Read on to learn when and how to access services for your child.

### Dental

Tooth decay is the most common, but preventable, childhood chronic disease. It is important to establish good oral hygiene at a young age and have children's teeth checked by a dentist regularly. To find a local dentist near you who is accepting new patients, visit the BC Dental Association's [Find a Dentist database](#). If you are a member of a low-income family and you do not have extended health coverage, there are several programs that can help you access [affordable dentistry for your children](#). You can also contact the dental program at your [local public health unit](#) and ask about resources available in your community.

### Vision

[BC Doctors of Optometry](#) recommends children receive their first eye exam when they are six to nine months old with a follow up exam at least once between the ages of two and five and then yearly once they enter school. You can find an optometrist accepting new patients near you at the College of Optometrists of British Columbia's [Find an Optometrist database](#). In B.C., basic eye exams, one per year, are free up to the age of 18. Some optometrists may charge a small user fee of about \$35 per visit so be sure to ask about any fees before you make an appointment.

### Hearing

Good hearing is essential for speech and language development and plays an important part in a child's social and emotional growth. It is important to recognize hearing loss early and seek out testing and treatment if needed. Fraser Health's Public Health community audiologists provide hearing services for children from birth to 19 years of age. If you have a concern about your child's hearing, referrals can be made by a parent or caregiver, a health care provider or education professional to your [local public health audiology \(hearing\) clinic](#).

Find more information on child health screenings and how to access free vision, hearing and dental exams on Fraser Health's website: <https://ow.ly/oK9z50PegZB>



# All about Foundation Assessment

## What is the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)?

The FSA is a learning assessment for all grade 4 and 7 students. It focuses on the areas of **literacy** and **numeracy**.

FSA results are one way of measuring how the education system is doing in these key areas. It assesses how students think, communicate and reflect - not just the facts they know.

The FSA is not intended to be used to rank students, teachers, or schools. The FSA is a snapshot of student learning at a moment in time. For parents and caregivers, it tells you where your child is at in their literacy and numeracy development, as well as areas where they may need support. When all students participate, it also gives the Ministry of Education and Child Care a clear picture of how the education system is performing as a whole.

## Why is the FSA important?

The Ministry of Education and Child Care sets the standards for what your child learns and, along with teachers, figures out ways to measure how well they are learning. The goal is for your child (and all students in BC) to get a great education that readies them for life after graduation and helps them become educated citizens.

One way the Ministry ensures the quality of student learning is through the FSA. The FSA helps us understand what learning looks like across the entire province. It lets us see how different groups of students are learning and find out where they might need extra help. It also helps us understand how well BC is doing over time.

The Ministry uses this information to make sure that your child's learning is "on track" and that they don't fall behind. This data also allows us to know how BC students are doing in relation to students in other provinces in Canada and the rest of the world. The FSA provides both the Ministry and parents and caregivers with the assurance that students possess the literacy and numeracy skills necessary for their future.

# the Skills

**Literacy** is your child's ability to understand language and communicate in a variety of ways.

**Numeracy** is your child's ability to apply important math skills, solve problems, and communicate solutions.

## The FSA:

Is **not** a high-stakes assessment

Is **not** meant to be used for ranking students, teachers, or schools

Does **not** impact student marks or report cards

- Provides valuable information about student learning

Ensures all students are

developing a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy

- Guides improvements to BC's education system