



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 #4 – December 2021

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The ending of Term One is significant for a couple of reasons; first it means that the winter break is here, and second that the longest part of the school year is already over. The stretch to Spring Break and then until the end of the year is relatively short. I really didn't think that by this time we would still be living under Covid restrictions, but masks, limited meetings, and reduced opportunities continue to be the norm. Let's hope that it doesn't last much longer! Meanwhile, we are always thankful for the support of our PAC and the wider community. It has only been possible to successfully navigate these times with your constant support. From all of us to all of you, our very best wishes for a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year!

UPCOMING DATES:

December 17 - Last Day of School before Winter Break
January 3 - School reopens
January 5 - Kindergarten Sibling Registration opens (parent portal)
January 11 - PAC Meeting 7:00pm
January 11 - MDI begins until Feb 28th
January 24 - Non-instructional day (no school)

CALENDAR

A reminder that our school will reopen after winter break on Monday January 3, 2022. Ours is one of a small number of school districts in the province returning from winter break on January 3 rather than January 4, in order to meet the required minutes of instruction within the context of our collective agreement language. You can find the 2021/22 school calendar on our website at <https://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson/are-linear-calendar-2021-2022/>

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Please review the mandatory requirements for unvaccinated children under 12 years arriving from international travel as outlined by The Government of Canada.

Please note that unvaccinated children of vaccinated parents who return from international vacation travel do not have to quarantine, however they **cannot attend school for 14 days**. Something to keep in mind when making any holiday plans.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/publications/diseases-conditions/fully-vaccinated-travellers-without-covid-19-symptoms-returning-canada.html>

MASKS

We are going through masks at an alarming rate. We are asking you help save our environment! We are handing out at least 50-75 masks per day. If each elementary school in Maple Ridge is handing out up to 200 masks per week; that's 4200 masks that end up in the landfill every week with just our Maple Ridge elementary schools.

We kindly ask that you send your child with 2 reusable masks daily. Your help in this matter is greatly appreciated.



SPARE CHANGE OF CLOTHES



Please be sure to send your child to school with a spare change of clothes that they can keep at school. So, when they show up to class like this after recess or lunch, they have a spare change of clothes to change into!

KINDNESS COUNTS DAY (Pink Shirt Day)

Kindness Counts Day is on February 23, 2022. We encourage all students and staff to dress in **PINK** for the day.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Any child who turns 5 years old in 2022 (born in 2017) is eligible to register for the 2022-23 school year. Registration dates are posted on the School District Website. Kindergarten registration is done on the Parent Portal. Registration opens at 12:00pm (noon) on the first day of each registration phase.



Sibling Registration - January 5-11, 2022
Enviro Registration - January 12-14, 2022
Choice Registration - January 19-24, 2022
General Registration - February 2-8, 2022
Late Registration - February 23- July 31, 2022
Open Registration - August 17, 2022 and on

For more information, download the kindergarten registration brochure at

<https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/202223-Kindergarten-Registration-Brochure-web.pdf> or visit the school district kindergarten registration page at <https://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration/>

GRADE 8 REGISTRATION FOR THE 2022-23 SCHOOL YEAR

Registration for grade 8 for the 2022-23 school year is done on the parent portal. Online registration begins on February 3, 2022 at 12:00pm (noon). The online registration form will automatically populate with your child's secondary catchment school. This is determined by your address. Please take a moment to ensure your parent portal account has your current address.

GRADE 4 and 7 Survey and Assessment:

In January and February students in Grade 4 and Grade 7 participate in the Middle-Years Development Instrument (MDI) and the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA).

MDI:

The MDI is a confidential self-reporting questionnaire that is completed online during approximately an hour of school time. It is widely considered to be an important and useful tool for planning school and community services. The MDI is not an assessment of individual children, but rather a survey of the population at large. Among other things, it is used to determine what after-school services, community programs, and facilities are most needed in our neighbourhoods. Participation in the MDI is encouraged but not mandatory - should you wish to exempt your child the forms required to do so were sent out on the portal before the winter break.

The MDI will be administered between January 11th and February 28th

OUTDOOR PLAY IN WINTER



There are many benefits for our young students to get outdoor breaks during the school day, even in the winter months. Many of us grew up being told that the cold weather makes us sick. That is simply not true! Illnesses like the cold and the flu are caused by viruses, not cold weather. Spending time outside in the winter months improves our immune systems and gives us an escape from all the germs and bacteria that are huddled up indoors. Outdoor recess time provides children with a brain break and helps them get their bodies ready for more learning. Spending time outdoors in the winter provides us with Vitamin D which is essential for children's physical well being and also their emotional well being. Vitamin D has been found to change serotonin levels in the brain. Serotonin is a hormone that is important in regulating mood. In other words, spending time outside may help children manage their emotions and improve their self-regulation.

Making sure that your children have the proper clothing for outdoor play will help them enjoy the time they spend outside at recess. Dressing in layers is always a great idea in our climate!

SCHOOL CLOSURE DECISION: SNOW

The decision to close schools due to accumulating snowfall is the responsibility of the superintendent, who must balance the safety of students, staff and parents with the need to provide learning. The decision is not taken lightly and is the result of a carefully thought out process that is reviewed after each experience and refined if necessary.

The decision to close schools is made by 6:15 a.m. Details are:

- Posted on the SD42 Twitter feed (@sd42news);
- Posted on the SD42 Facebook feed (SD42Facebook);
- Shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations;
- Posted on the SD42 Website (www.sd42.ca).

Please note: The district supports individual and family decisions regarding safety.

Parents/guardians have primary responsibility for their children's safe travel to school. If, for any reason, there are personal concerns about the ability to travel safely to school, other arrangements should be made.



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