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NEWSLETTER No. 15-10

January 6, 2016

Principal's Message

Happy New Year and very best wishes for 2016.

Last year closed with an exciting week of Christmas events that are chronicled in the pages that follow. Our Christmas crafts afternoon on Tuesday, December 15 saw the students moving through various rooms for activities such as decorating cookies, having their photos taken with Santa and making decorations to grace their homes during the holidays. Our staff was delighted with the creativity, respect and engagement every student demonstrated during this very exciting and busy afternoon.

The grand finale to the term was Choice's annual Winterfest celebration. Our sincere thanks go to Mr. McLaren for the inspiring music and poetry selections, to the students for their enthusiastic presentations, to Mrs. Walli for the creative power point and to the staff who all contributed to making this event memorable. The traditional potluck lunch organized by our parents was a delicious conclusion to a wonderful morning, and a reminder of everything we value in the Choice community.

In December we said a sad goodbye to Amanda Alblas who has so masterfully shared the role of administrative assistant for the past year. Amanda was offered an exciting new job and we wish her the very best in this new chapter of her life. We feel fortunate to have had Amanda with us, and also that Shaheen is able to assume a full time position in the office.

We have had a cold, slushy start to January, and it's a good time to remind parents to be certain their child is dressed for the weather. Student focus and learning is always better after an energetic break in the fresh air, so unless it is pouring with rain, all students are expected to play outside during recess and lunch.

During these winter months, it seems wise to review our school's snow closure procedure. In the event of a snowfall that makes driving dangerous, we will make a decision regarding school closure by 7:00 am. Parents will be notified by a phone call from their class parent representative. You may also check the Choice School website for a message.

Please save the dates of two upcoming presentations:

On January 27 from 6:30 – 8:00 Mr. Barry MacDonald will speak about *Mentoring Boys*. Tickets are available at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/boy-smarts-tickets-19786051613>

On February 10, from 6:30 – 8:30 Dr. Ron Williamson will be speaking on the topic *Learning with Learning Disabilities and Challenges*.

Also, please remember the PAC meeting on Friday morning at 8:30. I hope to see many of you there.

Best wishes,

Lynn



Reminders

<i>Jan. 8, 2016</i>	PAC Meeting (8:30 AM)
<i>Jan. 13, 2016</i>	Choice Major Assembly
<i>Jan. 14, 2016</i>	Class C & D Field Trip to the Vancouver Art Gallery (9:30 AM - 12:45 PM)
<i>Jan. 19, 2016</i>	Choice Major Begins
<i>Jan. 20, 2016</i>	Jump Rope for Heart Assembly
<i>Jan. 22, 2016</i>	Pro-D Day
<i>Jan. 27, 2016</i>	Barry MacDonald: <i>Boy Smarts</i> Seminar (6:30-8:00 PM)
<i>Feb, 10, 2016</i>	Save the Date - Gifted Lecture by Dr. Ron Williamson: <i>Learning with Learning Disabilities and Challenges</i> (6:30- 8:30 PM)



January Birthdays

Peter (Class B) – January 1

Kaden (Class B) – January 4

Nisha (Class D) – January 16

Dev (Class B) – January 23

Choice School's Weekly Book Club

Calling all book worms! Join the Choice School's weekly book club with Mrs. Walli every Monday and Wednesday from 12:30 to 1:00pm in the Library.

Enjoy some milk and cookies while we read and engage in discussions about a variety of books without the assignments.

First book club meeting will be on Monday, January 11. Open to grades 4 to 8.



Christmas Craft Afternoon At Choice School



Winterfest Celebrations



BOY SMARTS

It's better to build boys than to mend men!



- Why is ADHD overdiagnosed among boys? • Why are 80% of videogame players boys?
- What are the varied needs of boys and how can parents respond to them?
- How can we help boys navigate today's cultural realities online and elsewhere?
- How can we mentor boys to manage stress to become confident and productive?
- How can we help boys grow into courageous and caring men?



BARRY MACDONALD is an author, teacher, and counsellor who will lead you through the corridors of boyhood to make sense of these questions and more. A sought-after speaker, he has presented to thousands of parents and teachers and was also identified as one of *25 Influential People to Watch* by *The Vancouver Sun*. His best selling books, *Boy Smarts* and *Boys on Target* will be available for purchase and signing (payment by cheque). Visit www.MentoringBoys.com

"Barry MacDonald's compelling presentation is one of the best I have ever seen. He offers a framework and an array of strategies that will indeed make a tremendous difference in the lives of boys. He should be heard by every educator and parent." Dr. Avis Glaze, Former Ontario Education Commissioner

**WHEN
WHERE**

**Wednesday January 27, 2016
Choice School for the Gifted**

6:30pm - 8:00pm

20451 Westminster Hwy. N, Richmond BC

TICKETS

\$12 + service fee of \$1.26

Available online December 4, 2015 to January 21, 2016

Purchase at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/boy-smarts-tickets-19786051613>

QUESTIONS

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