



Mackenzie Buzz

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Respect for self, others and the environment

Newsletter #2

Date: November 28th, 2017

Dear Mackenzie Parents:

Good News Technology Update: The District has committed to supplying each elementary classroom teacher with a new laptop as we transition to electronic attendance taking and making greater use of resources on the Internet. Our teachers are excited about this new initiative and will receive their computers on December 13th and 14th with training to follow!

Staffing: The District continues to hire new teachers and support staff as well as fill daily and longer term absences. This has proved to be very challenging as the increased demand for teachers coupled with the movement between districts has resulted in a reduced number of on-call staff to meet the demands. We are all hopeful that with new district hiring and a reduction in transience that our ongoing staffing will be sufficient to meet each school's needs. Many thanks to all for your patience and understanding during this turbulent time.

On a happy note, we are grateful to have Ms Bisset returning to her Kindergarten class as of December 4th. Thanks to Ms. Roijackers and Ms. Yaciw who have ably cared for Division 17 during her absence.

Mark your calendars:

WE ARE TUNING UP:
 Families are cordially invited to the Mackenzie Winter Concert, **Marimbas and Merriment**, on **Thursday, December 14th**, at **6:15pm** in the auditorium. More information will be sent home soon. Please stay tuned...

Conferences: Many thanks to teaching staff, parents, and students for the successful Parent/Teacher & Student Lead conferences that were recently completed. With new evaluation and reporting processes being developed there are additional demands on teachers as they embrace these changes. Staff really enjoy the opportunity to discuss the wonderful things going on at Mackenzie, how each class is progressing, individual student successes, and suggestions on how to improve engagement and achievement.

As we look forward to the holiday season best wishes to each of you for continued enjoyment, safe passage, and many positive and enriching relationships.

Regards,

Bruce Murton

Principal

WHO TO CONTACT

Bruce Murton Principal 604-713-4799		Julie Manning Administrative Assistant 604-713-4799
Rob Schindel Director of Instruction 604-713-5097	Joy Alexander Liaison Trustee 604-713-5000 ext 201093	Tracy Noel & David Smythe PAC Co-Chairs mackenziepac@gmail.com

Mackenzie Potluck & Silent Auction

Thursday, November 30th

6-8pm in the gym

On this evening we are inviting our families to socialize over a casual potluck dinner. Please bring your food between 6:00 and 6:15 when we will start eating. Please bring savoury items such as finger foods, appetizers or an entree to share. Food and families can, of course, continue to arrive! Mackenzie Spiritwear (tees & hoodies) will be for sale.

PAC will be holding once again a Silent Auction fundraiser. Thank you to parents who have collected and personally given items for this event. Bid on incredible items kindly donated from Eastside Fitness, Starbucks, Capilano Suspension Bridge, Hive Boulderling Gym, Pedalheads, Oakridge Centre, Prado Cafe, Stella and Dot, Matchstick Coffee, Apex Adventure, Granville Island Toy Co, Kidsbooks, Rain or Shine Ice Cream and much more!! For a full list of donation items please email:

mackenziesilentauction@gmail.com. You'll have until 7:45pm to put in your bid! Please be prepared to pay for your items immediately after the auction closes. Cash/debit/credit and cheque will all be accepted.

Please save room for sweets and treats, the Gr. 7 students will be selling baked goods and some beautiful crafts they've been working on for you. Treats will be \$1-\$2. Craft prices will range from \$2 - \$10.

SPORTS NEWS: Senior Girls' and Boys' soccer teams represented Mackenzie through September and October. The Senior Girls (which had a number of grade 5 girls) finished second in their zone. It was great to see them having fun, laughing and enjoying their games! The Senior Boys' finished first in a very competitive league, beating the two time City Champions, Edith Cavell,

to advance to the City finals. The City finals were close, low scoring games. Unfortunately, luck wasn't on our side and a number of good chances didn't go our way. We finished 5th in the finals. It was a pleasure to coach both teams.

Congratulations to all!

(Mr. Coe - Coach)

New Curriculum Info from Ministry of Education

Why is curriculum changing?

Today we live in a state of constant change. It is a technology-rich world, where communication is instant and information is immediately accessible. The way we interact with each other personally, socially, and at work has changed forever. Knowledge is growing and information is changing extremely quickly, creating new possibilities. This is the world our students are entering.

British Columbia's curriculum is being modernized to respond to this demanding world. To develop new models, the Ministry consulted with education experts both locally and internationally. They agree that to prepare students for the future, the curriculum must be student-centered & flexible, maintain a focus on literacy and numeracy, & support deeper learning.

What and how we teach our students has been redesigned to provide greater flexibility for teachers, while allowing space and time for students to develop their skills and explore their passions and interests. The deep understanding and application of knowledge is at the center of the new model, as opposed to memory and recall of facts that previously shaped education around the globe for many decades.

Our new curriculum maintains a focus on sound foundations of literacy and numeracy with every student continuing to be connected to the basics of reading, writing and math. These critical skills are the foundation of B.C.'s education system and key in developing educated citizens.

B.C. students are at the center of these changes, and ensuring their success continues to be our driving force.

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 began on November 1st

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten closes at 4 pm on Wednesday, January 31st. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1st and January 31st

1. In-catchment Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist. **Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31st.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver (rental/lease agreement or property tax notice PLUS utility bill)
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immunization records

If your child was not BORN in Canada (regardless of present immigration status), please check out this link, <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/drpc/Registration/Pages/How-to-Apply.aspx> for information on registration.

If you wish to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will be accepted in early 2018. For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten> * Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the district. (Policy Regulation JECC-R)



Learning doesn't only happen in classrooms! Many thanks to parents for supporting field trips, both large and small.

Remembrance Day



Division 10 honoured Canadian soldiers at Mountainview Cemetery by placing their poppies on gravestones.

Britannia Mines

By Jaime W, Division 5

Have you ever gone underground when it was pitch black? Well I have, down in an underground mine.

The first thing we did to start our tour was to go into this big room with lots of things hanging from the ceiling. We were told to list things made of copper. I said jewellery.

After we did that, we got to go gold panning. I was so excited! The water was very cold. I was the first person to find real gold out of my class. It was in my pan before I even started! I got lots of fools gold and transparent rocks.

Soon we were in a little building. It kind of looked like a museum inside. There were models of the big mill. There was a little tunnel in the room. I went through twice.

At lunch we ate at this place call the assay, it was just a little lunch room.

My favourite part was going in a train underground. It was so cool! At the beginning we put on hard hats. On the way, it was dark and spooky. When we were down there, there was a demonstration of a drill and a mucker. A mucker is a small dump truck that scoops mud. We turned off all the lights in the mine and got to see all different type of light. When we got out of the mine there was a miner's whistle, it was so loud!

At the end we went into the mill. The mill had so many stairs. There were pipes covering the ceiling. In the mill, there was a little container of pure copper. It was really shiny.

I hope I get to go to Britannia Mines next year!


Division 10 made Christmas cards for Jacob, a 9 year old boy from Maine in the United States. Jacob had terminal cancer and wanted to celebrate Christmas early with his family, which he did, on November 12th as was his final wish. He passed away on November 19th. Thank you to Siena and her mom, Marsha who inspired us to reach out to Jacob and who mailed our cards with this picture. Our thoughts are with Jacob's family now and we hope our cards, along with thousands of others they have received, will comfort them in knowing that people all over the world wanted to help Jacob's Christmas wish come true.



SCREEN AGERS



GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

HOST: Vancouver Local Action Team (LAT)
WHEN: December 6th, 2017
REGISTER: 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Refreshments provided
FILM and DISCUSSION: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm Auditorium
LOCATION: John Oliver Secondary School
530 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver
FREE – Please Register at www.screenagersjo.eventbrite.ca
screenagersmovie.com   
The film is for children age 10 and up

Parents of tweens and teens (children aged 10 and up) are invited to a free event organized by the Vancouver Local Action team as part of the Child & Youth Mental Health & Substance Use Collaborative. There will be a moderated Q & A following the film viewing as well as light refreshments

Upcoming Events

DATE			Participants	EVENT
Wednesday,	29 th	November	Divisions 9 & 10	Field trip to Burnaby Village Museum - all day
Thursday,	30 th	November	Everyone!	PAC Potluck, Silent Auction, Craft & Bake Sale
Friday,	1 st	December	All families	Professional Development day NO SCHOOL
Monday,	4 th	December	Primary classes	Assembly - 9:15am in the lunchroom
Wednesday,	6 th	December	Whole school	Performance of "How Raven Stole the Sun" at 1:15
Thursday,	7 th	December	Everyone Grade 6s and 7s Divisions 11,12& 13	VPD vs Gr 7s volleyball game 12:10 VPD presentation in auditorium Field trip to Carousel Theatre 9:00-12:00
Friday,	8 th	December	Kindergartners Everyone	Hearing screening 9:15 in Music Room Booster Juice Day (PAC lunch fundraiser)
Tuesday,	12 th	December	Division 5	Junior Achievement 1:00-2:30pm
Wednesday,	13 th	December	Division 5	Junior Achievement 11:00-12:00
Thursday,	14 th	December	Whole school	Holiday Concert for families 6:00pm
Friday,	15 th	December	Whole school	Green Thumb performance 9:15am 1 st term report cards home Pizza Day (PAC lunch fundraiser)
Monday,	18 th	December	Primary classes Divisions 1,4,5,7	Assembly - 9:15am in the lunchroom Field trip to Watermania
Tuesday,	19 th	December	Division 5 Whole school	Junior Achievement 11:00-12:00 Christmas Carolling with hot chocolate 8:30-8:50
Wednesday,	20 th	December	Divisions 1-9 Whole school	Intermediate Multicultural Feast 11:00-3:00 Christmas Carolling with hot chocolate 8:30-8:50
Thursday,	21 st	December	Whole school Kindergartners Division 5	Christmas Carolling with hot chocolate 8:30-8:50 Pancake Breakfast 8:00-11:00 Junior Achievement 11:00-12:00
Friday,	22 nd	December	Everyone	Foodie Kids (PAC lunch fundraiser) Last day of school before Winter Break
Monday,	8 th	January	Whole school	School reopens



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