

Oceanridge Community School

Parent Newsletter – Grade 3/4



Issue 1 September 2016

Cover art by Travis P.

Hello families!

Another school year on the go! I hope you are just as excited as I am for the upcoming year. I must say, Oceanridge is truly a breathtaking place, and I've felt so welcomed in your community already. I am eager in getting to know your children more as well as yourselves, and everything your community has to offer. Oceanridge is a big change from Richmond (no traffic!), where I've been teaching for the past two years, but I will do my very best to adapt. In this first monthly newsletter you will find classroom and school updates, information for yourselves and opportunities for your input. Please feel free to e-mail me any questions or concerns at mordona@sd100.bc.ca

Sincerely,
Miss M.

Friendly reminder to pack waste free lunches for your child and a reusable water bottle. Let's go green!



Upcoming Events

October 3rd: Nature walk (AM). Weather permitting.

October 10th: Baking apple crisp (please bring one apple)

October 13th: Beach cleanup (please bring boots and gloves)

October 22nd: Field trip to Oceanridge Old Growth Forest **CANCELLED** due to growing protest activity. Safety of the students is our utmost concern. Alternate field trip TBD.

What are your thoughts? The School Garden Project

During our most recent staff meeting, the idea of a school community garden was in discussion. The goal would be for each class to be responsible for one section of the garden.

Why a school garden? According to the BC New Curriculum Guide, our aim is to create flexible learning environments for the students (by implementing Place Based Education.) The students would have authentic opportunities to engage and learn in an outdoor environment, feel a sense of contribution, healthy living and environmental awareness. The process and nature of gardening can also be applied across the curriculum – math, social studies, art, language arts.

Funding of this project still needs to be determined, whether it's fundraising or by donation of materials from you, the families. Please let me know your thoughts, ideas or concerns. The project start date is aimed for Spring 2017.



Balanced Literacy: What You Need to Know

Just as **balanced reading** (whole language and phonics) is important, **balanced literacy** is what we need to support and foster your child's strengths and needs.

The BC New Curriculum Guide **Six Language Arts** components are:

1. **Listening:** hearing sounds
2. **Speaking:** vocal sounds to communicate with others
3. **Reading:** interpretation of written text
4. **Writing:** communication with others via written text
5. **Viewing:** visual media to encourage critical thinking
6. **Representing:** communication through visual images

What this looks like in a classroom: literacy portfolios or journals, poetry, drama, storytelling.

I believe it is important to recognize the diversity in learning styles of the students and to incorporate differentiating instruction (**group work, discussion circles, classroom library, authentic material and activities, etc.**)

You're Invited

Giftedness - A Discussion

*Led by Oceanridge's Principal Lisa May
October 22 - 7pm Oceanridge Library*

*How does giftedness present itself?
What support exists for gifted students?*

Giftedness is a complex concept; there is no right way in categorizing a student. Lisa May will explore the many frameworks and theories associated with gifted students, particularly I.K. Sandhu's 6 Possible Types of Gifted Children (successful, challenging, underground, dropouts, double labelled, autonomous learner). Lisa will also talk about different models in which **support programs** are based on (talent/multiple abilities model, whole child, basic skill education.)

We as educators need to recognize that all students have a right to equal access to learning and achievement, and that we need to use the proper support to fit the needs of that student.

The grade 3/4 class was inspired by Travis's "Nature Art" and took a vote to include it as this newsletter's front cover art.

Oceanridge Town Hall Meeting

As you are aware, the growing protests over the old growth forest are putting a spotlight on the community – both nationally and internationally. Because I am a new member of the community, I would like to educate myself and hear all perspectives on this matter. I hope to meet and talk with some of you there! Should there be any concerns of how this matter will affect the classroom environment of your children, I believe to ensure a safe and respectful learning space while raising awareness of what is going on locally.

Food for Thought...



**What is English as a Second Dialect?
Are there dialects spoken in your families or cultural backgrounds?**

The students were introduced to dialect after hearing a read aloud from Maria Campbell's *Stories of the Road Allowance People*. The story was written in direct First Nations dialect form, to preserve the authenticity of the story.

To further recognize and appreciate the diversity of English as a Second Dialect, each student will bring home a list of words which they will investigate (with the help of family and friends) different dialects associated with those words. We will then create a word wall as a visual representation of English as a Second Dialect.

The ABC's of the Bidialect Approach:

Acept students' home dialect

Bridge to Standard English

Connect to students' home experiences

While you drink your coffee...

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum-info#literacy-numeracy>

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpgHp43rByY> on Giftedness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3ij_dFpZgw on Place Based Education

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tf9Pc-AMEKA> on School Gardens

To the Reader,

This is a simulated newsletter to synthesize what I took from the research of case three. Please note that all images are “free stock”, taken from the software used to create this document.

Thank you.