

Principal's report, April 14 2016

A big thank you to the parents who have volunteered to sew the costumes and create the props. It is an amazing experience walking into the art room or the gym and see parents, sewing, building, painting, alongside the staff, quietly as your children rehearse scenes, go over dance steps, try on costumes, twirl and play. They are both practising and learning so many skills in an unstructured way. The learning intentions are dramatic techniques, following direction, learn to stay focused even when they are tired or bored (they have to keep coming back.) They are learning to listen, they are making new friends in a multi-aged setting and they are learning to be a team. They are learning to see how through hard work characters are built. Students are beginning to play with their characters and trying to interpret them. They are seeing that it is ok to make a mistake and try something new. This is teaching students about a growth mindset rather than a fixed mindset. There is a sense that "The Arts Live Here" amongst us all.

When I think back to all the events that have happened this year, I am in awe of the parent support and participation. In addition to the fundraising, which the PAC has worked extremely hard at, our parents have done so much this year to build community. Starting with the Welcome back coffee morning in the library, Chat and Tea throughout the year, joining us at Belcarra, Skating, Pancake breakfast, Career Day, Quilting and the 10/50 year celebration.

We are developing our writing goal with the staff and are interested in looking at engagement, voice in writing and choice. On our Pro D days on April 25 and 26 we are going to explore the new curriculum. It is something that we have been looking at this year. Our Pro D days will give us an opportunity to go deeper and learn together.

Ms. Dias has gone on maternity leave and Mr. Pickering will be here until the end of the year. Some of you may have heard of Ms. Windsor Liscombe's retirement. As you know I am retiring. It is not because I am tired or don't like the job any more. I love this job. I just want to do other things while I still can. I do not know who is coming in to replace me, this school is very special and I am sure it will be a smooth transition. I know whoever comes to the school will bring a new set of talents and skills to keep the arts living here!

Next week is a busy one.

April 18 we will have a full day of rehearsal at the Michael J Fox Theatre. BBy South provides us with classrooms and teachers bring work for students to do while they are there. It is a very exciting day. Our students will have an opportunity to sit through the dress rehearsal. The intermediates will be bussed to MJ Fox at 9:00 and the primary students at 9:30. Please make sure your children are on time. The buses will be leaving promptly!

April 21, we will be leaving at the same time for the theatre. The matinee will begin at 1:00 and the evening performance at 7:00.

April 22 We are finishing our quilts and we will have our Quilting bee. Walkathon Forms will be going out that day.

April 28 Div 5- Salmon release

April 29 Gr 7 popcorn sale

May 6- Volunteer tea and PAC plant delivery

May 12-Walkathon pledges are in

May 13- Po D re the redesigned curriculum

May 17 Div 10 visits the bank

May 18- Grade 7 Boston Pizza Night

May 19 1-1:45 Walkathon