

ÉCOLE MARY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1890 Humber Crescent, Port Coquitlam, B.C., V3C 2V7

Phone: 604-942-0264 Fax: 604-942-3157



Learn to Live



Live to Learn



NEWSLETTER

Margo McKnight, Principal

November 2011

Every Child, Every Chance, Every Day

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

REMEMBER!

Friday, November 11th and Monday, November 14th - school closed both days.

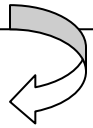


PHOTO RETAKES:

The photographer from MjM Studios will be back here at 9:00 am on Tuesday, November 15th to do the retakes for the individual photos.

RAIN! SNOW! SLEET! HAIL!

In the event of heavy snow, ice or extreme temperatures, a decision on school closures will take place as soon as possible after 6:00 a.m. that day.

- Check the district website at www.sd43.bc.ca beginning shortly after 6:00 a.m.
- Be sure to hit Refresh when checking back
- The district website posting is official - there is no need to call the school or the Board office after viewing
- Tune in to CKWX 1130 AM, CKNW 980 AM or CBC 690 AM for updates

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Once again, it is necessary to remind everyone about traffic rules. The other day, the situation on Aire Crescent was an accident waiting to happen! Some of you may have received parking tickets in the mail because the By-Law Officers have been taking pictures of cars parked or stopped illegally. The officers come to the school to help us maintain the safety of our students, which is our greatest concern. We would like to remind parents that the **DROP-OFF ZONES ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR PARKING**. The drop-off zones are on Aire Crescent and on Humber Crescent. These zones are governed by city by-laws. Please look at the signs and respect the posted restrictions. Here are some other reminders;



- **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED IN THE DROP-OFF ZONES**
- **PLEASE DO NOT PARK YOUR CAR ON THE CURVES ON AIRE AND HUMBER**
- **PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE PARK OR LET YOUR CHILD OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET**
- **PLEASE DO NOT MAKE U-TURNS ON EITHER STREET - THE EXTRA TIME YOU TAKE TO DRIVE AROUND KEEPS OUR CHILDREN SAFE**

BIRTHDAY BOOKS FOR THE LIBRARY

We would like to thank Zach Karaboitis, Aiden Cumming-Teicher and Josh Caldwell for donating books to the Mary Hill library to celebrate their birthdays. Their names have been inscribed in the book and we will acknowledge their gifts at the next assembly. This is a wonderful way to mark your child's birthday instead of bringing treats to school as we have many children with allergies to eggs and nuts and we have to be very careful. The upcoming book fair is a great place to buy the books. Please see Ms. Medan for ideas from our wish list! Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be here Friday, December 2nd (2:30-3:30 pm); Monday, December 5th (2:30-3:30 pm); Tuesday, December 6th (8:00-8:45 am & 2:30-3:30 pm); and Wednesday, December 7th. (2:30-3:30 pm). It's a great chance to pick up lots of great Christmas presents. We will need volunteers to work at the Book Fair. Please see Ms. Medan to arrange a time to help. Watch out for the flyers coming home! Thank you for supporting Mary Hill!

MARY HILL PARENT BOOK CLUB



At Mary Hill Elementary School we have a Book Club for parents. We had a great meeting in November and we have chosen books for the next two meetings:

- Thursday, December 1st: "The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society" by Mary Ann Shaffer. It is available at the Pinetree Chapters for \$12.92.
- Thursday, January 19th: "The Book of Negroes" by Lawrence Hill. It is available at Costco for \$6.49 and at the Pinetree Chapters for \$6.04

Please join us to share your love of reading and for a great discussion!

PYJAMA STORY TIME

I would like to invite children in Kindergarten and Grade One and their parents to our second Pyjama Story Time on Wednesday, November 23rd at 6:30 pm. As I read to the children, I will demonstrate Reading Power techniques that you will be able to use to develop and deepen your child's reading comprehension. This is not a "drop off" event. Parents need to be here with their child. Please bring your child in pyjamas, ready for bed! We will meet in the library. Plan on staying 45 minutes and then going home to pop your child into bed! This is for our students in Kindergarten and Grade 1 only. Baby sitting for siblings will not be available.

READING POWER

The second important strategy that good readers use when they are reading is visualizing. Adrienne Gear explains that "Visualizing and connecting are very closely related. These, above all other strategies, call upon the reader to draw from their own experiences to help make sense of the text. Whether making a connection or making a picture in one's mind, the source from which one connects or creates images is one's well of experiences, one's memory bank. Visualizing is the sister to imagination; one could argue that they are one and the same. The source from which the images are created is the only difference. When we use our imaginations, the source for the images created comes from within; when we visualize, the source for the images created comes from the text". When you read to your children, ask them to close their eyes and to create a mental picture or to make a movie of what is happening in the story. With younger children, start with words and as they understand the concept better, move to sentences. Some good books for practising visualizing are:

- The Big Red Barn by Margaret Wise Brown
- Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll
- Dandelions by Eve Bunting
- The Seashore Book by Charlotte Zolotow
- The Secret World of Og by Pierre Burton

Happy visualizing!

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. 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 get muddy.

SEVEN HABITS OF HAPPY KIDS

We continue to work on exploring the meaning of the seven habits and the Golden Rule and their relevance in our lives. 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 I am. 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, November 10

Friday, November 11

Monday, November 14

Tuesday, November 15

Wednesday, November 16

Thursday, November 17

Wednesday, November 23

Wednesday, November 30

December 2 - December 7

Thursday, December 15

Friday, December 16

Tuesday, January 3

Remembrance Day Assembly - 10:30 am

School Closed - Statutory Holiday

School Closed - District School Closure

Photo Retakes - 9:00 am

Assembly - 10:45 am - Parents welcome!

PAC Meeting - 6:30 pm

Pyjama Story Time - 6:30 pm

Assembly - 10:45 am - Parents welcome!

Book Fair

Christmas Concert - time to be announced

Last day of school

School reopens



VIDEO GAMES: ONE OF FIVE REASONS WHY BOYS ARE FAILING

When Robert Weis and his colleagues decided to investigate whether owning a video gaming system hurt academic performance, they knew early on that their work would focus on boys. "We were afraid that if we bought a video game system for girls and we gave them this system they simply wouldn't play it very much," said Mr. Weis, an assistant professor at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. There was no such concern with male test subjects, as research has shown that boys are particularly susceptible to the allure of digital games, and many are becoming addicted. This is especially problematic as the modern child struggles with a time crunch of extracurricular activities that leave less and less time for homework.

Mr. Weis' study, which was published this spring, found that boys aged 6 to 9 who owned a video-gaming system at home spent less time doing homework, reading for fun or being read to by their parents. After barely five months, their scores on reading and writing assessments were significantly lower than those of the boys who didn't own a console. "There's something about the competitiveness and aggressiveness of games that is appealing to boys," said Mr. Weis. "... Boys have a limited amount of time after school and they have to spend this time doing a wide range of things. The more time they spend on playing video games the less time they have for doing other things, like spending time with family, playing non-video games and doing academic-type activities as well."

There are mountains of research to demonstrate that video-game players are more likely to struggle in school, but Mr. Weis' study contributes to growing evidence that the games can directly cause boys to fall behind. It's of particular concern because video games are like catnip to many young men. A 2007 Harris poll found that teenage boys in the United States spend an average of 18 hours a week playing video games - girls spend about eight. And a study published in a recent issue of Psychological Science found that one in 10 youths who play video games mirror the behaviour of addicts - lying to parents, skipping chores and stealing money to support their gaming habit.

Kate Hammer - Globe and Mail Published Friday, Oct. 15, 2010



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§ion_id=402



COMMUNITY NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS AT PLACE DES ARTS

1120 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam | 604.664.1636 | www.placedesarts.ca

Family Day at PdA!

Sunday, November 20, 1:30-3:30 pm



Gather up the family and tour Place des Arts annual *Positively Petite* miniature exhibition. Then participate in a variety of all-ages, drop-in style workshops that celebrate *small* and create your very own lantern in preparation for *Light up the Square a Lantern Affair* on December 3. Don't be intimidated by art, get engaged in it! Admission by donation. Reserve your spot by calling 604.664.1636 before

Tuesday, November 15.

Light up the Square: A Lantern Affair

Saturday, December 3, 4:30-7:30 pm

Welcome in the light during Light up the Square's lantern affair! Discover the Japanese taiko drumming tradition that lures the sun; drop in on a variety of arts and crafts activities for all ages; get into the spirit of the season with live music and song and be entranced by a musical performance of *A Child's Christmas in Wales* staged by RA Productions. This is a free community event.

Workshops for Kids at Place des Arts

1120 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam | 604.664.1636 | www.placedesarts.ca

Place des Arts has some great workshops for children and youth coming up in November and December. Register by phone at 604.664.1636, online at www.placedesarts.ca or at the Place des Arts reception/registration desk.

Family Time: Felting Fun Workshop (2+ years)

Explore the art of wet felting with your child, and acquire the necessary skills to create finished pieces such as beads, vessels and flat felted pieces. Once you learn the basics of this ancient craft, the possibilities are endless—create embellishments, small wearable pieces and gifts.

9205 • M • Nov 14 - Nov 21 • 2:00 - 3:00 pm • \$28.00



Claymation Filmmaking (11-17 years)

Create your own stop-motion animated film! Plan a story, make a storyboard, design and build your own characters and sets, and then shoot and edit your film, practicing techniques in shot composition, movement and timing. Add voices and music and upload it to YouTube! A digital camera with removable card is recommended for this class.

9139 • W • Nov 23-Nov 30 • 3:30 - 6:00 pm • \$46.50

Felted Christmas Ornaments (8-14 years)

Create beautiful felted ornaments such as bejewelled Christmas balls or a garland of felted stars. Explore different wet felting techniques and acquire the skills necessary to create finished pieces. Felting is quick, fun and a great way to make gifts. Materials kits provided.

9043 • TH • Dec 1 • 6:00 - 9:00 pm • \$29.50

Christmas Clay Magic (4-6 & 6-12 years)

Hey Kids! Make your own clay Christmas decorations and gifts for the special people in your lives in this fun and magical class.

4-6 years

9044 • M • Nov 28 - Dec 5 • 3:45 - 4:30 pm • \$26

9047 • TU • Nov 29 - Dec 6 • 3:45 - 4:30 pm • \$26

9048 • TU • Nov 29 - Dec 6 • 4:45 - 5:30 pm • \$26

6-12 years

9045 • M • Nov 28 - Dec 5 • 4:45 - 5:45 pm • \$26

9046 • M • Nov 28 - Dec 5 • 6:00 - 7:00 pm • \$26

9049 • TU • Nov 29 - Dec 6 • 5:45 - 6:45 pm • \$26

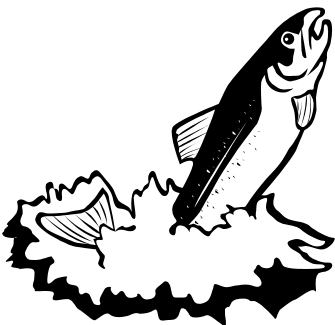
TERRY FOX SECONDARY SCHOOL - BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

You are cordially invited to a "Breakfast with Santa" on Saturday, December 10th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm at our school. The cost of this event, including pancakes and sausages, face painting, crafts and cookie decorating as well as a small gift from Santa is \$12.00 per person 3 years and up or \$10.00 per person with a food donation. Tickets will be on sale at the door. Invite your friends, family, co-workers to this festive event. Proceeds of this breakfast will help our football players attend a team camp in June. For information, email hbjohnson@sd43.bc.ca

THE HAPPENING - ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR 2011

- Saturday, November 26 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Sunday, November 27 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm
- Over 100 crafters
- Thomas Haney Secondary School, Lougheed Highway and 116th, Maple Ridge, B.C.
- No strollers on sales floor
- Free daycare
- Admission: \$2.00
- Fundraiser for scholarships and children's charities

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF THE SALMON



- Hyde Creek Recreation Centre and Hyde Creek Educational Centre & Hatchery
- November 13, 2011 from 11:00 am-3:00 pm
- Free Family Event
- Environmental, community groups exhibits
- Arts & Crafts, entertainment, BBQ salmon