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NEWSLETTER No. 16-04

Friday, November 4, 2016

Principal's Message

This week began with the excitement of Hallowe'en: creative costumes, spooky decorations, class parties and the Hallowe'en parade at the end of the day. We thank Class E for their organizational leadership in decorating, planning music and setting up the gym. The Choice spirit was clearly evident in the abundant smiles and laughter.

Every day at Choice is filled with highlights. The rain this week has meant several inside recesses and lunch hours, and even they prove to have many memorable moments. Today at lunch I watched the Choice Ensemble practising for Winterfest, and then moving to wonderful renditions of Waltzing Matilda and the Do, Ra, Me song from *The Sound of Music*. These talented students are fortunate to have the help of Mrs. Forsberg, who leads their Wednesday practice when Mr. McLaren isn't in the school. Rainy days also mean creative constructions in the Flex Room, challenging chess games or quiet reading in the Library, and vigorous games in the gym.

I was pleased to be invited to two STEM project presentations in recent days. Class D demonstrated their scientific thinking in creating useful projects based on the lowly potato, and Class C designed and tested launching devices that used kinetic energy. The highest levels of creativity are evidenced by innovative products that have a purpose, and our students' STEM projects do exactly that.

Another highlight of the week was observing an innovative aspect of Class E's literature program, an online discussion forum around a critical question posed by Mr. Thomas. During these forums, the students communicate online with deeply thoughtful responses to each other's comments. In today's discussion forum, they prefaced their upcoming study of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by sharing and discussing historical perspectives of slavery. Our youngest students in Class A are also using technology in their learning by practising their printing on tablets to develop fluidity and muscle memory.

We are delighted to welcome two new members to the Choice staff, Ms Kim Scaper and Mrs. Chelsea Peterson. Ms Scaper (Ms K) is a recent graduate from the UBC Faculty of Education and has joined us in the role of Special Education assistant and teacher-on-call. Mrs. Peterson comes to us from Delta School district, and we are pleased that she has agreed to join us in the role of SEA. Please introduce yourselves to Mrs. Peterson and Ms Scaper, and also read about them on the Choice website.

Please mark two events on next week's calendar. On Tuesday, November 8, our Board of Directors is holding their Annual General Meeting. Please join us for the meeting and refreshments, beginning at 6:30 PM. Next Thursday, November 10 at 10:00 AM is our Remembrance Day Assembly, and we hope that many of you will be able to attend.

With kind regards,

Lynn



Reminders

- Nov. 8, 2016 Board AGM (6:30 PM)
Refreshments will be served
- Nov. 10, 2016 Remembrance Day Assembly (9:30-10:30 AM)
- Nov. 11, 2016 Remembrance Day (school not in session)
- Nov. 14-15, 2016 Reading Break (school not in session)
- Nov. 18, 2016 PAC Meeting (8:45 AM)
- Nov. 21, 2016 Gifted Lecture: Joanna Thackwray, OT (6:30 PM)
- Nov. 25, 2016 Open House (9-11 AM)



November Birthdays

This month, we wish a very Happy

Birthday to:

Brendan (Nov. 16)

Lucas (Nov. 20)

Ryan B (Nov. 30)

REMINDER TO PARENTS

We believe that the Choice uniform is an important aspect of our school, and its wearing creates a sense of belonging and pride among our students. Please ensure that your child wears his or her uniform to school every day.



You are invited to attend our Gifted Lecture Series

Monday, November 21, 2016 at 6:30 PM at

Choice School for Gifted Children

20451 Westminster Highway N

Richmond, BC V6V 1B3

Joanna Thackwray: Introduction to Executive Functioning

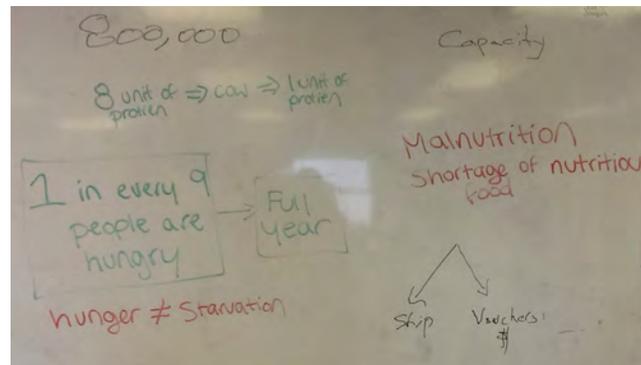
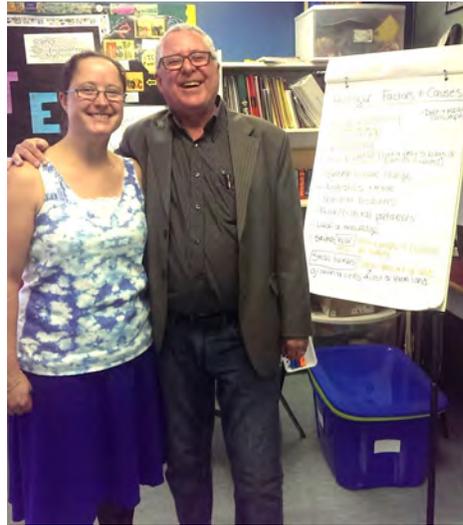
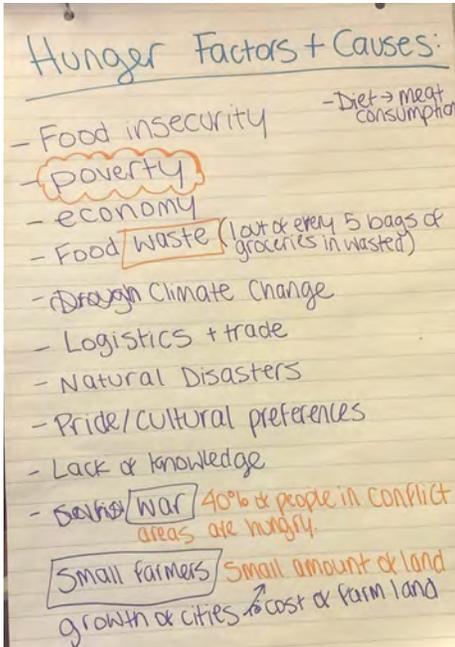


Joanna Thackwray is a Pediatric Occupational Therapist who graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1999. She began her career in pediatrics at The BC Centre for Ability in Vancouver where she worked both in the Early Intervention Program (0 - 5 year olds) and in the School Therapy Program in North and West Vancouver. She currently works as the Occupational Therapist at Choice School for the Gifted, as well as running her own pediatric private practice in Richmond, BC. Joanna has worked extensively with children with a variety of learning challenges, and has a professional interest in working with children with difficulties with executive functioning, emotional regulation and sensory processing in order to assist them in being successful in the school environment. Joanna provides occupational therapy to the children she works with, and consults with parents and educators to help develop appropriate accommodations, programming and classroom environments to support individual student differences.

The presentation will provide an introduction to executive functioning, explain why executive functioning skills are important, why some gifted learners struggle with executive functioning, and provide some suggestions about how parents can support their children in learning executive functioning skills.

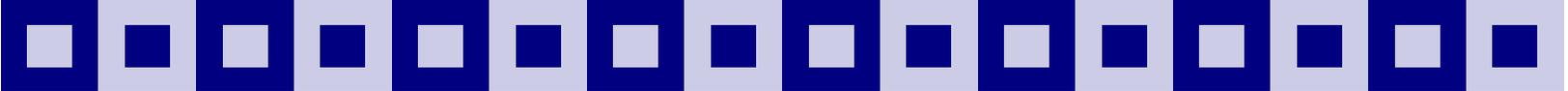
**Admission is free and free childcare is provided.
Please RSVP: 604-273-2418 or office@choiceschool.org**

Mr. King's Visit to Choice School



Gordon King (Ms. King's father) came in and talked to Class C, D, and E about World Hunger. He has worked with various non-profit organizations for over 40 years, addressing poverty and human rights issues. It was such a pleasure for me to share him with the school and to have him learn from these amazing students. We talked about the causes and factors of hunger as well as what we can do to address it. I was amazed at what the students already knew and with how the session went.

-Ms. King



Choice School's Food Drive for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank

Beginning on Oct. 31, 2016, Choice School will be taking part in a Food Drive. The Greater Vancouver Food Bank's stores are at their lowest levels in over 30 years, and Choice School wants to do our part to help our community by collecting donations of high quality, nutritious foods for families and individuals in need.

Class E will be presenting on Food Security in BC and basic nutrition to the younger grades, making posters to advertise, and decorating boxes for food donations. At the end of the Food Drive, Class E will take a field trip to the Food Bank and spend the morning volunteering in the warehouse, organizing food stores and learning about how the Food Bank operates.

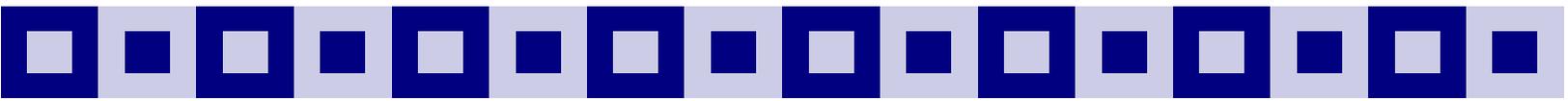
The Top 10 Most Needed Items, according to the Food Bank, are:

- 1) Canned Fish (Salmon or Tuna)
- 2) Canned Meat (Turkey or Chicken)
- 3) Canned Beans (Black Beans, Chickpeas, Kidney Beans)
- 4) Hearty Meals (Canned Soups, Stews, and Chilis)
- 5) Nut Butters (100% Natural Almond, Peanut, or Cashew Butter)
- 6) Pasta (uncooked and packaged)
- 7) Rice (uncooked and packaged)
- 8) Whole Grain Breakfast Cereals
- 9) Canned Vegetables
- 10) Canned Fruit (Packed in its own Juice or Water)

Donation boxes are currently set up in my office. If you are able, we ask that you please bring a food donation with any of the items on this list if you are attending Choice School's Remembrance Day Assembly, PAC Meetings, etc. or any other day you happen to be at Choice! Boxes will be set up until the end of November/beginning of December.

Thank you all for your support!

-Shaheen



Choice Challenge



Halloween at Choice

