

# Coquihalla Happenings

Phone: 604-869-9904  
December 8, 2011



Email: [coquihalla@sd78.bc.ca](mailto:coquihalla@sd78.bc.ca)  
District website: [www.sd78.bc.ca](http://www.sd78.bc.ca)

## Principal's Perspective

2011 is winding down quickly, with preparations for our annual concert in full swing. Our concert is in the afternoon to increase student participation and assist in alleviating over crowding. The approximately hour long performance will be on **Thursday, December 15<sup>th</sup>** starting at 1:00 pm. The dress rehearsal is an alternate time for parents to see the performance. The dress rehearsal will be on **Tuesday, December 13** at 1:00 pm.

It is with mixed emotions, that I finish the term and begin my sabbatical leave. I am going to miss the Coquihalla school community and Fraser-Cascade school district. I know however, that Coquihalla will be in good hands with Ms. **Monique Gratrix** and Mr. **Peter Flynn** assuming the administrative responsibilities. Coquihalla is fortunate to have an excellent teaching and support staff, with lots of experience and recently an infusion of youthful energy. I have had the good fortune during my 18 years in Fraser-Cascade, to enjoy phenomenal support from the Hope Secondary, Agassiz Secondary and Coquihalla school communities. I was fortunate to work with many outstanding educators who were major influences in my professional career, in both the Cariboo-Chilcotin and Fraser-Cascade school districts. I would particularly like to recognize retired Superintendent **Keith Lanphear**, retired Superintendent **Brian Butcher**, retired Hope Secondary principal, **Brian Warner** and retired Secretary-Treasurer **Ken Campbell** for helping me meet the challenges of school administration. I am forever indebted to them for sharing their considerable expertise and wisdom.

I hope everyone is able to enjoy some quality family time during the break. On behalf of the entire Coquihalla staff I would like to wish everyone a fun-filled but relaxing holiday season.

## Stars of the Month

Our Stars of the Month are selected from students receiving "Gotchas" for positive and community minded behaviour. This is a part of our **Positive Behaviour Support Program**. Thanks to Mr. **Barry Stewart** for the photos.

### November winners:



*Quintin Cripps-Hornby*



*Davina Johnny*



*Claire Medlock*



*Lillian Robinson*

### December winners:



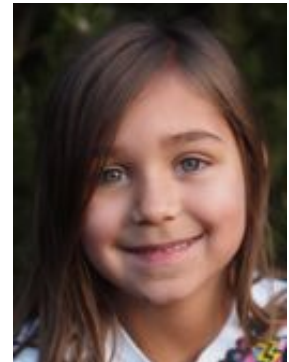
*Jacey Rousseau*



*Kaeleb Malcolm-Keay*



*Faith Johnny*



*Madison Sigler*

## First Nations Program

Several classes enjoyed **Hereditary Chief Harvey Robinson's** presentations on Kermode bears and coastal aboriginal culture. We appreciate Harvey sharing his knowledge and experiences. **Patti Dubreuil**, our First Nations Support Worker, works with students in classes, does home visits and facilitates First Nations' culture activities.

## Traffic Safety

In the winter, traffic around schools often becomes congested in the morning and at the end of the school day. We encourage students to walk to school whenever possible to reduce traffic. Some parents organize a **"walking school bus"** and supervise groups of children walking to and from school. There is temptation for parents to want to drop their children directly in front of the school, especially in winter weather. This creates safety concerns as vehicles stopped in the emergency lane limit visibility of the children who are walking. We request that you respect the no parking restriction, which applies to the emergency access lane. This lane is clearly marked by yellow lines in front of the school. The Hope RCMP staff sergeant informs us that it is not permissible to park on the marked yellow curb directly in front of the school. We appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping students safe coming to and from school.

## Inclement Weather Information

During the winter season occasionally poor weather may have an impact on school operations. Fraser-Cascade Policy # 4000 allows for school closure on days the SD#78 administration determines that it is unsafe to run busses. Schools are closed to students if the busses are not operating. There will be staff in schools to assist any student who arrived unknowingly to get safely home. If a weather situation requires bus or school closures the announcement will broadcast on Star FM (100.5) by 7:00 am. School interruptions and bus information is available on-line at [www.sd78.bc.ca](http://www.sd78.bc.ca). We want to thank you in advance for making other child care arrangements if the weather situation makes travel unsafe.

## Parent Advisory Council / School Planning Council

The School Planning Council met last week looking at our current school growth plan and the most recent student achievement data. We thank **Anna Gladue**, **Judith Del Vega** and **Crystal Medlock** for volunteering to participate on the council. If you have ideas for the plan please feel free to discuss them with one of the parent representatives, **Ms. Monique Gratrix** or Mr. **Peter Flynn**. The next PAC meeting is January 25th, at 6:30 pm in Rm #108. Come out and share your ideas. Child-care provided.

## Manning Park Ski Club & Snow Pass

The **Manning Park Ski Club** has excellent ski programs for children ages 4 – 12, which is great way for kids to enjoy winter. Check [www.manningskiclub.org](http://www.manningskiclub.org) for details or email Jim Hinton (President) at [info@manningskiclub.org](mailto:info@manningskiclub.org). **The Canadian Ski Council's SnowPass** program provides grade 4 & 5 students three free lift tickets for all ski hills throughout BC and Alberta. Apply on-line at [www.snowpass.ca](http://www.snowpass.ca). Manning Park and Hemlock Valley accept the SnowPass without any blackout dates. This is a terrific opportunity to keep kids active in the winter season.

## Dates to Note

Dec. 10 Saturday	<b>Children's crafts</b> Art Machine 11:00 am <b>Santa Letters</b> Hope Library 2:00 pm	Dec 19- Jan 2/2012	<b>Winter Vacation Period</b>
Dec. 13 Tuesday	<b>Concert Dress Rehearsal</b> afternoon 1:00 pm	Jan. 3 Tuesday	<b>Schools Reopen</b>
Dec. 15 Thursday	<b>Concert</b> afternoon 1:00 pm <b>Hope Carol Festival</b> McIntosh, Flynn, Stewart, Bissky classes singing	Jan. 20 Friday	<b>District Pro-D Day</b> classes not in session
Dec. 16 Friday	<b>Sing-a-long / Last Day Before Winter Break</b>	Jan. 25 Wednesday	<b>PAC Meeting</b> 6:30 pm Room #108
Dec. 17 & Dec. 18	<b>Mother Goose &amp; the Enchanted Forest pantomime</b> 2:00 & 7:00 pm Saturday; 2:00 pm Sunday Legion Hall - \$5 children / \$8 adults (Hope Performing Arts Community Theatre)		

