

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- The last day before Spring Break is Friday, March 9th.
- School Re-opens Monday, March 26th
- The two-week Spring Break comes from the added ten minutes to each instructional day, hence our 8:40 start and 2:50 dismissal.

Grade Four Parent Satisfaction Survey

Attention Parents of Grade Four students! The Ministry of Education invites Grade Four parents to participate in an anonymous satisfaction survey. All grade four students have already participated. If you are interested, please email heritagemountain@sd43.bc.ca to obtain the log on number and link for the on-line survey. It takes approximately ten minutes to complete. Survey's must be completed by April 10. The survey ends April 5, 2012.

Heritage Mountain Elementary School

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

MARCH 8, 2012

Authentic Assessment



I haven't shared this story before but I'm sure it's past any statue of limitation. Every word is true. So here goes....

A long time ago (in a galaxy far, far away), I was challenged by a parent regarding his son's Grade Four report card. I was teaching a Grade Four class early in my career and the first term report cards had just gone home.

Grade Four marks the first time that parents see an evaluation that they are more familiar with rather than the anecdotal primary reports. For many parents, it can be a shock.

This particular father immediately requested a meeting because he strongly disagreed with his son's letter grade. The child had received a C+ in language arts. The parent wanted an A and nothing less. His son was a kind, diligent student who tried his best.

I began talking about ways to support his child's learning so that he does improve. The parent did not want to hear this. He wanted an A right now.

He was quite emotional when he described his future plans for his child and how receiving such a letter grades would prevent him from reaching medical school.

No kidding.

I assured him that universities do not request a fourth grade transcript. This enraged him. I also mentioned that a C+ meant that his son had demonstrated a good understanding of concepts and materials we covered in class. This further enraged him. I assured him that his son had many

years left in the public system to improve his grades. The parent became belligerent.

As he ranted on, my thoughts drifted off to think about all of the toys I didn't have as a child. Perhaps I smiled a bit in nostalgia but I was snapped

back to reality when he began raising his voice, challenging me over the authenticity of the reporting.



I got up and walked over to a different child's desk and pulled out her writing folder. I knew that this child had demonstrated an excellent achievement in writing. I placed her work in front of him and said, "This student got an A. Compare this to your son's writing."

He read her work and asked if she was in the same grade. I confirmed it. He became very quiet.

In one of the most unbelievable

moments of my career, he pulled out his wallet and asked me if there was anything he could do to "help his son along."



I told him to put his wallet away and that the letter grade reflected his son's current achievement in reading and writing.

He left the room and a week later, transferred his son to another school.

I reflected upon how teachers can place the emphasis on a child's learning rather than haggling over letter grades. Perhaps I should have been in communication with the parent more frequently before the report card. The old analogy holds true in education, it's just as important on how you get there as the destination itself.

In the pages of this newsletter, we'll look at samples of authentic assessment. Thank you for taking the time to read.



Regards,
Mr. C. Mah

Grade Five Basketball Team

Lyris
Serena
Ashley
Tiffany
Tannis
Olivia
Madison
Brianna
Slava
Cameron
Sean
Alex
Fraser
Hans
Austin
Brodie
Bryan
Liam
Noah
Ryan
Adrienne
Lexie
Vanessa
Anna
Sally
Abigail
Estelle
Kaleigh
Delainee
Brendan
Spencer
Jason
Joaquin
Thomas
Joseph
Chris
Gavin
Domenico
Hamilton
Kai
Channy
Bill

Coaches:
Ms. Dimmer-Drew
Mrs. Ladha
Ms. Callihoo
Mrs. Lauridsen
Mr. Mah

...and special guest
coach Brent Godin

Authentic Assessment

Assessment and reporting can look very different than the traditional letter grade.

Effective assessment should help guide the child in his/her learning by providing real-time feedback. Assessment looks different in each grade. Here are three examples of assessment that can more effectively help learning. Parents are very familiar with letter grades but, letter grades themselves may not always tell the whole story.

Performance Standards

This form of assessment is a grid that describes what learning looks like at different stages of achievement. This is an example of the Grade 5 Personal Writing standard. Ms. Ogilvie, Mr. Leuvekamp, Mrs. Khan and Mrs. Swanson use this method to help assess their student's writing. The students are aware of the expectations and can also see what areas they need to work on. You can find performance standards for reading and writing on the Ministry of Education's website for all grades.

On-Going Assessment

Providing immediate feedback to the student about how he/she is doing helps guide so that corrections can be made for instant improvement. Mrs. Derksen reports that for writing, she constantly meets and provides immediate feedback to her writers. Mrs. Grist and the other primary classes frequently invites parents (and grandparents) to come and look at the student's work and the students can share their work with a different audience.

Portfolios

A portfolio allows the teacher and the student to see the progress made over the course of a term or a year. Ms. Callihoo and Mrs. Kirsh keep writing portfolio's for their students that has snapshots of their child's writing from the beginning of the year until now. We can see the growth and where the child has made significant progress.

Quick Scale: Grade 5 Personal Writing

The Quick Scale is a survey of the Rating Scale that follows. Each describes student achievement in relation to the Grade 5 Personal Writing standard. It is used to check for progress, but not used for grading.

Aspect	Not Yet Written Expectations	Meets Expectations (Minimal Level)	Fully Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
SNAPSHOT	The writing is often hard to understand. The writer may need frequent help.	The writing offers some ideas that are related to the topic, may be flawed by frequent errors.	The writing is easy to follow; ideas are relevant and logical.	The writing is easy to read; it shows insight.
MEANING - ideas etc. - information - unclear	- ideas are not developed; often unrelated - few details or explanation	- some relevant ideas; little analysis - examples or explanations may be repetitive or illogical	- relevant ideas, with some analytical notes; individuality of the writer - logical explanation; no repetition; clearly and down to the point	- many points; clear, organized notes; individuality - clear and logical; with details, examples, and explanation



Moody Middle Articulation

Seventy-five of our students will be advancing to middle school. The majority of our students go to Moody Middle School. A comprehensive process allows our students and parents to prepare for the next year.

Parent Orientation Night.

Wednesday, May 16th
7:00-8:30pm

Parents and Grade 5 students are invited to Moody's gym to hear about life in Grade 6. This event will be hosted by Principal Nancy Bennett and Vice-Principal Ceri Watkins. For more information about Moody Middle, please contact Ms. Bennett

(nlbennet@sd43.bc.ca)

or Mr. Watkins

(cewatkins@sd43.bc.ca)



The staff at Moody Middle awaits.

"Schools and teachers must be challenged to use the tools and techniques of today, not the ones of the past. Learning in the 21st century requires critical thinking, adept use of technology, and global collaboration, and we should offer all these to our students on a regular basis. Let's make the best possible uses of the new tools available to us so that our students are better prepared to participate in the global community."

-Rita Hugh Oates,
ASCD

The HHL is Coming to Town

Mr. Mah and Mrs. Ladha would like to offer the Grade Fours an opportunity to play in an intramural floor hockey league after Spring Break.

Mr. Mah and Mrs. Ladha will be sponsoring an intramural floor hockey league.

We will divide interested players into teams and create a schedule.



4 Square

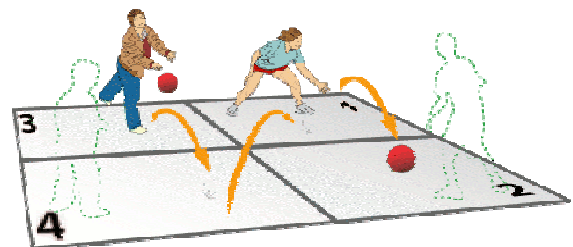
It is one of the most popular games on our playground. There are rules that have been reinforced at our school but some of our students will loosely interpret the rules. This leads to problems on the playground as children change the rules to favour themselves or their friends. 4-Square should be a fast moving and enjoyable game.

The students are told:

The ball can only be hit with the hands. There is no grabbing or "Cherry bombing". When students "Cheery Bomb", the balls have gone flying into the playground area.

After 3 successful serves in the A Square, the students rotate. This

ensures maximum participation.



March 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 PAC Meet- ing at 9:00	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Bread Garden	10
11	12 <i>S</i>	13 <i>P</i>	14 <i>R</i>	15 <i>I</i>	16 <i>N</i>	17 <i>G</i> 
18	19 <i>B</i>	20 <i>R</i>	21 <i>E</i>	22 <i>A</i>	23 <i>K</i>	24
25	26 Pizza	27	28	29	30 Recognition Assembly at 9:00am	31

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Hip Hop	5 Hip Hop	6 Good Friday	7
8	9 Easter Monday	10 Hip Hop	11 Hip Hop	12 Hip Hop Performance	13	14 HME PAC Scrapbook- ing Event
15	16 Pizza	17	18	19	20 Pro. D.	21
22	23	24 Recognition Assembly at 12:45	25	26	27	28
29	30 Pizza					



What's Going on at HME?



Basketball

We had so many players that we had to divide them into two teams. Over the course of our season, we played Pleasantside, Anmore and have games scheduled with Cedar Drive and Leigh Elementary schools.



Thanks to Linda Hrehoruk for providing these fantastic pictures! We would also like to thank all of the parents that helped drive the team to their games!

Mrs. Godin's Cross Stitch Group, our Recognition Assembly and Jacky's Village Performance were highlights for the past month.





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March 2012

MESSAGE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REPORT CARDS

It is that time of year when typically some of our schools send report cards home to parents and guardians.

However, the labour dispute between the BC Teachers' Federation (BCTF) and the BC Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) that started at the beginning of the school year is still ongoing. Some of the specific activities that the BCTF indicated teachers would not engage in during the current strike activity include the following:

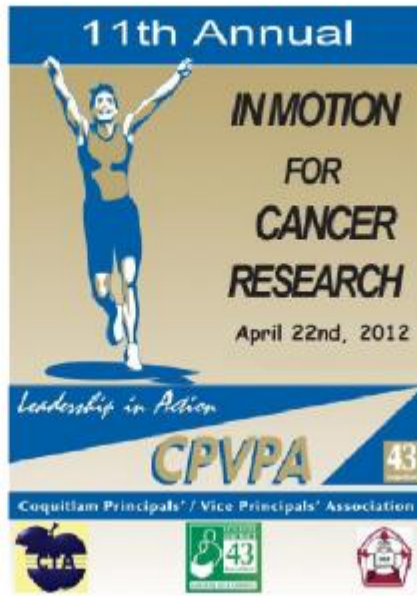
- Prepare and distribute report cards; and
- Provide any student assessment data to Administrative Officers or the school office, except Grade 12 marks required for graduation, post-secondary applications and scholarship purposes.

Rather than send home a report card with little information we are asking parents to contact teachers directly for information on student attendance and progress. Teachers have been communicating to parents via email, phone calls, notes home, and through face to face meetings.

Should you have questions or concerns regarding your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher(s) directly.

Sincerely,

Tom Grant
Superintendent
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)



Coquitlam Principal's and Vice-Principal's Association

11th Annual *In Motion* Event for Cancer Research

The Coquitlam Principals and Vice Principals Association 11th Annual *In Motion* for Cancer Research event will be held Sunday, April 22, 2012 at 9:00 am at Terry Fox Secondary School. There are three routes for participants: 2km, 5km, and 10 km.

Come run, walk, ride or roll with us!

This 11th anniversary year's event will be the best yet, with individuals and teams participating on behalf of members of the School District 43 family who have been affected by cancer. We have always enjoyed good staff and student participation and are hoping for another large turnout this year. In 10 years we have contributed over \$75,000 to the **Canadian Cancer Society**. Donations received at the door or online will be matched by Scotiabank up to \$5000!

Online donations can be made at:

<http://cancerevents.kintera.org/cpvpa>

Registration information can be obtained at local schools or by visiting the School District Website at: www.sd43.bc.ca

For more information contact Darlene Proulx by e-mail at dproulx@sd43.bc.ca or by phone at 604-941-3408



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V3H 4Z1

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Creating a Community of Learners and
Leaders

Before/After School Daycare Needs?

Frances' Daycare still has spaces open for the 2012-2013 year. Please call her at 778-878-0530. France is a long-standing member of the Heritage Mountain community.

Art Lessons at Sally's Art Studio

We have a local artist living in our neighbourhood! Mrs. Honarmand has been offering art lessons for several years. If you are interested, please check out her website. <http://www.sallysartstudio.ca>

[Wwww.sd43.bc.ca/heritagemountain](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/heritagemountain)

Spring Break Ideas

March 2012 School Newsletter Information

Elementary Schools

Place des Arts Spring Break Camp

Monday, March 19 to Friday, March 23, 8:45am – 3:45pm

There are still a few spaces left in Place des Arts popular Spring Break Camp for kids from grades 3 to 5. Unfortunately, all blocks for Kindergarten to grade 2 are sold out. Don't miss out! Register now by phone at 604.664.1636, online at www.placedesarts.ca or in person at 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam. To view the full time-table and class descriptions, visit [Place des Arts' website](http://www.placedesarts.ca) or pick up the Spring Break brochure at the centre.

Day of the Arts: *Fun with Nature!*

District #43 Pro-D Day: Friday, April 20, 8:45am - 3:45pm

Day of the Arts: *Fun with Nature* features a variety of visual and performing arts classes that will engage kids in our natural world. Kids from Kindergarten to grade 5 can design, assemble and decorate a beautiful bird or invent a wacky bug; create a dance to express appreciation for Mother Earth; sculpt a favourite forest animal out of modeling clay and bring it to life in a Claymation short and more! To view the full time-table and class descriptions, visit www.placedesarts.ca or pick up a brochure at Place des Arts. **Registration is open** and may be done by phone at 604.664.1636, online at www.placedesarts.ca or in person at 1120 Brunette Ave., Coquitlam.