

# ÉCOLE WESTRIDGE ELEMENTARY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE COAST SALISH NATIONS OF MUSQUEAM, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH AND SQUAMISH ON WHOSE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES WE TEACH, LEARN AND LIVE.

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BE SAFE. BE KIND. BE THE BESTRIDGE WE CAN BE

OCTOBER 2023



## A NOTE FROM MS. WONG

And just like that, winter break is here. I cannot believe it. My first term here at Westridge has been awesome. Truly. I'm loving it!

November was exceptionally busy for all of us, but especially for our young learners! November is when we start to see a good amount of growth and I think you probably noticed it as well in your children. More and more of our Kindergarteners can recite their letter sounds and they even beat out the big kids in lining up after lunch!

I've had the privilege of walking some of our students through some sticky friend situations and witness the magic of an apology and putting someone else's feelings before their own at times. I say it's a privilege because it makes me so proud of them when they realize how good it feels to be a good friend.

As the rest of 2023 winds down and we embark on a 2 week journey of absolute chaos of winter festivities, the staff and I want to say thank you for your continuous support, trust and love. We are here because we love your kids and we love what we do. We all wish you a winter break (in 2 weeks) full of love, rest, good food and memorable laughter.

See you in 2024!

## UPCOMING DATES

JAN 8 - SCHOOL RESUMES

JAN 9, 16, 23, 30 - BOYS BASKETBALL GAMES

JAN 11, 18, 25 - GIRLS BASKETBALL GAMES

JAN 10, 17, 24, 31 - HOT LUNCH

JAN 15 - 19 - LITERACY WEEK

JAN 18 - YPC CONCERT GRADES 4-7

JAN 19 - 25 - HIP HOP

JAN 29 - PAC MEETING

JAN 31 - ANTI-BULLYING PRESENTATION



## BOOKS

- "THE STORY OF HANUKKAH" BY DAVID ADLER
- LATKE THE LUCKY DOG BY ELLEN FISCHER
- THE NIGHT BEFORE HANUKKAH BY NATASHA WING



Hanukkah starts on the 25th day of Kislev, the ninth month of the Hebrew calendar. (It's also called the Jewish calendar and is used to track religious dates.) Because this calendar follows the lunar (or moon) cycle, the holiday begins on a different date each year on the calendar you use the most, which is based on the sun cycles. Usually, Hanukkah starts in late November to mid-December.

In 2023, Hanukkah starts the evening of December 7 and ends on December 15.

To celebrate the ancient miracle of the oil burning a candle for eight nights, Jews celebrating Hanukkah light a candleholder called a menorah for eight nights. The menorah holds nine candles—one for each night plus a candle called the shamash used to light the other candles.

On the first night, one candle is added to the menorah and lit. On the second night, another candle is added and lit. The adding and lighting of candles continues for eight nights. During these moments, people recite special blessings and prayers, sing songs, and exchange gifts to celebrate the miracle in the temple more than 2,000 years ago.



Inclusion is intentional. It is about identifying and removing barriers so that everyone can participate to the best of their ability.

[www.theinclusiveclass.com](http://www.theinclusiveclass.com)



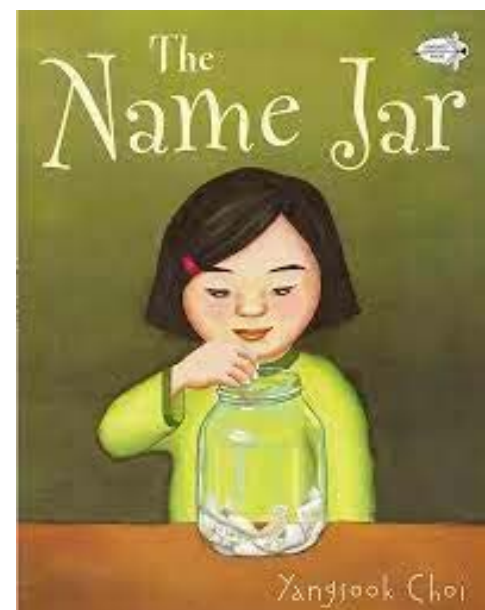
At Westridge we use our WITS.

- W - Walk away
- I - Ignore
- T - Talk it out
- S - Seek help

For more information on the WITS program please visit [www.witsprogram.ca](http://www.witsprogram.ca)

“The Name Jar” by Yangsook Choi is about a Korean girl who immigrates to America and is embarrassed by her Korean name that her grandmother gave her as a baby. So she decides to take suggestions of “American names” and put them in a jar and pick a new name.

One of the best examples of symbolism is the name jar itself. It represents Unhei's desire to fit in. At first, the jar was a solution to her problem; she could pull out a name and fit in. However, when she chooses different names from the jar, she realizes that none of them fit her identity.



## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

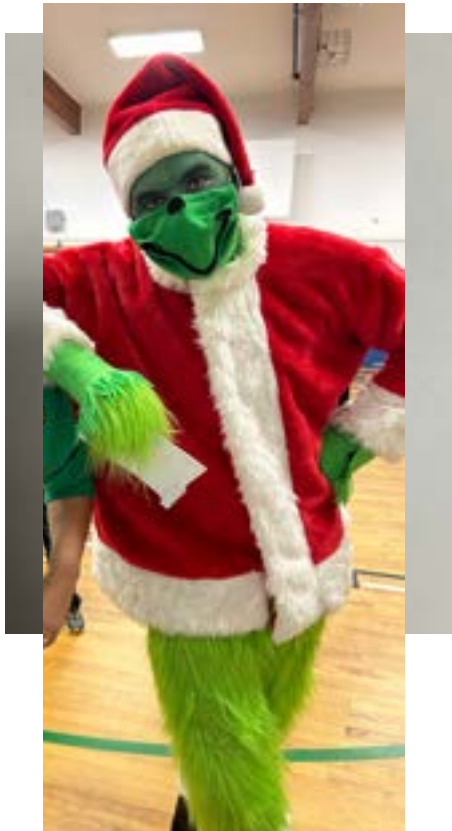
We are pleased to bring back school cash online this year again. Please access your school cash online for school forms, pay your school fees and any extra curricular or special event fees. If you have trouble logging in please reach out to the office.

## WE LOVE DOGS! BUT...

we ask that you keep them on leash at all times. Some children are allergic to pets, and some do fear them. We also kindly ask that you please also pick up after them as our children are playing outside often on the ground.

## LATES + ABSENCES

Please call the office if your child will be away. If your child is late please send them through the office. If you will be picking up your child early for appointments, please communicate with both your classroom teacher and the office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Special thank you to the PAC for hosting our pancake breakfast this past week! What a treat!

And a special thank you to the Grinch for gracing us with his presence.

We are one of the few schools in the district that support an outdoor education program! We go outside rain or shine at recess and lunch! This means that children need to be all-weather ready!

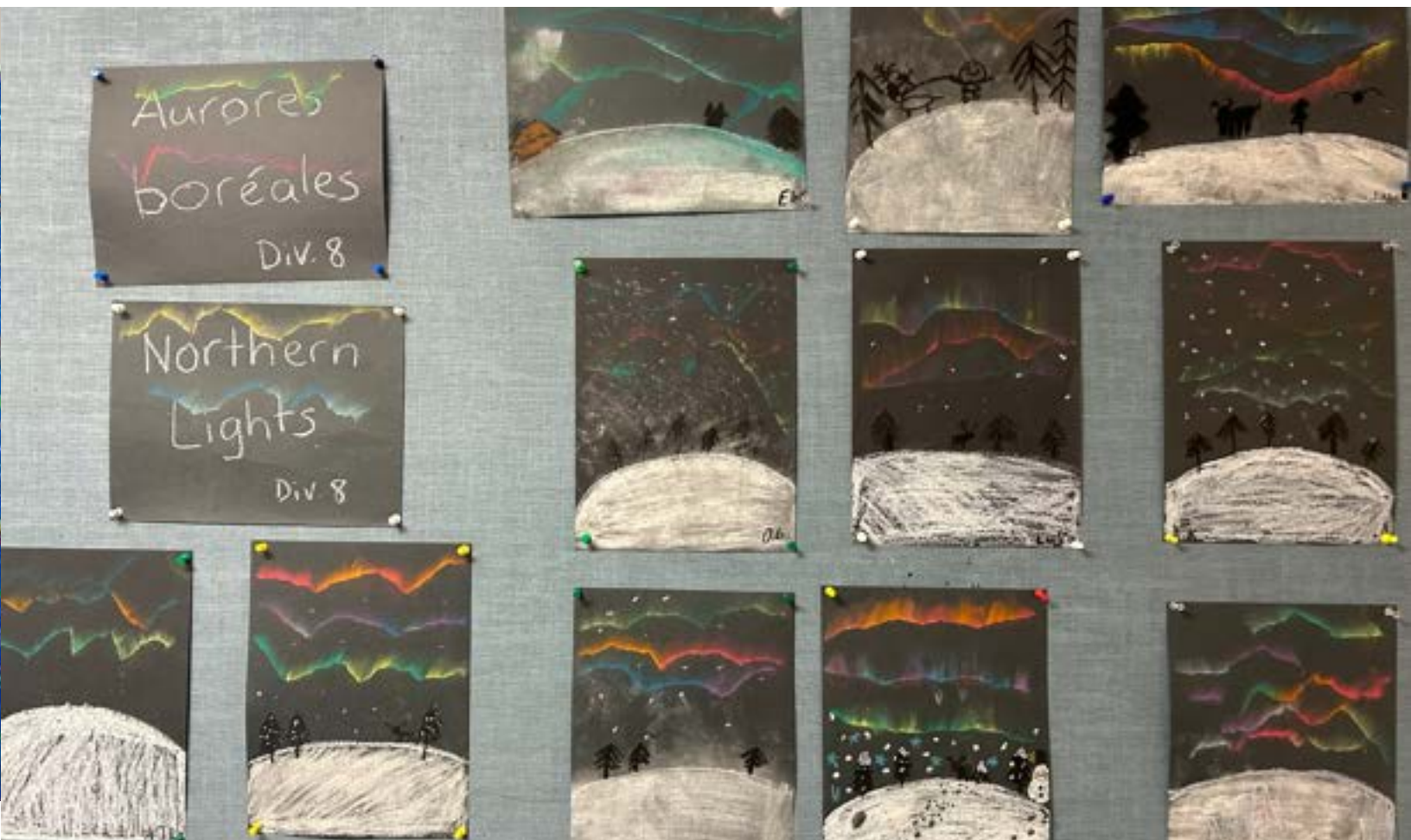
### **Please pack:**

- **Rain gear**
- **Boots**
- **Extra clothes**
- **Extra socks**
- **Gloves + hats/toques**
- **Plastic bag to take wet clothes home in**

**\*Please don't forget to label everything!\***

## **Westridge is an ALL-WEATHER SCHOOL**



















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**WESTRIDGE WILDCATS**