



Your Biweekly News & Updates

This week's newsletter includes Dates to Remember, Being Brilliant in Grade 11 Biology, What You Never Knew About... Mr. Kwok, Model UN Update, and Coles Notes.

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Dates to Remember

December 5th - Full School Assembly at 12:30

Being Brilliant in Grade 11 Biology



Blyth and the Beanstalk

This week in Grade 11 Biology the class planted beans in preparation for their culminating lab. Winter is coming (and 2 weeks winter break!), so we started planting early to be able to collect data before we head away on vacation. Once the beans sprout, the students will come up with their own variables to test (such as the addition of phosphorous, nitrogen, and/or potassium), and see how it affects the growth of their plants. We also set up some control plants that will be grown under "normal" conditions, so we have something we can compare our results to.

Keep an eye out for the beans; they're growing by the window in the Ontario classroom (let's hope it's not too cold!).

-- Ms. Sargeant

What You Never Knew About... Mr. Kwok!



...that I was very close to not becoming a teacher!

When I was in university my end goal after undergrad was to get a Masters in immunology and then go through the whole academia route and maybe become a professor. Personally, I didn't even like immunology; the only reason why I picked that field was that it was difficult for most people to understand, which in hindsight is a very poor measure for what you want to do for the rest of your life.

Fortunately for me though, I was also very into fencing (the type with swords) back then as well. One fateful day, my friend who taught the course was super sick and needed someone to cover for

her. At this point, I had no desire to teach anyone anything, but I accepted to sub for her out of guilt. I ended up enjoying it WAY more than I expected, and that's basically how I ended up teaching fencing for the next two years.

Flash forward to the final term of university. I knew if I had wanted to do my masters, I would have to give up teaching. Fencing took up too much time and usually resulted in me getting home at 12 on a school night, which was less than conducive to doing well. However, this really bothered me - just a bit at first, and then more and more to the point that I ended up taking a year off to volunteer at respite homes.

At first, this seems like a risk. But losing a year is a negligible cost in the long term. Far worse is dedicating your life to a career that you don't care for and living a life that is ultimately not yours. I may not have been as eloquent about it at the time, but somewhere deep down I knew this: I wanted to start over and become a teacher.

At the end of the day though, I was extremely lucky. A series of improbable events and multiple risks had to be taken for me to arrive at a career that I love. I know especially in high school it can be difficult to think about what you want to do; however, the tough reflection will be worth it. This is the time for you to take risks, to experiment, and to try things even that you think you hate because you might end up enjoying them!

-- Mr. Kwok

Good Luck to our Model UN team!



The Blyth Model United Nations team left Thursday for Montreal, QC, to compete in the 26th annual Secondary Schools United

Nations Symposium. This is the premier Canadian event for High School and Cégep students to engage in simulated international diplomacy. Our team is full of veteran delegates ready to show off their rhetorical prowess. Good luck Blyth!

Coles Note: Partnership of School and Families

I want to start by thanking so many of you who replied to my letter regarding the St. Michael's College School incidents. I've never had so many responses to anything I've sent out here before, so clearly what happened there - what we know and the great deal that we still do not know - had significance for many of us.

I want to repeat one very important request I made in my letter: please, both students and parents, let us know if anything is amiss. You may not have proof, you may have heard something out of context, and there may be nothing to it at all, but whatever the "it" is, let us know. I will promise not to overreact, or to react too quickly...but even a whisper can lead us to uncover something and resolve it. We are practised in keeping sources anonymous, too, so that is not a reason to stay silent.

We currently have close to 150 students here, and we all share our days in close quarters. We're bound to have some bumps and wrinkles along the way, but we are determined to limit those issues both in number and severity. We want every student here to feel safe, and to be protected from, not exposed to, risks.

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Stay connected:

