



**Alexander Robinson Elementary**  
**HOME OF THE DRAGONS**

11849 238B Street, Maple Ridge BC V4R 2T8  
Phone 604-463-3035 Fax 604-463-0667

Website: <http://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson>

Principal: Adam Stanley

Vice Principal: Kathy Kosman

## Newsletter #1 – September 2021

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hi Everyone, and welcome back to all of our families. An especially warm greeting to those of you who are new to our school - we are looking forward to getting to know you and hope that you feel free to contact us anytime you need help. It's another year and we are in another wave of the Covid pandemic, so all of our plans are a little tentative as we cautiously wait to see what happens. The good news is that the overall experience of children is going to vastly improve compared to last year. All of our students are on site, classes can mix, recesses and lunches are not divided, and kids can play freely. While masks are still required and visitors to the school are restricted, it is a better environment for teaching and learning. We are hoping that sports and other activities will also be allowed as the year progresses. We are always grateful for the support of our parents and community, without whom many of the activities that children most enjoy would not be possible. Our PAC is extremely active, resourceful, and lot of fun. All parents are automatically members of the PAC, so we look forward to seeing you. In general, we send out newsletters in the middle of each month, but stay tuned to the parent portal or our Twitter feed, @AlexRDragons, for up to the minute information once the year gets underway.



From all of us at ARE and myself, Kathy, Diana, and Maria in the office, we wish you a very happy school year!

### UPCOMING DATES:

September 23 - Picture day

September 27 - **Orange Shirt Day**

September 29 - Terry Fox Run

September 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school)

October 1 - Non-instructional Day (no school)

October 11 - Thanksgiving Day (no school)

## WELCOME NEW STAFF

We are fortunate to have excellent and experienced staff at Alexander Robinson. You may notice some familiar faces who have returned as well as some new faces around the school. We are pleased to welcome the following staff:

|                          |                        |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Kyrsten Cuthbertson (CT) | Debbie Hunt (ST)       |
| Megan Moore (CT)         | Marissa Higginson (EA) |
| Kellie McNutt (CCW)      | Ally Faber (EA)        |
| Nisha Lowther (CT)       | Kayla Peters (ASW)     |
| Armanda Bowser (LHS)     |                        |



## STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Student Verification Forms for each child were sent home. It is imperative that we have all information filled out and returned to your child's teacher ASAP. We must have these forms in the office in the case of an emergency. Please make sure all emergency contacts are individuals who would be readily available, if needed, and provide cell phone numbers and/or work phone numbers. Also ensure your child's health care number is on the form. **Be sure to sign and date the form.** If any information changes throughout the year please notify the office. It is essential we have accurate contact information on file at all times.

## CONSENT FORMS

A number of consent forms for your student(s) are now available on the parent portal awaiting your approval. Please take a moment to login and approve these forms.

## PHOTO DAY



Mountain West Studios will be here for individual student photos for all grades on Thursday September 23. As in the past, participation in the program is strictly voluntary, however, every student is required to have their photo taken for identification purposes. You are not required to purchase a photo package.

## STUDENT PLANNER FEES

Many teachers request their students to use a student planner to assist in staying organized. Individual teachers will inform their students of this once students they have settle into new classes. Our school planner fee is **\$6.00**. Request for payment has been sent out via the parent portal.

## PRIMARY SCHOOL SUPPLY FEES

School supplies for Kindergarten to Grade 3 students are purchased in bulk by the school and provided to students for a fee. Request for payment has been sent via the parent portal. The primary school supplies fees are as follows:

- Kindergarten supply fee is **\$45.00**
- Primary (Gr.1-3) supply fee is **\$50.00** (includes \$6.00 for a planner)

\*please note Gr 1 students that are in a K/1 class will only need to pay \$45.00. No planner is used\*

Portal payment is preferred but alternately fee payment can be sent to your child's teacher (cash or cheque payable to Alexander Robinson Elementary).

### MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

A Medical Intervention form must be completed on a yearly basis if your child has an existing medical condition that the school should be aware of. This form must also be completed if your child will be taking any medication while at school. Staff may not administer medication to students unless the required form is completed and signed by the parent. For students requiring epi-pens at school, parents will be required to complete an Anaphylaxis Individual Student Emergency Procedure Plan. These forms can be obtained at the office.

### TREE NUT & PEANUT AWARE SCHOOL

We have several students who have SEVERE LIFE THREATENING allergies to a variety of nuts, including TREE NUTS and PEANUTS. If this applies to your child, please make certain to notify the office and your child's teacher and that you have provided the appropriate medical information and any medication necessary. Since this is a common concern, we ask if possible to not send your child with food items containing nuts to school. Peanut/Tree nut allergy signs will be posted in affected classrooms.



### SCHOOL PROCEDURES AND ROUTINES

#### Student Entry/Exit

All students are assigned entry and exit doors. Students are required to line up at their designated doorway upon the sounding of the warning bells. We ask that parent/caregivers meet their children at the designated doorway when meeting afterschool at dismissal.

#### Student Absences and Late Arrivals

The warning bell for morning classes goes at 8:25am. Students are expected to be in their classroom and instruction begins no later than 8:30am. If a student is not in the classroom the student will be marked absent. Entry past 8:40am requires the student report to the office to sign in and receive a late slip to give to the classroom teacher. When your child is marked absent we will phone all contact numbers we have in an attempt to confirm that your child is safe.

In the event your child will be absent or late, please advise the office prior to 8:30am. You can either enter an absence on the Parent Portal, email the school at [are\\_reception@sd42.ca](mailto:are_reception@sd42.ca), or call the office at 604-463-3035 where you can leave a message.

Parents are responsible for providing or arranging supervision for their child prior to 8:25am.

After dismissal at 2:25pm students are encouraged to go straight home for there is no formal supervision provided at the school.

### Students Leaving School Grounds

**Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds unless they have permission from a parent/guardian or are signed out by a parent/guardian or designated adult.** If your child routinely has lunch at home, please inform the office in writing. If your child usually remains at school during lunch, please send a signed note for each occasion you give permission to leave the school grounds. Students leaving the school grounds and returning must be signed out and then back in at the office as we need to account for all students in the event of an emergency or fire drill.

### SCHOOL NOTICES AND NEWSLETTERS

All correspondence, notices and calendars will be sent home using the Parent Portal. We encourage new families to create a Parent Portal account at <http://parents.sd42.ca>. Once your account has been created please contact the office to obtain a linking key letter for your child.

We also post our monthly newsletters to our school website at <https://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson>.

### PARKING REGULATIONS

**Parents/daycare providers may NOT pull into the back parking lot at any time for picking up or dropping off children.** The vehicles create a safety hazard for students and on several occasions, have blocked staff members from entering/leaving the lot. Also, the back parking lot is the designated emergency evacuation route for students during fire drills and "real" emergencies.

**The drive through lane at the front of the school is for HANDICAPPED STUDENT DROP OFF AND PICK UP ONLY.** You must pull into the curb and quickly pick up your child. Please do NOT park in the drop off zone and do NOT stop in the drive through lane. Please do not park in this area during the school day or there is the possibility you will be ticketed. Please do NOT park in the bus stop/fire hydrant zone on 238B Street (directly across from the front entrance of the school). These regulations are from the Fire Department and the Safety Officer. Thanks for your attention to safety.

### WEST COAST RECESS



Now more than ever public health orders require that children spend as much time as they can outside. All recesses and lunches will be outside unless the weather is unprecedentedly severe and poses a risk to health and safety. Please be sure students have proper jackets, footwear or warm clothing for the day. An extra set of clothes at school will avoid unnecessary trips to the school with spare pants!

## TERRY FOX RUN

The Terry Fox Run is our traditional first fundraising effort of the year. Cancer is an awful diagnosis for anyone, and it has almost certainly had an impact on everyone reading this message. Despite the terrible effects of this disease, The Run gives us a chance to explore courage and selflessness at the highest level and have some fun with the fundraising. Our run will be taking place on Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Information regarding scheduling and other details will be forthcoming.

Our school's fundraising page  
is: [www.terryfox.ca/AlexanderRobinsonElementary](http://www.terryfox.ca/AlexanderRobinsonElementary) QR code:



## PAC INFO

Alexander Robinson Elementary Parent Advisory Council  
September 2021/2022



On behalf of the ARE PAC Executive, welcome back to another year and welcome to all our new students and families!! While things all around are looking very different, so it is for us. Fun things we normally undertake like hot lunches, barbeques, Fun Fairs, School Dances - all these things and more are on hold for the foreseeable future.

EVERY parent at ARE is a PAC Parent; we exist and function according to the BC School Act.

We have been putting out information to parents, connecting parents with resources and will continue to do so. Our main role is to engage with the School to identify and improve opportunities and learning outcomes for students. We can assist parents in navigating various school or district processes, policies and advocating with and/or on their behalf. The Executive is elected annually by our members which consist of every parent/guardian at our school. Our members are encouraged to participate as much or as little as they are able. Our success throughout the year is dependent on parent involvement. We have approximately 1000 PAC members at ARE. The Executive is NOT "the PAC". Every Parent/guardian is "the PAC".

Decisions are made at our general meetings by majority votes of the membership. It is the Executive's role to manage and carry out the will of the membership. We are a democracy under the commonly held fundamental principles of Robert's Rules of Order which includes all our members having equal membership rights according to our Constitution & Bylaws.

PAC Executives are all volunteers, doing the best we can with what we have. Please be patient with us as we move forward and we welcome any questions or suggestions and try to address

those as quickly and as accurately as possible. Any discussions with individual parents are considered privileged and held in confidence by the Executive.

Our first PAC meeting of 2021/2022 will be on Tuesday, Sept 14 at 7pm on Zoom - Meet and Greet at 6:45. ***ALL parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.*** We will be discussing many things including options for what this year may look like and the Principal will be on hand to provide a report and answer questions. Link for Zoom meetings are sent out by via Parent Portal.

## **Munchalunch**

We use a program called MunchaLunch, which allows online ordering (which in the case of this year), may include things such as spirit wear or other items that do not require in-school access, but also provides the Executive with your contact info, should you choose so. Munchalunch requires registration but is free to parents.

For parents new to the school:

<http://www.munchalunch.com/schools/AlexanderRobinson>

For returning parents:

<https://munchalunch.com/login>

If you would like to be added to our mailing list which includes access to the PAC School Google Calendar and other info as we get to them! - please email us at [arepacsd42@gmail.com](mailto:arepacsd42@gmail.com).

The ARE PAC Calendar (resource for all parents including important dates for the School & the District) can be obtained by clicking on this link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YXJlcGFjc2Q0MkBnbWFpbC5jb20>

Our most current and up to date information/discussion is in our two private facebook groups:

### **Alexander Robinson Elementary PAC**

-- Primarily for providing information/resources etc as relates directly to the school and the District

### **Alexander Robinson Elementary Parent Chat**

-- Primarily for general discussion/information/connecting within the school community

For new members joining or being invited to the facebook groups, the membership questions must be answered before approval.

The School website and tab for parents:

<https://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson/pac-info/>

**Also a reminder! IF you are going to the Kanaka Creek Liquor Store or to the Maple Ridge Liquor Store .. simply mention to add your purchase to Alexander Robinson Elementary PAC. There is no additional cost, and 5% of all sales go to the PAC!**

**2021/2022 ARE PAC Executive**

Chair – Thea Skorbinski

Vice Chair – Sandra Acutt

Treasurer – Jamie Raso

Secretary – Christine Whitelaw

DPAC Representative – Chris Schultz-Lorentzen

Please feel free to email us with any questions or reach out directly to any of your PAC Executives.

***We respectfully acknowledge that the work of ARE PAC takes place on the traditional and unceded shared territory of the hən̓q̓əmin̓əm̓ speaking people of the Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation***

## 2021-2022 ALEXANDER ROBINSON SCHOOL CALENDAR (revised)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Schools opening day for students (Delayed start 12:30pm-2:25pm) | Tuesday, September 7, 2021                                  |
| <i>National Day for Truth and Reconciliation</i>                | <i>Thursday, September 30, 2021</i>                         |
| <i>Non-instructional day (School Growth Planning Day)</i>       | <i>Friday, October 1, 2021</i>                              |
| Thanksgiving Day  | Monday, October 11, 2021                                    |
| <i>Non-instructional day (province-wide)</i>                    | <i>Friday, October 22, 2021</i>                             |
| Remembrance Day   | Thursday, November 11, 2021                                 |
| <i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>                   | <i>Friday, November 12, 2021</i>                            |
| Student Conferences – 11:30am Early Dismissal                   | Thursday, December 2, 2021                                  |
| Student Conferences – All Day (no school)                       | Friday, December 3, 2021                                    |
| Schools close for break   | Friday, December 17, 2021                                   |
| Winter break  | Monday, December 20, 2021 to<br>Friday, December 31, 2021   |
| Schools reopen after break                                      | Monday, January 3, 2022                                     |
| <i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>                     | <i>Monday, January 24, 2022</i>                             |
| Family Day  | Monday, February 21, 2022                                   |
| <i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>                     | <i>Tuesday, February 22, 2022</i>                           |
| Student Conferences – 11:30am Early Dismissal                   | Thursday March 3, 2022                                      |
| Student Conferences – All Day (no school)                       | Friday March 4, 2022  |
| Schools close for break   | Friday, March 11, 2022                                      |
| <i>Schools not in Session</i>                                   | <i>Monday, March 14, 2022 to<br/>Friday, March 18, 2022</i> |
| Spring break  | Monday, March 21, 2022 to<br>Friday, March 25, 2022         |
| Schools reopen after break                                      | Monday, March 28, 2022                                      |
| Good Friday   | Friday, April 15, 2022                                      |
| Easter Monday   | Monday, April 18, 2022                                      |
| <i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>                   | <i>Wednesday, May 11, 2022</i>                              |
| Victoria Day  | Monday, May 23, 2022  |
| Last day for students (half day) – 12:00pm Dismissal            | Thursday, June 23, 2022                                     |
| Year-end administrative day                                     | Friday, Jun 24, 2022  |
| Schools closed for Summer vacation                              | Monday, June 27, 2022                                       |

**ELEMENTARY (K-7) DAILY SCHEDULE:** 8:30am to 2:25pm. 300 instructional minutes per day; 176 days of instruction. Kindergarten gradual entry the first 2 weeks of September.

**Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per *School Act* and *Calendar Regulation*:**

853 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten. 878 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7.





# ALEXANDER ROBINSON ELEMENTARY

11849 238B Street, Maple Ridge BC V4R 2T8

## BELL SCHEDULE 2021-2022

### MONDAY – FRIDAY

|         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 8:25AM  | Line Up Bell                |
| 8:30AM  | Classes Begin               |
| 10:20AM | Recess Begins               |
| 10:33AM | Line Up Bell                |
| 10:35AM | Classes Begin               |
| 11:50PM | Lunchtime Begins            |
| 12:05PM | Students go outside to play |
| 12:28PM | Line Up Bell                |
| 12:30PM | Classes Begin               |
| 2:25PM  | Classes Dismissed           |

