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NEWSLETTER No. 20-07

February 8, 2021

Principal's Message for Newsletter

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Dear Parents,

We entered the year 2021 with optimism tempered with caution and the first month has gone smoothly. Despite the "COVID fatigue" the world is feeling, our families and staff are weathering the storm. We appreciate how carefully parents adhere to our protocols for dropping off and picking up, remain aware of safety concerns and verify their child's health check each morning. Seeing our parents at both ends of the day is a highlight for staff, because we miss you, our school-wide events and celebrations, and our frequent chats. Let's keep our fingers crossed that we won't need to take these precautions for too much longer.

On Friday, we received from the BC Centre for Disease Control the most recent update on COVID protocols for schools. The document reiterates that schools are low-risk sites for COVID-19 transmission, and that the measures in place have been shown to be effective at impeding the spread of the virus. We are confident that at Choice our interactions have closely followed the required protocols. However, as the BCCDC requests, we are reviewing our procedures in these key areas:

1. Prevent crowding at all times; pay particular attention at the start and end of day.
2. Avoid close face-to-face contact whenever possible.
3. Assign staff to a specific cohort whenever possible.
4. Stagger recess, lunch and class-transition times whenever possible.
5. Ensure that the use of masks does not reduce or replace practicing physical distancing and other prevention measures, for both students and staff.
6. Ensure prevention measures are in place in staff only areas, including break and meeting rooms.
7. Implement music classes according to the British Columbia Music Educators' Association and the Coalition for Music Education in British Columbia Guidance for Music Classes.
8. Ensure physical activity is delivered in line with the guidance in this document

Should you wish to read the complete document, it can be found here: [Guidance-k-12-schools.pdf \(bccdc.ca\)](https://www.bccdc.ca/guidance-k-12-schools.pdf)

Our PAC continues to be very involved and making a valuable contribution to the life of the school. This month they held the raffle of the fabulous Annual Auction baskets, raising over \$2000. Because Manpreet Gosal has been elected to the Board of Directors, we were grateful that Clare Foreman stepped forward to fill the role of PAC Treasurer. Many thanks, Clare, and thank you Manpreet for your many efforts with both PAC and the Board.

PAC will be seeking parents to replace the current Chair (Extraordinaire!) Tara Nelson, whose daughter Simone graduates from Choice this year. Cathy Babineau, who has transformed the used "Uniform Shoppe" into a smoothly running operation, will also be leaving the school with Rochelle and Fabien, and PAC is hoping to find a parent volunteer to replace her. Please be in touch with PAC should you be interested in assuming either of these roles.

As many of you are aware, Megan Corrigan, our Cedar class teacher, has been on medical leave (unrelated to COVID) for the past two weeks, and was expecting to return to work today. However, last week she was advised by her medical practitioner that to do so would put her health at risk and she has therefore resigned her position. We thank Ms Corrigan for her contributions to the school and for the nurturing she has provided her students during the year and an half she has been at Choice. We wish her a full and speedy recovery. We hope to have confirmation of the new teacher for Cedar class very shortly.

With best wishes for your continued good health.

Lynn

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember that we have serious food allergies among our students, and for their safety, all of Choice School is EGG FREE AND NUT FREE. Parents are reminded that the following products contain eggs and MUST NOT to be brought to school:

- Mayonnaise
- Ranch dressing
- Hard boiled egg
- Egg salad
- Egg fried rice
- Caesar salad dressing
- Protein powder
- Egg noodles
- Alfredo and other creamy sauces

If parents have any questions about the safety of a food product, Mary Tran (Logan's mum) is happy to speak with them.

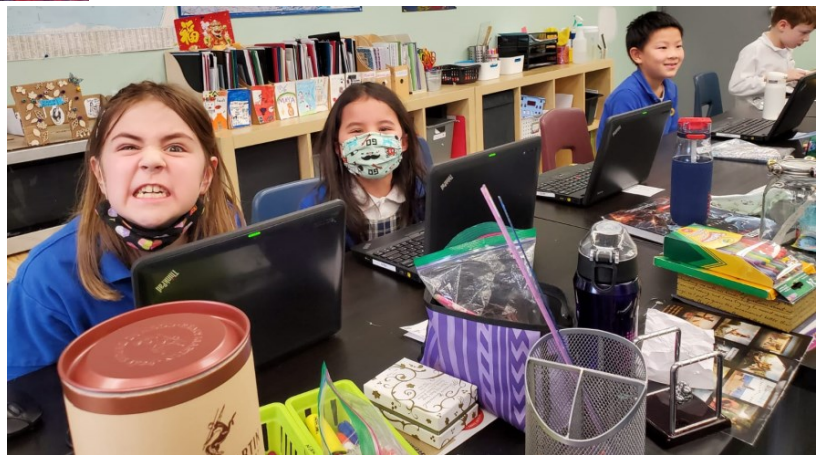
Choice is where friendships grow



"What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies."

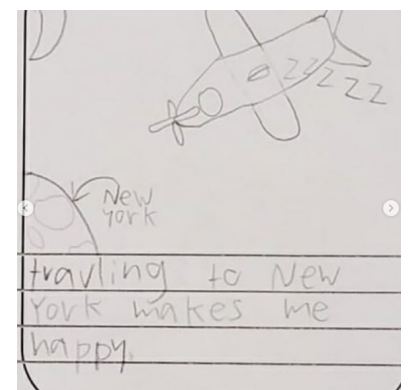
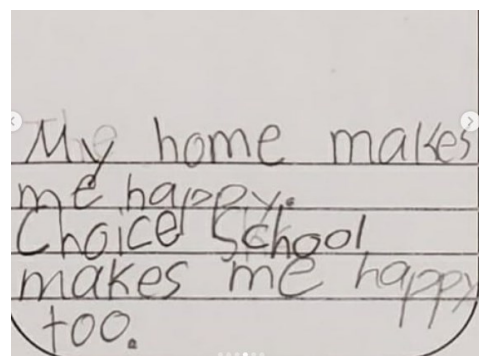
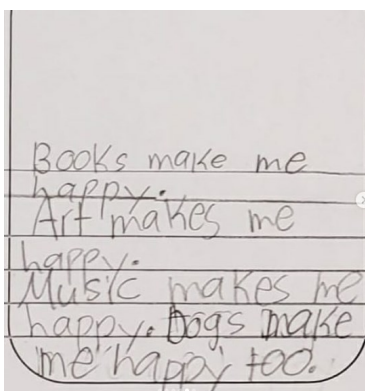
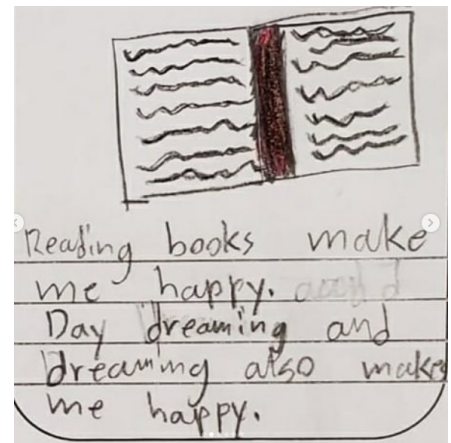
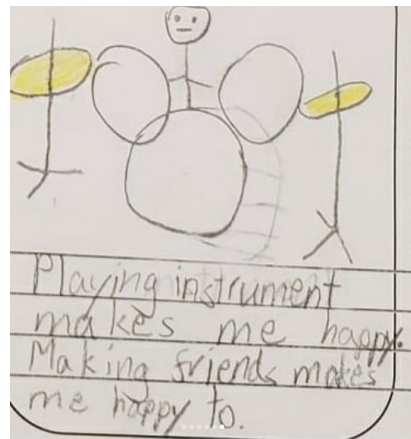
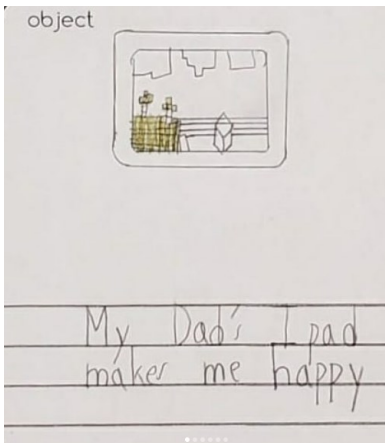
~Aristotle

At Choice, students find their tribe amongst their like-minded peers.



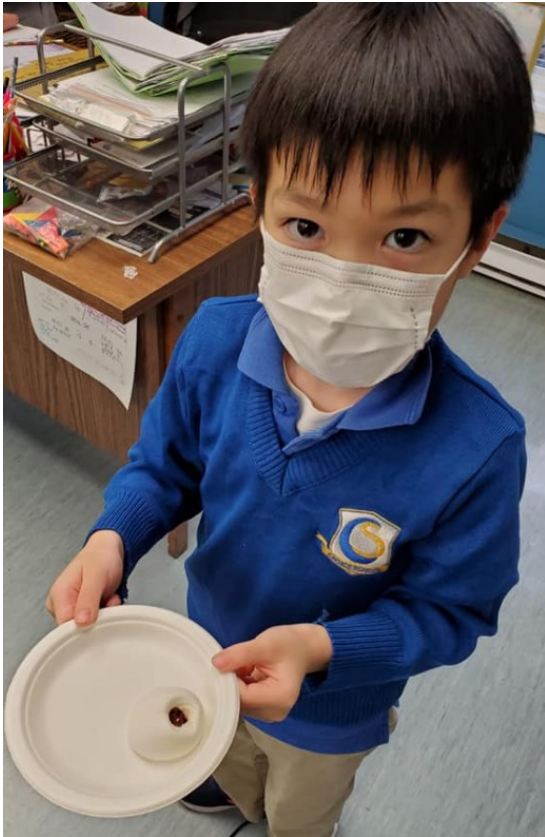


Class Maple always takes on the challenge of learning and showing off their knowledge by participating in Kahoot! At Choice, technology brings learning to life and builds skills necessary to be digital citizens in a techy world.



At Choice, we celebrate writing. Class Maple wrote about what makes them happy. Through writing, music and or art, our students find their avenue for self-expression.

Never a dull moment in Mrs. M's class



In Class Maple, students experienced thermal energy via watching, tasting, and feeling the change.



"This world is but a canvas for our imagination."

~Henry David Thoreau.

At Choice, outside the box thinking is what fills our canvas of imagination everyday and in every way.



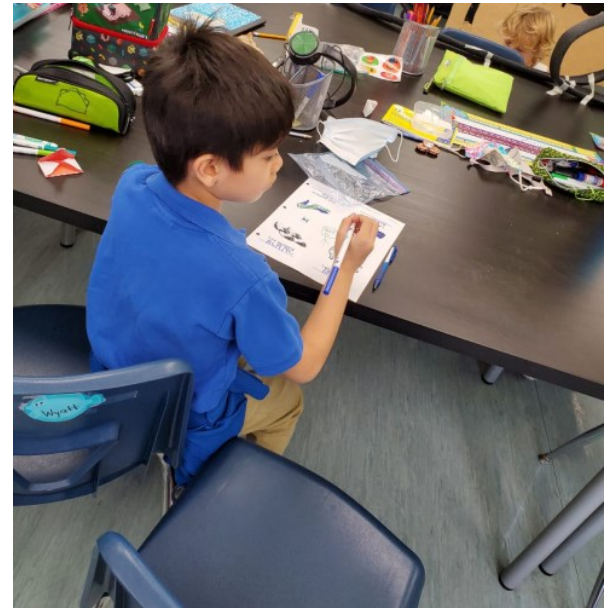
"Creativity is intelligence having fun."

~ Albert Einstein

At Choice, almost anything can inspire an impromptu story - "falling down into outer space through the puddle." K. C.



On what can only be described as a historic day, students in Choice Middle School, watched the 2021 US Inauguration Ceremony. At Choice, meaningful learning happens when real life events and the curriculum connect.



Keen young mathematicians are exploring the mysteries of topology by creating a representation of a "floating city", islands connected by causeways.



Important Dates to Remember

February 10	Lockdown drill #1
February 12	Pro-D Day (classes not in session)
February 15	Family Day (classes not in session)
February 24	Pink T Shirt Day
February 25	Lockdown drill #2
March 12	Report Cards go home
March 15 - March 26	Spring Break
March 29	Classes resume
April 2	Good Friday (classes not in session)
April 5	Easter Monday (classes not in session)
April 9	Earthquake "release" drill (information to follow)
April 14	Student Led Conferences
April 26	Pro-D Day (classes not in session)
April 28	Panoramic School Photo
(Please make sure your child is well groomed and wearing a sparkling fresh uniform.)	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



February Birthdays

Gurmeher February 6

Simone February 11

Maya February 15

Nova February 25

March Birthdays

Sera March 1

Yuci March 8

Oliver Y. March 8

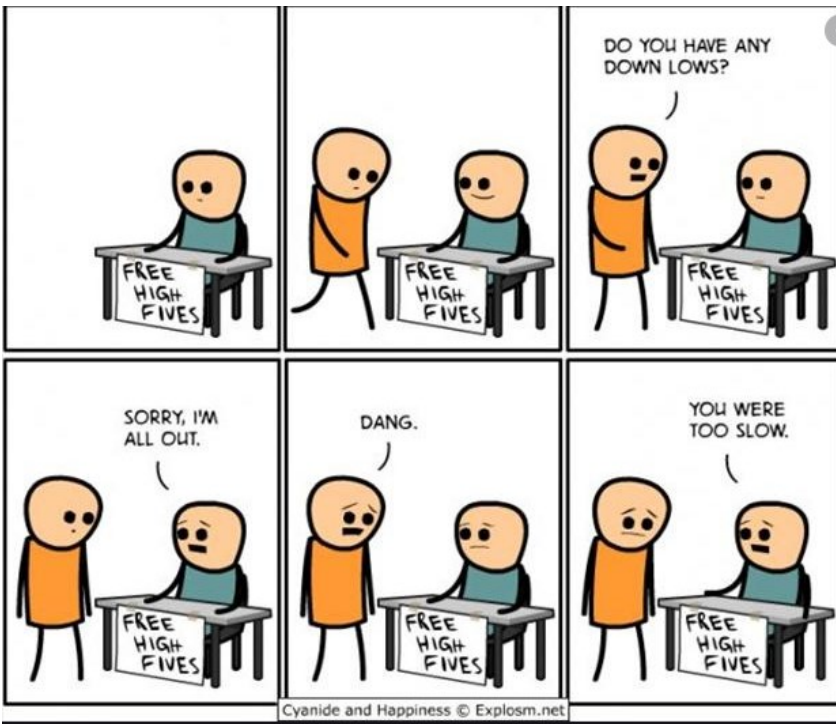
Austin March 10

Jesse March 13

Kingsley March 21

Fabien March 27

The Sunday Funnies



"My finger's stopped bleeding. I must have run out of blood."



"Private school. You can tell by the ties."

