



WEST HEIGHTS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

March Newsletter

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March 7th, 2022

Isabella Lam, Principal | T: 604-826-6401 | isabella.lam@mpsd.ca

Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

As the weather is getting warmer, and daylight savings is just around the corner, this is a sign that spring break is upon us. Our Term 2 report cards have been issued home today, and we wrapped up our Parent-Teacher Conferences last week, coupled with our Scholastic Book Fair! It is always great to see parent's engaging and collaborating with staff in their child's learning.

If for whatever reason you were unable to attend our conferences last week, I would strongly encourage you to reach out to your child's teacher for an alternative way to communicate about your child's progress.

On a different note, the beginning of spring also marks the start of heavy rainfall at times, please ensure your child is dressed for the weather, and be prepared for outside play time. A pair of rainboots may be helpful.

Thank you to everyone for continuing to do your part in helping to slow the spread of illness. If your child is not feeling well, please stay home and call the office to report their absence.

If you have any questions/concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me: isabella.lam@mpsd.ca

Sincerely,

Isabella Lam
Principal

Scholastics Book Fair

Last week, we had the return of our Scholastic Book Fair! A very special thank you to Ms. Sarah-Beth Hogg, our Teacher-Librarian for organizing this year's Book Fair, and bringing families together to celebrate the love of reading, just in time before we head into spring break. We would also like to thank all of our grade 5/6 classes for helping up with setting up the Library for the Fair!

Staff News



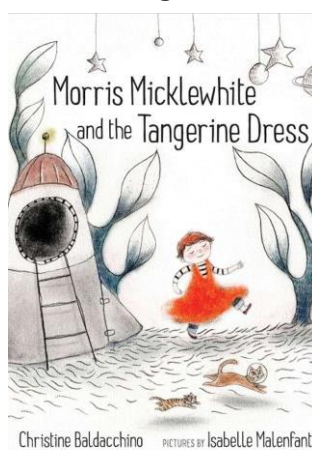
We are pleased to welcome our newest staff member who have joined our wonderful school community in the month of February:

Ms. Paula McCann – Youth Care Worker

Welcome to our school, Ms. Paula!

Pink Shirt Day Virtual Assembly

We held our Pink Shirt Day Assembly on February 23rd. It was wonderful to see so many of our students wearing pink that day to show their support for anti-bullying and to promote kindness for self and others. We engaged in a school-wide read of the story **"Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress"** by *Christine Baldacchino*.



This story book is about a young boy, Morris, who loved the color orange, and wore a tangerine dress to school. Unfortunately, he was called unkind names by his peers for wearing an orange dress to school, however; towards the end of the story, it speaks to his resiliency for staying true to who he is by challenging gender stereotypes. The message behind this story supports Pink Shirt Day, relating to acceptance of

self and others, celebrating self and others' differences, and how we could lift each other up! Pink Shirt Day started in 2007 when two Nova Scotia high school students decided to create a **"Sea of Pink"** to support a grade 9 boy who was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school, as pink was seen as a 'girls' colour, not a 'boys' colour. The two Grade 12 students decided to take a stand for anti-bullying and purchased a number of pink shirts (*Sea of Pink*) to wear the next day to show that anyone can wear the colour pink. At West Heights, we also created our very own **"Sea of Pink"** to support anti-bullying day. Please see the photo of our creation below:

Author Visit with Christine Baldacchino

Following our Pink Shirt Day Assembly, we were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet the author herself, Christine Baldacchino, all the way across from Canada (virtually)! Christine read her story "Morris Micklewhite and the Tangerine Dress", and we had the opportunity to engage in a Q/A session with her and our students. It was an amazing experience, and we truly appreciated Christine for taking time out of her day to share her heartfelt story with us. Superintendent Wilson also joined us on the call as well. We had a great time!





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Volleyball Team

Congratulations to our Grade 6 Volleyball Team who qualified for the playoffs this year! We were points away from making it to the finals this week, but regardless of the outcome, we are incredibly proud of all of the hard work, enthusiasm and sportsmanship that our students showed at every game and every practice. A special thank you to Ms. Alexandria Crump for coaching volleyball this season, along with Ms. Meg for helping out at practices and games. We are looking forward to challenging our Grade 6 volleyball team to a friendly Staff VS Students volleyball game this Wednesday and Thursday before wrapping up the season!



BC Lions Presentation

After we return from spring break, on March. 29th, we will be having a special presentation from two BC Lions players through the FortisBC Energy Champions Program. This program emphasizes the importance of environmental responsibility and to promote being an 'Energy Champion.' We are looking forward to the visit!

Parking

As always, this is just a friendly reminder that our school parking lot can become very congested before and after school. Please do not leave your vehicle unattended or park in the drop-off zone, as buses and emergency vehicles must have access without being blocked. Thank you for being kind to one another, and abiding by the rules of our parking lot.

Personal Items

A friendly reminder to please ask your child to keep all personal items at home (including electronics, toys, trading cards, etc.). If we see it, we will help your child lock it up safely. We want to make sure all of these items are stored safely at home. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Dates:

Mar. 11 th	Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)
Mar. 14 th -25 th	Spring Break!
Mar. 28 th	School Reopens
Mar. 29 th	BC Lions Presentation
Mar. 30 th	Spirit Day: Out of this World (Space Theme)!
Apr. 14 th	Terry Fox Run (more info to come)
Apr. 15 th	Good Friday (no school)
Apr. 18 th	Easter Monday (no school)
Apr. 22 nd	Earth Day Assembly
Apr. 28 th	Spirit Day: Superhero Day!

Mask Mandate

Please note that we have a very limited supply of both cloth and disposable masks available at the school. Please send your child with extra masks in a baggy in their backpack. Thank you for your support and consideration.

Covid-19 Health and Safety Reminders for Parents

Please continue to complete a daily health check of your child before sending them to school. It is important that they are not experiencing any new symptoms. If they become sick at school, we will call home to have them picked up until they are feeling better. Here are some resources that may help you. We have also posted the K-12 Health Check App on our school website.

Parents/caregivers and students can use the [K to 12 Health Check App](#)

Staff and other adults can refer to BCCDC's [When to get tested for COVID-19](#)

Staff, students and parents/caregivers can also use the BCCDC online [Self-Assessment Tool](#), call 8-1-1 or their health care provider



Have a safe and happy spring break! We will see you back here on Monday, March 28th.