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## NEWSLETTER No. 15-12

January 29, 2016

### Principal's Message

January is named for Janus, the ancient Roman god of beginnings and transitions. It has been a month in which we have looked back from where we've come, and looked forward with excitement and anticipation.

This month, we have now settled into the rhythm of the second term, with a few new faces and changes. Our Class B team of Mrs. M and Ms Walter spent the January 22 Professional Day planning their co-teaching. This dynamic team is working in tandem to present the optimal learning environment and opportunities for the Class B students.

There have been several highlights for me in recent days. Last Wednesday, I listened with delight to the Choice Ensemble's renditions of *Edelweiss* and *Annie's Song* which are part of the rich repertoire that the group is learning under Mr. McLaren's expert leadership. I also dropped in to Ms Walli's Book Club that meets during the lunch hour twice a week and could immediately sense the excitement that reading was generating for its members.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, the Choice Major group *The Artistry of Cooking* has been fully engaged in creating healthy treats and meals with the help of Mrs. Harker and Ms King. The Destination Imagination team is working with Mrs. M., and are full steam ahead in preparation for the upcoming regional tournament. Last Thursday also saw the creative and talented Mr. Sargeant, and his *Leaving a Legacy* woodworking group create a beautiful and much-needed puppet theatre from an old teacher desk.

We have an extraordinary staff who work tirelessly and in many capacities to enrich student life at Choice. I would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Sargeant and Mr. Thomas, who are tireless in their work at Choice. Last Wednesday we enjoyed the Jump Rope for Heart assembly Mr. Sargeant planned to introduce this year's Heart and Stroke campaign. Mr. Sargeant and Mr. Thomas have worked on our school safety plan that includes a new lock and code at the front door, and enhanced lighting for the parking lot. We especially thank these two gentlemen for their efforts in making Wednesday evening's presentation of *Boy Smarts* such a success.

Mr. MacDonald's presentation was attended by an audience of 170 people. His advice about raising men of courage and compassion resonated with us at Choice and in his descriptions of active and curious boys we saw a great many of our students.

Next week holds two special events. On Tuesday after school, from 3:15 – 4:15, we are holding a tea to welcome Ms Walter to Class B. Please join us if you are able.

On Friday, parents are invited to attend this year's Chinese New Celebration that begins at 10:10 in the gym. We are looking forward to this special event that was so much enjoyed last year.

Have a wonderful weekend.

## Reminders

*Feb. 5, 2016*

Chinese New Year Celebrations

*Feb. 8, 2016*

BC Family Day (School not in session)

*Feb. 10, 2016*

Gifted Lecture by Dr. Rob Williamson: *Learning with Learning Disabilities and Challenges*  
(6:30- 8:30 PM)

*Feb. 12, 2016*

PAC Meeting (8:30 AM)

*Feb. 24, 2016*

Science and Math Expo (10:30 AM - 12:30 PM)

\*\*Please note change of date

### January Birthdays

Peter (Class B) – January 1

Kaden (Class B) – January 4

Nisha (Class D) – January 16

Jayden (Class D) – January 21

Dev (Class B) – January 23



**Calling all families! As part of the school fundraiser we're compiling a Choice family cookbook. Add your favorite family recipes as well as a picture and/or a blurb telling us why it's your family's traditional or favorite dish. Please forward all recipes along with the blurb and/or picture to Mrs. Walli by April 1st.**

# Class A's Station Rotations

Class A had the opportunity to dress up as creative characters, build play-dough animals, conduct an archaeological dig for dinosaurs, and build train tracks to and from anywhere in the world.



Lawrence's "Penguin at the Lake"



"Penguin Family" by Aaron



"An Elephant" by Brendan

# Choice Challenge :

## The Artistry of International Cooking



# Choice Challenge :

## Physics 101

The first Choice Challenge experiment in Physics was on static electricity.

Students rubbed balloons on each others' heads to see if they could generate enough static electricity to make the balloons stick to the walls.



The second experiment was to try and move an empty pop can from one cup to another just by blowing into the cup. You can even see the pop can in motion in the first photo.



# JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Choice School is participating in the Heart and Stroke Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart program. Our Jump Rope for Heart event date is **Wednesday, February 24, 2016**.

The important work done by the Heart and Stroke Foundation helps fund vital, life-saving research. This year, we have a new slogan: **"Jump for Mr. T."** As many of you are aware, Mr. T was diagnosed with a heart condition last year and was away for a few months.

Our goal is to raise \$1000 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. We will have the added satisfaction of knowing that our fundraising is helping someone in the Choice family.

Children have already brought home pledge envelopes, but we are also promoting ONLINE FUNDRAISING as a safe, simple and secure method of raising funds.

To sign up, all you have to do is go to [www.jumpropeforheart.ca](http://www.jumpropeforheart.ca) and select:

- ◆ British Columbia, then
- ◆ Choice School, then
- ◆ Enter your child's name

Once you are registered, you can start emailing family and friends anywhere in the world telling them about the important work your family is doing to keep our hearts healthy and ask them for a donation to support your child in Jump Rope for Heart. The best part is that when they receive their first online donation, children will receive a \$5 fundraising kick-start donation and a FREE skipping rope so they can show off their cool skipping tricks!

**Please keep your donation envelope at home until March 4, 2016**, when they can be returned to the school. Additionally, please let Mr. Sargeant know when you receive a donation so that he can update the progress poster, as we are keeping a tally of our running total to keep students motivated.

Please help us support the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Thank you!



# Emergency Preparedness: Student Emergency Kits

In light of the recent earthquake that shook the Lower Mainland, we at Choice School are placing the utmost importance on Emergency Preparedness.

The School provides basic emergency items for each classroom as well as a small supply of non-perishable food and water. We ask each family to contribute to preparing for the event of an emergency. Specifically, each child should have a small bag (preferably a large, named, freezer Ziploc bag) of personal items that may comfort him/her in the event of an emergency.

Emergency kits should include the following items:

- a comfort letter from home, including your emergency contact numbers
- a family picture
- a small hand-held game or pack of cards
- a pen and small writing pad
- small packet of tissues and antiseptic travel wipes
- 2 large garbage bags
- extra food (e.g. juice in Tetra packs, tinned fruit, granola bars, rollups, etc.) Please ensure that these items fit into a Ziploc bag)
- extra set of clothes, including hat, gloves and warm sweater
- medication (if necessary) with clear instructions for use, enough for 72 hours

Please ensure that you bring in your child's emergency kit as soon as possible.



**Choice Student  
Council Presents:**

# **Backwards-Opposite Day**

Friday, February 12

**When EVERYTHING is backwards!**

Come dressed in costume – no uniform  
required today if in costume.

Prizes for the most imaginative, humourous and  
unusual “opposite” costumes in each class.

Contest participation is voluntary.

Costumes must be appropriate and safe.

# *You Are Invited*

to join our Gifted Lecture Series

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 6:30 - 8:30 PM

at Choice School for Gifted Children

20451 Westminster Hwy. North, Richmond BC, V6V 1B3

## *Dr. Rob Williamson*



### **Learning with Learning Disabilities and Challenges**

Children are unique and gifted children are extremely unique. Rarely do children come in neat packages with characteristics that can be listed in only one learning category. This workshop will explore the characteristics of gifted children that may also experience symptoms of ADHD and/or categorical learning disabilities. During this workshop, you will experience having ADHD and learning disabilities from the student's point of view. We will then discuss some practical ways to assist students that may experience these frustrating symptoms both at home and in the classroom.

### **About Dr. Rob Williamson**

Dr. Williamson began his professional career as a group-home manager assisting adults with disabilities in Davis, California. In the mid 1990's, he accepted a position with The Work Resource Centre in Cincinnati, Ohio where he worked extensively developing support programs designed to assist youth with disabilities and disadvantages to successfully transition from school to work. Several years later, he returned to California to serve as a Regional Centre Case Manager (Transition) and later as Director of the ACE-IT II Easter Seals adult disability support program in the San Francisco/Sacramento regions.

Upon moving to Memphis, Dr. Williamson resumed his academic studies while serving as a classroom middle school teacher for students with both severe-profound as well as mild disabilities. He earned his Master of Arts in Teaching degree and Doctor of Education through the University of Memphis. Currently, Dr. Williamson is serving as an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education with Simon Fraser University in British Columbia, Canada.

His area of research involves individualized instructional methodologies within inclusive environments. Dr. Williamson has been honored to speak at numerous local, national and international venues and has authored numerous research articles related to his research interests. On a personal level, Dr. Williamson is the proud father for four children, two of whom have significant disabilities combined with giftedness.

**Admission is free and free childcare is provided**

**Please RSVP: 604-273-2418 or [office@choiceschool.org](mailto:office@choiceschool.org)**