



# Newsletter

**January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

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## Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I hope everyone stayed safe and warm during our artic weather last week. School closures are always very difficult for families so I would like to thank everyone for going above and beyond in what must have been a challenging week for many. Please remember, if the district is open on a snowy day, the final decision to attend school or not is always left in parents' hands. Due to Mission's unique geography, road conditions can vary dramatically from street to street. Just a reminder, if you do keep your child home due to weather, please inform the office before 9:00am.

Although the weather has warmed up, high humidity and wind is chilling the air (there are also reports of another snow storm in the near future!). We also have a lot of snow and slush on our fields and playing areas. While most of our students continue to dress appropriately, there are still a few that attempt recess and lunch breaks outside without appropriate clothing and footwear. Parents, please send your children to school with jackets and boots at a bare minimum.

Here are a few important dates coming up:

**Jan 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>** Kindergarten Registration

**Jan 27<sup>th</sup>** BC Lions Energy Conservation Presentation  
10:25am, parents welcome to attend

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup>** School Assembly, 10:25am

**Feb 3<sup>rd</sup> to Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** Lunch time EMA martial arts lessons

**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>** PAC Meeting, 6:30, library

**Feb 14<sup>th</sup>** Pro D day, no school

**Feb 17<sup>th</sup>** Family Day, no school

**Feb 26<sup>th</sup>** Pink Shirt Day, 1pm Assembly

Thank You,

Shane Sliziak, Principal

## Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration has begun and is open until January 24<sup>th</sup>. Please visit the school or district websites

for a list of documentation (proof of age, proof address, etc) you will need to bring with you. Parents must enroll children at their catchment school. If you already have a son or daughter attending Cherry Hill but you are not within our catchment, a cross-boundary application for the incoming Kindergarten student will need to be filled out at your catchment school. Priority is typically given to students that already have siblings at the requested school of choice. Please see the principal if you have any questions regarding this.

## Grade 6 Cross-Boundary Request for Middle School

Parents of students in Grade 6 should have already received a letter indicating their catchment area middle school. Grade 6 students will automatically be registered at these schools. However, if parents would like to request attendance at a different middle school, a cross-boundary request will need to be made. If you would like to make a cross-boundary request, please visit our school office to pick up a form. Once complete, please give it to our office and it will be faxed over to the requested school. If the application is approved, parents will be contacted by the requested middle school. Please do not contact our office, as we are not part of the decision making process.

## Student Absences

We would like to remind parents it is extremely important to notify the school of student absences prior to the beginning of the day. This can be accomplished in the following ways: call the office (please leave a message if no one answers including child's name, division, date of absence and reason), visit the office in person, or email our school secretary ([marion.bok@mpsd.ca](mailto:marion.bok@mpsd.ca)). Reporting an absence should be done before 9:00am of the day the child will be away. We have very strict protocol regarding unexcused absences (for student safety) which is very time consuming for our secretary. If Ms. Bok is bogged down calling parents that did not call in an absence, this could potentially take time away from locating a child that did not arrive safely at school. If you have any questions about our student absence policy, please contact the principal by phone or email.

### Report Card Envelopes

We would like to remind parents to please sign and return report card envelopes as soon as possible. This process is two-fold. Firstly, it indicates to teachers that parents have read report cards and are aware of student progress. Secondly, it cuts down on paper waste as envelopes are re-used for each term report card.

### Cherry Hill Elementary Core Values: Parent Survey

An email was sent out today by Mr. Slizziak inviting parents to take a short survey regarding Cherry Hill school values identification. We have already surveyed staff and students and felt it equally important to give voice to our parent community. Once we have collected parent survey data we will compile it with staff and student data and select our core values. These core values will define who we are as a school community and help guide future decision-making processes. An art project in the spring will be used to communicate our core values to the community. If you haven't yet, please complete the survey (survey link was sent by email).

### Healthy Schools Moment: Choose Water!

Many of you may have noticed that we recently had a new fountain and water bottle filling station installed in the hallway near our office. The new water station has an industrial grade filter on it. Our students report that the water tastes great and is nice and cold! Our Healthy School Nurse, Janice Walsh, would like to remind families that choosing water is always a great choice! Water helps you digest food, stay hydrated, carry nutrients (like vitamins and minerals) to different parts of the body and much more. Water, along with plain milk and unsweetened fortified plant-beverages, are the best choices to stay hydrated. For picky children, try adding fruits and herbs to hot or cold water for a splash of flavor. It's uncommon for kids to reach a level of activity where they require sports drinks. Most often the best choice is water and a light snack.

### Student Learning Survey

As in past years, families of students in Gr. 4 will be invited to complete the Student Learning Survey. Information regarding this survey will be sent home shortly. Information from the online survey is used to help Cherry Hill and Mission Public Schools District improve students support systems. Our Gr. 4 students and staff will also be invited to complete the survey. If your son or daughter is in Gr. 4 please keep an eye out for survey information in the near future.

### Winter Food Drive Results

I would like to thank parents for their efforts with our recent winter food drive. Donations were used for local family hampers and our local food bank. Our local food bank was very appreciative of the large donation. The winning divisions of the food drive competition were Divisions 1 and 13. Together they decided to make a monetary donation to the Vancouver Children's Hospital. We have many people in our school community (including Principal Slizziak) that depend regularly on the amazing work Children's Hospital does in supporting our little ones. We know our donation will be put to great use! Thank you everyone for your support with this.

### Great Things At Cherry Hill



Students putting on the final touches at our Cardboard Building Challenge



Division 4 performing at our concert. This group really stole the show!