I thought I would share this story about report cards since they are coming out soon.

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 is 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 in October 1992. 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 grade would prevent him from entering 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 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.”

I thought he would go away quietly and accept the letter grade. 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 asked him to put his money 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 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 beforehand. The old analogy holds true in education, it’s just as important on how you get there as the destination itself.

Thank you for taking the time to read.

Mr. C. Mah
Life in 100 Years
The students in Ms. Wegrich’s class have aged 100 years! Take a look at these images and stories posted outside of their classroom!

Hearts
Ms. Howey’s class stitched fabric hearts. The project tested the students creativity, dexterity and patience! Well done everyone!

Button Blankets
Mrs. Friend and Ms. Regan’s class worked with our district Aboriginal program to create these fabulous button blankets.

Drama
Mrs. Sluis works with Mrs. Suen’s kindergarten class in drama. The photo was taken on Pink Shirt Day!

Artwork for Sip ‘n Savour
Students in Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Shum’s class work on art in support of the PAC Sip ‘n Savour event.

Pink Shirt Day
Mrs. Stoody’s Kindergarten class shows their support for Pink Shirt Day!

Farewell Mrs. Wilson
Mrs. Wilson, our Mandarin Language Teacher Assistant has transferred to Gleneagle Secondary School. Mrs. Wilson has provided great support for the Mandarin program over the years. She created the fantastic banners for the Lunar New Year concert. We wish Mrs. Wilson all the best.

A new Teacher Assistant will be named shortly. Thanks for all of your service Mrs. Wilson. All the best!
**REPORTING ABSENCES**

Did you know that you can report your child’s absence on-line? Go to our website to find our “Absence Report” button.

This will save you from having to call the school in the morning. The link is open 24 hours and you can log absences in advance.

The forms are submitted to our office email inboxes.

**MANDARIN BILINGUAL**

Friends.

The concept is universal.

The Chinese calligraphy is an example of the work done in Mrs. Suen and Mrs. Stoody’s kindergarten class.

As February is Random Acts of Kindness. It is wonderful to see this concept in Mandarin.

**SNOW IN FEBRUARY**

We experienced heavy snow-fall on Monday, February 24th. Families are asked to watch their email inbox or the school Twitter account for any weather related announcements. Weather can have a profound effect on the operation of our school and our aim is to provide families with as much information as possible.

We also want to reduce the amount of phone calls to the school asking if we are open or not. As a general rule, schools are open.
It's Time To kick It!

Kateslem United Soccer will be hosting 2 FREE soccer clinics!

Who: Girls and boys between age 5 to 14 attending school in Coquitlam

1st Clinic
When: Monday March 17th to Friday March 21st, 9:30 - 11:30am
Where: Banting School Outdoor Field
Registration: Tuesday March 4th or Wednesday March 5th, 3 - 5pm at Banting Middle School Office

2nd Clinic
When: Monday March 24th to Friday March 28th, 9:30 – 11:30am
Where: Summit Middle School Outdoor Field
Registration: Wednesday March 5th or Thursday March 6th, 3:30 – 5pm at Summit Middle School in the foyer

To register for either clinics proof of address will be required
For more information contact Karin Bell at (604) 250-9332
FREE EVENT - COME TRY RINGETTE!!
Register at: www.cometryringette.ca

Date: Sunday March 9th, 2014
Sign-in and Equipment Fitting: 4:00-4:30pm
Ice Time: 4:30-5:30pm

Place: Port Moody Arena #2, 300 Ioco Rd, Port Moody
For boys and girls ages 5-12
Equipment is available with pre-registration

Register for the upcoming season, visit: coqmoodyringette.com
Questions: cometryringette@coqmoodyringette.com

Hosted by the Coquitlam-Moody Ringette Association
Coquitlam Principal’s and Vice-Principal’s Association

13th Annual *In Motion* Event for Cancer Research

**Dedicated to Tom Davies**

The Coquitlam Principals and Vice Principals Association 13th Annual *In Motion* for Cancer Research event will be held Sunday, May 25th 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 13th 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 12 years we have contributed over $100,000 to the Canadian Cancer Society. Individual registration forms will be available soon at any school site/website or at the board office. Donations received at the door or online (site address announced soon) will be matched by Scotiabank up to $5000.

Feel free to join a school team or for more information about forming your own team contact Darlene Proulx by e-mail at dproulx@sd43.bc.ca or by phone at 604-941-3408.

For 75 years, the Canadian Cancer Society has been with Canadians in the fight for life. We have been relentless in our commitment to prevent cancer, fund research and support Canadians touched by cancer. From this foundation, we will work with Canadians to change cancer forever so fewer Canadians are diagnosed with the disease and more survive.