

January 11, 2012 eNewsletter

Principal's Message



Happy New Year Everyone,

I hope that your holidays provided lots of time to relax with your family and that you were able to enjoy the season. We have jumped right back into things here. Our first big announcement is that at the end of January we will be saying goodbye to Mr. Carabine whose contract is coming to an end. Mr. Carabine left his life of leisure and his retirement to come back and help us for the first half of the year. I know I speak on behalf of the whole staff and all of the students when I say his ever-present smile and his unbelievable amount of energy will be sadly missed. One of my highlights was to pop into one of his ESL classes which always had some entertaining and creative way of teaching English. Mr. Carabine has helped us start off our year in a very positive way. I wish him well as he heads back to his life of leisure (I believe he only has about twelve jobs lined up). And as he and I live in the same neighbourhood, I look forward to running into him while he is out on his bicycle (hopefully in more of a figurative way and not a literal one). As Mr. Carabine leaves, I would like to Welcome Ms. Carmel Smith to Como Lake. Ms. Smith comes to us from Pitt River Middle School where she has been the vice principal for several years. She will be here officially on February 1st but will be in and out over the next few weeks as part of the transition. Ms. Smith brings with her an extensive background in student services and ESL and will be a wonderful addition here at Como.

In addition to the administrative changes, we have a few staff changes as well. Ms. Galliford is in for Mr. Williams while he takes the month of January to spend time with his new son, Scott. Ms. Leaman will be in for the rest of the year taking over our Home Ec program for Mrs. Fox while she travels with her husband. Our student services team has two new additions to it. In addition to Ms. Leaman who will take over the student services duties for the Stingrays team, Ms. Venn has also recently joined our fabulous SEA team. Mrs. Anderson, who has been filling in for Mrs. Warkentin in the office, will be transitioning out of the school while Mrs. Warkentin transitions back in. Mrs. Anderson has done an excellent job here with us, and while we are very happy to have Mrs. Warkentin back, it will be sad to see Mrs. Anderson move on. In addition to these changes, our student teachers will be working more intensely with us as we move toward the end of the school year.



Our district maintenance team has also been very busy here at Como Lake. Eight of our classrooms have had new linoleum tiles put in to replace some very old carpet. Our custodial team worked tirelessly over the break to ensure that the classrooms would be ready to be set back up when we returned from the holiday. As well, the painting of our gym has begun. The district painters started Monday and over the next two weeks, they will repaint the entire gym. When they are done, we will have a graphic artist add some Como pride to the walls. While here, the painters will also be painting the main section of our hallways. And by the summer, we hope to have our hallway floors shined up to their original luster. The trees out in front of the building will eventually need to be replaced. The city however, will be doing some construction and upgrades to King Albert so until all of that work is completed, our district arborist will come in to clean up the trees a little bit in time for the spring blossom. While our building may be old, with the care of a great district team and especially with the care and love of our head custodian Ms. Branstrom, Como Lake is in wonderful shape. It is an honour to work in a building with so much love and pride all throughout every nook and cranny. Lastly, I would just like to publicly thank our wonderful staff. Every member of Como Lake helps to make this such a special place. It is such a privilege to work in a building where people are so flexible and so caring. Como Lake is simply a wonderful place.



Cheers,

Darren Stewart, Principal, Como Lake Middle School

Calendar



Wed/Thur, January 18, 19
Thursday, January 26
Friday, January 27
Tuesday, January 31
Wednesday, February 1
Friday, February 10
Wednesday, February 15
Friday, February 17

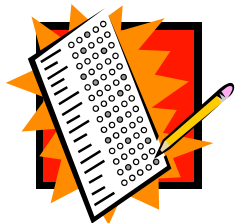
- TCO2
- Grade 8 Secondary Walk Abouts
- School Pro D
- Term 2 Explorations End
- Term 3 Explorations Begin
- Theatre Sports Presentation 9:30 am
- PAC Meeting #4, Library 7:00 pm
- District Pro D

Quilts to Eagle Ridge Hospital



Our pretty little elves from Como Lake Middle School are proud of their hand-made quilts. Under Ms. Fox's guidance, they made and donated their quilts to patients of the Transitional Care Unit at Eagle Ridge Hospital this Christmas. Students were: Novia Chao, Danielle Cullum, Jaein Jeong, Diana Jung, Emilee Lai, Brianna Larsen, Sophie Lee, Marie Lochhead, Darpan Malhi, Trieu Vy On, Won Ju Park, Ahliya Penn, Desiree Penn, Natatie Stewart, Hana Tagliafero, Jessica Wang, and Maxine Yip. View the story from ERH, originally printed at: <http://www.erhf.ca/patient-stories/>

FSA Assessment



Our yearly Foundation Skills assessment takes place the week of January 16th to 20th. Results will be available sometime in March. Please note that data collected from these tests is not used on report cards. If you have any questions or concerns, please see Mr. Carabine. For more information, click on this website: <https://www.awinfosys.com/eassessment/fsa.htm>

PAC News



Como Lake Middle School PAC has once again registered with Playland for their online ticket program. This program offers all students and their families the opportunity to purchase Playland "One day" play passes and tickets for other events at a reduced price.

For our special promotional code: Please e-mail Sharon @ sconte@telus.net or Jamie @ camowen@telus.net.

For more information, click on this link: [Playland PNE Offers](#)

THANK YOU



A huge thank you to the following companies for donations to our school:

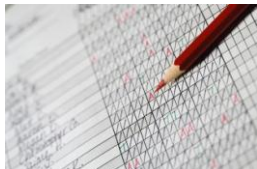
- Mike Dawe and Budget Brake and Muffler on Brunette Avenue for adopting our school and donating 30 tickets to each of remaining home games for the Coquitlam Express
- Colby Appleby, the manager at Cliffhanger – pass for four to climb at Cliffhanger
- Fariba Stewart, Reservations manager Zone Bowling - 20 passes



Each of these donations will be used as incentives for various recognition programs we have going at the school.

Thanks to our fine PAC and especially Cheryl Robillard for canvassing our community and securing these wonderful donations.

Late Montessori Registration



If you are considering the Montessori program at middle school in September 2012, you are invited to attend an information meeting regarding the middle school program at Montgomery and Scott Creek. The meeting will take place at **SCOTT CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL, Wednesday, February 1, 2012 at 7:00 pm.**

For more information, click on this link: [Late Montessori Registration](#)

Place des Arts



January 2012 School Newsletter Information - **Middle Schools**

Spring Break Workshops for Grades 6 to 8 at Place des Arts

Registration for all workshops opens January 30 online at www.placedesarts.ca; by phone at 604.664.1636; in person at 1120 Brunette Avenue, Coquitlam

For more information look on the school website or click on this link : [Place des Arts programs](#)

Centennial Secondary is Building for the Future



Centennial Secondary School will be rebuilt beginning Fall 2012 and you are invited to an information session to see the new school design on **Tues., January 17, 2012**. It is an exhibit style evening from 6:00 pm-7:30 pm, so you can drop by at any time. School district personnel and staff from the architectural firm will be in attendance. For more information click on this link: [New Centennial Design](#)

Pro-D Day Camp: January 27 (Ages 6 – 12years)



NEW! Evergreen Cultural Centre is offering both full and half day camps on January 27 in support of SD 43's non-instructional days. The one-day camps will get kids excited about the visual arts. Explore the world of Pop-Art, paint like the Impressionists, or discover a famous Canadian artist. These are some of the fun projects on hand. To register call 604.927.6552
Full Day, 9am – 4pm \$45 Half Day, 9am – 12pm or 1 – 4pm \$25

Volunteer at Place Maillardville



Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community, but did you know that it can have many benefits for you too? You can:

- Learn or develop a new skill
- Boost your career options
- Develop new interests and hobbies
- Have new experiences
- Meet a diverse range of people

Click on this link to view the many opportunities: [Volunteers for Place Maillardville](#)

KidSport Tri-Cities Spring Used Equipment Sale



KidSport Tri-Cities is holding their much anticipated Annual **Spring Used Sporting Goods Sale, Presented by Westminster Savings on Saturday, February 18th from 10am until 2pm** at Riverside Secondary School in Port Coquitlam.

Families are encouraged to donate and drop off their used sporting goods between Feb 1-17 at various locations.

For more information, click on this link: [Spring Sports Equipment Sale](#)