



## Merritt Central Elementary School



### Celebrating a Wonderful Evening of Community at Our Open House & Book Fair

Thank you to all the families who joined us for our annual Open House and Book Fair! Your presence and enthusiasm helped make the evening a true celebration of connection, learning, and community. We'd like to extend special appreciation to Ms. Morrison for organizing the engaging family scavenger hunt that invited families to explore the school and meet our amazing staff. Thank you to Mrs. Cleaveley for her dedication and extra time hosting the Book Fair. It was a huge hit with students and families alike!

A warm thank-you also goes to Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Martindale for not only organizing our student helpers to prepare the delicious chilli dinner, but also for serving it with care and smiles. We're grateful to Ms. Martha for ensuring we had warm, delicious Bannock to enjoy alongside the meal. We also want to recognize all the staff who came out to connect with students and families. Being there helped build the strong relationships that make our school such a welcoming and supportive place. Thank you for helping us create a night full of warmth, laughter, and learning. We're proud to be part of such a caring school community!

### Happy Diwali: Celebrating Culture & Community Through Learning

At our school, we believe that learning about each other's cultures and traditions helps us grow into a more supportive and connected community. Throughout the year, students explore and celebrate the rich diversity within our school through hands-on activities, storytelling, and art. This month, Mrs. Preet's class honoured Diwali, the Festival of Lights, by creating beautiful paper garlands and vibrant firework salt art. These joyful creations sparked meaningful conversations about light, celebration, and the importance of family and tradition. We're proud to be a school where every culture is valued, and where students learn to appreciate the many ways we can come together in understanding and respect.



## Mrs. Dunn's Prep Classes Are a Hit!



Mrs. Dunn is doing amazing things in both PHE and science! Her lessons are hands-on, interactive, and always spark curiosity. She sets high expectations and keeps things running smoothly with her calm, confident classroom management. Students love going to Prep whether they're building lung models out of balloons and recycled bottles in science or learning teamwork and spatial awareness in PHE. Her quiet problem-solving and thoughtful planning make a big impact, and the glow stick dance party was definitely a highlight! Thank you, Mrs. Dunn, for making learning so fun and meaningful.

## Literacy, Curiosity, and Hands-On Learning in Mrs. Preet's Class

Mrs. Preet's students are in full literacy mode, working hard to grow their reading and writing skills every day! With the support of Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Martindale, and Mrs. Michel, students can work in smaller groups, receiving explicit teaching and guided practice that helps build confidence and skill.



Beyond literacy, the class is also exploring the natural world through outdoor learning, investigating how living and non-living things interact in their environment. One of the highlights this month was creating mini ecosystems in jars, where students explored how plants, soil, and water work together to support life and maintain balance.







A big shout-out to Mr. Shea and Mr. Jody for coaching this year's group of volleyball keeners! The students have shown great dedication, teamwork, and sportsmanship, and it's been exciting to see their skills grow with each practice and game.

Mr. Shea is helping both teams build a strong understanding of the game while encouraging resiliency, effort, and respect. His clear expectations and consistent coaching style have earned the respect of our student athletes, and it shows in how they show up and support each other on the court.

Thank you to Mr. Jody for stepping in to support coaching on the days Mr. Shea is with the MSS volleyball teams. His commitment to carrying forward Mr. Shea's coaching ethic and kindness has made a big difference for our players.



**Literacy continues to be a strong focus at MCES and MS. Morrison always finds ways to make it fun and engaging**



## Strong Start

Our Strong Start program continues to be a wonderful space for pre-kindergarten children and their families to connect, learn, and grow together. Led by the caring and dedicated Mrs. Gage, Strong Start offers meaningful opportunities for families to share experiences, build relationships, and engage in early learning. Mrs. Gage works diligently to connect families with community resources and supports, helping ensure that every child and caregiver feels welcomed and supported. One of the highlights this month was a special visit from Kim Hodgson of the Métis Society, who shared stories and cultural learning with our families. It was a beautiful moment of connection and celebration. We're so grateful for the strong foundation Strong Start is building in our school community!







## *Halloween Fun & Fantastic Costumes!*

*Halloween was full of excitement and creativity a MGES! We started the day with a costume parade that included all students, even our Strong Start families, giving everyone a chance to show off their fun, spooky, and super creative outfits.*

*A big thank-you to Mr. Gagliano and his leadership group for organizing the lunch dances and fun activities for our primary students. Their energy and planning made the day extra special! There were so many standout costumes, but the headless man was definitely one of the most creative! We also want to thank our local police officers who stopped by to greet Heath, whose costume was inspired by the hard work of our community police force. It was a meaningful moment. And yes, Ms. Omori and Tyrone stole the show dressed as basketball backboards and hoops. They even played a few rounds together, which brought lots of laughs and smiles!*

## **Leadership in Action!**

We're excited to have Mr. Gagliano leading our student leadership program this year! With a large group of enthusiastic students stepping up, leadership is off to a strong start. These students are committed to making our school and community a better place by initiating activities and modeling what it means to be positive, respectful role models.

Their first big project was organizing the Halloween dances for both primary and intermediate students. They created posters, decorated the space, built fun and clean playlists, and even gave up some of their own time to help coordinate activities, lead dance moves, and support supervision during the primary dance.

It's inspiring to see our students take initiative and work together to build a stronger, more connected school community. We're proud of their efforts and excited to see what they take on next!





## *Fall Fun at MCES*



### Three Bar Farms

We love celebrating and supporting local traditions, and our annual connection with 3 Bar Farms is always a highlight of the fall season at MCES! Whether classes head out to the farm to explore the pumpkin patch, corn maze, animals, and farm equipment, or the farm comes to us with outdoor and indoor pumpkin-themed activities, it always brings joy to our students and staff.

This year, Mrs. Ferris, Mr. Gagliano, and Ms. Morrison's classes had the chance to dive into the fall spirit with hands-on learning and seasonal fun. The farm's visit is more than just a good time—it's a meaningful way to connect students with local agriculture and community traditions.

Thank you to 3 Bar Farms for continuing to bring smiles and learning to MCES year after year!

