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## NEWSLETTER No. 16-16

Tuesday, April 11, 2017

### Principal's Message

On Friday we celebrated the culmination of the second term's independent study, *Images of Greatness*. We were delighted to see the many parents and guests who were able to attend, and were immensely proud of the knowledge and understandings demonstrated by our students. The study of greatness is foundational to gifted curriculum, and as with everything we do at Choice, there are important deeper learnings embedded in the project. By studying greatness, students learn that it extends far beyond wealth and eminence; greatness can only be born of determination, persistence, compassion and integrity. Greatness commits to improving the lives of others and bringing health, equality and peace to the world. In choosing the subject for their study, each student searched for a person who embodied these values and character strengths. The depth and scope of the students' research was clear in the broad range of their notable choices, and in the depth of understanding each presented.

An equally valuable outcome of the *Images of Greatness* project is the sense of accomplishment that results from sustained effort. At the California Association for the Gifted Conference that Mrs. Maureen McDermid and I attended last month, we heard from a neuroscientist about the neural growth that is enhanced by active learning and engagement. We learned that when we struggle and are challenged, the brain perceives the learning as important. Dr. Cziko cited learning to walk or talk as examples of how infants persist with a daunting task. Our neural connections strengthen when we strive for mastery of something difficult, and the mastery itself brings an intrinsic reward. Friday, each student's sense of pride in his or her work spoke to the intrinsic reward that their efforts had engendered.

Dr. Cziko spoke also about the value of Art in tapping into intrinsic motivation, because in Art, the motivation to engage and create is from the heart rather than through some extrinsic or outside reward. She also addressed the value of integrating the arts with the curriculum. In recent days, our exceptional fine arts program has been enriched by two guest presenters. Dr. Marion Porath, UBC's Professor Emerita in High Ability studies, visited for a day of workshops in which she taught our students the art of bookbinding. Please see the attached article which Dr. Porath has written for the *Book Arts Canada* journal. Last week, our students were privileged to experience the art of calligraphy, taught by Mrs. Cheryl Tasaka, a retired teacher and master calligrapher. We are very grateful to both our guests, and to Mrs. Cathy Kluthe who is always finding new ways to enhance her already marvelous art program. I hope you have taken the opportunity to view the atelier of student art that our Mrs. Cathy has created in the lower hall adjacent to the art studio.

Today the students are bringing home a packet of tickets for a raffle that has been organized by the Board of Directors as their Annual Appeal. Each family is asked to sell a book of ten tickets, at \$5 each, for the May 17<sup>th</sup> draw for three exciting prizes. The school is raising money toward a roof for the amphitheatre that is currently under construction, and also the equipment needed for our net sports program.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Best wishes to all our Choice families for a Happy Easter.

Lynn

## Important Dates & Reminders

April 14, 2017

Good Friday (no school)

April 17, 2017

Easter Monday (no school)

April 18, 2017

Pro-D Day (no school)

April 25, 2017

Choice Challenge Begins

## April Birthdays

**This month, we wish a very Happy Birthday to:**

Justan - April 9

Sebastian M - April 17

Mason - April 19

Cyrus - April 25

Lawrence - April 26

Aron P - April 17

### **Shaheen's Cancer Society Bottle and Can Drive**

Dear Choice Families,

This will be my fourth year taking part in the **Canadian Cancer Society's Relay for Life**, which raises funds for cancer research and supports those battling with cancer. Our team is organizing a bottle and can drive fundraiser this year, and are hoping to collect any empty bottles or cans that you may be able to donate to our cause! 100% of the proceeds will go directly to the Canadian Cancer

Society.

Please take a moment to read about why I relay every year:

[http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL\\_BC\\_odd\\_?px=5729100&pg=personal&fr\\_id=22339](http://convio.cancer.ca/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFL_BC_odd_?px=5729100&pg=personal&fr_id=22339)

Thank you for your support!  
Shaheen

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

*How can you help?*

## CURRENT OPPORTUNITIES

GET INVOLVED! Studies show that parental involvement in a child's education is one of the most important factors in raising student self-esteem and academic achievement. Below are some current opportunities to get involved in the Choice School community and collect your parent volunteer hours.

- Donated Uniform Sale Coordinator
- PAC meeting snacks volunteer
- PAC meeting clean-up volunteer
- Upcoming Gifted Lecture Snacks Contributions
- Choice School Recipe Book Coordinator
- Fundraising support (as per Choice Board Request)



## SPECIAL GUESTS NEEDED:

Do you have interesting information about your profession or job to share? Make a presentation on topics like math use in accounting, physics, chemistry, project management and more!

Enjoy a passion, interest or hobby? Showcase and share enthusiasm on interesting topics like rocks/coins/records. Or host a workshop in baking/animation/acting.

Interested in co-teaching a Choice Challenge class? Topics range, see school for upcoming challenge topics.

## CONNECT WITH US

A database of current volunteer needs can be found at:  
[www.volunteersignup.org/EE19K](http://www.volunteersignup.org/EE19K)

Report volunteer hours as they occur.  
Email: [volunteer@choiceschool.org](mailto:volunteer@choiceschool.org)

Learn more about what's going on in and around the Choice School community.

Attend a monthly PAC meeting.



WE  OUR  
volunteers

# Gifted Children's Association of British Columbia (GCABC)

**Interested in joining a group of dedicated people  
who want to live by our mission statement to be  
“A collaborative community connecting to support the gifted”?**

**Come and join us as a Director on the Board of the GCABC!**

Directors of the provincial organization are elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Association and serve a one-year term.

**Our current Board members are all remaining for another year of service, but we need more people to join us to move our mandate forward, and be responsive to gifted families in BC.**

Our bylaws require a minimum of 3 directors, the president, treasurer and secretary and the board usually functions effectively with up to seven directors. We have analyzed our current board composition and our future needs and are looking for new board members that have skills and experience in one or several of the following areas:

- General board experience
- Communication (in particular social media)
- Event planning and marketing

Directors are expected to attend and fully participate in 8-10 regular board meetings (2-2.5 hours each) during the year and on occasion volunteer additional time in various community events or other matters furthering the purpose, health and growth of this non-profit. Directors are also expected to perform their duties with care and communicate on a timely basis.

If you are interested in joining us to serve as a board member, please submit your statement of interest form to [commgabc@gmail.com](mailto:commgabc@gmail.com)

Download the form here:

[2017 STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SERVING AS A DIRECTOR \(board Member\)](#)

Need more information? Please feel free to send us an email to the same address. Or call Maureen McDermid at 604-315-3158.

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Please submit your form by **April 15, 2017**.

Please note that specific roles, including officer positions, will be assigned by the newly elected board at the first board meeting scheduled for early September 2017.

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Please note. GCABC receives all expressions of interest with appreciation. The current board is tasked with making selections from applicants that will best add to the board's skill set and moving those selected forward to the AGM as nominees

## *Calligraphy with Ms. Tasaka*

Last week, Choice students were fortunate to learn about the art of western Calligraphy in a series of workshops arranged by Mrs. Cathy and led by master calligrapher Cheryl Tasaka. Ms Tasaka is a retired teacher who has practised and taught western calligraphy to adults for many years. She shared her impressive portfolio of calligraphic artworks and taught students how to hold a calligraphy pen properly, to create thick and thin lines and to form basic lettering. Our students were clearly inspired by Ms Tasaka's lessons and demonstrated admirable patience and determination.





## What is a Book? Children's

**W**hat do children understand a book to be? How would engagement in book making affect children's ideas about books? How would they engage? These questions, and my belief that involvement with books — making, reading, designing, discussing — can be fulfilling across the life span, led to a pilot project on book-making with children aged 4½ to 13. I conducted five workshops in one school day with the classes at Choice School in Richmond, B.C., supported by the art teacher and the classroom teachers. Classes ranged in size from seven to 13 students. Students in kindergarten to Grade 6 made accordion books and the Grade 7 and 8 students made flutter books (see this video from Otis College Book Arts: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xeBbp8TcJA>). First, though, we discussed their conceptions of books.

I posed the question, "What is a book?" The youngest children had concrete ideas — a book is a story. You read it. You learn new words. Older children

showed increasingly sophisticated understanding. Books give you knowledge. They can be fiction or real. There are different kinds; you can read them or write in them. The history of books goes back to Egyptian tablets. Books give a message; they tell a story and contain thought and opinion. They are a way of educating without using modern technology. They are the best invention of the world and give hope because they show how much we've progressed.

I showed examples of accordion and flutter books and other handmade books. The children were intrigued by the idea of the "blank canvas" that the books offered. One child commented, "An empty book is hope to be fulfilled."

After a discussion with each group that explored why the books they were about to make were called "flutter books" or "accordion books" and a demonstration of process, we got to work. Each child received a plastic bag with the necessary materials. Papers were precut to size and the first few accordion



folds had been started for the children. One student commented, “Just like a fan!” This was a helpful analogy for students as they continued the folds to form their accordion books. Older students learned to use bone folders and how to use scrap paper and wax paper to protect surfaces when gluing their flutter books together. Younger students learned the importance of precision in folding and in gluing on covers.

The older students needed the time we had available after a rich discussion about books to complete

flutter book could be assembled with printed instead of blank pages. This provided a “teachable moment” that allowed discussion about experimentation and what they might want their books to be and represent. It was clear to me that books contribute significantly to understanding and developing our identities, both through reading them and creating books that are personal statements. Each child became a book maker and a book artist. Thinking and doing are both vital in this process.

## Adventures with Bookmaking *by Marion Porath*

the assembly of their flutter books (45 minutes) but they could see the possibilities inherent in these “empty” books as conventional books or in their “flutter” structure and went away excited by what they might do with their books. The groups that made accordion books had time to create content and decorative covers. Inside, they explored the potential of narratives in words and pictures. Outside, they explored the creative potential of designing a cover to invite one into a book. Several groups used washi tape, decorative papers, and old postage stamps for inspiration.

Questions and thoughts emerged while the students worked, both on their part and mine. They wondered how commercial bookbinding was the same as or different from what they were engaged in. Could sewing be involved in bookmaking? I responded that it could and that I would leave instructions for a sewn pamphlet with their art teacher. An excited young man who is writing a novel asked if a

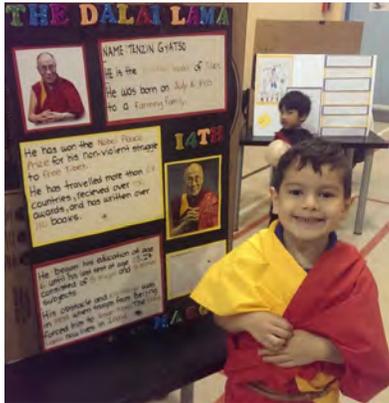
We have much to learn about books, book making, and book art from children. Children bring perspectives of wonder and creativity to making books. Working with them provides an interactive opportunity to learn together about the big questions of what books are or can be, how we create them for different audiences, and how they reflect our own identities and interests.

With thanks to Lynn Chartres, Principal, Choice School for the Gifted and Exceptional, Richmond, BC and the teachers at Choice – Cathy Kluthe, Shaireen Walli, Dorota Malinowska, Lauren Jacobs, Tasha King, and Chelsea Peterson – for their enthusiastic support of this project. Special thanks to the students at Choice School for their engagement, insights, creativity, and excitement about the possibilities of books and how to make them.

Thanks also to Gabriele Lundeen, CBBAG Toronto and Frances Hunter, CBBAG BC Islands for their support in providing resources. •

# Images of Greatness

Mason as the Dalai Lama

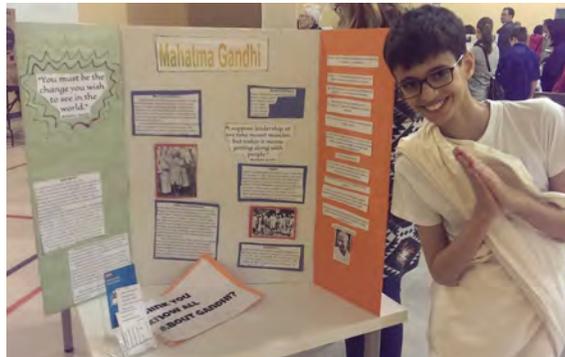


Marcus as Sir Isaac  
Newton

Kingsley as Confucius



Kaden as Nelson Mandela,  
Marcus as Malala Yousafzai, and  
Dev as Jackie Robinson



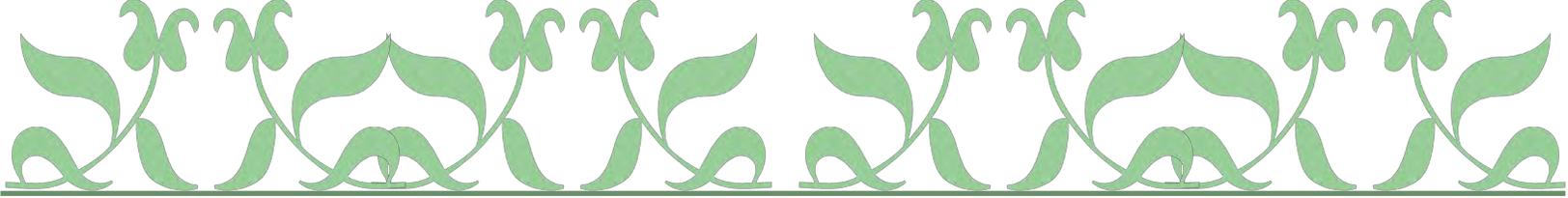
Gal as Mahatma Gandhi

Trevor as Stephen Hawking

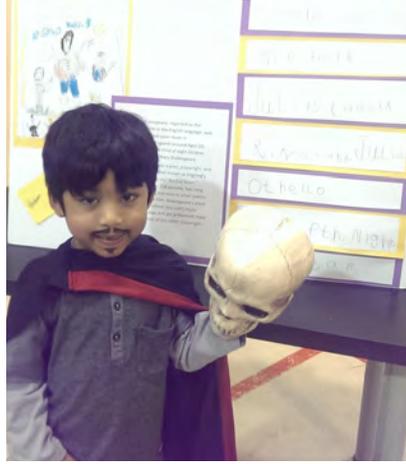


Joaquin as Bill Gates





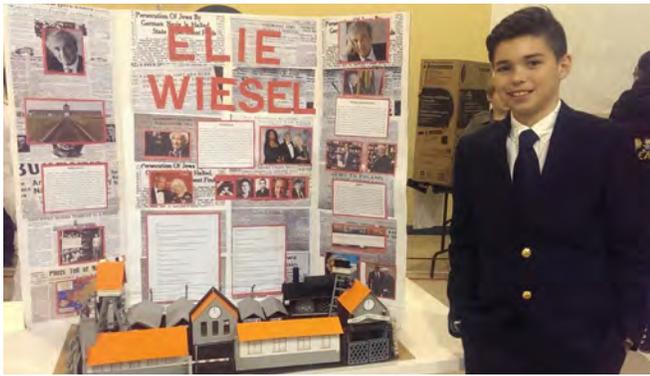
Phoenix as Christopher Columbus



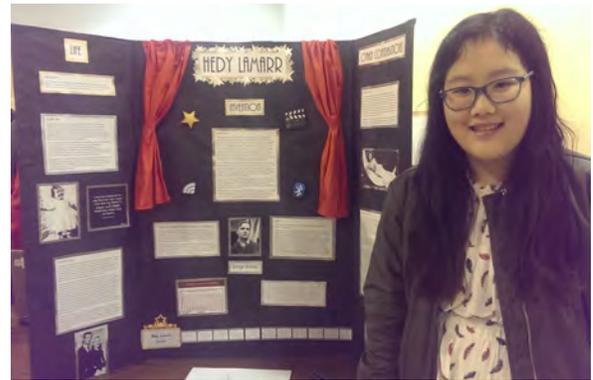
Rayhan as William Shakespeare



Gabriel as Frederick Douglass



Jackie as Elie Wiesel



Nisha as Hedy Lamarr



Ryan as Aristotle



Wyatt as Commander Chris Hadfield



Jaden C as Johannes Gutenberg

