





# Happy New Year!

I hope you all had great fun over the holiday break, as well as plenty of time to relax with your family and friends.

With a brand new year beginning, isn't this a great time to think about how much you achieved during the first half of the school year? For example, have you taken the time to set some goals that are important to you? If so, are you meeting them?

If you haven't set goals yet, it isn't too late! Just think about what you might like to accomplish in the months ahead, and don't forget to write down your ideas so that you can review your progress later.

You should also take this opportunity to congratulate yourself for everything you have done well this school year. Have you been trying your best? Have you been studying regularly? Are you happy with the effort you've been making? If so, be proud of yourself! If you think you could work a little harder, don't worry ... there's still plenty of

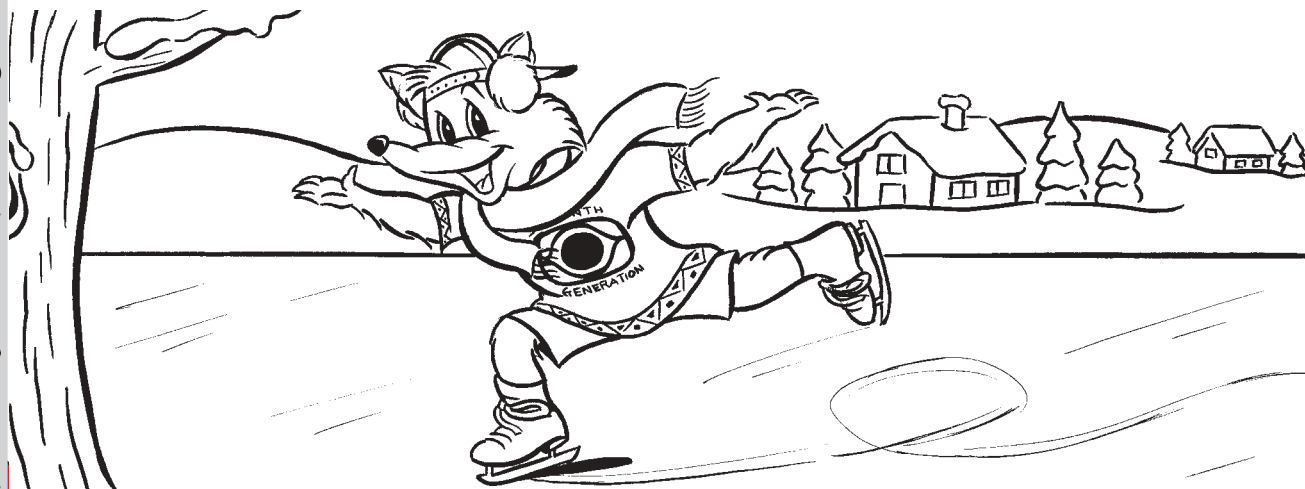
time to do that, too.

Also, don't forget to keep getting plenty of exercise by enjoying the wonderful winter weather while it is here. Wherever you live in this huge province there are plenty of things you can do to stay active during the winter months. We hope you will make an effort to get outdoors and experience the fun this season has to offer.

And on the topic of the province's diversity – that's just what we've decided to focus on in this edition of the newsletter, so look inside to discover a few interesting things about this great place to live.

I'll be in touch again soon.

*KG Coyote*



### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Canucks Corner
- Get to Know Your Province
- Contest
- The Nook
- A Temperate vs. A Tropical Rainforest
- Why Should We Care about Tropical Rainforests?
- Contest Winners



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# CANUCKS CORNER



## Being Different is Great!

When you started this school year you may have met students of different nationalities and cultures, and the same can be said for the Vancouver Canucks.

The Vancouver Canucks organization has players from all over the world, representing many different nationalities. For example, Todd Bertuzzi and Ed Jovanovski are Canadian, Richard Park is Canadian with a Korean background, and Anson Carter is African-Canadian. Ryan Kesler is from the United States. The Canucks also have several players from Europe, including Markus Naslund and the Sedin twins (Sweden), and Sami Salo and Jarkko Ruutu (Finland). Even though the Vancouver Canuck

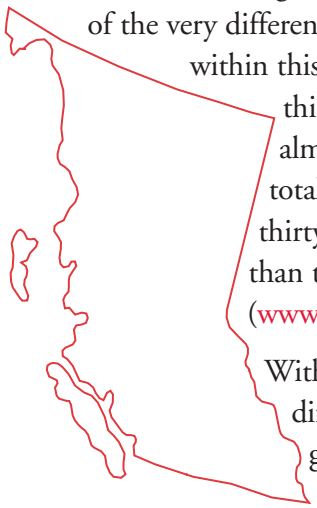
players do not all come from the same country, they are all equals and they treat each other with respect.

Diversity is defined as “differing one from another,” and it is a great thing. The world would be a very boring place if everyone looked the same and sounded the same. It is important to remember that even if you are unfamiliar with someone’s background or where they grew up, you still need to be accepting.

Hockey teams are similar to school classrooms because both reflect a diverse team of people who can have fun working together.

## Get To Know Your Province

One of the best things about British Columbia (BC) is all of the very different and beautiful places that exist within this province. In fact, BC is Canada’s third largest province. It represents almost ten percent of the country’s total land area and there are only thirty countries in the world larger than this one province ([www.britishcolumbia.com](http://www.britishcolumbia.com)).



Within this vast area, there are many different *ecosystems* and types of geography. Did you know the following things about BC?

- About 21% of BC is rock or barren alpine icefields and glaciers.
- Another 62% of BC is forest land.
- Osoyoos, BC is the only desert in Canada. It has the country’s lowest rainfall, highest temperatures, and

warmest lakes.

- Haida Gwaii (sometimes called the Queen Charlotte Islands) includes approximately 150 islands.
- The Cariboo includes expansive meadows, mountains, rolling hills, and forests of pine, spruce and Douglas-fir trees.
- Highway 20, also known as the Bella Coola Road, passes through grassy plateaus, rolling meadows, picturesque canyons and high mountain peaks.
- There are over one thousand lakes in the Kamloops region.
- BC’s coastal forests help form the largest continuous coastal temperate rainforest in the world! It reaches from Kodiak Island in Alaska, through BC, Washington State, and Oregon, all the way down to California’s redwoods.

*An ecosystem is a community of animals and the environment in which they live, including the land and plants that provide their food and homes.*

## CONTEST

For this month’s contest, we would like you to draw a picture or write a short essay telling us about a place that you love in BC and why it is special to you. You could let us know about your community, or a special place you go at a regular time of the year, or somewhere you once visited and enjoyed. Send us your drawing or essay and you could win a great prize.

**Contest deadline: 4:30 pm on Friday, February 17, 2006**

## A Temperate vs. a Tropical Rainforest

All rainforests are very dense, warm, and, of course, wet. Rainforests receive over 2 m of rain each year – an average of about 3.8 cm of rain per week.

Pockets of temperate rainforests exist all around the world, including in BC, New Zealand,

Great Britain, and North and South America.

Tropical rainforests are located around the equator, mostly in the area between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. This 4,800 km wide band is called the “tropics” and it is very warm all year round.

Unlike tropical rain forests, temperate rainforests have different seasons. The

temperatures are quite warm during the summer, but winter temperatures can drop to near freezing, sometimes even cold enough for ice and snow. Cold winters limit the numbers and kinds of life forms that live in temperate rainforests, so they are less complex than tropical rainforests. However, they are still important habitats where unique plants and animals find food and shelter.

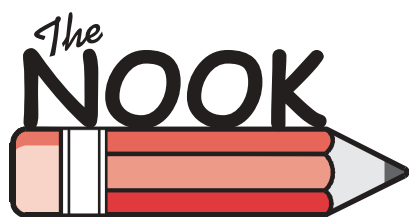
## Why Should We Care About Tropical Rainforests?

Many people have heard of the tropical rainforests because they are so important and so threatened.

The world’s tropical rainforests are suffering from very serious deforestation. The trees are being cut down for their valuable timber and burned to make space for farming and ranching. In the last 30 years, more than 40% of the world’s rainforests have been destroyed ([www.cocori.com](http://www.cocori.com)). Across the world, an area of rainforest bigger than New York City is cut down every day! Fortunately, efforts are being made to reverse this destruction through conservation and a careful use of resources. Why is this so important?

- Tropical rainforests cover only about 7% of the Earth’s surface, but they are extremely important to the ecology of the Earth.
- Tropical forests are home to more than half of all species on the Earth.
- Five out of six species in a tropical rainforest have never been seen by scientists. This means the forests are home to at least 2.5 million species that we do not even know about yet.
- Costa Rica alone has 500 resident bird species and 8,000 plant species.
- The plants of the rainforest generate much of the Earth’s oxygen. They also recycle and clean water.
- Tropical rainforest trees and plants remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and store it in their roots, stems, leaves, and branches.
- Rainforest plants are also used in new drugs that fight disease and illness.
- Many, many groups of Indigenous people have lived in villages throughout the tropical rainforests for hundreds or thousands of years. These people get their food, clothing, and housing mainly from materials they obtain in the forests. Their traditions, cultures, and ways of life are threatened by rainforest destruction.

Wow! Those are some pretty important reasons to care about the rainforests!



Can you find the names of some cities and towns in BC in this puzzle?

ATLIN  
BELLA COOLA  
CRESTON  
HAZELTON  
HOPE  
KAMLOOPS

MASSET  
PORT HARDY  
PRINCE RUPERT  
QUESNEL  
VANCOUVER  
VERNON

L	E	V	A	C	T	O	W	N	E	Y	D
X	P	A	S	H	R	G	L	T	M	D	P
M	O	N	R	U	R	E	W	R	L	O	X
A	H	C	I	A	Y	L	S	R	R	N	O
S	P	O	O	L	M	A	K	T	O	B	B
S	D	U	P	Z	T	N	H	T	O	H	R
E	I	V	Z	N	G	A	L	C	O	N	I
T	R	E	P	U	R	E	C	N	I	R	P
I	N	R	Q	D	Z	N	O	N	R	E	V
K	M	F	Y	A	Q	U	E	S	N	E	L
L	V	A	H	M	Y	O	M	F	U	J	G
B	E	L	L	A	C	O	O	L	A	K	T