Vice-Principal & Principal’s Message

November has been another amazing month at McCammon. We are reminded each day when we walk through the school doors about the cooperative and caring nature of our school community. Thank you!

Our school focused on Respect as we honoured the past and present men and women who proudly serve our country during our Remembrance Day Assembly. Classes spent time discussing how being respectful begins with being kind and caring towards each other.

December is such a busy month with lots of festivities. It is a wonderful time for visiting with friends and family and sharing in the spirit of giving. At McCammon, we have so much to be thankful for as we wrap up a successful first term. Our students will be showing their Christmas spirit during our Christmas Concerts and also while we take some time to Deck the Halls of our school.

From our school family to yours, we wish everyone a peaceful and safe Christmas holiday.

Mr. Jason Kemp & Mr. Brad Driscoll

Report Cards

Term 1 report cards will be sent home on Wednesday, December 19th. Please be sure to sign the envelope label and return the envelop to your child’s teacher so we will know that you have seen it. Also, it is important that you read the comments and suggestions with your children and discuss with them ways they can be successful. Thank you for all your support!

In 2018-2019, Chilliwack School District (Kindergarten to Grade 5) report cards will move away from reporting with letter grades and will focus on communicating the continuum of learning with specific personalized comments. To effectively communicate students’ accomplishments and their progress towards the learning standards; teachers will use a reporting template that places an emphasis on learning as a continuum, that celebrates students’ successes and describes learning in relation to the learning standards. Please see the attached for more information about this exciting change.

Christmas Dinner

Christmas dinner is quickly approaching. This is McCammon’s 34th year of Christmas Dinner and we want to thank our amazing PAC for continuing on with this wonderful tradition. On Thursday, December 6th, students will be gathering in the school gym for a full course Turkey Dinner. Students do not have to wear their uniforms if they can come dressed in their Christmas Best!

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Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 18</td>
<td>Winter Concerts (9:00am &amp; 7:00pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Skating &amp; Pancakes Day 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 19</td>
<td>Term 1 Report Cards Sent Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 20</td>
<td>Skating &amp; Pancakes Day 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec. 21</td>
<td>Term 1 Celebration Assembly (10:45)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 22–Jan 6</td>
<td>Christmas Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 7</td>
<td>School Reopens</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 10</td>
<td>PAC Meeting (6:30 School Library)</td>
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</table>
Annual Winter Concert
Our classes have been busy getting ready for this year's Christmas Concert, December 'Round the World. For the month of December, students will be learning their lines and practicing songs.

There will be two shows on Tuesday, December 18th, a day performance at 9:00am, and an evening performance at 7:00pm. For the evening show, doors to the school will open at 6:30pm. Please look for more information from your child's teacher.

PAC Bake Sale
Do you need some Christmas baking for the holidays? PAC will be holding a Christmas bake sale after our day and evening Winter Concerts on December 18th. They also need bake sale donations. If you are able to donate some goodies, bring them to the Multi-Purpose Room the morning of December 17th.

McCammon StrongStart
Do you have a child(ren) under 5? Did you know McCammon offers a free drop-in early learning centre every school day from 8:15-11:15? Drop-in and stay for the whole program or fit a shorter visit into your day. StrongStart is a preschool style program focused on learning through play with a parent or caregiver. Dates to note this month:
- Dec 7th last Library visit before the holidays
- Dec 21st Potluck Snack Party!
For more information visit about StrongStart visit: https://www.sd33.bc.ca/strong-start

Skating and Pancakes
Staff and students will be walking to Prospera Centre on Wednesday, December 19th and Thursday, December 20th for our annual skating and pancakes. Half the school will skate on Wednesday with the other half on Thursday.
Students will be treated to some delicious pancakes when they return to school. Permission forms will be coming home shortly. All students will be required to wear an approved helmet for skating.

Library News
Exciting times in the Library these days as many new books are starting to arrive. With our windfall from the "Adopt-a-School" fundraiser, I have begun to purchase and process some of the newest, hottest fiction titles. As well, we are purchasing replacement copies for some of our most loved, tattered and worn out books and fiction and non-fiction titles to support the new curriculum. It's like Christmas every day!

Speaking of Christmas, remember that Super Reader continues through the Christmas holidays. Nothing better than being able to cozy up with a good book and some Christmas goodies! So don't forget to keep marking those reading records over the holiday break. Our first Super Reader 100 night recognition assembly is scheduled for Monday, January 28th. Students who reach 100 nights after this first assembly will be recognized later in the spring at another assembly.

**A tip from the Grinch…
Books and magazines make EXCELLENT gifts and stocking stuffers:)**

Eric Wilson Visit: We enjoyed a presentation by author Eric Wilson in early November. If your grade 3 - 5 children are taking a new interest in some Canadian mystery books, you can blame Eric for getting us excited about them! We are also looking into having another presenter for our younger students later in the spring.

Reading Link Challenge has begun again! The books for this program were delivered early in November and some of our grade 4 and 5 students have already started to read the six titles in this reading challenge. RLC is a program in partnership with Fraser Valley Regional Library for grade 4 & 5 students. The in-school challenges are held in March and the District challenge is in April. The titles are available on a special shelf in our Library and also in the Chilliwack, Yarrow & Sardis branches of FVRL. This year's books are:

- A Boy Called Bat (Arnold)
- Stella By Starlight (Draper)
- Howard Wallace, P.I. (Lyall)
- Ungifted (Korman)
- The Worlds According to Humphrey (Birney)
- The Land of Forgotten Girls (Kelly)
From our McCammon family to yours,

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Happy New Year

Nick Hayes
Jerry Trail
Brad Driscoll
Donna Reich
Sasha Harris
Sally Stephenson
Besse
Kelly Keihan
Mrs. Brennan

Claudia Montes
Abby Van Roorden
Vajira Peera
Sharon Engstrom
Babulka Pain

Mary Kushnirich
Leeds
Jaime Bettker
Michelle Jones
Rebecca Sundik
Corina Faur
McCmomon Elementary and Zones of Regulation

We recognize that emotional and social development is equally important as academic development therefore we are purposeful in teaching students to be self-aware and teach them strategies to regulate their emotions and social interactions. We encourage families to use the same language and approaches at home so we have consistency between school and home.

What is Zones of Regulation?

Many of life’s regular events cause every persons’ emotional states to become less regulated; our emotions move into the “yellow” or “red” zones. Zones of Regulation teaches students to become aware of their feelings and emotions and to recognize triggers that cause their emotions to rise. Students are then taught how to use calming tools or strategies to decrease their emotions to a more normal “green zone” of being calm and focused.

What are Student Taught?

- How to identify their feelings and levels of alertness
- Different regulation tools/strategies to use
- When and how to use the tools/strategies
- Problem solving strategies for positive solutions
- Understanding how their behaviours influence others’ thoughts and feelings

Want to Know More about Zones of Regulation?

- Video: Why Do We Lose Control of Our Emotions?
- Video: Zones of Regulation
- Blog: Self-Regulation and the Zones of Regulation

HOW DID YOUR FAMILY USE THE ZONES AT HOME THIS MONTH?

Tell us how your family used the Zones of Regulation at home this month. Tear off this section and bring to the office to be placed in a draw at our monthly assembly.

____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Child’s Name: ______________________________  Child’s Teacher: ______________________
November 21, 2018

Re: Communicating Student Learning: Moving Beyond Letter Grades

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I wanted to share some exciting changes that the Chilliwack School District is implementing for report cards and communicating student learning. If you have not already been made aware through our school’s Parent Advisory Committee, students in elementary schools in Chilliwack will no longer have letter grades as a part of their report cards. Chilliwack will be one of eleven other school districts in British Columbia communicating student learning in this manner accounting for the majority of students in our province.

In 2015, the BC Ministry of Education introduced draft-redesigned curriculum in Kindergarten to Grade 9. The Ministry reports that a key goal in modernizing the education system was to provide students with an education that is still rigorous, but also flexible and innovative, one from which they gain the knowledge, skills, and abilities they need to succeed in today’s modern world. As the curriculum evolves so must the assessment and reporting of student progress. The goal of reporting and communicating student learning is to ensure that parents are well informed about their children’s progress, while being aligned with the directions of the revised curriculum.

The Chilliwack School District is committed to supporting the provincial directions of communicating with all parents and guardians through ongoing and responsive forms of reporting. We continue to identify better and more effective assessment and evaluation processes that align with the redesigned curriculum.

In 2018-2019, Chilliwack School District (Kindergarten to Grade 5) report cards will move away from reporting with letter grades and will focus on communicating the continuum of learning with specific personalized comments. To effectively communicate students’ accomplishments and their progress towards the learning standards; teachers will use a reporting template that places an emphasis on learning as a continuum, that celebrates students’ successes and describes learning in relation to the learning standards.

Attached is more information about the shift in communicating student learning. If you have further questions, feel free to contact your child’s teacher.

Sincerely,

Brad Driscoll
Principal
Ongoing Communication

Communicating student learning that is focused on ongoing formative assessment provides students and families with: clear learning intentions, criteria for success and descriptive feedback in order to guide further learning.

Communication requires ongoing interactions and dialogue about student progress throughout the school year, involving the teacher, the student, and the parent, to provide up-to-date information about the student’s learning. This information should:

- be descriptive, and include suggestions regarding ways that parents can support their child
- reinforce the importance of self-assessment and goal setting
- include feedback from multiple sources, as appropriate, including the student, teacher, peers, and parents
- encourage students to work toward their goals, build student ownership, and make clear their role in the communication process
- encourage students to use this information to make necessary revisions to their work and set new learning goals
- where appropriate, take advantage of current technological tools to promote and support communicating student learning
- Communication can happen in a variety of ways, including in: person, electronically, or in written form.

-BC Ministry of Education, October 2016
The Provincial Context: Improving Assessment and Reporting Practices

As the curriculum evolves, so must the assessment and reporting of student progress. The goal of reporting and communicating student learning is to ensure that parents are well informed about their children’s progress, while being aligned with the directions of the revised curriculum.

Effective communication between the home and the school is central to student success. The goal of communicating student learning is to ensure that communication between home and school is effective and ongoing, so that:

- parents are well informed about their child’s progress
- parents are involved as partners in a dialogue about their child’s progress and the best ways to support and improve learning
- students are provided with information that is meaningful to them and helps them to improve their own learning

-BC Ministry of Education, October 2016

SD 33 Context

The Chilliwack School District is committed to supporting the provincial directions of communicating with all parents and guardians through ongoing and responsive forms of reporting. We continue to identify better and more effective assessment and evaluation processes that align with the redesigned curriculum.

The redesigned curriculum reflects a continuum of learning and emphasizes a fundamental shift in how we design engaging learning environments and how we communicate the process of learning to students and parents. With the implementation of the redesigned curriculum, it is difficult to align the historical use of letter grades to effectively report on a learning framework that is based on a learning continuum and a competency-driven approach to learning.

To effectively communicate students’ accomplishments and their progress towards the learning standards; teachers will use a reporting template that places an emphasis on learning as a continuum, that celebrates students’ successes and describes learning in relation to the learning standards.

In 2018-2019, Chilliwack School District (Kindergarten to Grade 5) report cards will move away from reporting with letter grades and will focus on communicating the continuum of learning with specific personalized comments and these four descriptors.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beginning</th>
<th>Developing</th>
<th>Applying</th>
<th>Extending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>to acquire knowledge, skills, strategies and processes. With support, student is beginning to understand grade level concepts and competencies.</td>
<td>the ability to apply knowledge, skills, strategies and processes. Student is further developing their understanding of grade level concepts and competencies, but still requires support.</td>
<td>knowledge, skills, strategies and processes consistently. Student is working independently and is meeting grade level concepts and competencies.</td>
<td>knowledge, skills, strategies and processes creatively and strategically. Student can apply concepts and competencies innovatively in another context.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Letter grades will be provided to parents/guardians upon request.

Assessment

Classroom assessment is an integral part of the instructional process and can serve as a meaningful source of information about student learning. Feedback from ongoing assessment in the classroom should be immediate and personal for a learner in order to further guide the learner to reflect on their current level of understanding and to set new personalized learning goals. Assessment “far” learning is central within the redesigned curriculum and assessment framework. Assessment is ongoing and inseparable from the instructional, assessment and the learning cycle.

Given its many benefits for learning, classroom assessment is being given a much higher profile in B.C. than in the past. The province will be providing new supports for this program over the next two years. These tools and resources will be aligned to B.C.’s Know-Do-Understand curriculum model - what students are expected to know, be able to do, and understand.

-BC Ministry of Education, October 2016
SENSORY-FRIENDLY SANTA EXPERIENCE

8AM–10AM DECEMBER 9

Individuals with all spectrums of special needs and their families are invited to a private photo session at Santa Land at Central City where extra care is taken to support sensory, physical, and other developmental needs to make this a magical holiday experience.

This event is in partnership with Autism Speaks Canada. There is no admission charge, however photo packages that capture holiday memories will be available for purchase at the event.

For additional information or to make a reservation, visit www.centralcity.ca or autismspeaks.ca (Family Services Partnership section).

SantaCares

AUTISM SPEAKS®

CENTRAL CITY
In many poor countries, children suffer from a malnutrition disease called Diarrheal disease. By collecting batteries, we can put an end to the suffering.

Each year diarrheal kills about 525,000 children under 5

Our process: First the batteries are donated to your schools box. They are then collected and brought down to a science lab in Vancouver. From there, zinc tablets are made. Once this process is finished, these pills are sent to Ethiopia. The pills are then distributed throughout the affected regions to save young lives suffering from diarrheal.

Globally, there are nearly 1.7 billion cases of childhood diarrheal disease every year.

Email us at: zinccsavesslives@gmail.com
All youth welcome!
Ages 12-18

Chilliwack Community Services Presents:

Annual Youth Services Christmas Party

St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
8871 School Street, Chilliwack
Friday, December 14th
4:30 – 7 pm

Need a Ride?
Call/Text
Brittany Wheaton
wheatonb@comserv.bc.ca
604-316-0449

FREE Admission
FREE Gifts
FREE Dinner
Families First Presents

Rest and Play This Holiday!

Workshop is FREE of charge    Childcare is NOT provided

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How to PLAY

- What is true play?
- Play for all ages
- Playful ideas, tips and resources

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How to REST

- What is true rest?
- The benefits and challenges of sleep and sleep routines
- Self-care and stress reduction strategies

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Tues. Dec. 4, 2018
10 – 11:30 a.m.

Light refreshments will be provided

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Location: Chilliwack Community Services
45938 Wellington Ave, Downtown Chilliwack

Registration is required.
For more information and/or to sign up please contact

Sandy Seib
604 793 7225 or seibs@comserv.bc.ca