

# ÉCOLE MARY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Learn to Live



Live to Learn



## NEWSLETTER

Margo McKnight, Principal

November 2009

### It's All About Respect!!

#### MISSION STATEMENT:

Within our community we strive to develop enthusiastic, respectful citizens who value diversity and learning and who pursue excellence in a safe and caring environment.

School Goal: to increase students' reading comprehension

#### REMEMBRANCE DAY



The assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup> was very special and moving. We were very happy to have Constable Ternan with us this year. It was wonderful to have so many students participating in the event by presenting poems and their thoughts on peace. All of us in the Mary Hill community thank them for making the assembly so touching.

#### VANCOUVER OPERA PRESENTATION

Please come and join us on Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am for a special presentation by the Vancouver Opera. We will be seeing the Opera "Jack Pine". We would like to show the opera company that we appreciate their performance by dressing up in our finest duds! Many thanks go to the Mary Hill PAC for sponsoring this event.

#### REPORT CARDS

The first formal report cards are scheduled to go home on Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Parent requests for interviews can be indicated on the report card cover. Here is a refresher to help you understand the performance standards that are used on the report cards.



#### Not Yet Meeting Expectations:

- the work does not meet grade-level expectations. There is little evidence of progress toward the relevant prescribed learning outcomes

#### Approaching Expectations:

- the work may be inconsistent, but meets grade-level expectations at a minimal level
- there is evidence of progress toward relevant prescribed learning outcomes
- the student needs support in some areas

#### Meeting Expectations:

- the work meets grade-level expectations
- there is evidence that relevant prescribed learning outcomes have been accomplished
- demonstrates proficient academic performance

#### Exceeding Expectations:

- the work exceeds grade-level expectations in significant ways
- the student may benefit from extra challenge

## **SEVEN HABITS OF HAPPY KIDS**

We are working our way through all of the seven habits, a new focus for all of us at Mary Hill this year. Students have been working in grade groups to listen to the stories and explore the meaning of the habits and the relevance in their lives. The parents who came to the Parent/Teacher Night in September were treated to a Readers Theatre performance of the first story. We were thrilled to have Mr. Art Johnson speak to the Grade 4 students last week. Mr. Johnson works for Canstar, a business in Port Coquitlam. He explained to the students how the seven habits work in his adult, working life and how they guide the employees in his workplace. Mr. Johnson not only gave us the gift of his time and his insight - he also gave the school sets of posters of the seven habits. We are very grateful for his time and his experience. Here is a snapshot of the seven habits. Please ask your children to give you more information about them and please explain to them how they fit into your daily life and work.

### **Habit 1: Be Proactive**

I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.

### **Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind**

I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my class and I contribute to my school's mission and vision and look for ways to be a good citizen.

### **Habit 3: Put First Things First**

I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.

### **Habit 4: Think Win-Win**

I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.

### **Habit 5: Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood**

I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.

### **Habit 6: Synergize**

I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than any one of us alone. I am humble.

### **Habit 7: Sharpen the Saw**

I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I take time to find meaningful ways to help others.

## **COFFEE AND CONVERSATION**



Parents are invited to meet with Margo for coffee and conversation on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 8:35 am in the staff room. This will be an open forum so bring your questions. Please call the office at 604-942-0264 to let us know that you are coming - we want to make sure that there is enough coffee for everyone! If you can't make the 3<sup>rd</sup>, the next Coffee and Conversation will be Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR**

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday December 8<sup>th</sup>. It's a great chance to pick up lots of great Christmas presents! You will be able to purchase books from 8:00 to 8:30 and from 2:30 to 3:15, both days. We will need volunteers to work at the Book Fair. Please see Mrs. Coghill to arrange a time to help. Watch out for the flyers coming home! Thank you for supporting Mary Hill!

## BIRTHDAYS

We know how the students love to celebrate their birthdays by bringing treats to school for their classmates but we are asking for your help. Please ask the teacher before you bring something to the class. We have many children with allergies to eggs and nuts and we have to be very careful. It is very thoughtful to bring a cake, but the logistics of serving it to a class are tricky. If you wish to mark your child's birthday, perhaps you could bring in non-food items such as stickers or pencils. Another way to mark your child's birthday is to buy a book for our library in your child's name. His or her name will be inscribed in the book and we will acknowledge the gift at an assembly. The upcoming book fair is a great place to buy the books. Please see Mrs. Coghill for ideas from our wish list! Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

## HEALTHY SCHOOLS NETWORK

Mary Hill continues to be a member of the Provincial Healthy Schools Network. We will continue working on activities to promote nutrition and healthy eating, to stress the importance of daily physical activity for healthy brains and bodies and to learn about being responsible, caring members of a community.



## LIMITING SCREEN TIME

Too much screen time can interfere with activities such as being physically active, reading, doing homework, playing with friends, and spending time with family. Try the following tips to reduce screen time:

- **Set limits on screen time.** Your children should spend no more than 2 hours a day watching TV, surfing the internet or playing video games.
- **Remove the TV or computer from your child's bedroom.** Children with TVs in their rooms spend almost 1½ hours more per day watching TV than kids without a set in their room.
- **Provide other options and alternatives.** Watching TV can become a habit for your child. Provide other alternatives for them to spend their time, such as playing outside, learning a hobby or sport, or spending time with family and friends.
- **Be a role model.** As a parent, set a good example for physical activity and screen time in moderation. If your kids see you following your own rules, they will be more likely to do the same.
- **Make physical activity a fun family routine.** Do not rely on "active" video games to get children moving.

Canada's Physical Activity Guide suggests at least 90 minutes of physical activity per day for children and youth. Yet, research studies show that more than half of Canadian children and youth are not active enough for optimal growth and development.

For more information: [http://www.actnowbc.ca/?section\\_copy\\_id=248&section\\_id=402](http://www.actnowbc.ca/?section_copy_id=248&section_id=402)

## RAIN! SNOW! SLEET! HAIL!

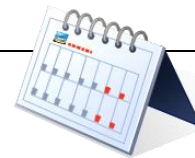
In the event of heavy snowfall, ice or high wind, please listen to CBC 690 AM, CKNW 980 AM, or CKWX 1130 AM radio stations for possible school closure information. In addition, on inclement weather days, school closure information will be posted on the school district website at [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

## RAINY DAYS!

Please make sure that your child has appropriate clothing for our fall and winter weather. Unless it is really pouring, the children will go outside at recess and at lunch so that they can get some fresh air. We are also trying "Option Days" so that those who are dressed for the elements can go outside to play. Hoods, boots and umbrellas are essential! It would be very useful for all students to have a change of clothes at school. The playground gets very wet and slippery and we often have students who slip and get muddy.

## PHOTO RETAKES:

The photographer from MjM Studios will be back here at 9:00 on Friday, November 13<sup>h</sup> to do the retakes for the individual photos. If you have a child in the afternoon Kindergarten class and wish to have the photo retaken, please bring your child back to school at 9:00 am.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, November 12  
Friday, November 13  
Wednesday, November 18  
Friday, November 20  
Wednesday, November 25  
Tuesday, December 1  
Wednesday, December  
Thursday, December 3  
Friday, December 4  
December 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, December 17  
Friday, December 18  
Monday, January 4  
Thursday, January 7  
Wednesday, January 13  
Thursday, January 21  
Friday, January 22  
Wednesday, January 27

PAC Meeting: 6:30 pm  
Photo Retakes: 9:00 am  
Assembly - 10:30 am  
Seven Habits - 12:45 - 1:30 pm  
Vancouver Opera - 10:30 am  
Early Dismissal - 1:30 pm  
Assembly - 10:30 am  
Coffee & Conversation - 8:35 am  
First Formal Report  
Scholastic Book Fair  
Christmas Concert  
Last day of school  
School reopens  
Coffee & Conversation - 8:35 am  
Assembly - 10:30 am  
Early Dismissal - 1:30 pm  
Professional Day - Students do not attend school.  
Assembly - 10:30 am

## COMMUNITY NEWS



### MEADOWBROOK FLEA MARKET

Meadowbrook Elementary is inviting the community to take part at their school Flea Market on Saturday, November 28, 2009. This function will take place in the gym and will run from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Table rentals are available prior to the date for a cost of \$15 (non refundable). Please phone the school office 604-464-5813 - if you wish to book your own table. Those who have acquired a table for the day will be able to access the gym at 8 am for set up. All money raised this day will go towards the grade five field trips for the year.

## SHARE NEWS:

- **UNWRAPPED: A Charitable Night of Shopping** -Tuesday November 24 - 6:30 - 9:30 at Coquitlam Centre. Buy your \$10 ticket from SHARE and all proceeds will support our programs and services. The evening includes one-night only special discounts, hourly prizes, food, wine and entertainment. For a list of stores involved and their promotions, visit <http://www.coquitlamcentre.com/unwrapped/store-listings>. Just call Amanda Simpson at 604-529-5107 to purchase your tickets. Make a night of it and buy tickets for your friends and neighbours too!
- **Volunteers Needed!** Christmas is fast approaching and we are looking for volunteers to help us at our Gift Wrap booths and our new Toy Bank at Coquitlam Centre. The toys, food and funds raised through these programs will provide nearly 2,000 families with Christmas Hampers and Toys this year. That's up from 1,423 families last year. If you can spare some time to volunteer, we could really use your help. Please call Amanda at 604-529-5107
- **Toy Bank:** Coquitlam Centre has generously donated the use of a store located between Lulu lemon and Sephora for our Toy Bank. Our volunteers will receive toy donations from our very generous community from December 1 - 24.
- **Ideas?** If you would like to help at Christmas in another way, please call us and let us know what you're thinking. We welcome groups and businesses who raise funds, food and toys to support families in the TriCities. (t) 604-529-5119 | (c) 604-816-5958 [www.sharesociety.ca](http://www.sharesociety.ca)

## PITT RIVER COMMUNITY REPLACEMENT SCHOOL INFORMATION

• The replacement school project for Pitt River Community is moving ahead. As we move closer to the design phase and establish the dates for construction, we will keep you updated. To help facilitate information updates around Pitt River's replacement school, a web site has been set-up on the school and district web pages that will post updates and important information. The district web address is [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca). The school web site is [www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/pittriver](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/pittriver).

• In approving the replacement school for Pitt River, the Ministry of Education has also committed to looking at Pitt River for the Neighbourhood of Learning (NOL) initiative. The idea is to find unique and innovative ways to design schools with community use in mind. Schools within a NOL site could include services, such as: Child-care programs; Health Clinics; Sports programs; Family Resource centres; and office space, to name a few examples. The intent behind this initiative is for schools and community organizations to partner together to create opportunities where people can access educational and community services under one roof.

• In building the school, the Ministry of Education would provide extra space to host these other services. To gain a better understanding of community needs, the district will be holding a community consultation with Pitt River residents to determine how to best bring together community services and the school community. **The date of the community consultation will be Monday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm and held at Pitt River.**

• To also gather specific information from the Community we have included a quick survey that can be filled out electronically. This information will be extremely helpful in considering Neighbourhoods of Learning possibilities. The survey can be accessed from the Pitt River Community School web page [www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/pittriver](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/middle/pittriver).

• For more information on Neighbourhoods of Learning, please also check the Ministry of Education's website at [www.neighbourhoods-of-learning.gov.bc.ca](http://www.neighbourhoods-of-learning.gov.bc.ca).

## FREE CLOTHING GIVE AWAY - WINSLOW CENTRE GYM

November 17th

10:30am to 2:00pm

1100 Winslow Avenue

We have quality, lightly used clothing for students from 5 years of age to 18 years. Winter jackets and gloves of all sizes, many pairs of boots and shoes in great shape, lunch boxes, gym shorts, gym bags, pack sacks, t-shirts, hoodies, hats and more!. Everything has been washed and it's all FREE!

## NOVEMBER AT PLACE DES ARTS

### Light up the Square

Saturday, December 5 from 4 PM - 7 PM

1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam

*Light up the Square* at Carré Heritage Square is back and better than ever! Come and see our brand new lighting display, create festive arts & crafts, taste yummy seasonal fare and visit with Père Noël. Make a lantern and join the procession led by Les Échos du Pacifique, take part in a puppet show at Mackin House and come watch *Sharing Christmas*, a short play with songs by G2. *Light up the Square* is festive fun for all ages! Visit [www.placedesarts.ca](http://www.placedesarts.ca) for more information. Admission is **FREE!**

### Register now for winter!

Registration is now open for Place des Arts' classes and workshops in music, dance, drama, visual art and creative writing beginning in January. Register early to ensure your class runs. Visit [www.placedesarts.ca](http://www.placedesarts.ca) and view our 2009/10 Annual Guide for full class listings. **Check out our dance and drama satellite classes at the Evergreen Cultural Centre.**

### Piano Students!

Place des Arts is offering two **FREE** workshops to help with your piano and theory exam preparation. The theory workshop takes place on November 22 from 1:30 - 3:30. The piano workshop is on November 29 from 1:30 - 3:30. Call 604.664.1636 to book your spot.

