



---Walton Elementary--A Learning Community ---
沃尔顿小学 - 学习型社区

2960 Walton Avenue, Coquitlam, B C V3B 6V6 Phone: 604-941-1962 Fax: 604-941-3867 www.s43.bc.ca/elementary/walton



Our Kindergarten children were preparing to perform for their families. Thank you all for juggling your hectic schedules and being at Walton to share the joy of the season. Thank you also for the generous donations of food and warm items for the food bank.

December 2012 Christmas Message

The countdown to the 'big day' is clearly underway! The excitement is palpable in every classroom! As 2012 draws to a close, I share with you this story that a dear friend of mine shared with me.

The Whale 鲸鱼故事



If you read the front page story of the SF Chronicle, you would have read about a female humpback whale who had become entangled in a spider web of crab traps and lines.

She was weighted down by hundreds of pounds of traps that caused her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, a line tugging in her mouth.

A fisherman spotted her just east of the Farralone Islands (outside the Golden Gate) and radioed an environmental group for help.

Within a few hours, the rescue team arrived and determined that she was so bad off, the only way to save her was to dive in and untangle her...



A very dangerous proposition.

One slap of the tail could kill a rescuer.



They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her.

When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles.

She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed gently around-she thanked them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives.

The guy who cut the rope out of her mouth says her eye was following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.

**May you, and all those you love,
be so blessed and fortunate
to be surrounded by people
who will help you get untangled
from the things that are binding you.**

**And, may you always know the joy
of giving and receiving gratitude.**

There are many times in the course of a school week that some of us become tangled. How fortunate we are to be surrounded by caring and compassionate people who recognize when others need support and in the most unobtrusive and thoughtful manner offer it. I have, on many occasions, been a most grateful recipient of immense kindness from children, colleagues, and parents.

On behalf of the Walton staff, I wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas and a wonderful year ahead in 2013.

With gratitude,
Sandra Meister,
Principal

WINTER WEATHER PLAN

冬季天气计划

In the event of heavy snowfall, high wind or excessive ice, school closures may occur. On inclement weather days, please tune into one of the following radio stations (both on the AM

dial) for updated information on the status of schools: **CKWX 1130 CKNW 980**

Once you hear on the radio that the school is closed, there is no need to call the school or board office as these reports are confirmed. School closures may also be viewed on the district website www.sd43.bc.ca

**BILINGUAL MANDARIN –
PROGRAM OF CHOICE**

中英双语自选课程

The District's Bilingual-Mandarin Program began in September of 2010. At present, the program includes Kindergarten through Grade 3. For the 2013-2014 school year, the program will expand to include Grade 4 and we will welcome in two more classes of Kindergarten students. For more information and a registration form, please refer to the District website at www.sd43.bc.ca

An information meeting for interested parents will be held at Walton on Tuesday, January 15 at 6:30 pm. Admission to the program is for any student residing in School District No. 43 who

will turn five in 2013. A lottery will be held to determine placement in the program.

DATES TO NOTE

重要日期

Monday, January 7	Welcome back
Tuesday, January 15	Bilingual Mandarin Program Meeting 6:30 pm
Friday, January 25	Professional Development Day
Monday, February 11	BC Family Day (school closed)
Friday, February 22	District Professional Day
Friday, March 15	Last day of classes
March 18 – April 1	Spring Break
Tuesday, April 2	Classes Resume

*The staff of Walton Elementary
wish
all of you a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*





Walton students performed for a delegation from China on December 11th





Wonderful Walton Parents!