

# The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

Volume # 1 Monday Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS:

Monday,	Sept. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Opening Day of School: Students are in class for 1 hour only.
Tuesday,	Sept. 23 <sup>rd</sup>	First full day of school starting with our regular time schedule of 8:40 for warning music to get to class and a 3:05 wrap up for our end of day. Please see our website for more calendar information
Wednesday,	Sept. 24 <sup>th</sup>	September Parent Advisory Committee <sup>n</sup> First Meeting of the year @ 7:00 in our Library
Thursday,	Sept. 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Friday,	Sept. 26 <sup>th</sup>	Welcome Back Pancake Breakfast @ 8:00
Monday,	Sept. 29 <sup>th</sup>	Explorations Term One begins for an 8 week cycle
<b>Next Week:</b> Thurs. Oct 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Individual Photo Day with Lifetouch Studios @ 9:00 – 12:30		
<b>Two Weeks:</b> Mon. Oct 6 <sup>th</sup> Student Government Elections in each Advisory		

### Inside this Issue:

McFaul's Chat and Chew:

- The Ways of Knowing

Culture Beat:

- New Staff to Know
- On-line E - Forms
- No Cafeteria Food Services
- Gr. 6 Immunizations

- Student Accident Insurance
- Explorations
- Bell Schedule Start and End Times

PAC News:

- September PAC Mtg. and You

Community News:

- Wed. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> Agenda

A Special Welcome Back: It has been a long, long time since we have had a chance to connect with you about our school community. As a staff we thank you for your patience, your understanding, your support and your critical eye focused on the key issues. Nobody enjoyed this lengthy time away from school, nor being apart from kids or being absent from learning; moreover, we are back and your children are ready to get to work, down to play and on with their educational journey. We are pleased to be here to support them in their work, play and learning.

### McFaul's Chat and Chew: The Ways of Knowing

***"Every culture in the world has something to say and each deserves to be heard... as every person has a different way of knowing."*** These were the opening words to a class of first year Anthropology students from UBC professor Wade Davis, a renowned author, photographer, filmmaker and former National Geographic explorer-in-residence. I share these words with you as we believe as a staff that we need to hear the voice of every student from the loud vociferous ones to the introverted creative thinker. One of our methods in our goal of doing this uses a structure that we have implemented last year called, Community Circles. Through our initiative this past year we have created an atmosphere; whereby, students get to share in conversations that are face to face, are

done with eye contact, require interpretation of body language and showcase active listening as a skilled art form demanding concentration and reflection/ clarification of meaning. These are often soft skills that are missed in our children's world of instant social media with short quips and mixed message emoticons.

We will be continuing our journey with Community Circles once a week with some slight variations as recommended to us by our students and outside mentors. Yes, we know that some students balk and develop high anxiety at the point of public speaking while others are quick to shout out their opinions with little regard for others perspective, knowing private thought distinctions and the impact of how their words may play out for another student. As we work to build the strength of one student sharing their voice we are equally as diligent in supporting the other student to develop a sense of self-regulation, compassion for others and appreciation of different but challenging mind sets. Our Community Circle time is a vehicle that provides our students to share insights into their personal world, to fix opportunities, to respond to world issues and to broaden their listening skills to stretch their capacity to hear alternative ideas beyond their own sometimes myopic views.

We all have ways of knowing and sharing, some demonstrate their knowledge through academic means of written responses, others display athletic physical models of skill, some express themselves through the fine arts and we hope that over time all will realize the power that their voice contains when asked to share what they think about on any given topic. Like Dr. Seuss, when he wrote in; **Horton Hears a Who**, "We are Here! We are Here!" Our staff feels at times like we are Horton and we know they are on that dust speck as we can hear their cumulative voices. The challenge is getting those chorus of voices to be a moment of just one voice to be heard, to be honoured and to cause others to pause and reflect upon the wisdom and knowledge being expressed by that one single voice that lives strong and proud on that dust speck. Everyone has a "Yelp" according to Dr. Seuss, and we want to hear that yelp from all of our students because they bring a world of knowledge and a world of cultural diversity to our circles to be shared.

## Culture Beat: **Events and Activities.**

**New Staff to Know** – Please peruse the following changes in our community and as you read you can see why our circle groups become more significant with the addition of new staff along with our addition of 96 Gr. 6 students.

We welcome:

Teachers:

Ms. Corie McRae – School Counselor – Tues/ Fri and every second Wednesday

Mrs. Nadia Tuan – Gr. 7/8 Team Sicily

Mrs. Hillary Best – Gr. 6/7 Team Sicily

Mrs. Krissy Eppelle – Gr. 7/8 Team Skye

Mrs. Sanaz Jianfar – Gr. 6/7/8 Team Quadra – Montessori

Mrs. Sabrina Johnston – Gr. 6/7 Team Hokkaido – Wed./ Thurs.

Returning from Recall:

Mrs. Vayla Sievers – Gr. 6/7 Team Skye

Mr. Simon Kwok – Gr. 6/7/8 Team Quadra – Montessori

Mr. Nick De Vita – General Music/ Band

Custodians:

Mr. Veselin Milic – evening custodian

**On-Line E Forms** – In order to complete the full registration package for our students we need you to go to our Monty Middle website: [montymiddle@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:montymiddle@sd43.bc.ca) and click on the E-Form Button to access the various forms

---

that are required for all students and families. Your support in this area makes our school run more efficiently and helps with communication. If you do not have access to a computer or internet capabilities you can come to the school and we can set you up or make an appointment at your local library for computer time.

**No Cafeteria Food Services** – The Board of Education for Coquitlam had to make some difficult decisions last spring with budget cuts across our district. One of the programs eliminated was the provision of our cafeteria food services which operated our kitchen program for Nutrition Break and for Lunch. We will not be able to provide food sales at any time throughout the day due to the budget reduction in this area. Please ensure that your child has a full lunch and healthy snack for the whole day as there is no food sales available. Our cafeteria seating area will always remain open for our students to enjoy their homemade lunch items in a relaxed and comfortable seated area. Please remember that all Coquitlam Middle Schools are a closed campus and therefore students are not allowed to leave the school campus to go outside to purchase lunch at a neighbouring location. This is a very important safety feature that all of our middle schools support.

**Gr. 6 Public Health Immunizations** – We have had to postpone the original immunization date so please stay tuned to the website and look for forms to be coming home in the next few weeks to help support this public health focus. For more information about the immunization process please contact the Fraser Health District @ 604-777-8730 or [feedback@fraserhealth.ca](mailto:feedback@fraserhealth.ca)

**Student Accident Insurance Forms** – These forms are available at the office if you wish to pick one up to provide additional protection and safety for your child while at school. This service is set up with a private insurance company and does not have any direct connection to the school or Coquitlam Board of Education.

**Explorations Begin** – Term One begins next Monday and all students will have the opportunity for 8 week sessions to work through Home Arts (Clothing/ Foods), Tech Ed (Woodwork and Drafting Design), Art and General Music. These classes are truly hands on and will involve many projects that are related to their particular fields. Please note that Mrs. Tige Rains our Foods teacher wants to inform you that in cooking students may have exposure to different types of foods. She asks that you inform her of any allergies or unique food concerns that your child may have. As an additional safety check for Mrs. Rains she will send out an email to all to ensure that you are aware of the cooking activities and food sources that will be used in this course work.

**School Supplies** – Please see the school website: [www.montymiddle.ca](http://www.montymiddle.ca) under Parents and click on School Supplies. These are suggested items for our students and some teachers may present more specific request for certain supplies.

**Bell Schedule** – Please see the school website: [www.montymiddle.ca](http://www.montymiddle.ca) under About Montgomery and click on Bell Schedule. There are some slight changes to our school Band Program that will be posted on our website.

Key Points:

1. Mon – Thurs. Regular start time is warning bell @ 8:40 in class @ 8:45 end of day is @ 3:05
2. Fri. with the late start at 9:00 and ends at 2:55

**PAC News and Events: Our First PAC Mtg. is on Wednesday Sept. 24<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00** – We need your support and as a parent/guardian this is your chance to have a voice in the guidance of our school. We do not have a full complement of members for a complete Executive for our PAC. All you need to do is attend, listen to the topics of debate and concern and hopefully you will feel inclined to share your opinion so that we can hear all perspectives on how best to support our school. Your support is vital and critical to the well-being

---

of our school and this opportunity will also allow you a closer view of the issues that were recently in discussion with the labour dispute and the future of educational plans for our students and education in our province. Your attendance and commitment is a small but key part in the effective running of our schools so talk to a friend and bring them along.

## Community News:

### **AGENDA** **Montgomery Middle School PAC** **September 24, 2014**

1. Welcome & Introductions - Dalene Schulz
  2. Motion Required to Accept the Agenda
  3. Motion Required to Accept the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
  4. Elections:
    - a. President
    - b. Secretary
    - c. Health & Safety Coordinator
    - d. Fundraising Coordinator
    - e. Parent Education Coordinator
    - f. Member At Large (up to 2 more positions)
    - g. SPC Member
  5. Treasurer's Report - Bruce Meek (Linda Hutchinson)
    - a. 2014-2015 Budget
    - b. Motion Required to Accept to 2014-2015 Budget
    - c. 2013-14 Thrifty Foods Smile Card Goal Purchase - Dalene
  6. Old Business
    - a. Emergency Container Break-In - Dalene
    - b. Thank-You for Auditing of Treasurer's Books - Dalene
    - c. Thrifty Foods Smile Cards Update - Dalene
  7. New Business
    - a. Teacher Appreciation - Dalene
    - b. 2013-2014 PAC Meeting Schedule - All
  8. Administrator's Report
  9. Adjournment
-

## Montgomery Middle School PAC - 2014-15

### Vacancies as of Sept. 22, 2014

#### 1. Executive Position Duties:

##### a) **President**

- shall convene & preside at all executive, general & special mtgs.
- shall be familiar with & follow the Constitution & Bylaws
- shall ensure that an agenda is prepared and distributed following the Bylaws
- shall appoint committees where authorized to do so by the Executive or membership and be an ex-officio member to all committees except the Nominating Committee
- shall be the official spokesperson and representative for the Council, always acting on behalf of the majority of members and not personally
- shall be one of the three signing officers
- shall submit a written annual report to the membership

##### b) **Treasurer**

- shall have a demonstrated ability and/or understanding of bookkeeping procedures
- shall keep an accurate and current record of all receipts and expenditures of the Council. Bank statements must be reconciled monthly
- shall assess all financial undertakings to ensure they are within the annual budget
- shall ensure expenditures have the proper authorization and are backed by detailed receipts and invoices
- shall prepare a written financial report for presentation at each Council mtg. This shall include the total balance on hand in all accounts at the beginning of the period covered by the report and all credits to and disbursements from the accounts; balance of funds on hand and outstanding accounts receivable and payable, and the net surplus or deficit.
- shall be responsible for issuing receipts and the prompt despotise of all monies paid to the Council.
- shall be one of the three Council signing officers
- shall ensure all bills are paid promptly
- shall draft an annual budget with the assistance of the PAC President
- shall maintain all financial records in an orderly fashion

##### c) **Secretary**

- shall record the minutes of all executive, general and special meetings
- shall prepare within two weeks of any meeting, complete minutes and pass them to the Parent Communications Coordinator for distribution
- shall file the original copy of the Minutes in the official Council Record Binder
- shall issue and receive correspondence on behalf of the Council
- shall keep a current copy of the Constitution and Bylaws
- shall ensure safe keeping of all records of the Council
- shall keep a complete current inventory, including location, of all PAC assets
- shall ensure the binders are collected at the end of the term and appropriately redistributed by September

- d) **Fundraising Coordinator**
- shall propose fundraising projects to the Executive ensuring that they meet the guidelines established in the Constitution, Bylaws and PAC Policies and Procedures
  - shall coordinate all activities related to a fundraising event and act as liaison between the fundraising committee and the Council Executive
  - shall maintain a record of fundraising projects, suggestions for improvement and future events
  - preferably shall be available during school hours
- e) **Health & Safety Coordinator**
- shall monitor student safety issues such as traffic, emergency preparedness, school ground and play equipment, and the surrounding neighbourhood to identify possible safety improvements and ways to achieve them
  - shall investigate and act on parent concerns regarding health issues
  - establish and coordinate activities of parent safety committees for safety or health enhancement projects
  - liaise with school administration, City of Coquitlam, RCMP, ICBC, DPAC, etc., as necessary
  - preferably shall be available during school hours
- f) **Parent Communications Coordinator**
- shall prepare and distribute newsletters, bulletins to parents as directed by the Executive
  - shall post and distribute meeting agendas and minutes as directed by the Executive
  - shall oversee the Parent Information Centre and Bulletin Boards and post materials as directed
- g) **District Parent Advisory Council Representative**
- shall attend DPAC meetings or designate an alternate to attend
  - shall report to the Council regarding issues discussed
  - shall seek input from the Council for presentation at DPAC meetings
  - shall vote the Council wishes at DPAC meetings
  - shall maintain the Council's information binders with DPAC meeting minutes and materials provided from DPAC, BCCPAC, Ministry of Education and make them readily available to the general membership
- h) **Parent Education Coordinator**
- shall arrange topics and guest speakers for assemblies where a parent education component is wanted by the Executive or the membership
  - shall maintain a record of speakers and associated costs
  - shall collect available speaker information and maintain a record of this information in the parent library
- i) **Parent Volunteer Coordinator**
- shall coordinate the recruiting of one or more volunteer parents from each class. A list of volunteers shall be provided to the PAC President
  - shall establish communication methods with the assistance of these class volunteer parents, to find volunteers for projects or to relay Council information

- shall facilitate communication between the Council Executive and the parent body as a whole through these volunteers
- j) **Members At Large** - 3 Positions Available
  - No specific job, but taking on responsibilities as they are able
- k) PAC Representative to School Planning Council (SPC) - Elected by Secret Ballot
  - shall be one of three elected SPC representatives
  - shall represent and speak on behalf of the PAC at SPC meetings
  - shall take direction from the general PAC membership
  - shall report back to the PAC at general meetings
- l) SPC Representative #2 - Elected by Secret Ballot
  - to attend SPC Meetings and provide input
- m) **SPC Representative #3** - Elected by Secret Ballot
  - to attend SPC Meetings and provide input

2. Some Executive Position Particulars:

- a) Nominations for the offices of the Executive shall be in writing to, or shall be taken from the floor, at the Annual General Meeting. Any member may nominate a voting member.
- b) Positions are for a period of one year - July 1 to June 30 of the following year, or until a successor is elected. The new Executive shall attend the June Executive meeting to allow for transition between exiting and incoming officers.
- c) A parent who accepts a position as a Council Executive Member upholds the Constitution and Bylaws, Policies and Procedures, performs his or her duties with honesty and integrity and meets agreed upon deadlines on projects and; works to ensure that the well-being of students is the primary focus of all decisions.
- d) No person shall hold more than one position on the Executive. If a volunteer does not come forward for a vacant Executive Position, no other officer shall assume the duties of that position.
- e) Any position may be co-chaired or shared with the agreement of the two parties and with the understanding that the two people share one consensus vote.
- f) The composition of the Executive shall be as follow:
  - A. President
  - B. Treasurer
  - C. Secretary and; any three or more, of the above listed positions
- g) The following are grounds for termination of the office of any Executive member: is absent from three consecutive meeting without a valid reason; failure to observe the Constitution and Bylaws, Purposes and Policies of the Council; failure to abide by the Council Code of Conduct; is convicted of a criminal or other serious offence.

Montgomery Middle 1900 Edgewood Ave. Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 2Y1  
Phone: 604-939-7367 Fax: 604-939-7930 Web: [www.montymiddle.ca](http://www.montymiddle.ca)  
Principal: Mr. Rob McFaul Vice-Principal: Ms. Dawn Holden

---