

# Spectrum

CONNECT CHARTER SCHOOL SCHOOL



## Principal's Message



Welcome to our new students and their parents, and welcome back to those returning. We had a very good startup, with a number of activities taking place in the first few days of school. Our incredible School Council organized a welcome back coffee session the first morning as well as a gear swap and BBQ the second day of school, not to mention the dozens of parents and students who turned up at the Camp Sweet and Clem's Garden work bees that first Saturday. What a great start to the year.

In my brief address to the parents gathered at the welcome back coffee session, I talked about the main priorities this year in how we work with parents. The first priority is improving communication with parents. As a school we will continue to improve the quality and timeliness of the information we send home regarding upcoming events and activities. We will continue to use the Google calendar on our website, plus emailed notices to keep parents informed of school-wide events of note. Please also regularly read the Spectrum to keep in touch and learn about some of the happenings in other classes or pods.

Of course, the most important communication that happens between the home and school is about the learning of your own child or children. Toward that end, teachers will be

sharing with you information in a number of ways. More importantly, I have asked the teachers to be clear with parents where they need to go to get particular information. You should know where to go (class website, Edmodo, paper agenda, etc.) when you need certain information. If this is not clear, please contact your child (ren)'s teacher.

As a staff we have also committed to notifying parents of all late assignments on the date they are initially overdue. In the past, we have not notified parents of each missed assignment, as there are often mitigating circumstances (for example, the student missed a day of school and so was unable to complete an assignment). Instead, we have worked with the student to get caught up and only notified parents in situations where there weren't mitigating circumstances or legitimate reasons for the late work. In contacting parents with each late assignment you are better able to support your child, and help them manage their time and energy so they get caught up and can avoid future late assignments.

I encourage you to contact your child's teachers if you have any questions, and please feel free to contact Mr. Petronech or myself if we can be of assistance in any way.

*Darrell Lonsberry*



# SEPTEMBER 2014

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Cover Photo: Grade 5 students in front of their newly built fort at Camp Sweet.



## Connect Outdoor Gear Sale

One of our favourite forms of recycling is to pass along good quality outdoor gear to other families. The 4<sup>th</sup> annual Outdoor Gear Sale did that, once again, in spades.

This is how it works: In June and in August, the Outdoor Gear Sale Committee sends out an Outdoor Gear Sale Information Package to all Connect parents by e-mail. Families wishing to put items in the sale complete the Vendor Forms and put their used, outdoor clothing and gear into the Connect Outdoor Gear Sale and get 100% of the sale price back. Any unsold items are either returned to the families or donated, depending on their preference.

On the same night as the Meet the Teacher evening and BBQ in August, parents find stellar deals on outdoor gear and learn more about the Connect outdoor education program and outdoor gear in general. It's a great opportunity to save time and money and get a chance to meet and re-"connect" with other Connect families.

This year's Outdoor Gear Sale Volunteers were Mark, Nelia, Ben, Jacqueline, Kunal, John, Lisa, Janine, Meghan, Vaishali, Jackie, Aimee, Kim and Justine. Thank you to Mr. Lonsberry, Mr. Petronech, Mr. Dittmann and the office staff for their help and support as well.



So, start stock piling your outdoor gear (any and all good quality items are accepted except helmets, stoves and climbing ropes) for next year's August 12<sup>th</sup> sale and spread the word. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Nelia Barber at [neliabarber@gmail.com](mailto:neliabarber@gmail.com). For more information on Connect Outdoor Education trips and details, please visit the school website, click on 'Class Websites,' then scroll down to 'Outdoor Education' or click this link: <http://connectenvoe.weebly.com>.





Last school year (2013-2014), to compliment our studies on isolated and globalized Japan, the 8.3 and 8.4 Connect classes received letters from grade 8 students at Tago Junior High School in Sendai, Japan. We replied to their letters, answering their questions about life in Canada and at Connect and asked them similar questions.

As a result of this project, my family and I decided to travel to Japan over the summer. We then thought it would be a good idea to try to visit Tago JHS during our trip. So, we connected with Alex Lee, the pen-pal coordinator and English teacher in Japan who also happens to be a Connect alumnus. We organized a visit to the school on our third day in Japan.

Alex met us at the train station in Sendai and walked us to the school, sharing his knowledge on Japanese customs and culture. Upon arrival, we were warmly welcomed by the school staff and their principal ("Cocho-sensei") before being escorted to the first classroom where we were blown away by the grade nine's jaw-dropping melodic chorus.

By lunchtime, we had spoken to three different classes; one third year class (Grade nine), one second year class (Grade eight) and one first year class (Grade seven). We showed

them collages of our life in Canada on a flat-screen TV that they wheeled to each class and answered their questions with the help of Alex and his translations. With the second years, we gave the same presentation, however we spoke to them more about the pen-pal project. Following that, we talked to the first years. We gave them our presentation, answered their volley of questions and then were dismissed for lunch.

I ate lunch with the second years, as they were the class that 8.3 and 8.4 had written to. Lunch there was very different from lunch here at Connect. A few selected students served a lunch that had been prepared by the school cook to all of the other students and myself. The lunch was not what we are used to. It was rice, fish, pickled cucumber and miso soup.

Following lunch, my parents, Alex, the principal and myself toured the school and watched the students clean it. That's right, no custodians at their school, just students, literally scrubbing the floor, stairs, walls and windows with cloths. The result was an incredibly clean and tidy school. After cleaning, the students went to their choir practice.

Every class was given a song to perform in the school's choir contest and two classes performed for us. We were

completely blown away. Every student was singing and it sounded amazing.

School then promptly ended. However, in Japan, the end of day bell signifies the beginning of their after school activities that finally finish at around 6:00 pm each day. We decided to watch some of the activities before departing, and so Alex

lead us to several of the activities including table tennis, running, track and field, volleyball, basketball, badminton, swimming, baseball and band.

Eventually, we had to leave as our time was up. I will never forget this experience and hope that everyone learned something about international education.

# Are we Connect or CCS?



I continue to be impressed with how well the transition to a new name and branding has gone. While there are certainly still some who were displeased with the new name that was selected, we are definitely recognized far and wide by our new moniker. That being said, I have noted that there are more and more occasions when people are referring to us using the abbreviation CCS. While it is certainly more expedient to shorten our name to three letters and there is the history of using CSS when we had our former name, we also lose any and all meaning in our name when we shorten it to 3 letters. One of the reasons for selecting the name *Connect Charter*

*School* is that, when shortened (as is the natural course of things), people might refer to us as "Connect". When we use the name *Connect* there is still some meaning that people can attach to it: connecting people together, connecting school to the real world, connecting ideas, connecting with nature, etc. If we use simply CCS, there is no meaning and less of an identity than using Connect. Plus, there is already a CCS in Calgary (Calgary Christian School), so we want to be able to maintain our own distinct identity.

**Mr. Lonsberry**



# SEPTEMBER 2014

30	1 LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY SCHOOL CLOSED	2 PD/PLANNING DAY NO CLASSES	3 DAY 1 CAMP SWEET 6.1/6.2 DEPART IPAD/LAPTOP ORIENTATION FOR NEW CONNECT PARENTS 6:30 - 7:30 PM 7.1/7.3 P.E. CYCLING/KAYAKING TRIP	4 DAY 2	5 DAY 3 6.1/6.2 RETURN 7.2/7.4 CYCLING/KAYAKING TRIP	6
7	8 DAY 4 CAMP SWEET 6.3/6.4 DEPART	9 DAY 5 SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 - 8:30 PM	10 DAY 6 6.3/6.4 RETURN CAMP SWEET 4.1/4.2 DEPART GRADE 9 & 6.1/6.2 AT BEAKERHEAD FUN LUNCH - EXTREME PITA	11 DAY 1	12 DAY 2 4.1/4.2 RETURN SCHOOL COUNCIL FUNNY MONEY CASINO - 7:00 PM	13
14	15 DAY 3 GRADE 9 BAMFIELD MARINE SCIENCES TRIP DEPART	16 DAY 4 CAMP SWEET 4.3/4.4 DEPART	17 DAY 5 FUN LUNCH - COCO BROOKS MENU A	18 DAY 6 4.3/4.4 RETURN	19 PD/PLANNING DAY NO CLASSES GRADE 9 BAMFIELD TRIP RETURN	20
21	22 DAY 1 CAMP SWEET 8.1/8.2 DEPART 6.1/6.2 P.E. CANOE TRIP	23 DAY 2 6.3/6.4 P.E. CANOE TRIP	24 DAY 3 8.1/8.2 RETURN CAMP SWEET 8.3/8.4 DEPART FUN LUNCH - MR. SUB	25 DAY 4 TERRY FOX RUN AT NORTH GLENMORE PARK GRADES 4-6 AM GRADES 7-9 PM	26 DAY 5 GRADE 6/7 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE HALF-DAY HIKE - PM 8.3/8.4 RETURN SNACK ATTACK BOOSTER JUICE	27
28	29 DAY 6	30 DAY 1 GRADE 5 VACCINATIONS	1 DAY 2 GRADE 8/9 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP DEPARTS FUN LUNCH - OPA	2 DAY 3	3 DAY 4 GRADE 8/9 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP RETURNS	4

# OCTOBER 2013

28	29 DAY 6	30 DAY 1 GRADE 5 VACCINATIONS	1 DAY 2 GRADE 8/9 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP DEPARTS FUN LUNCH - OPA	2 DAY 3	3 DAY 4 GRADE 8/9 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP RETURNS	4
5	6 DAY 5 GRADE 6/7 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP DEPARTS	7 DAY 6 GRADE 6/7 OUTDOOR ED ELECTIVE BACKCOUNTRY TRIP RETURNS SCHOOL COUNCIL MEETING 7:00 - 8:30 PM	8 DAY 1 FUN LUNCH CRAVE PASTA GRADE 6 BAND WORKSHOP 7:00 - 8:30 PM	9 DAY 2 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 4:00 - 8:00 PM	10 PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES 8:00 AM - 1:00 PM NO CLASSES	11
12	13 THANKSGIVING DAY	14	15 FALL BREAK	16	17	18
19	20 DAY 3	21 DAY 4	22 DAY 5 FUN LUNCH SUBWAY	23 DAY 6	24 DAY 1 INNOVATE WEST CONFERENCE	25 INNOVATE WEST CONFERENCE
26	27 DAY 2	28 DAY 3	29 DAY 4 FUN LUNCH COCO BROOKS MENU B	30 DAY 5 SNACK ATTACK LAKEVIEW BAKERY COOKIE TERM 1 PVA SHOWCASE 1:30 - 3:00 PM	31 PD/PLANNING DAY NO CLASSES	1