



Alexander Robinson Elementary
HOME OF THE DRAGONS

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

Principal: Ramin Mehrassa

Vice Principal: Olivia Berry

Newsletter #5 – January 2024

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back everyone and happy new year! I hope you were able to spend some time with people you love and enjoyed the festive season. We're excited to get the second half of the year going. Basketball season will be starting shortly with teams coached by Mr. Davis and Mrs. MacPherson. Teachers will also be taking students on a variety of field trips including skating, gymnastics, and the Space Centre.

A reminder that Kindergarten registration for sibling takes place between January 9-13. If your child turns 5 in 2023, you're eligible to register them on the portal for Kindergarten for the 2023/24 school year.

Similarly, registration for grade 8 also takes place via the portal on February 13th, starting at 12:00pm (noon). It is important to register early as slots get taken up very quickly for both Kindergarten and Grade 8 registration.

A huge shout-out to our generous PAC who again supported our school by providing funds to the school to purchase many different items for our classrooms. Your generosity is truly appreciated. And we are continually grateful to our hard-working PAC for providing hot lunches on Wednesdays. We appreciate the work you put in to offer choice for our students.

UPCOMING DATES:

January 8 - School Reopens

January 24 - Non instructional day (no school)

January 25- Kindergarten Dental screening

ATTENDANCE REMINDER PARENT

If your child will be absent from school, arriving late, or being picked up early, please be sure to mark this either on the parent portal, by email at are_reception@sd42.ca, or by phone at 604-463-3035. If your child is marked absent and has not been excused by a parent this will come up on our call sheet. We will contact all numbers we have in attempt to confirm that your child is safe. Lately, as you can imagine, we have been inundated with a high volume of calling home due to no communication from the parent that their child will not be attending that day.

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.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DATES FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

All students registering for kindergarten must be 5 years **on or before December 31, 2024**. 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 9-13, 2024
Enviro Registration - January 10-12, 2024
Choice Registration - January 17-22, 2024
General Registration - January 31-February 6, 2024
Late Registration - February 21-July 27, 2024
Open Registration - August 21-September 19, 2024

For more information, download the kindergarten registration [brochure](#) or visit the school district [kindergarten registration page](#).

GRADE 8 REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR

Grade 8 registration for the 2024-25 school year is done on the parent portal. Online registration begins on February 13, 2024 at 12:00pm (noon) and closes on February 27, 2024 at 11:59pm. 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. Any change of student's address needs to be done at the office along with two supporting documents. This information will not update in the portal until the next day.

GRADE 5 Survey:

In January and February students in Grade 5 will participate in the Middle-Years Development Instrument (MDI).

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.

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!

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 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 6:30 a.m. Details are:

- Posted on the SD42 Twitter feed (@sd42news);
- Posted on the SD42 Facebook feed (SD42Facebook);
- Shared with News 1130, CKNW;
- 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.

LIBRARY NEWS

-Bookfest

On Wednesday November 29th, a group of 20 ARE students trekked to Thomas Haney to participate in the Bookfest Event, our first district-wide one since Covid. The students did ARE proud and had a good time participating in 8 stations with puzzles and challenges related to the books, as well as having a zoom visit with David Robertson (author of The Barren Grounds). I was so proud of them! As well, a big congratulations to ALL who participated in Bookfest. It takes commitment and is an accomplishment for anyone; from those who finished one book to those who read all six! Still to come: Pizza party for all participants in Dec and movie viewing of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (TBA)

-Bookfair

Thank you to all who helped make the Bookfair such a success. Teachers were able to receive books on their Wish lists and the extra fundraising for the library will help add to books and resources to our collection for all to enjoy!

-Reading Link Challenge

This another Reading Club run in collaboration with the MR Public Library for grades 4/5 and it takes place after Christmas. It involves reading as many of the books as possible, and participating in teams of 5 in a trivia challenge at the school level. Winners at the school level go on to compete at the Public Library against winners from other schools. Books and forms will be available for students to take home for the Christmas Holidays. The books this year are:

1. Astrid the Unstoppable by Maria Parr
2. Because of the Rabbit by Cynthia Lord
3. J.D. and the Great Barber Battle by J. Dillard

4. Linked by Gordon Korman (Note: this book will include a disclaimer on the RL permission form)
5. Peter Lee's Notes from the Field by Angela Ahn
6. Upside Down Magic by Sarah Mlynowski, Lauren Myracle & Emily Jenkins

Here is the Sora link (<https://soraapp.com/library/sd42ca/curated-1516458/titles>) for the reading link challenge books.

-Chess Club will be starting in the Library after Christmas. Stay tuned for details!

-Library Volunteers

I am looking for anyone who would be able to give a bit of time on Monday or Thursday Mornings (or afternoon, if it works better) to help in the library with: checking in, shelving and checking out books. Please email me if you would like to help, I appreciate any willing hands SO much!

As well, with the start of a new year...please look for overdue books at home and/or settle up your library account for any lost books!

Ways to contribute for a lost/damaged books:

Cash (will be refunded if the book is found)

Replacement of the book

Replace the book with a gently used book from home.

Do a few small jobs in the library as exchange.

Thank you!

Hoping everyone had a safe and happy holiday season!

Ms. A. Neufeld

Teacher - Librarian

DISTRICT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charitable Donations

School District 42 is a registered charitable organization and provides the communities of Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows with an opportunity to fund local school priorities. It is structured to support both district-wide and school-based fundraising efforts. Donations of \$25 or more received from individuals or organizations other than charitable organizations are eligible to receive an official donation receipt for income tax purposes.

As a registered charitable organization, the school district can accept donations towards specific programs and projects; the district cannot accept donations that are directed to specific individuals.

If you would like to make a donation, please complete and submit the following form: <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Donation-Form-Fillable.pdf>

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS



Circle of Security

The Circle of Security Parenting Program is an opportunity to explore the importance of parent/caregiver and child attachment, gather helpful tools to respond to your child's emotional needs and feel more confident about your parenting.

Date: Jan 30- Feb 23 (Tues/Fri)

Time: 12-2pm

Cost: Free



To register, please visit our website familyed.bc.ca, call reception at 604-476-6055 or email reg@familyed.ca

WHO ARE SCOUTS?

Scouts are youth aged 11-14 who are learning to blaze their own trail, jumping into more leadership opportunities by planning adventures and giving back to their community in meaningful ways. Scouts can take their outdoor adventure skills to the next level with activities like mountain biking, rock climbing and lots of camping, and explore memorable opportunities like national or international jamborees. Through Scouts, youth discover their unique capabilities and personal progression as they discover the world through Scouting.

A Scout Section is called a “Troop” and youth within a Troop are organized into smaller teams called “Patrols”. As a Scout you are taking a stronger role in the types of adventures your Troop is undertaking and you’re learning more advanced skills. The motto for Scouts is: Be Prepared.

WHAT DO SCOUTS DO?

We should ask, what don’t Scouts do? The Scouting Method of learning by doing continues as Scouts take on more challenging adventures. Scouts may be partaking in multi-day camping excursions, completing their axe and saw permit or learning more advanced first aid to help others in a time of need. In Scouts youth will paddle across lakes, build their own campfires and understand the importance of Leave-No-Trace.

Community service is another important part of being a Scout. Whether it's stepping up to assist during a time of crisis in the community or simply by helping an elderly neighbour, Scouts instills a sense of civic pride and responsibility.

Join Scouts Canada on the adventure of a lifetime!

Scouts builds leaders, enabling youth to lead their own path toward outdoor adventure and fun. Through Youth-led programming, youth discover the best in themselves taking on new challenges and experience new things they wouldn't elsewhere. Along the way, they develop into well-rounded youth better prepared for success in the world.



Spaces available January 2024 with 1st Albion Scout Troop

We meet Wednesday evenings in the Albion area:

<https://www.myscouts.ca/ca/join>



JANUARY

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 -----	2 -----	3 	4 -----	5 -----
8 -School Reopens	9 -Kindergarten Sibling Reg opens -Curling DIV 9 -Comp Boys BB Practice 7:30am	10 -Comp Boys BB Practice 7:30am	11 -Rec Boys BB Practice 12:00pm	12 -Spirit Day- Anything but a backpack
15 -Rec Boys BB practice 7:30am -3:00pm Rec Boys BB Game (home) vs BME	16 -Comp Boys BB Practice 7:30am -Curling DIV 9	17 -Comp Boys BB Practice 7:30am -Comp Boys BB Game (home) vs Meadowridge -Hot Lunch	18 -Rec Boys BB Practice 12:00pm	19 -Langley Gymnastics DIV 19
22 -Rec Boys BB practice 7:30am -Rec Boys BB Game (away) vs KCE	23 -BC Fruits & Veg: cheese string, milk -Comp Boys BB practice 7:30am -Curling DIV 9	24 -Non-instructional day (no school) 	25 -Kindergarten Dental screening -Rec Boys BB practice 12:00pm	26 -Langley Gymnastics DIV 19
29 -Rec Boys BB practice 7:30am -Rec Boys BB Game (away) vs Albion	30 -Comp Boys BB practice 7:30am	31 -Kindergarten General Reg opens -Comp Boys BB practice 7:30am -Hot Lunch -Comp Boys BB Game (away) vs Albion		

subject to change

