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NEWSLETTER No. 15-06

Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015

Principal's Message

It's hard to believe that Hallowe'en is here, and we find ourselves halfway through our first term. Our life at Choice continues to be rich with each day full of positive energy and purpose.

Last Friday's Professional Development Day was highly productive for teachers. Teachers attended conferences that extended their professional learning in areas such as neuroplasticity, innovative writing and reading approaches, developing programs for students with learning differences, and engaging students in learning about Science.

At an assembly on Monday morning, students were introduced to the Sam Awards. Sam, as you will recall, is our new mascot, elected by student votes on Canada's Federal Election Day, October 19. These awards have been named in Sam's honour and are our way of recognizing exceptional courtesy, respect and helpfulness among our students. Teachers nominate students they see demonstrating these Choice virtues and submit their nomination ballots to a draw for a weekly prize and certificate.

We appreciate parents' efforts in acquiring the new uniforms for their children. The school photos will showcase our students looking stylish and very professional. Please continue to send your child to school in their uniform every day, as we believe wearing the Choice blue makes each student feel an integral part of the school community. Thank you once again to PAC and the uniform committee for making our fresh new uniforms a reality.

The inaugural meeting of this year's Student Council was held last Thursday. Student Council representatives are:

Class A: Brendan

Class B: Lucas and Eric

Class C: Andrew, Jaden and Makoto (Term One)

Johnny and Yikai (Term Two)

Eric C. and Oscar (Term Three)

Class D: Trevor and Ryan B.



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These representatives identified their role as ensuring that their classmates' voices are heard, helping to build school spirit, and to involve their fellow students in service, supporting the *Obakki Kids for Clean Water* Foundation. Their first project is to assist at the Hallowe'en Celebrations on Friday by collecting donations for Obakki and by helping with distributing snacks during the film. In this newsletter is included further details about the plans for Friday morning.

Please view the attached calendar of upcoming events, and note that staff has decided to postpone the presentation date for our school-wide Passions Fair from November 6 to December 11.

Also on the calendar is listed the monthly Parent Advisory Council Meeting scheduled for this Friday, October 30 at 8:30, and our PAC and Board of Directors Annual General Meetings, scheduled for next Tuesday, November 3. Refreshments will be served beginning at 5:30, the PAC AGM begins at 6:00, followed by the Board of Directors AGM that begins at 6:30. We encourage parents to attend these very important meetings. Please phone and register for the free childcare should you require it.

I wish everyone a safe and exciting Hallowe'en weekend.

Lynn Chartres

Reminders

Fri. Oct. 31, 2015

PAC Meeting (8:30 AM)

Hallowe'en Parade (11:30 AM - 12:15 PM)

Tues. Nov. 3, 2015 - AGMs

Reception (5:30 PM)

PAC AGM (6:00 PM)

School AGM (6:30 PM)

Tues. Nov. 10, 2015 - Remembrance Day Assembly (10:30 AM)

Wed. Nov. 11, 2015 - Remembrance Day (School not in session)

Thurs. Nov. 12 - Reading Break (Non-Instructional Day)

Fri. Nov. 13 - Reading Break (Non-Instructional Day)

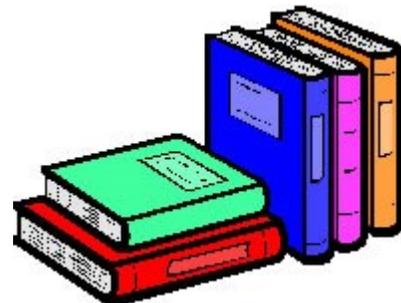
Calling All Book Lovers!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to the Choice Library next week. Come and check out a fantastic selection of books for sale.

The fair runs from Wednesday, Nov. 4 to Friday, Nov. 6, during lunch break and after school.

Help us reach our goal of \$1500 in sales and add valuable resources to our library.

See you at the Fair.



SCIENCE SPOOKTACULAR



featuring



WICKED SCIENCE ACTIVITIES!

**SPOOKTACULAR SHOWS OF
PHANTOM PHYSICS & CRYPTIC CHEMISTRY!**

Free Family Fun at Simon Fraser University



**Halloween Saturday
Saturday October 31, 2015**



Demos and activities 12:00-3:30
Academic Quadrangle, South Concourse 3000 level

Spooktacular shows 1:00 and 3:00
Shrum Science Centre, B9200 Lecture Theatre
Priority tickets available free (see website below)

SFU

Costumes welcomed!



Information at <http://www.sfu.ca/physics/outreach/science-spooktacular.html>

Journalism by Seneca & Emily

A Democratic Mascot



Sam the Wolf, the student's choice

On October 19, 2015, with a No.2 pencil in hand, students of Choice School came in and out behind a paper partition checking off their choice for a new Choice School mascot. When Canadians were going to cast their votes for a Canadian Prime Minister, the students at Choice were also casting their votes. One by one, they dropped folded pieces of paper into a ballot box filled with votes that spoke the choices of who they were to choose for their school's mascot: Sam the Wolf, Max the Walrus, Desneiges the Polar Bear and Charlie the Raven.

The pupils of Class C created the event after learning about politics in their Social Studies class. They worked tirelessly over the mock election for days, creating posters and taking everything they learned and putting it into action.

As students piled into school and started their morning routine, the crackling of the P.A. broke the sound of monotony. Class C teacher, Ms. Tasha King, announced that a new mascot was being chosen as the old one was not widely known enough.

"We learned how an election works and what ballots look like. We also made posters. Ms. King chose the animals and named them. Sam the Wolf, Neve the Cariboo, Desneiges the Polar Bear and Charlie the Raven." Said Andrew Clark. "Aboriginal people painted our papers and Elections Canada helped us by sending us a bundle of papers. A few people were unhappy when the results came out but overall, there was a general feeling of success."

Children lined up silently against the wall as they waited to vote. One by one, the line diminished and the votes piled high. Dumped down on a table, votes started being counted one by one by the school's council. The winner was found and was reported to Ms. King, who rose up to the PA system and announced the clear winner that won by a landslide of half of the votes: Sam the Wolf.

A Nest Above the Rest: Class A Creates a Bird's Nest

What can you do with an empty bird's nest, some clay and some feathers? The students from Choice School for Gifted Children have shown us. When the primary class was given a bird's nest, they were inspired to create birds to live in the nest.

With clay, feathers and googly eyes, they made several exceptional little birds. Different colors of clay were formed into the bodies, feathers were stuck in to make wings, and of course, the googly eyes, were the eyes. In the end, everything was put together into a vibrant, colourful display

“When Mrs. Chartres found a bird's nest behind her house in a wooded area, she brought it to us and we thought: What should we do with this? We decided to make little birds to fill the nest” says Mrs. Walli, the Class A teacher.

While they built the birds, Class A learned interesting facts, bridging fun and learning together. “The building stuff was fun because I like building stuff. I learned that sometimes birds make nests and birds put leaves in their nests. They sometimes use garbage to make their nest.” Says Cyrus, a Class A student.

The bird's nest is on display at the office for anyone to view.



The vibrant bird's nest on display at the office.

Class A & C Shared Learning



Choice Challenge: Learning about Physics

The young scientists from Choice Challenge would like to thank Mr. Andrew Donham for two wonderful sessions in physics.

Mr. Donham taught the students about cymatic patterns and non-Newtonian fluids.

It was a great opportunity to meet a real scientist and to learn such high content material in a fun and engaging way.

Thank you for being a great mentor, Mr. Donham.

Halloween Celebrations

Students are welcome to arrive at school in costume, or change at recess.

Students who dress in costume are invited to make a donation to the Obakki Kids for Clean Water Foundation that builds wells in needy villages in South Sudan. Donations will be collected by Student Council representatives on Friday morning.

10:15 - 10:30 AM : Early Recess

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Students gather in Flex Room for *Hotel Transylvania* film and popcorn.

11:30 - 12:15PM

Costume parade in the Gym. Parents are welcome.

Happy Haunting!

