HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from everyone at Westridge

Keely Saunders

Carmela Buonaggi

Jen Tan

Brent & Papa

R. Ghougassian

Sandra Knussen

Melissa Sheard

Tracy + A. Rice

♡ Ajoncas.

Rachel Chuipka

Maija ♡ Berger

Paul Kane

Julie Astoian

M Nielsen

Anny Reddy

D. Burman-Hollen

M. Phillpotts-Tse

Mandi

V. Lundgren

Margaret Kainth

Vessel

M Brown

Katia Pamelo

Rachel-Lynn

J May

Katherine Jensen

Darida Wilson

K Toney

Rosa M Laughlin

B. Bianca Vassell

Carol Bolaqrese

Linda

2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Our second December during a pandemic has been a shift once again, but slowly we are adding back in a few activities! Thank you to everyone for your patience as we continue to move slowly into this next phase and continue to put health and safety as a priority in our school. We will continue to monitor things as we move forward in these ever-changing times. As always, our remarkable staff have found creative ways to continue to bring fun, outdoor learning and seasonal activities to our students.

We were excited to be able to bring back the Jingle Bell Walk this year, with an online donation system, to keep everyone safe, but still find a way to give to those in need. We are happy to report that our efforts **raised $1,520.00 for the Food Bank!** Thank you so much to everyone that contributed funds.

We thank you for your poppy donations for the **Royal Canadian Legion #148** that totaled **$385.00!**

We must say a **big THANK YOU to Mrs. Rice, our music teacher,** for all of her creative ideas and work in **preparing the primary students for *"Here Comes The Snow,"* primary virtual winter concert** and to all the parents that were able to attend virtually. It was a great part of our December activities that we could still do, but just in a different way. We are also proud of **our Grade 7 Band, for all their progress** this year. We have the biggest band we have had in years! Thanks **to Ms. Steiger for our mini grade 7 band concert** to showcase their progress thus far. If you were unable to see the primary concert, you can still see your child's performance in TEAMS as well as the band performance.

Special thanks to **The Grinch for dropping by on Pajama Day** and spending some time with us! We have lots of fun photos!

Thanks to Mr. Nielsen, Ms. DeTracie and one of our grade 7 students for putting up all the lights at the front of the school for all to enjoy! It really does make it festive for the month of December!

The next events in January will be Hip Hop followed by our **Literacy Week, January 31 – February 4th.** Hip Hop may look a little different and we may not be able to have a live parent audience other than on zoom, but we will see where we are at in January. Stay tuned for more information! We are also very excited to hear that **the Hot Lunch Program** will be returning once a week, starting the second week of January. If you plan to participate, be sure to **sign up with Munch-a-Lunch no later than January 4th!**

Please note, this year we will be acknowledging **Black Excellence Day** on January 14th, as a lead up to Black History Month. Black Excellence Day is a day to learn about Black stories, Black art, Black joy, and Black people. This is a day to stand in solidarity by wearing black.

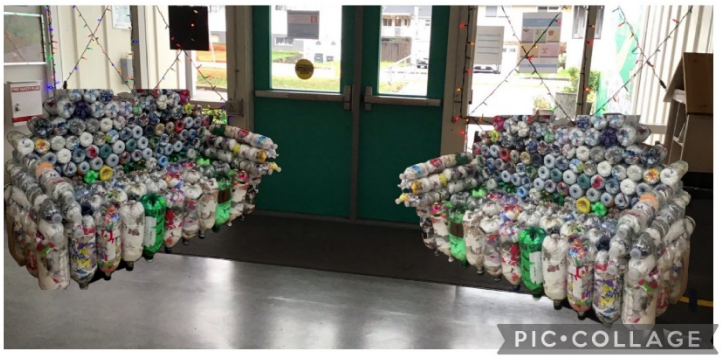
We realize it is difficult, as parents, to feel connected to the school during these distant times. **Please continue to check in TEAMS or class websites**, as many teachers are posting information regularly. As well, **our Twitter account** is also active as we try to highlight things going on in the school. You can follow our Twitter feed on our website.

On behalf of the École Westridge Staff, **we wish you a safe and happy holiday season**. We hope you have **time to relax and share some special family times. Thank you for all you continue to do to support your child's learning**. **All the best for a healthy, happy 2022**! If you are travelling over the holidays please **be sure to follow the safety protocols and continue to check the self-quarantine information upon your return,** as it continues to evolve over the holiday. Please be safe and we will see you when school returns on **Tuesday, January 4th.**

Mrs. M. Brown

WESTRIDGE WILDCATS

SCHOOL NEWS



Division 2 has started a great Plastic Sequestration Program. They are making Ecobricks to eventually make and Ecobrick bench in the foyer. Ecobricks are plastic bottles of any size, such as water bottles or soda, that are stuffed with washed and dried soft single use plastic to prevent such materials from ending up in the landfill.

You can find out more at https://www.ecobricks.org/.

Westridge, Division 2 needs your help to make this project happen! If you have plastic bottles with lids at home that you would like to donate to their project instead of bringing them to the Bottle Depot, Division 2 would be grateful.

Please bring them **washed and dried** to room 7 before, during or after school, Monday-Friday. They will be collecting bottles until the end of January, so you can collect them over the holidays as well. The bottles that they don't end up using for the project will be brought to the Depot and the money they earn will be added to the school funds.

As well, if you have any **washed and dried** soft plastic (wrappers, torn plastic bags, etc.), Division 2 will gladly take them off your hands.

Thank you in advance for your contribution for a great school initiative.

MASKS

All students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are required to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses. Students may wear a face shield in addition; but must wear a mask under the face shield. There will be times when students will forget their masks or get them dirty or wet. In these cases, the school does have reusable masks that they will give to the student, however **we do encourage children to have extra re-useable masks in their bags each day.**

LIBRARY NEWS

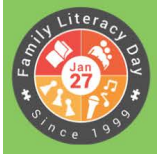
Help us Celebrate Literacy Week 2022 at École Westridge!

Fun events will include "dress up as a storybook character day"; book bingo; contests, book challenges and MORE! Here are some ways that you can help to make it a fun-filled week for students:

• Donate books. Please bring in any children books (K-7) that you can for our contest prizes. Please note: books need to be in good condition.

• Encourage your child to dress up on Wednesday, February 2nd as a storybook character. Students who dress up will earn points for their House Teams.

• Complete a book bingo card with your child for the month of January (bingo cards will be sent out in the new year and should be returned to the library by February 4th). Students who submit book bingo cards will earn points and qualify for prize draws!



• Celebrate Family Literacy Day (January 27th). Go to the library; read a book or the newspaper together; exchange family histories or play a favourite board game. For more ideas, check out https://abclifeliteracy.ca/blog-posts/family-literacy-blog-posts/10-family-learning-activities-for-family-literacy-day/

January 31st - February 4th

PAC NEWS

- A big thank you to everyone who supported the Grade 7 Grad fundraiser with Purdys Chocolate and a hearty thank you to Tracy Teminsky for coordinating! Thank you also to everyone who contributed to Holiday Hampers. We were able to raise just over $1000 for the Grade 7s and $280 for the Holiday Hampers!
- Reminder that we will be having an All-Parent PAC meeting online on **Monday at 6:30 pm January 24, 2022.** Zoom meeting link will be sent out the day of the meeting. We will be having a special presentation by **Alpha for the French Immersion parents at 6pm** on this same call to talk about transitioning to high school in the French program. Everyone welcome!

Another reminder that there are always ongoing fundraisers for Westridge School you can support:

Ongoing Westridge PAC Fundraising

- **Donate via School Cash Online**
- **Cob's Bread at Kensington Plaza** – Support Westridge when you buy fresh bread and baked goods by asking your cashier to enter **#1171** for Westridge when you pay!
- **Return-It Depot** – Have bottles and cans to return? Give the Westridge School phone number, **604-296-9037** and they will donate your return-it money to the school!
- **Mabel's Labels – Shop** mabelslabels.ca and support the school while purchasing labels for your child's clothes and school items. Just click "Support a Fundraiser" on the website and type in "Westridge" to find our Burnaby school.

Celebrating Student Art

Division 3 – Twilight Winter Trees

Celebrating Student Art

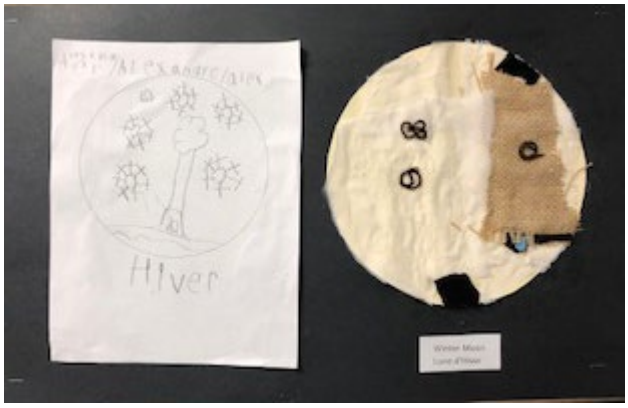
Division 10 – We wish you…..

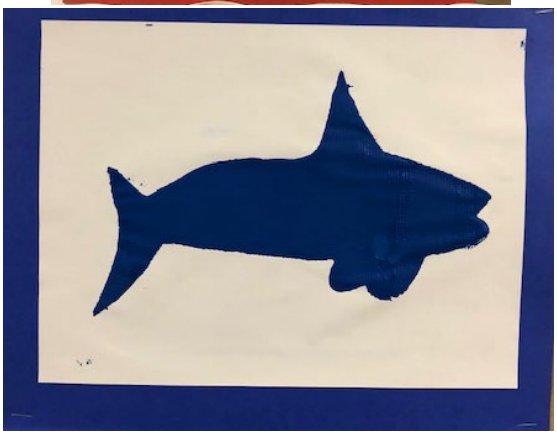
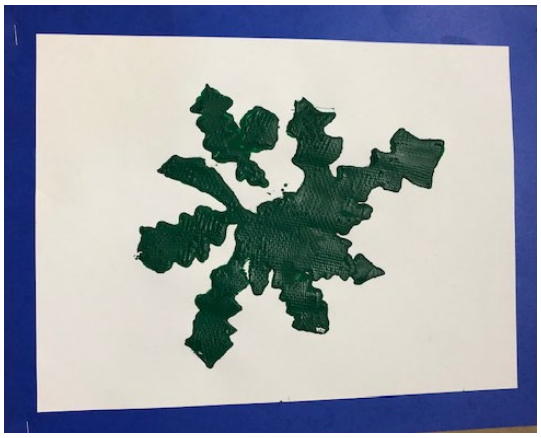
Celebrating Student Art

Division 11 – Rain Fish & Gingerbread People

Celebrating Student Art

Division 12 - Moons



Celebrating Student Art

Division 5 – Silkscreen Prints