



Monterey School News

October 24, 2011



Upcoming Events

- Thursday, October 27 – Fun Foods
- Tuesday, November 1 – Photo Re-takes
- Tuesday, November 1 – Automated safe arrival starts
- Thursday, November 10 – Pro-D Day
- Friday, November 11 – Remembrance Day – no school
- Tuesday, November 15 – Curriculum Completion Day – POSTPONED

Fun Foods will be on Thursday, October 27th
(Not Friday, October 28th)

Monday, October 31st

Wear Black & Orange

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Grade 8 dance

Friday, October 28th

Division 2 presents the Haunted House!

Bring a toonie if you would like to attend, proceeds will go to the SPCA.



Principal's Message

Bring on the STORM....

At Monterey, we celebrate students, staff and parents being a part of the STORM: Keep Safe, Think Team, Own your Actions, Show Respect and Make a Difference. We model the elements of the STORM during class, recess, extra-curricular events and around the Oak Bay community.

For the fall, staff and students have been focusing on Keeping Safe. For example, students have been encouraged to demonstrate safe behaviour by wearing their helmets when riding bikes, skateboards and scooters. Travel and playground safety involve all of us working together. As we approach the wetter and darker season, please help us foster a safe environment by having conversations with your son or daughter about traveling to and from school in a safe manner. When possible please plan to drop off and pick up on Oliver Street, it is a much wider road than Monterey. In addition, please follow the traffic laws and do not turn left off of Monterey into the school drop off loop.

School Wide Assemblies throughout the year will continue to highlight the elements of the STORM and our soon to be released new Monterey Website will share ideas on how we can all foster a 'Keep Safe, Think Team, Own your Actions, Show Respect and Make a Difference' Monterey learning environment.

Thank you for helping us BRING ON THE STORM!

Life Threatening Food Allergies & Special Days...

We recognize that special days are times of celebration with friends, family and food; however, there are students in our school with life-threatening food allergies and these students are especially vulnerable at this time.

You can help to keep these students safe by celebrating with stickers, games or prizes and keeping peanut and nut containing products at home during and after celebrations such as holidays, birthdays, class and end-of-the-year parties.

For more information contact: Your local Health Unit
HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 and ask to speak to a Registered Dietitian or
www.healthlinkbc.ca



Home Ec Wants & Needs

Thank you to those parents who donated apples to the Home Ec department. If you are interested in donating a few items we could use yarn and more apples, also a second-hand food processor. ~Thank you - Ms.Sutherland





Gifted Program at Monterey

As part of our efforts to meet the needs of all of our students, we will, once again, be conducting tests for aspects of intellectual giftedness for nominated Monterey Middle School students. Student nominees for this testing process may be put forward by either teachers or parents/guardians. If you would like your child to be part of the gifted testing process or if you have questions about it, please contact Mr. Barnes at MWBarnes@sd61.bc.ca or at the school (250 598-4589) by October 28, 2011.

Traffic Safety

When picking up and dropping off your children we would like to encourage parents to drive South on Oliver Street and North on Monterey. This will ensure a safer environment for students and drivers. Thank you.

Phone Calls

We would like to remind you that we try to keep interruptions to the classroom at a minimum. It is our intent to protect important teaching time. To that end, we request that parents limit calls asking to be put through to the classroom. We make every effort to relay any important messages to your child or child's teacher at the morning break, at lunchtime or after school by paging students to the office for the message.



Individual Photo Retakes

If your child was away for school photos on September 27th, or the envelope was still in their backpack, the photographer will be back on Nov. 1st to take photos of any students who were away that day. The photographer will also re-take photos for interested families; send original photo back to the school on photo day.



Safe Arrival

As the morning and afternoons become more gray, it is a good time to remind your children about being safe as they travel to and from school.

- Walk with a friend
- Be Bright, Be Seen. Wear bright or light coloured clothing
- Place reflective strips and tags on backpacks, coats, shoes, boots, umbrellas, bicycles, etc.

When crossing a road, look left, right, and left again. Make eye contact with stopped or slowing drivers to be sure you are noticed before crossing the road. Cross only when it is safe to do so.

Always respect the instructions of police, by-law officers or;

Follow the same route everyday. Let your parents know of any change in your plans.

Do not give personal information to strangers or get into the car of a stranger.



When biking or skateboarding to school:

Wear appropriate safety equipment (helmets are mandatory for biking, advisable for skateboarding)


While on school property we are enforcing mandatory helmets for scootering, skateboarding, and biking while on school property.

Obey all traffic rules. In particular:


- Stop at all stop signs and walk across the crosswalk
- Ride your bike on the road not the sidewalk
- Ride/board in single file
- Signal to let others know when you are changing directions
- When you arrive at the school grounds, walk your bike (pick up your board)
- Always lock up your bike (bring your skateboard into the school.)



Me 2 We



The Monterey Me to We Team is starting to come together for its third year of social action!



Many students have spent the last week writing applications to be part of the Me to We Team, a leadership group focusing on social justice and making the world a better - and fairer - place for everybody.

On October 13th, thirteen lucky students participated in We Day Vancouver (who ever said that 13 is an unlucky number?!). We Day was designed to inspire youth and celebrate the movement for global change. 18 000 youth from across BC, gathered at Rogers Arena to hear from some pretty powerful speakers, including: Shaquille O'Neal, Mia Farrow, Hedley, Shawn Desman, Down With Webster, the former leader of the Soviet Union, Mikail Gorbachev, and (the MTW team's two favourites) Craig and Marc Kielburger, founders of Free the Children and the Me to We movement. The students chosen to attend We Day brought back their excitement and vision and will work with their peers for another year of social action and rich learning at Monterey!

You can learn more about Free the Children, Me to We, We Day, and the We Schools online. Take a few minutes and check them out - you'll be glad you did!

<http://www.timescolonist.com/ferry+crowds+inspiring+experience/5556034/story.html>

Resource of Interest - Back to School Health

With kids and youth getting back into school full swing, it seems an appropriate time to check in with their health - both physical and mental.

Back-to-school time may bring back-to-school anxiety, whether children are heading into kindergarten or starting high school. The following website offers tips for parents of young children and parents of teens.

http://www.todaysparent.com/schoolage/article.jsp?content=20080724_124338_2288&page=1