



# Montroyal Elementary School

5310 Sonora Drive, North Vancouver, B.C. V7R 3V8

Phone: 604-903-3650

Callback: 604- 903-3711

Principal – Karen Harrop

VP – Sanjeet Johal

Elementary Administration Assistant – Dianne Wood Palgova

October 20<sup>th</sup> , 2011

## A Message From The Principal

"We learn more by looking for the answer to a question and not finding it than we do from learning the answer itself."

Lloyd Alexander

Research continues to reinforce that exploration, direct instruction and the opportunity to communicate and reason along with good old-fashioned practice all have a significant role to play in student learning. The increasingly rapid changes in technology has changed society. We must raise and educate a "next generation" as global learners who are flexible and adaptable thinkers. Today's students will need to be able to ask the right questions not just find the right answer. The ideology of Math 44 reinforces Alexander's point that we learn more by looking for the answer through flexible thinking and looking for alternate solutions than we do from finding "the right" answer. Similarly, we continue in partnership with parents to look for the answers to improve student learning in reading, writing and in creating a safe, caring and healthy school environment.

Teachers are working with each other, with students and with parents so that we can be the best that we can be, as partners in your child's education. As parents, you play a crucial role in laying the foundation of your child's learning long before they come to school. Children model what they see, both the good and the bad. If your child sees that going to school, being on time, treating others with respect and completing homework is important to you, it will become important to him or her. We need your support, cooperation and trust.

Talk to your child about what he or she is learning. This tells your child that you value what they do at school. Read to your child, read with them and read near them. Help your child to see real-life connections to math. Reinforce the positive qualities that we are teaching your child, through the Virtues Program, in life outside of school.

**You** were your child's teacher long before we joined the team.

Mrs. K. Harrop



**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup> is a Professional Day  
No students in attendance.**

## MONTROYAL CODE OF CONDUCT

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

**RESPECT  
RESPONSIBILITY  
SAFETY**

### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- Fri. Oct. 21** -Province Wide Pro Day  
No students in attendance.
- Tues. Oct. 25** - Gr. 6 HepB Shots  
-Art Mania  
-Student Council Meeting
- Wed. Oct. 26** -Global Learner Workshop 1.3
- Thurs. Oct. 27** - Hot Dog Day  
-Mad Science 3:00 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 28** - Performing Artist -Group America
- Mon. Oct. 31** - Hallowe'en Parade
- Tues. Nov. 1** - Art Mania
- Thurs. Nov. 4** - **Sushi & Wraps Lunch**  
- Mad Science 3:00 p.m.
- Tues. Nov. 8** - Art Mania
- Thurs. Nov. 10** - Pizza Lunch  
- Remembrance Day Assembly (10:45 a.m.)
- Fri. Nov. 11** **Remembrance Day**  
- Schools Closed
- Tues. Nov. 15** - K Tour 9:30 a.m.  
-Photo Retakes 10:00 a.m.  
-Art Mania
- Thurs. Nov. 17** - Newsletter  
- Pasta Lunch  
- Mad Science 3:00 p.m.

### Harvest Lunch

Yum!

What a success! Lots of Great Food!  
Good company in Family Groupings!  
Thanks to Mr. Thomson and Ms. Bergstrand for organizing our first Harvest Lunch in recent memory. This multi-age family grouping provided an opportunity for students to get to know students from other classes. Our Grade 7 students did a wonderful job in providing leadership within the groups. Thanks to Mrs. Hill and Ms. Bergstrand for the entertainment at lunch on that day.  
Harvest House was most grateful for the tremendous food donations and the style in which they were presented.

### Basketball

Basketball season is well underway. Lots of friendly competition between teams. Schedules are posted on the school website and outside the gym.

### Student Council

This year's Student Council is another terrific group. School Spirit Days - On the **last** Friday of every month, we will have a special event. This month we had crazy headgear day. Check out our photos.

Please welcome our 2011-2012 Student Council:

Co-Presidents - Nicholas & Karina

Vice-President - Robert

Secretary - Jacob

Treasurer - Ben

Co-Communications Directors - Max & Rhyllie

Special Events Co-ordinator - Jenelle





## **Global Learner: Not Just Art Workshops**

We would like to provide parents with an overview and update on the progress of the **Global Learner Program**. The Global Learner Program was developed at Montroyal to meet the needs of our students. Beginning in the spring of 2007, students, parents, teachers and administrators were invited to provide input into the future direction of our school. Through looking at the unique skills of our staff, studying the future needs of our students, and incorporating the views of parents, the Global Learner Program was developed. The Global Learner Program was designed to develop each student as a whole and teach the skills needed for his/her future. The program focuses on 21st century skills including digital-age literacy, inventive thinking, effective communication, and high productivity.

### **Digital-age Literacy**

In the past, being able to read, write, and do basic calculations was considered being literate. Today, our students need more. In addition of knowing the basic skills of reading, writing and math, they also need to learn basic science and technology skills and develop a global awareness as the entire world becomes more inter-connected.

### **Inventive Thinking**

Technology has changed society. With the dramatic rate of change, students in this generation will need to be adaptable. To stand out, they must be creative and thoughtful; they need to be willing to make mistakes, to take risks, and to understand that there is not always one "right answer" in life.

### **Effective Communication**

Research has show us that effective communication skills are essential for today's knowledge-based society.

Students need to learn to be able to work independently but they also need to be able to work on teams by developing interpersonal skills, communication (speaking and listening) skills, as well as learning social and civic responsibility. For our students to become responsible global citizens, they must learn to be informed, to effectively share their own ideas, and to really listen to the ideas of others.

### **High Productivity**

To achieve their potential, our students need opportunities to practice and learn productivity skills. They must learn to prioritize and plan projects in order to achieve results. Students need to be exposed to real-world tools, and to learn how to make high quality finished products.

During the 2008 school year, everyone began to work on the goals for the Global Learner Program. To facilitate these changes, the decision was made to start small with Fine Arts as that was an area of expertise for many Montroyal teachers. Through much hard work and planning by staff members, school-wide art workshops began. The intent of the art workshops was to encourage inventive thinking, high productivity, and collaboration skills. However, the Global Learner program is *not* just about afternoon art workshops.

Through inquiry based learning, we are developing 21st Century Skills in all areas of the curriculum. The focus on the use of technology as an educational tool in our school engages our students and accommodates those students with unique learning needs. Student engagement in learning translates into better understanding and positive results. Creating opportunities for students to develop digital age literacy and practice using real-world tools allows them to demonstrate their learning in a variety of ways.

This year we will continue to work towards our goals of developing 21st Century Skills in our students. The staff is collaboratively planning, learning, and implementing lessons developed to address the specific needs of our students. The Montroyal Parent Advisory Council (MPAC) has been a consistent supporter of our goals. MPAC has purchased many of the technological tools that the students use on a daily basis, including two carts of iBook laptops equipped with printers and projectors, two additional multimedia projectors, digital cameras, and SmartBoards for every enrolling classroom. Many other activities have been planned to develop 21st Century Skills including, student leadership opportunities, and many in-class activities under our three school-wide themes (Children of the World, World Leaders and Leadership, and Global Stewardship). We will continue to look for opportunities to create real-life learning opportunities for students through project-based learning, continued leadership opportunities for students, and the acquisition of resources that promote real-life learning. The SmartBoards are being used throughout the school and the "master" has become "the student", as teachers are learning how to make the best use of this incredible addition to their repertoire of teaching tools. Teachers are finding new and innovative uses to present and practice curriculum. These technological initiatives continue to support student learning and assist students and staff in achieving our Global Learner goals. The collaborative relationship among our parents, students and staff is fantastic. Thank you to everyone who has supported this initiative and continue to help us evolve in our Global Learning Community.



## **HALLOWE'EN - OCTOBER 31<sup>ST</sup>**

Students are permitted to wear costumes during the afternoon. There are a few restrictions as to what is appropriate for school.

- 1) Students must be able to change into their costumes in the classroom (put it over their clothes)
- 2) No masks that cover their entire face
- 3) No weapons or decorative weapons or masks that bleed or will frighten children

Parents please use discretion as to what is school appropriate.

The Hallowe'en Parade will begin at 1:15 with Mr. Thomson's class leading. Students will be walking into the gymnasium and out into the courtyard before heading back to class. Parents, please find room in either location to watch or take pictures of your child(ren), thank you.

### **Terry Fox Run**

Montroyal raised over \$500 for Terry Fox. Way to Go!

### **Be Bear Aware**

It is that time of year. Bears are feeding in preparation for the winter. Students at Montroyal have had presentations from Bear Aware in the past but please take some time to remind your child(ren) about bear safety. Thursdays, being garbage day raises the risk of encountering a bear in the neighbourhood.