

DEC. 2023

THE CLC CHRONICLES

TERM 1 NEWSLETTER—DECEMBER 2023

PRINCIPAL'S PERSPECTIVES

A terrific group of students.... this is how I think of our current group at CLC. I recently told them that we are experiencing the highest level of student engagement in our program in several years. Students are very productive during class time and seemingly enjoying being here. Our classes are fuller this year than in any years past, as we increased our enrolment to 70 students. Yet despite our rooms being busier, day in and day out there is a quiet, productive tone in the classrooms. Our Connections program is seeing a good level of engagement as students overall are participating in the activities we plan. This all is a credit to each of our students for understanding the culture and atmosphere that we want to build here at CLC. It is also a tribute to the staff's hard work to connect one-to-one with as many students as possible each block and give them the assistance they need. It is also due to the staff's teamwork and creative planning.

On a personal note, I will soon say farewell to CLC. You likely saw my recent email announcing my retirement as of January 31, 2024. I will greatly miss the CLC community, it's been a huge part of my life the last seven years. When I came to CLC in 2016, there was no principal just for CLC as the administration was handled by a district principal. This has given me the opportunity and privilege to lead what is a very innovative alternate program that serves a very specific and important need in our school district. Every student that enrolls at CLC has the gift of a fresh start and the chance to have success in school. Over the years, the program has improved its array and method of course delivery, innovated a *Connections* program that gives students almost daily opportunities to build peer connections and bond with the staff, and expanded its services. I am so grateful to each of the staff and the unique skills and perspectives each of them brings on a daily basis. I will miss them!

At the same time, I am excited to start my post-career life. I can't fully grasp yet what it will be like to have so much freedom and choice with my time, but I suspect it will be awesome :) Of course, we all need structures in our lives to keep us engaged with other people and to give our lives purpose. For me, this will include some hobbies (running, playing hockey, playing guitar), looking after my family (my wife, my 17- and 19-year-old kids, and Tony), and possibly some contract work for the school district. I might also take some university courses, and I will definitely pursue volunteer activities. I will be able to watch Premier League soccer matches during the daytime! A note of gratitude. Students, thank you for being responsible and caring citizens. Your empathy and respect towards each other is outstanding and goes a long way towards creating a school environment that is safe and welcoming, which is what every CLC student greatly needs. Parents, thanks for all the ways you support the program, beginning with your efforts to get your kids to attend school. Thank you as well for the trust you extend to the staff as they work to support your kids' academics and wellness.

*I leave you with an invitation: on **Thursday January 18th from 6:00-7:30pm**, we will be hosting you for a CLC Open House. This will be an informal drop-in event where you can meet the staff, see what the CLC program looks like, see what students are working on, and also meet the new administrator coming in, Mr. Jason Giles.*



Meet Mr. Jason Giles,
CLC's new administrator
starting Feb. 1st. Page 5

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- ...and lots of photo highlights from this term!

CLC Open House: Thurs.
Jan. 18 6:00-7:30pm. Watch
for your invitation in early
January.



Opening Day September

A DOSE OF DANNIELLE

Fundraising at CLC

Each year our CLC students orchestrate various fundraisers throughout the year in support of our dinner and dance in June. This event invites all CLC students and their families to come together and celebrate their accomplishments, eat a lovely catered meal, play games, and dance the night away. It has always been extremely successful, and our fundraising efforts help to keep the tickets costs as low as possible. Through the support of the Purdys chocolates fundraiser we were able to raise just over \$600 dollars. I want to sincerely thank you for your continued support. Stay tuned for our next fundraising event!

The Great Gingerbread Build Off

On Tuesday we hosted a CLC gingerbread build off. 12 teams competed and it was a tight race with Camilla winning the coveted spot of best build. Thanks to all those who participated.



KRISTEN'S KOMMUNICATIONS

As the term and year is coming to an end, I can easily reflect on many fun and positive memories. I especially enjoy helping to plan the field trips and watching the students have a ball together. The recent skating and Trapped Escape Room fieldtrips were definite highlights for me. As the person responsible for planning Connections this year, I have had a chance to see more students ... connect! Together, as staff & students, we created a new School Charter that reflects what we at CLC value most. The notion of feeling safe, respected, and comfortable now grounds our interactions at the CLC. We will continue our charter development project by creating a logo to represent this new understanding. I look forward to creating more memorable and meaningful moments in 2024!



MIKE'S MUSINGS

State of the CLC Service Club-Fall 2023

Twenty service-minded CLC students banded together in early September to form the nucleus of the CLC Service Club for 2023-2024. We started off the school



year by helping to organize our local Terry Fox Run, and we raised donations for

the Terry Fox Foundation. We followed that up by engaging within a working visit to our adopted "CLC Trail" in the ravine behind our school, where we proceeded to clean up debris which had accumulated over the summer months. In October we re-

newed our longstanding partnership with the Tri-Cities SPCA. Currently, we have a team of 10 members staffing our weekly volunteer efforts there. Very recently, we negotiated a new home for our "Reading Buddies" initiative at Mundy Road Elementary. We are rotating 9 Club members on Wednesdays who help our little friends there to become better readers. In December, just in time for the holiday season, we channeled our creative energies to create 60 care packages for our seniors at the Foyer Maillard retirement facility, sharing some holiday cheer and sweet treats. We are hoping to send a contingent of volunteers to organize some fun activities for the residents there in the new year.

If you are interested in learning more about what the Service Club is all about, please join us at our next meeting: **January 21st at lunch in room 203.**

Wishing everyone a joyous holiday season and a happy New Year!

MINJUNG'S MISSIVES

Connections have been a highlight during our school days. I look forward to the small groups that come before lunch and discuss topics that are relevant and meaningful. Also, the large group sessions when we enjoy the festive gingerbread house contests have been exciting. Working at CLC, I appreciate the "Hi"s and "Bye"s with every student, even with the students that are not registered for my courses and still respond kindly. Everyone is open and understanding at CLC. In 2024, I look forward to continuing to see how students will take obstacles as opportunities to learn and grow from. CLC is my new home. I hope it is a welcoming, safe, and engaging place for students as well.



Recognition Award Winners Term 1.

Savannah

Owen

Sam R

Sam R-B

Taliyah

Linnea

Teaghan B

Lucy

Calla

Kya

Aleeyah

Arawyn

Chris

Ash

Jacob

Aiden

Hannah



We recognize students who display virtues such as: bravery, honesty, perseverance, love of learning, teamwork, hope, and self-regulation. Click here for our complete list of virtues:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/ce/CLC/Documents/Virtues%20at%20CLC.pdf>

SHINAAZ'S SHOW

In my few months at CLC, the experience has been transformative, fostering growth, community, and connections. Field trips have been a significant highlight, providing an opportunity for students to expand their connections beyond the classroom. The Trapped field trip, in particular, was a memorable experience, allowing each member of the group to contribute to the collective goal through riddles, puzzles, and games. This not only strengthened individual connections but also created lasting bonds within the group. These experiences have underscored the importance of fostering a sense of community through

shared growth, both individually and collectively. The impact of these experiences will stick with me for the rest of my career. I hope to recreate this sense of community and connection in my future classroom!



TONY'S TIMES

(First, my thanks to an anonymous CLC staff member who translated my message into human English)

This has been a busy term for me. I divide my week between CLC and a nearby elementary school, so I get a wide variety of ages to work with. The elementary kids treat me like a rock star and I'm very busy hanging out with them one-on-one and in small groups. They especially like walking with me during recess or lunch breaks. But the CLC students are my special group. Those that like to hang out with me in Dannielle's office or the classrooms are so kind and they even talk quietly with me—I love that.

I'm so glad that even though Murray is retiring (lucky dog!), I will keep coming to CLC.

Finally, I want to thank a very special person that looks after me so well—Dannielle! She always greets me excitedly in the morning, she gives me treats for doing a “jump on” onto her couch, and she makes sure I'm safe and in my place throughout the day. Thanks Dannielle!!

Trapped (Escape Room)

October



VIVIAN'S VIEWS

Even though this is my fourth year at the CLC, for me, this year has been a bit different from all the others. Some of you may know, I've begun my master's studies to become a counsellor (and the rest of you might just be wondering why I look so sleepy all the time)! The CLC has been instrumental to my deciding to walk this path. No other place has made so clear the importance of mental health, but also the healing power of loving care, acceptance, and relationship building. Just like the two hands of our school logo, the CLC has always represented for me a place of care, as I trust it will continue to be for each and every one of our students who walk through our doors.



"What is done in love is well done." – Vincent Van Gogh.

WORDS FROM WILL

CLC is a unique and distinctive program. It is in perpetual motion, constantly evolving to meet the needs of an ever-changing, complex, and diverse population. Over the past five years I have had the privilege of working closely with students, families and caregivers, and the CLC staff in support of meeting those needs towards student success and well-being. Participating in this process – in this 'community of care' – has provided immeasurable professional and personal reward. Our successes are a reflection of the dedication and commitment of all, but none more than that of the students themselves. This dynamism is as rewarding as it is challenging, so over this upcoming break I hope all take opportunity to relax and recharge; to take solace in and reflect upon this journey.



MEET JASON GILES,

CLC'S NEW ADMINISTRATOR!

Hello CLC community! I am very excited about being able to work in the dynamic, rich, and forward-thinking environment at CLC. My experience as an educator at the elementary, middle, and secondary levels will hopefully add to and support the impressive staff and projects at the school. The pedagogical model of the Customized Learning Centre is one that has always resonated strongly with my belief system, and I look forward to meeting all of you in February and the months to follow.



Skating at Poirier

December



Gingerbread House Making

December



The winning entry!