



11849 238B Street, Maple Ridge BC V4R 2T8  
Phone 604-463-3035 Fax 604-463-0667  
Website: <http://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson>  
Principal: Ramin Mehrassa  
Vice Principal: Olivia Berry

## **Newsletter #1 – September 2023**

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back ARE community! We were thrilled to have students back in the building to start the year off. We'd also like to welcome our new students and families to the Alexander Robinson community. We look forward to getting to know you and your children throughout the year.

As you know, we have had a new division added to our school this year and we're bulging at the seams and have used all of our classroom spaces. We've also welcomed several new members to our staff, including Ms. Berry. I'm looking forward to working with her to make ARE even more welcoming than before.

Our first community event will be our Open House on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Our wonderful PAC has again graciously agreed to serve food to our community for the event. Hot dogs, water and chips will be served from 4:30-5:30, while classroom visits will commence at 5:30 and continue until 6:30.

### VICE PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Alexander Robinson Elementary Families,

I am very excited to be joining your community as your new vice-principal and support teacher. Mrs. Kosman told me ARE has the most wonderful school community that I am looking forward to becoming a part of.

A bit of background information about myself. I have been an educator for 20 years - 14 years in the Richmond School District (SD38) and 6 years (and counting) in the Maple Ridge/ Pitt Meadows School District (SD42).

My main reason for becoming an educator was to be a support teacher. I wanted to be a role model, offering encouragement and practical strategies to all students, especially students (as I like to call them, my peeps) with learning disabilities, particularly dyslexia.

In addition to being a support teacher, I also taught Humanities 8 and Social Studies 10 & 11 in SD38. My time in SD42 began at Pitt Meadows Elementary from March to June 2017 as a support teacher. From September 2017 until June 2023, I was at Garibaldi Secondary as support teacher and department head, that included working with 23 EAs and constructing/adjusting the EA schedules.

Away from school I enjoy spending time with my husband Bryan and our two kids Kayla and Zack. Both kids are involved in lacrosse (field and box) for Mission and Fusion West teams. There is a lot of driving to and from practices and games - all year round. We have two beautiful black golden doodle dogs, Peggy and Duncan, and a tuxedo cat named Junior.

I look forward to meeting and working with all the ARE students and their families.

See you all soon!

Yours truly,  
Ms. Berry

#### UPCOMING DATES:

September 5 - Opening Day for students 12:30pm start

September 19 - PAC Meeting

September 21 - Open House

September 29 - Orange Shirt Day (Recognition for National Truth and Reconciliation Oct 2)



#### NO DEVICES POLICY:

I wanted to share with you that similar to last year, students are asked to keep their devices in their classroom during recess and lunch recess. If students need to contact parents during these times, they can go to the office to call home. Conversely, if parents need to contact students when school is in session, they can do so by calling the office.

The rationale for this policy is that we'd like to encourage students to be more active during outside playing times instead of using their devices. Typically, recess and lunch recess are times for students to engage with each other and to have some form of exercise, whether it be playing games, using the playground apparatus, or chatting with friends while walking.

Thank you in advance for your support.

## 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:

Penny Ahmadi - Education Assistant  
Kristiana Arcand - Grade 4/5 Teacher  
Olivia Berry - Vice Principal  
Brandy Bryson - Education Assistant  
Luzmarie Cadelina - Education Assistant  
Sharon Chan - ELL Teacher  
Jen Corcoran - K/1 Teacher  
Alissa Davies - Education Assistant  
Leah Fordham - Secretary  
Christine Gamache - Education Assistant  
Jenna Gordon - Education Assistant  
Andrea Haywood - Grade 1/2 Teacher (job share with Mrs. Murphy)  
Ron Lawrance - Counsellor (Thursdays)  
Sarah Lemire - Grade 5/6 Teacher  
Nisha Lowther - Grade 6/7 Teacher  
Ashley Lozada - Kindergarten Teacher  
Mackenzie Hartmann - Education Assistant  
Steph Rickaby - Child Care Worker (CCW)  
Sarah McCarthy - Grade 2 Teacher  
Megan Markowski - Education Assistant  
Joseph Martin - Aboriginal Resource Teacher (ART)  
Rany Mork - Education Assistant  
Sheree Nieman - Aboriginal Support Worker (ASW)  
Julia Watson - Counsellor (W/F)



## STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Student Verification Forms for each child will be 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 BEFORE RETURNING.** 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) will be deployed by the district office via the parent portal that will need your approval. Please take a moment to login and approve these forms once available.

## PHOTO DAY

Photo Expressions will be here for individual student photos for all grades on Wednesday October 4. 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.



## ORANGE SHIRT DAY - RECOGNITION OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY

Orange shirt day will take place on Friday September 29, 2023. We encourage all to wear orange in recognition of Truth and Reconciliation Day (Oct 2). More info to follow.

## TERRY FOX RUN

The Terry Fox Run will take place on Friday October 6, 2023. More info to follow.

## 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 **\$7.00**. 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 will be sent via the parent portal once class placements are finalized. The primary school supplies fees are as follows:

- Kindergarten supply fee is **\$50.00**
- Primary (Gr.1-3) supply fee is **\$55.00** (includes a planner)

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

Intermediate students will need to purchase their own supplies or can order online through Creative Children. [Supply info](#) can be found on our school website.

## 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 2:20pm 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.

## VISITORS OR DROPPING ITEMS OFF

For safety reasons, **all visitors and volunteers are required to sign-in, sign-out and wear a visitor's tag while in the building or on the school grounds outside.**

If you have a message or something to drop off for your child, you may do so through the office.

## 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!

## Please Do Not Order Skip the Dishes/Food Delivery to our school

While this does not happen often, it is a real inconvenience when it does. The drivers are often confused and do not have instructions about who is to receive the items. We appreciate your restraint as these kinds of demands add to our clerical workload.

## TREATS IN CLASS

Only store bought and commercially wrapped treats will be allowed this year at the school for students. Therefore, no homemade or baked goods will be allowed to be handed out in the classroom this year.

## HOMESTAY FAMILIES WANTED

Are you interested in welcoming an International Student into your home and sharing the experience of being part of a Canadian family?

We are always looking for great host families!



**MAPLE RIDGE  
PITT MEADOWS**  
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

[www.inted.sd42.ca](http://www.inted.sd42.ca) @intedsd42 [www.facebook.com/IntEd.SD42](https://www.facebook.com/IntEd.SD42)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT:**  
International Education  
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District  
20575 Thorne Ave., Maple Ridge,  
BC, V2X 9A6, Canada  
**604-466-6555**  
<https://inted.sd42.ca/homestay>





# ALEXANDER ROBINSON ELEMENTARY

11849 238B Street, Maple Ridge BC V4R 2T8

## BELL SCHEDULE

2023-2024

### MONDAY – FRIDAY

8:25AM	Line Up Bell
8:30AM	Classes Begin
10:20AM	Recess Begins
10:33AM	Line Up Bell
10:35AM	Classes Begin
12:00PM	Lunchtime Begins
12:15PM	Students go outside to play
12:37PM	Line Up Bell
12:40PM	Classes Begin
2:20PM	Classes Dismissed





## ALEXANDER ROBINSON ELEMENTARY 2023-2024 LINEAR SCHOOL CALENDAR

Schools opening day for students (Delayed Start 12:30pm)	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Monday, October 2, 2023
<i>Non-instructional day (School Growth Planning Day)</i>	<i>Tuesday, October 3, 2023</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2023
<i>Non-instructional day (province-wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 20, 2023</i>
<i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>	<i>Friday, November 10, 2023</i>
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13, 2023
Student Conferences – 11:30am Dismissal	Thursday, December 7, 2023
Student Conferences – All Day (no school)	Friday December 8, 2023
Schools close for break	Friday, December 22, 2023
Winter break	Monday, December 25, 2023 to Friday, January 5, 2024
Schools reopen after break	Monday, January 8, 2024
<i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>	<i>Wednesday, January 24, 2024</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
<i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>	<i>Tuesday, February 20, 2024</i>
Student Conferences – 11:30am Dismissal	Thursday March 7, 2024
Student Conferences – All Day (no school)	Friday March 8, 2024
Schools close for break	Friday, March 15, 2024
Spring break	<i>Monday, March 18, 2024 to Friday, March 22, 2024</i>
<i>Schools not in Session</i>	<i>Monday, March 25, 2024 to Thursday, March 28, 2024</i>
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2024
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2024
Schools reopen after break	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
<i>Non-instructional day (district-based)</i>	<i>Wednesday, May 15, 2024</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last day for students (12:00pm Dismissal)	Tuesday, June 25, 2024
Year-end administrative day	Wednesday, June 26, 2024
Schools close for summer break	Wednesday, June 26, 2024

**ELEMENTARY (K-7) DAILY SCHEDULE:** 8:30am to 2:20pm. 295 instructional minutes per day; 179 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

## PAC INFO



Alexander Robinson Elementary  
Parent Advisory Council  
September 2023/2024

On behalf of the ARE PAC Executive, a big welcome back to all our returning families and a warm welcome to all our new families joining AR this year!! We are excited for the year ahead filled with fun activities for students and parents alike. Welcome BBQ, Hot Lunches, School Dances, and Fun Fair just to name a few!

EVERY parent/guardian at ARE is a PAC Parent; we exist and function according to the legislation in the [BC School Act](#) as part of the [Manual of School Law K-12](#).

We will be putting out information to parents; connecting parents with resources. Our main role is to engage with the School to identify and improve opportunities and learning outcomes for students. We 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 2023/2024 will be on:

**Tuesday, Sept 19 at 7pm** in the School Library - Meet and Greet at 6:45pm.

***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.

### **Munchalunch**

We use a program called MunchaLunch, which allows online ordering for things such as Hot Lunches, School Events and other community and/or fundraising initiatives. 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>

The ARE PAC [Digital Calendar](#) (resource for all members of the school community including important dates for the School & the District) can be obtained by clicking on this link:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=YXJlcGFjc2Q0MkBNbWFpC5jb20>

If the link does not directly connect you to the ARE PAC Calendar, please email [arepacs42@gmail.com](mailto:arepacs42@gmail.com) with the email account that we can manually add in.

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

**Alexander Robinson Elementary PAC - admin'd by the PAC Exec**

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

**Alexander Robinson Elementary Parent Chat - admin'd by a group of community members**

-- 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. Membership is open to all active members of our school community.

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 account. There is no additional cost, and 5% of all sales go to the PAC!

#### **2023/2024 ARE PAC Executive**

Chair – Jessica Thompson

Vice Chair – Cherie Martens

Treasurer – Michelle Schultz-Lorentzen

Secretary – Shannon Lowry

DPAC Representative – Caitlin Lum (alt Dianna Johannson)

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 in and around the traditional and unceded shared territory of the Katzie First Nation and Kwantlen First Nation. We also acknowledge our Métis friends and partners living in our communities.*