

M.V. BEATTIE BULLETIN

"The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even heard, but must be felt from the heart" - Helen Keller

Upcoming Events

Jan. 4 - School Re-opens

Jan/Feb. Primary Skating (times/dates still TBD for each class)



Jan. 29 - School Wide "Carnival" Theme Day



I hope that this newsletter finds our M.V. Beattie family in both good spirits and good health! For the majority of us, this holiday - I am sure - has been quite a departure from our customary festivities and celebrations. However, I have heard from a number of parents that the slower pace has also been a welcome change. I know it has made me feel even more grateful to be living in the North Okanagan where there are so many outdoor adventures in our own backyard. Whatever your holiday looked like, I hope that there was time enough to relax and enjoy some family togetherness.

Now that we have returned to our school routine, I am also hopeful that we will all have the opportunity to put some of our own personal challenges into practice. A few years ago, one of my kids asked me what I wanted to learn. I thought about it for awhile and came up with a few ideas. As it turned out, probably a few too many. Sometimes it is best to narrow your focus. So, this year I am really conscious about wanting to spend more time reading. Not only is it an individual activity that takes little

Wildcat Wednesdays!



Thank you for your Spirit Wear orders prior to the break. We had over 100 orders for M.V. Beattie clothing - and we were especially pleased with how quickly we received our order.

For those of you that may have missed out, we will have another order just prior to Spring Break. We will be looking at another new design - to keep things fresh. There will also be a variety of different garments to choose from. A flyer will be sent out in late January with the options that we will carry. However, the picture above is one example.

effort to enact, it is also an easier proposition for a parent to share the importance that reading plays in our lives if we actually practice what we preach.

Whether we read novels, non-fiction, magazines or the newspaper, doing so in front of our kids reinforces the importance of reading. Just in case you might want to try this on for size, I have collected a few book recommendations (from our staff) to share with you.

My choices are: Category - Fiction: ***"The Rent Collector"*** - by Camron Wright. A drama that unfolds in the garbage dumps of Cambodia - and how literacy helps one family to persevere and create a better life.

Category - Fiction: ***"The Art of Racing In the Rain"*** by Garth Stein. Told from the perspective of "Enzo" - a dog, this story shares how a dog that is "prepared" can reincarnate as a human.

Mr. Easthope's Pick: ***"Fifteen Dogs"*** by Andre Alexis. A Giller Prize winner.

Mrs. Hooper's Pick: ***"The Henna Artist"*** - by Alka Joshi. One woman's struggle for fulfillment as she navigates between a traditional and modern society.

Ms. Quaal's Pick: ***"The Giver"*** - by Lois Lowry. Young Adult Fiction. Dystopian Fantasy.

Mrs. Fleetham's Pick: ***"The Book Thief"*** by Markus Zusak. Historical Fiction. Death is personified and takes a feature role in this novel set during the holocaust.

Mrs. Kolotylo's Pick: ***"A Lucky Child"*** by Thomas Buergenthal. Non-Fiction. A memoir of a 10 year old boy who survives Auschwitz.



Middle Years Index

For a number of years our grade 4 students have participated in the MDI survey. ***This year the survey will be given to gr. 5s across the province.***

The MDI uses a strengths-based approach to assess five areas of development that are strongly linked to well-being, health and academic achievement. In addition, the MDI focuses on highlighting the promotive and protective factors and assets that are known to support and optimize development in middle childhood. These areas are: ***Social and Emotional Development, Physical Health and Well-Being, Connectedness, Use of After-School Time and School Experiences.***

We just received the results from last year's survey and feel really encouraged by how our students responded to questions regarding their experiences at M.V. Beattie. **89% of our students reported that they have connections to 2 or more important adults at school - which is 16% greater than rest of our district.**

Health, Safety & Goodwill



No doubt we have all started to become more aware of the truth expressed by this poster. We rely on each other in good times and even more so when challenges arise. This is true throughout our past, in our current predicament and will undoubtedly be true in the future as well.

We wanted to thank our M.V. Beattie community for working hard to follow the Covid protocols. **We are doing our best at school and at home.** However, in an effort to be prepared for what to do in case of an "exposure" in our MVB community, I wanted to share what we have learned about this process.

First. Parents/Guardians and their children will always be the first to know about a positive test.

Second. Interior Health will determine who needs to be informed. They take the lead. It appears that the school may or may not be informed due to their determination about what risk/exposure was present - and to whom.

Third. Once it has been determined by IHA that an exposure has occurred, they will begin the process of contact tracing. It is possible that a few students/staff may receive contact or perhaps an entire division. We will be given our marching orders by IHA. They will determine who needs to be in isolation and for how long.

Fourth. Communication home about "exposures" will come from the School District and/or M.V. Beattie - but will have to adhere to a legal expectation regarding people's rights to privacy.

Middle Years Index cont...

97% of students responded

positively to questions regarding “school climate,” which is described as “the overall tone of the school environment, including the way teachers and students interact and how students treat each other. e.g., ‘People care about each other in this school.’”

89% of students responded

positively to questions regarding school belonging, which is defined “the degree to which children feel connected and valued at their school. e.g., ‘I feel like I am important to this school.’”

While there is always room for improvement, the importance of positive relationships among students and the strong connections that they feel to our staff lay a great foundation for the hard work that we need to continue to focus on.

We have always been proud of our students and community, but this feedback helps us to determine which assets are currently in place - and which areas to focus upon.

Finally. We will ask for your help in reducing levels of anxiety. That means our focus will be on compassion and support - and not on seeking someone to blame.

A Few Other Reminders/Changes:

1. Please have your children arrive and depart from school as close to the bell times as possible.
2. When dropping off/picking up, please do your best to avoid congregating in groups.
3. We are starting to have parent volunteers in our classrooms or helping with field trips - thank you for following the covid protocol! Speak to your child's teacher for more info about opportunities to volunteer.
4. Icy road conditions. As you have discovered, our drop off/pick up can be treacherous. Please make sure to drive slowly - and not park in the Kiss and Go Lane...it creates difficult sight-lines and we have had a few close calls.

Thanks for your support!

M.V. Beattie Winter Concert

I wanted to take the opportunity to once again publicly thank Ms. Lucas for all of the time and effort spent videotaping and editing our first ever virtual Winter Concert. She also did a great job of cajoling our staff into creating a “memorable” rendition of “The Twelve Days of Christmas.” As always, our students stole the show. Each division did a wonderful job of making us smile and sharing the joy of the season, and - thanks to technology - we were able to pause and go back and enjoy the best moments again and again. Our gr. 6s should be congratulated for their *Rock and Roll Christmas* play which gave a number of students the opportunity to shine. It takes a lot of courage to step into the spotlight, so a big **Congratulations** to all of our students for making the concert a success!



Welcome Back Mrs. Peters!



Mrs. Peters and her service dog, Amaya, returned to M.V. Beattie for her first day of a gradual return to work. Ms. Lucas continues to be working with us full time in her current capacity, but over a few months we will be seeing more of Mrs. Peters. It is a win-win for us as our students will benefit from the talents of both of these wonderful teachers. After a great Winter Concert, we will look forward to what this dynamic duo will do as an encore...do I hear "Spring Talent Show"???



CATS R.O.A.R.

Winter Photos

