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NEWSLETTER No. 17-05

December 22, 2017

We have had a marvelous December at Choice, filled with excitement and celebration. Last week's Winterfest concert was spell-binding from beginning to end. The music was beautifully performed under the leadership of Maestro McLaren, who always manages to inspire harmony and engagement in his student musicians. The art work on display was a fine representation of our students' creativity and the teaching of our talented artist - in-residence Mrs. Cathy.

We continued our celebration with a potluck feast prepared by our families, and organized by Mrs. Joanne Bengert and her efficient team of PAC volunteers. Thank you to all who made the event so memorable.

The support we readily receive from our parents carried over into our *Celebrations around the World* Focus Week. On Monday, our students were privileged to visit the Sukh Sager Sikh Gurdwara. Class B parents Mr. and Mrs. Gosal organized the visit, shared the story of the Sikh religion and served us a delicious Langar. We are so appreciative of their hospitality and generosity. Many thanks from all of us at Choice.

Tuesday enhanced our Christmas spirit with a snowy morning as the students experienced the holiday traditions of Spain, Mexico, France, and of course Canada. As the snow accumulated on the roads, we decided it was safest to call a snow day, and were impressed with how quickly parents arrived to pick up their children.

Wednesday morning, in the brilliant sunshine and wintery cold, we explored the Heritage Christmas at the Burnaby Village Museum. Our students represented the school beautifully, and we were delighted to receive compliments from the museum staff about their courtesy, respect and fine behavior. Well done students! Thank you for making us proud.

Yesterday, with help from Dr. Orlee Guttman, we celebrated Hanukkah. Dr. Guttman shared the story of this special holiday and the lighting of the Menorah, and had prepared yummy latkes for the entire school. Thank you so much! Part of Thursday was also dedicated to learning about the traditional African-American holiday, Kwanzaa. Our creative staff had us all dancing, singing, making crafts and eating treats from these special holidays.

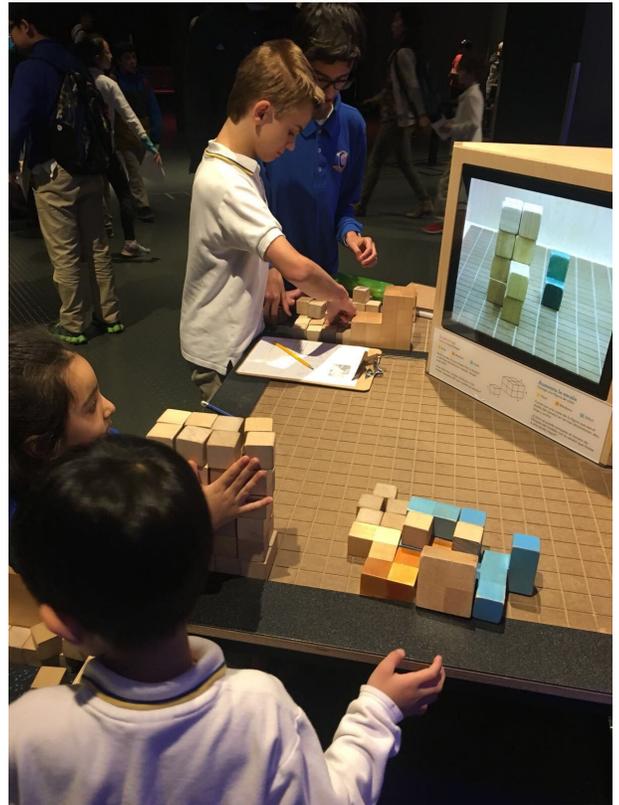
And, finally, our last day has arrived. The morning is rich in community spirit and filled with joy. We have had a visit from Santa, fireside carol singing, crafts, pancakes and the filling of shoeboxes with gifts generously donated by our families for folks who rely on the Union Gospel Mission.

As the term closes, we are saying goodbye for now to our beloved Mrs. Sueyoshi whose baby boy will arrive any day. We wish her and her husband the very best in their upcoming adventure and are looking forward to meeting their new addition. We are delighted to announce that Ms Raquel Ibanez will be assuming the role of teacher in Class D, making for a gentle transition for the students and placing them in wonderfully capable hands.

Please enjoy the photos that follow of recent programs and events, and also a great story about parenting a gifted child contributed by Class C parent, Mrs. Mary Louise Zadravetz.

As we close for the holiday, we wish you a Christmas holiday filled with joy, laughter and love. We'll see you on Monday, January 8th, 2018!

Science World Continued...



Choice Challenge

Printmaking:

Designing prints for T-Shirts.



Life in Spanish:
Spanish omelets made in house!



Cooking through Japan:

PIC • COLLAGE

Choice Challenge Continued....



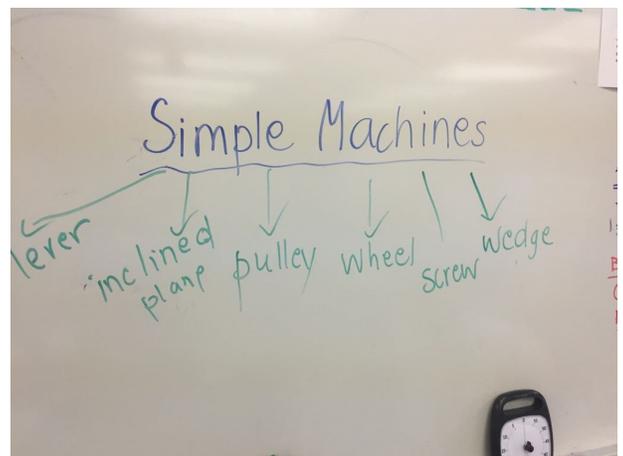
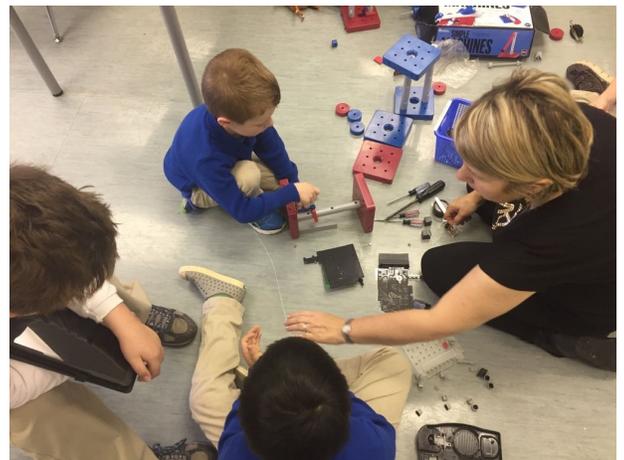
Printmaking: Before & After.



Physics: Building bridges & towers.



Paper Art: What a cool face you made Meryl!



Fun Times at Choice



**Class A's Puppet Show:
"Dinosaurs vs. A Scary Monster."**



**Conor to the rescue!
Finally Newton's Cradle
is fixed!**



**Peek -A-Boo!
It's Dennison!**



**Big buddies with
class A & B.**



**Ms. Elliot's science
experiment:
"Elephant Toothpaste!?"**



Important Dates

December 22	Last day of school
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 8	Classes resume
January 19	Passions Expo
January 24	"Food for Thought" Gifted lecture by Picky Eating, Vancouver 6:30 pm-8:00 pm





December Birthdays

Sebastian L.	December 15
Oliver Nelson	December 16
Marcus	December 25
Duncan	December 26
Alisha	December 30
Akaal	December 30

OUR BRILLIANT KIDS: A PARENT'S VIEW

STOP AND WATCH

Allowing our kids to problem solve and figure things out

Last week I did something crazy and signed my 8-year-old up for hockey. The only

PROPPING HIM UP IN FRONT
OF ME AGAINST A WALL, I
SURVEILLED THE KID,
AVOIDING HIS BIG BROWN
EYES, WHILE TRYING TO
ANALYZE THE SITUATION.

reason I call it crazy, is because on top of his soccer games and guitar lessons, the fragile balance between our heavy schedule and my sanity is at significant risk. But he loves sports! Sunday morning was our first event which was to meet The Destroyers at the team's photo shoot. I read and re-read the team manager's email which outlined what exactly he needed to wear including gloves, all padding, and hockey stick. However, there was no mention about footwear. I reasoned

that skates were part of the uniform, so he should wear them and walk in with his skate guards. After a sweaty 20-minute session of pushing, clipping, buttoning, and tugging an assembly of layers of hockey gear onto his 4-foot 9-inch frame, we stumbled out onto the porch, with just 15 minutes to get to the place. The only problem being, he was lopsided, as one of the skate guards was refusing to cooperate.

Never mind let's go!

Arriving shortly later, in the school's parking lot, the Kid watched out his window as several similar aged boys were strolling towards the entrance in full hockey gear, carrying hockey sticks and wearing running shoes.

"They're not wearing their skates Mum," he said, and with a dash of sauciness added, "It's not a skating arena, "Why would we wear our skates?" More sweat breaks out. He'll have to

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wear his skates. But with only one skate guard?

Propping him in front of me against a wall, I surveilled The Kid, avoiding his big brown eyes, while I tried to analyze the situation. The guard was blocked, and his one guard-free skate was grinning into the gravel. "Stop!" I said. "You're destroying the blade and it's getting dull". I demonstrate by sliding my index finger down the blade, slicing skin and dripping blood onto his white laces.

More hockey kids walk past us, still strangers. I feel their eyes on the skates and bloodied laces. Time ticking, pressure mounting, I make one last ditch effort to force the skate guard onto the skate blade. Nothing doing. Think, think. It's the first time the Kid's meeting his hockey team. He can't be late. He should be wearing what they're wearing. I don't want him to be embarrassed. I got it!

I'll take off his skates, and he can wear my boots!

Whipping off my hikers, the Kid looked at his now frantic mother, and calmly suggested. "How about we take the good skate guard off and compare it to the bad one?"

This suggestion being calmly offered by this 8-year-old child, appeared like something supernatural. In that tense hopeless moment, I swear I heard a choir of angels singing when the thin line of rubber across the rogue guard, seemed to hop out and acknowledge itself as the problem.

Within two minutes, both skate guards were on. I shoved my now wet feet back into my hikers. The Kid, headed for the gym, with a stride that reeked of confidence and met with his Coach at the front entrance. "Welcome, Phoenix, you're right on time. The team's inside putting their skates on."

I learned a lot that day. In any chaotic moment, when my mind is too busy making mountains out of mole hills, it simply cannot problem solve as well. We hear it again and again. By reminding yourself to stop, close your eyes, and take a deep breath, when you open your eyes again it's easier to redirect your mind to solving the problem at hand. The solution to our skate guard fiasco was simple. But I could not get there because my emotions and my misplaced concerns, were blocking the way.

My brilliant Kid on the other hand, made this problem-solving look easy. It makes me wonder how often have I missed tapping into this available resource. I like to think that I listen to my kids and consider their opinions, but I'm certain I have shielded them from too many of the decisions I regularly make in an adult's world. Has this been a disservice?

Some quick research on the topic of children and problem solving produced some interesting articles and resources on the subject.

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The value of teaching this skill early is apparent, but so too is the suggestion to sit and watch and not be so eager to jump in and get involved.

The following links offer ideas, tips, and games on the topic.

heartmindonline.org/resources/5-step-problem-solving-for-young-children

www.scholastic.com/teachers/articles/teaching-content/how-you-can-help-children-solve-problems/

And for those seriously interested in exploring this topic, a whole world of problem solving for children is going on at Odyssey BC.

<http://www.odysseybc.ca/>

World Finals for Odyssey of the Mind
Over 800 teams from around the world will compete in the 39th Odyssey of the Mind World Finals. The competition emphasizes creativity and teamwork and has grown into the largest international creative problem-solving competition worldwide. Which takes place in May 2018.

In July and August, they run the Jabberwocky Summer camp and also have ongoing workshops.

But for those of us whose schedules are already stacked with appointments and music lessons, (or hockey!), what is clear, is that just bringing the awareness of the need for children to learn problem solving skills, will make the teachable moments apparent.

Our kids are bright and varied in their giftedness and luckily at Choice School, these gifts get amply challenged with the enriched education. What we parents can do is simple. Stop doing everything and deciding everything, and permit our brilliant kids the chance to solve some of the mundane problems that make up our modern life.

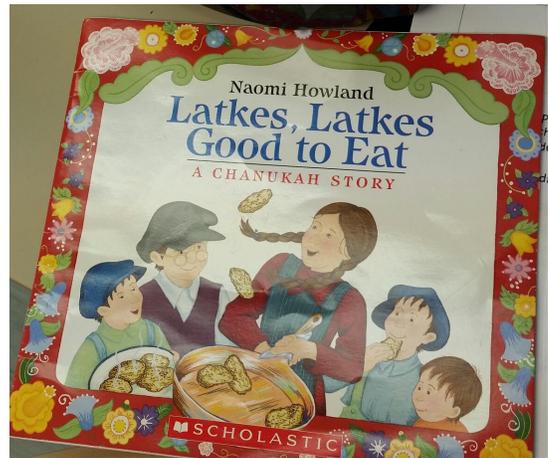
The confidence a child exudes when he or she believes, "I got this", is a beautiful thing.

I'm thinking of letting The Kid see my taxes.

Mary-Louise Zadravetz

(Parent of a Choice School Student)

Celebrations From Around the World



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

&

BEST WISHES FOR THE

NEW YEAR!

FROM ALL OF US AT CHOICE

SCHOOL

♡ Lauren Jacobs

Swathi

TK

Lynn
Reitenbach

Mrs. Malinowski

xo Lynn Chentros

Maria Suiyoshi

♡ Jameson

♡ Shaheen

Ami

Jay

Raquel