



Montroyal Elementary

Montroyal Elementary School

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Principal – Tracey Todd

VP – Susan Teegen

Elementary Administration Assistant – Dianne Wood Palgova

April 26, 2016.

Our third term has been busy and productive so far, from our fabulous Alice in Wonderland production to a wide variety of field trips, learning projects and preparations for our Grade 7's transition to Handsworth.

There are many wonderful events yet to come as May and June are filled with opportunities to get together and celebrate our community and the learning that takes place here. Check out the "Mark Your Calendars" section on the next page for upcoming events. Included in this newsletter is information regarding planning for next year, class formation considerations and a form for special requests. We are also featuring a re-issue of some information that explains the difference between peer conflict, mean behaviour and bullying. This is useful information to consider when talking to your children about incidents that occur and also when bringing any issues to the attention of teachers or administration.

In this newsletter we have included a refresher on traffic safety in front of the school as many parents and caregivers have forgotten the safety measures put in place to keep children safe.

We have some brochures coming in for summer programs available in the community. The Artists for Kids Gallery offers day programs in North Vancouver as well as summer camps in Paradise Valley. Check out the North Vancouver School District webpage for details. Take a look in the foyer for brochures on other summer camps being offered locally.

In March the large, ongoing project to replace the walls, windows, drainage and foundation cladding of our courtyard facing classrooms was completed. It is nice to have our beautiful courtyard back and teachers and students are enjoying their new windows. Our construction days may not be over as the remainder of our old walls and windows are scheduled to be replaced in the near future. We appreciate the renewal of our spacious, solid, older building so that it can serve our community well for years to come.

Tracey Todd
Principal

Susan Teegen
Vice Principal

Monday May 2nd, 2016 is a Professional Day. Check out the dates for early dismissals on the next page.

MONTROYAL CODE OF CONDUCT

All members of the Montroyal School Community, students, staff and parents, are expected to demonstrate:

**RESPECT
RESPONSIBILITY
SAFETY**

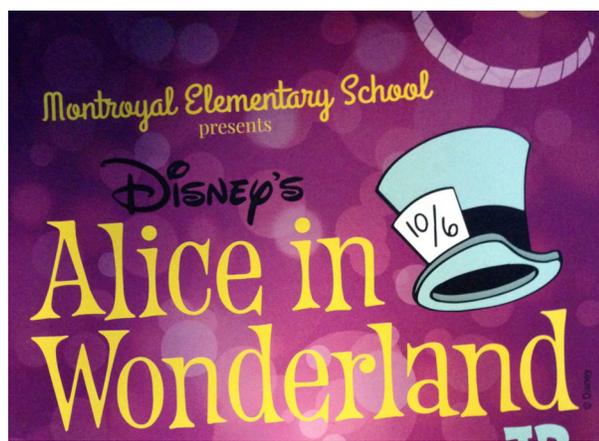
Mark Your Calendars

Wed. Apr. 27 - Staff Collaboration 2 p.m. dismissal
- Gr. 6 Immunization
Thurs. Apr. 28 - MPAC Meeting 7:00 Library
Mon. May 2 - District Wide Professional Day - no School
Sat. May 7 - Parent Gala Event
Wed. May 11 - igirl/iguy Parent information night
Thurs. May 12 - Panorama Photo
- Mini-Meet Relays & 1500 at Handsworth 3:30 p.m.
Wed. May 18 - Handsworth Track Qualifications 8:00 a.m.-12 pm
Fri. May 20 - Professional Day- No School
Mon. May 23 - Victoria Day - Statutory Holiday
Tues. May 24 - Field Qualifiers @Montroyal 12:30-3:30
Wed. May 25 - Staff Collaboration 2 p.m. dismissal
- Kindergarten Orientation 1:00-2:00
Thurs. May 26 - MPAC Meeting (AGM) in the Library
Fri. May 27 - Jogathon
Thurs. June 2 - Band Concert @ Canyon Heights
Fri. June 3 - Volunteer Tea
Tues. June 7 - Swangard Track Meet
Thurs. June 9 - Strings in the Park Concert
June 9 & 10 - Div. 6 Bighouse Program
June 13 & 14 - Div. 5 Bighouse Program
Fri. June 17 - Sports Day - Rain or Shine @ Montroyal
Tues. June 28 - Gr.7 Farewell 1:00
Wed. June 29 - Last Day - Year End Assembly

Kudos to:

Mrs. Hill
Both of our Casts
Parent Volunteers
Montroyal Staff

It was a terrific experience for our students and wonderful entertainment for all of us. Thank you, Thank you!!



Reminder: Before and After School

As the weather begins to warm up we often find students arriving earlier and staying later to play with friends. Please be reminded that there is no supervision before or after school. Student safety is important to us all. Students should be encouraged to arrive no earlier than 8:40 a.m. and they need to go home or be picked up no later than 3:15 p.m.

Dress Code Reminder

Just a little reminder as the weather "springs" into summer that we ask that intermediate students in particular wear clothes that do not show a bare midriff or have spaghetti straps or

show underwear, including bra straps, **incredibly short** skirts and "low-riding" pants. We all know that our children are inundated by the ads and the "rock star" look but we are an elementary school and need to maintain standards conducive to learning. Like most

elementary schools in North Vancouver, we also do not wear hats during instructional time. Sometimes what is okay elsewhere may not be appropriate in an elementary school setting. We will be posting the school's dress code on the school website and are working with staff to make sure that we are enforcing the school dress code consistently throughout the school. Thank for your help on this.



Student Supplies for 2016-17

Grades 1-7

Many parents are pre-ordering their school supplies and student planners (agendas). All classes from Gr. 1 - Gr. 7 use planners. These are not considered to be student fees and parents were informed that they had the option to purchase their supplies and planners without going through MPAC. For those parents who chose not to pre-order their supplies please keep the supply list provided or contact the school for a supply list for your child's grade.

Traffic Safety

Use the pick up and drop off zone in front of the school. Loading and unloading should only happen in the first spot in the line.

Please:

- Be polite to the patrollers and volunteers!
- Do not park in coned areas
- Do not arrange play dates in the pickup zone while others are waiting
- Do not park across the street and have students run across in front of cars
- Do not make U Turns on Sonora

Let's work together to keep our children safe!

Bird Watching at Montroyal

Mr. Thomson has been leading our school community in a bird watching extravaganza!

Students are aflutter with interest in the Birds of Montroyal. We've had Birds of the Week, Birds of Mystery Poetry, bird colouring books, bird identification charts, Friday morning bird watching and Bird Ball in the gym on Earth Day. Check out the video in the foyer that shows some of the birds we have seen lately.

Here is a sample of some mystery bird poetry written by our students – see if you can guess which bird they are describing.

I hide in a shrub,
Finding ripe seeds.
Look for bold yellow
If you want to find me!
I'm here all year in the open woods,
That's where my family
Spends their childhoods!

By Kieran and Natalia

Yes, I'm a very
Common sight!
From head to toe,
I'm dark as night!
In open woodland,
You hear my caws.
My beak is sharp,
So are my claws!

By Tina



GRADE 4-7 Track and Field



Track and Field season is upon us! We are very excited to see how many excited students in grades 4-7 we have wanting to join us on the Track and Field team this year. Students who were interested in joining the team were asked to come to a meeting on Monday April 13, where they were told the expectations for participation of our team.

Students are responsible for attending practices of the events that they would like to join. While we understand that there may be conflicts for some of the practice times, particularly after school, we tried to do our best to spread out activities so that students were not forced to choose between one event or another if practices were scheduled at the same time. While not all conflicts were avoided, coaches tried their best to accommodate where they could. Should your child have a conflict between track practices and out of school activities, we expect them to talk to their coaches to work out a plan. Please support your child to attend all the practices that they are able to, for the events they are participating in.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8-8:40			Sprints 6/7 Distance 6/7		
Lunch 12:15-12:55	Sprints/Relays Gr 6-7 Long Jump Gr 4/5	Sprints/Relays Gr 4/5 Triple Jump Gr 4/5/6/7	Shot Put Gr 6/7 High Jump Gr 4/5	Sprints/Relays Gr 4/5 High Jump 6/7	Shot Put Gr 4/5 Long Jump Gr 6/7
3:05-4:00		Distance Run with Ms.Teegen	Distance Run with Ms.Teegen	Distance Run with Ms.Teegen	

Dates to note:

- Thurs. May 12th** - 3:30pm-5:00 (approximately) Track Mini Meet for relay team practice and 1500m qualifications @ Handsworth Secondary. Only the relay teams and grade 6/7 1500m participants will be invited to this event.
- Wed. May 18th**- 8 am-11:30 am Track Qualification Meet @ Handsworth. We will also be qualifying our Triple Jump athletes at this event. Please drop your child at Handsworth by 8:00am. We will walk back to school together after the meet. We will need some parent volunteers to help us with this event.
- Tuesday May 24st**- 12:30-3:30 Field Qualification Meet @Montroyal. Students will be released from class when their event is occurring to participate in the qualifying for our zone.
- Tuesday June 7th**- 8am-3pm North Vancouver District Elementary Track and Field Meet @Swangard Stadium in Burnaby. Students who qualify in 1st or 2nd during the Zone Qualification Meets will be invited to participate at Swangard. Further information will be forwarded to those students who receive invitations.

PEER CONFLICT, MEAN BEHAVIOUR AND BULLYING

What's the difference?

When a child is having a problem with her or his peers, it can be hard for parents to know what is really happening – is it bullying? Or is it something else?

Each type of behaviour must be handled differently, to keep children safe and help them learn how to get along with others.

Peer Conflict

Conflict between and among peers is a natural part of growing up. Children will have times when they disagree and can't solve their own problems. They may even become so frustrated that they say mean things or act out physically by hitting, kicking or trying to hurt.

If it's peer conflict you will be aware that these children:

- usually choose to play or hang out together;
- have equal power (similar age, size, social status, etc.);
- are equally upset;
- are both interested in the outcome; and
- will be able to work things out with adult help (after calming down).

Adults can respond by helping the children talk it out, and see each other's perspective. This is often referred to as "conflict resolution".

Mean Behaviour

Children may try out behaviours to assert themselves – sometimes saying or doing mean things – such as making fun of others, using a hurtful name, taking something without permission, leaving a child out, or "budging" in line.

If it is mean behavior, usually:

- it is not planned and seems to happen spontaneously or by chance;
- it may be aimed at any child nearby;
- the child being mean may feel badly when an adult points out the harm they've caused.

When adults see mean behavior they should not ignore it. Adults should respond quickly, firmly and respectfully to stop the behavior, to let kids know that their actions are hurtful and to re-direct children to more positive behaviour.

This quick response stops children from developing a pattern of mean behaviour as their way of interacting with peers, and prevents mean behavior from escalating into bullying. It is a lot easier to correct a child for one nasty comment than to change a pattern of cruelty that grows over time.

Bullying Behaviour

Bullying is serious behavior that has three key features – all three must be present for the situation to be considered bullying:

- Power imbalance -- One child clearly has power over the other(s), which may be due to age, size, social status, and so on.
- Intention to harm -- The purpose of the bullying behaviour is to harm or hurt other(s) – it's intended to be mean and is clearly not accidental.

- Repeated over time -- bullying behaviour continues over time, and gets worse with repetition. There is a real or implied threat that the behaviour will not stop, and in fact will become even more serious.

The effect on the child who is being bullied is increased fear, apprehension, and distress. Often by the time adults find out about what is happening, the child has tried many ways to stop the bullying but cannot do so on their own.

Adults must address the bullying behaviour and ensure the safety of the student who has been targeted. They also need to reassure the children who may have witnessed the behaviour that adults are taking care of it.

When schools respond to bullying, staff will also help the child who has been bullying others to take responsibility for their actions, and change their behaviour. They will monitor the situation to ensure the bullying stops, and will support the child who has been bullied to regain confidence and a sense of safety. Staff may follow-up with the students who observed the behaviour to help them learn what to do when they see bullying.

The “conflict resolution” style of bringing the children together is not recommended in bullying situations, until considerable time has gone by and all children are feeling safe enough to talk about what happened so that relationships can be healed.

Year Review and Planning

May and June are busy months for schools. During this time, the staff at Montroyal will be reviewing the current school year and activities, and making plans for the 2016 - 2017 school year. As we are beginning to make organizational plans for the coming school year, it would be helpful if you would:

- notify the school (in writing), as soon as possible, if your child will not be returning to Montroyal in the Fall;
- notify the school if you know of any other students who will be entering Montroyal in September. Students planning to attend Montroyal need to register through Central Registration, at the Educational Service Centre (ESC) at 2121 Lonsdale Ave.

Planning for 2016-2017

At this stage in our planning, we anticipate a Kindergarten - Grade 7 enrolment of approximately 300 students. Based on this projected number of students, we will receive our staffing entitlement. Once we have this information, the following decisions can be made:

- the number of divisions at each grade level
- the number of students in each class
- where classes will be combined (4/5, 6/7, etc.)
- the amount of time provided to other disciplines in the school such as Music
- what grade levels teachers will register.

Student Placement

Once an organization has been decided upon and teachers have been assigned a class within that organization, the process of assigning students to classes begins. Our class placement process ensures that thoughtful consideration of each child's social, emotional and academic needs is aligned with the need to create balanced and effective learning environments. The assignment of students to classes is decided by a team, which includes the child's current teacher, possible teachers for the coming year, specialists such as the ESL, LAC teachers, counsellors and the administrators. This professional team considers each placement carefully as they create classes that include a wide range of students who learn in a variety of ways. In addition to individual circumstances, criteria considered in the placement process include:

1. Workable instructional groups considering:
 - the child's academic needs and strengths;
 - teaching and learning styles;
 - the child's work habits
2. Positive social groups considering:
 - placements where a child can work positively and productively with other children in the class;
 - peer support or conflicts;
 - establishing the presence of positive leaders in each class;
 - ratio of grades in split classes.
3. Balanced classes considering:
 - gender (male/female)
 - students with Special Needs
 - students who are learning English as a Second Language

- academic, social and emotional needs and abilities
 - leadership abilities
4. Other Information considered:
- the past history of students in combined or single grade classes;
 - school-based resource team recommendations

A Note About Split Grade (Combined) Classes

Split Grade or combined class organizations result from imbalances in the number of students in particular grade levels. Class size limits are set by the Ministry of Education. In today's reality that often means that the school organization needs to include some split classes. For example, we might have 41 Grade 1 students but the class size limit is 24 so we would need to create a Gr. 1 class and a Gr. 1 & 2 class with the remainder of the Gr. 1 students and some Gr. 2 students. Depending on the number of students at each grade level, using all of the criteria above may well result in the creation of some split classes. Many areas of the students' growth are considered in a student's placement such as: social skill development, physical size, independence in work habits, leadership potential, personal initiative and organizational skills. Consideration is also given to previous placement in a split or combined class. Please rest assured that if your child is placed in a split (combined) class that they will receive the grade appropriate curriculum that is prescribed by the Ministry of Education.

If there is information that the current classroom teacher and/or the principal does not have and should consider when placing your child, please complete the "Parental Information for Student Placement Sheet" (attached) and submit it to Mrs. Todd no later than May 27, 2016. **Information sheets received after May 27th, will not be considered for student placement for the 2016 - 2017 school year.**

Please consider the placement criteria referenced above when describing your child's needs. Please describe a learning environment that may suit your child's learning style/needs (academic, social, emotional). If you are requesting placements that involve other students (one or two at most) please think carefully before making your request and provide an explanation for that request. Please focus on the needs of your child. **The information that you provide in your information sheet will be given to the team of professionals described above, to be used along with the criteria listed above in the placement of your child.** Please note that it may not be possible to meet all requests as classes are determined. Teacher assignments are tentative and subject to change along with enrolment and school organization changes.

Reminder:

Please note that no information sheets will be accepted if names of staff members are used in outlining your requests/concerns. These information sheets will be returned to the sender with a reminder of the placement criteria outlined above. Our goal is to meet the needs of all students at Montroyal in order to maximize their growth as learners. We appreciate your support in this complex multi-level process of arranging educationally sound and balanced classes.

Montroyal Elementary School

Parental Information for Student Placement

School Year 2016-2017

It is important that students learn to work and socialize in environments of diversity. This prepares students for life in the 21st century and allows individual talents to shine. Teachers get to know their students very well during the course of a school year and consider each and every student as an individual and as part of the school community when considering class placement for students.

Parents and guardians understandably want to ensure that their child is placed in the best possible learning environment. If there is information that the current classroom teacher and/or the principal does not have and should consider when placing your child, please complete this form. An accompanying letter or meeting with staff or administration is not required.

Please complete this form ONLY if you have information that the staff needs to know as they consider the class placement for your child. Please complete only the applicable lines, and then rank the priority in the boxes on the left with 1 being the most important to you and 4 the least important.

Student's Name: _____ Current Gr. Level: _____

Current Teacher: _____

My child's academic/learning needs are: _____

My child's emotional needs are: _____

My child's social needs are: _____

Other concerns that should be considered are: _____

Parent Name: _____ Date: _____
(Please Print)

Parent Signature: _____

In order to have your input considered for placement, this form must be returned to the office no later than May 27th, 2016.

Date Received: _____ Signature: _____ Parent Initial: _____
(Of Recipient)