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NEWSLETTER No. 15-17

Wednesday April 6, 2016

Principal's Message

Last week's spring weather added welcome warmth and positive energy to the beginning of our final term. As most are aware, we have had several dignitaries visiting the school in recent weeks. Prior to the break, we had the honour of a visit from Minister of Education Mr. Mike Bernier, and the Honourable Linda Reid, Richmond MLA and Speaker of the House. Last week, we were delighted to host Parliamentary Secretary Mr. Simon Gibson, and Mr. Brian Jonker of the Ministry of Education. Please read the attached letter in which Minister Bernier shares his positive impression of the school and our students.

We returned to school to a wonderful surprise. Unbeknownst to us, Mr. Sargeant had spent time during his holiday painting two of the classrooms – Ms King's and Ms Walters'. We so appreciate your generosity and energy, Mr. Sargeant. These classrooms desperately needed painting, and they look marvelous. We can't imagine what we would do without you!

We always welcome the final term with eagerness and a sense of focus and accomplishment. There are several exciting events on our calendar during this busy term:

Images of Greatness: Our second annual *Images of Greatness* study was launched last week with a student assembly. Students were asked to choose a notable person from the past or present who has made a significant contribution to making the world a better place, and with whom they share a passion or interest. They have carefully considered their choices and most students have made their selections. Please save Friday, June 10 from 10:45 – 12:15, the date of our culminating celebration. Details will follow closer to the date.

All Things Canadian: We are proud to announce an exhibition of Choice students' drawings and paintings, *All Things Canadian* being held from April 6th- 30th at the City Centre Community Centre, #105-5900 Minoru Blvd. in Richmond. Our thanks go to Mrs. Cathy for initiating and organizing this opportunity to showcase these fine examples of our student talent. We hope parents and students will take the opportunity to visit.

Destination Imagination: Our DI team (Johnny, Lucas, Yikai, Justan and Jaden) will be performing in the Provincial DI Tournament on Saturday, April 9th at Kwantlen University in Delta. We wish them and their coaches Mrs. Zhao, Mrs. Ma and Mrs. Malinowska the very best in their presentation.

The Wizard of Oz: Under the leadership of Mr. McLaren and Mr. Thomas, rehearsals and preparations are well underway for our spring musical *The Wizard of Oz*. We will keep you informed as the May 26th and 27th performances approach. Mrs. Harker has offered to oversee the costumes and is looking for parents to help with preparing and sewing costumes. Please contact her at tharker@choiceschool.org if you are able to assist in any way.

Mothers' Day Tea and Talent Show: The annual Choice Talent Show and Mothers' Day Tea will be held on May 6th. On Tuesday, April 12th at recess and lunch, Mr. McLaren and Ms. Walters will be holding talent show auditions in the music room. If your child would like to audition they are very welcome to attend. We encourage all kinds of talents to participate: all musical instruments, acting, monologues, singing, dancing, juggling, comedy...just about anything goes. If you have any questions about the auditions please contact Mr. McLaren (gizbah@shaw.ca) or Ms. Walters (lwalters@choiceschool.org).

Chess Club: The final term's Chess Club for experienced players begins on Monday, April 11th and continues for eight weeks. If your child would like to participate in honing their chess game with our esteemed Chess Master Mr. Brebich, please complete the registration form that follows and return it to the school by next Monday. The beginners' group will reconvene for four weeks in May with chess aficionados Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Beaven.

Choice Challenge Major: Students were introduced to the final term's Choice Challenges this afternoon, and have been asked to return their selection forms by Friday in preparation for next week. As always, students should discuss their preferences with their parents. We will endeavour to place each student in their first choice of workshop.

Gifted Lecture Series: Just a reminder that Dr. Tamara Salih, a psychiatrist with BC Children's Hospital, will be speaking at Choice on Wednesday, April 27 on the topic *Anxiety and Depression: An Information Evening for Parents and Educators*. Please share our invitation with anyone you think would be interested in attending this valuable presentation.

Annual Appeal: We are hoping that the funds donated during the Annual Appeal will enable us to make essential updates and repairs to our graceful but aging building, and to purchase several new student computers and other necessary equipment and resources. All contributions will receive a tax receipt and will be very much appreciated.

Best wishes as always,

Lynn



Reminders

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| April 8, 2016 | Re-Enrolment Forms due to Office |
| April 13, 2016 | Erin Kate's Bench Dedication (1:30 PM) |
| April 15, 2016 | PAC Meeting (8:30 AM) |
| April 20, 2016 | Green Thumb Theatre Performance (9:15 AM) |
| April 22, 2016 | Non-Instructional Day (school not in session) |
| April 25, 2016 | Pro-D Day (school not in session) |
| April 27, 2016 | Dr. Tamara Salih: <i>Anxiety Disorders and Depression: An Information Evening for Parents and Educators</i>
(6:30-8:00 PM) |



April Birthdays

This month, we wish a very happy birthday to:

Justan (April 9)
Eric (April 11)
Sebastian (April 17)
Tor (April 17)
Andrew (April 24)
Cyrus (April 25)
Lawrence (April 26)
Aron P (April 27)

Calling all Parents!

The Choice School production of The Wizard of Oz is approaching and we are in need of people to help with costumes. If you can sew or have items that may be suitable for costumes please contact Ms. Harker via her email, tharker@choiceschool.org.

We need costumes for all the key players in the play: the Lion, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, the Wicked Witch, the Good Witch and Dorothy. If you are unsure if an item you have will work, please don't hesitate to ask as there might be a use for it.

A very special thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Manji for screening *The Little Prince* for Classes A and B on April 6, 2016 at Hollywood Cinema!

Class Parents:

Class A - Karen Lee
Class B - Saba Bakshi
Class C - Anne Devolin
Class D - Lori Donham

Class B: Eco-Sculptures Field Trip

Journal Entry by Binnae



On Wed. March 30th our class went to Burnaby city Nursery. We worked on a salmon sculpture. We learned that an artist creates a metal frame which is filled with soil. After, they put a special net using staples and zap straps. We used a dibble stick and a mallet to poke holes in the net. We had yummy snacks and juice. It was a great field trip! ☆♡





Jump Rope for Heart 2016

The 2016 fundraising campaign was once again a huge success at Choice School. This year we had a goal of \$1000 for our “Jump for Mr. T” event. Having someone close to the Choice Family that benefits from our fundraising efforts really pushed our student body to fundraise to new heights. We were able to fundraise over \$3000, pushing our two year total to over \$5500. Not only have we raised money for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, we have also created awareness for our community.

Our Jump event was 45 minutes of intense jumping, hopping, and sliding. Thank you to Sara, Rosy, Darren, Grace and Megan for volunteering their time to help with the stations. We also had a professional photographer take pictures of the event. I will be posting these on the tablet at the front office for all to see.

Once the prizes arrive, there will be an assembly to recognize each student’s fundraising efforts. Thank you very much for your support to Choice and the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

I look forward to September for the Terry Fox Run.

Doug Sargeant



You are cordially invited to our student art exhibition

“ALL THINGS CANADIAN”

DRAWINGS and PAINTINGS
BY GRADE K-8 STUDENTS
CHOICE SCHOOL FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

April 6-30th, 2016

City Centre Community Centre

First floor & Second floor galleries

#105-5900 Minoru Blvd.

Richmond, BC V6X 0L9

I am extremely proud to present a collection of drawings and paintings
created by Choice School students exhibiting at our
brand new local City Centre Community Centre.

Artworks include Puffins, owls, songbirds, dinosaurs, light houses, and paintings inspired by Canadian artists: Lawren Harris
and Emily Carr.

These art projects are inspired by a curriculum designed to educate and inspire students to become more aware of Canadian
artists, animals and landscape.

Please take the time to visit this wonderful art exhibition.

Artists included are:

Raymond, Seneca, Winston, Jayden, Eric W, Johnny, Yikai, Lawrence, Brendan, Kenji,
Aron P, Alisha, Desi, Jaden, Binnae, Makoto, and Eric C.

Arts Educator/Fine Artist * Cathy Kluthe * www.cathykluthe.com * www.creativeartplace.com

Letter to Choice School from Minister Bernier



March 29, 2016

Ref: 186517

Philip Gray, Chair
Board of Directors
Choice School for Gifted Children
Email: office@choiceschool.org

Dear Mr. Gray:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing appreciation for my visit to Choice School for Gifted Children. It was a pleasure meeting staff, teachers, students and parents, touring your facility and learning more about the fantastic achievements of your school.

It is wonderful that students at Choice School have the opportunity to learn in an environment that recognizes and fosters their unique gifts. Choice School creates meaningful connections between the British Columbia curriculum and individual learning style, encouraging student engagement and development.

Your desire to assist other education professionals and schools by sharing your special needs expertise and knowledge is commendable.

Again, thank you for writing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Mike Bernier
Minister



CHOICE CHESS CLUB REGISTRATION

Term Three: April 11 - June 13

We are pleased to be offering one level of chess instruction this term.

Level One: Experienced chess players

Students who have a basic command of the game will have the opportunity to further develop their skills under the leadership of Mr Branimir Brebrich, a Canadian Chess Master who holds the Guinness World Record for the number of games played simultaneously and won.

The classes will be held on Monday afternoons between 12:45 and 2:00. The cost for the eight classes is \$80.

Mr. Brebrich generally charges considerably more for his lessons, and we are most appreciative that he is offering us this much reduced rate.

Should you wish to register your child for either class, please return the attached consent form by Monday, April 11. Please attach a cheque for \$80.00, made payable to Choice School.

Sincerely,

Ms L. Chartres, Principal

Chess Club Registration

I wish my child _____ of Class _____ to participate in the **Choice Chess Club**.

I attach a cheque in the amount of \$80.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____

You Are Invited

to join our Gifted Lecture Series

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 from 6:30-8:00 PM

at Choice School for Gifted Children

20451 Westminster Hwy, Richmond BC, V6V 1B3

Dr. Tamara Salih

Anxiety Disorders and Depression: An Information Evening for Parents and Educators



About Dr. Tamara Salih

Dr. Tamara Salih is a child and adolescent psychiatrist at the Mood and Anxiety Disorders clinic and Neuro-psychiatry Clinic at BC Children's Hospital. She is a clinical instructor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of BC, and a graduate of UBC Medicine as well as UBC Psychiatry with sub specialized training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. Her clinical and research interests lie in the pharmacologic and cognitive-behavioral treatment of pediatric anxiety and mood disorders. She is a co-investigator on a research study evaluating the effectiveness of a behavioral treatment program for children with selective mutism, and has received specialized training in treatment of selective mutism, reflective parenting for infant psychiatry, and cognitive behavioural interventions for anxiety disorders.

Dr. Salih will present an overview of anxiety disorders in general, as well as discussing depression, some thinking into causes, and how to recognize when these disorders warrant further assessment. She will also discuss treatment, and the interplay of these disorders in the school environment.

Admission is free and donations to BC Children's Hospital are welcome.

Free childcare will be provided.

Please RSVP: 604 273 2418 or office@choiceschool.org