11849 – 238B Street, Maple Ridge, BC V4R 2T8
Phone: 604-463-3035 Email: are_reception@sd42.ca
http://elementary.sd42.ca/alexanderrobinson

Principal: Mr. Ramin Mehrassa
Vice Principal: Mr. Rob Sheridan

Newsletter #7 – March 2026

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A big thank-you to Ms. Henschell, Bartle, Ms. Kahlert and Ms. Hsiao for organizing and contributing to our Kindness Walk and Pink Shirt Day at ARE. Students enjoyed a short video about the origins of Pink Shirt Day and it was wonderful to see parents at the assembly. The weather cooperated just enough to make our walk a lovely one.

A reminder that student-parent-teacher conferences begin Thursday afternoon and continue all day Friday. There will be an early dismissal at **11:30 a.m. on Thursday**, and **no school on Friday**. If you haven't already booked a conference time, please contact your child's teacher. A reminder that your child must attend the conference with at least one parent.

As basketball season wraps up, we extend our gratitude to Mr. Davis and Ms. Pahnke for coaching both boys' teams, and to Ms. Elder and Mrs. MacPherson for coaching the girls' team. The students truly had a wonderful season.

UPCOMING DATES:

March 5th: Conferences Day 1 – 11:30AM Dismissal
March 6th: Conferences Day 2 – No School in Session
March 13th: SPIRIT DAY – Pajama Day
March 16th to March 27th: SPRING BREAK, No School in Session

ELEMENTARY TRANSFER PHASE 1 OPENS MARCH 11

Elementary Transfer Phase 1 for the 2026–2027 school year in School District 42 (Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows) opens on **March 11 at 12:00 p.m. (noon)** through the Parent Portal.

Families wishing to request a transfer to a school other than their catchment school must submit their application online during this phase. As placement decisions are partially based on the date and time of submission, parents/guardians are encouraged to apply early.

Transfer Phase 1 will remain open until **April 7, 2026**.

For full details and eligibility information, please refer to the Elementary Transfer Guidelines on the district website or follow the link. Elementary-Transfer-Guidelines-2026-27.pdf

PARENTS/GUARDIANS IN SCHOOL

We have noticed an increase in parents/guardians entering the school and going directly to classrooms. For the safety of all students and staff, all visitors must check in at the school office when arriving at the school.

Parents and guardians are not permitted to walk through the school, visit classrooms, or access hallways during instructional time unless they have signed in at the office and have a scheduled appointment or meeting with a staff member.

Office staff will gladly assist you with student pick-ups, late arrivals, messages, or any classroom needs such as dropped-off lunches, clothing, or other items. If you do have a scheduled visit or meeting at the school, please check in at the office upon arrival to sign in and pick up a visitor pass.

ICE PACKS AT SCHOOL

Please note that ice packs are provided to students only in emergency situations, such as significant swelling or bleeding, or when a first aid attendant determines that ice is necessary. We have recently noticed an increase in students requesting ice for minor concerns. Frequent non-emergency requests take valuable time away from staff who are supervising and supporting students. We appreciate your support in helping your child understand that ice is reserved for situations requiring first aid attention.

WATER BOTTLES & CUTLERY REMINDER

We kindly remind families to send students to school each day with a reusable water bottle and any necessary cutlery (forks/spoons) for their lunch.

At this time, only the water bottle filling station is available. While we do our best to support students, the school is not able to provide cups or cutlery on a regular basis. Coming prepared helps students stay hydrated and ensures they can comfortably enjoy their lunch without needing to leave class.

LOST & FOUND REMINDER

Our Lost & Found is filling up! If your child is missing any items, please take a moment to check the Lost & Found that is in the **front foyer**. Unclaimed items will be donated. Thank you for helping us reunite students with their belongings!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2	**3** 12:15pm – Intermediate Chess Club	**4** 12:15pm –Crochet Club	**5** **Conferences - 11:30AM Dismissal**	**6** **Conferences – No School** 
9 10:30am Div 1,2,4 Hydro Dam Field Trip	**10** 12:15pm – Intermediate Chess Club	**11** Div. 7,8 11 Swimming Field Trip 12:15pm –Crochet Club	**12** Div. 16,19,20 Theme Day 12:15pm – Gr.3 Chess Club 12:30pm Div 1& 21 Skating	**13** **SPIRIT DAY – PJ DAY** 8:30am Div 2,4,12 Movie Field Trip 10am Div 3 & 5 Bowling **Last day of school before the break**
16	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**
23	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**
30 **First day back to school**	**31** 12:15pm – Intermediate Chess Club			

*subject to change

SD42 homestay program info night: Becoming a host family for an international student

Are you interested in welcoming an international student into your home? Join us for an online information session on **Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at 7 p.m.** Call 604.466.6555, ext. 3, or email inted@sd42.ca to register.

Hosting an international student allows you and your family to experience new cultures and connections while making a significant difference in a student's life. Host families are a valuable part of the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows International Education program and provide our students with support to help them adjust to living away from home. This support helps students have a positive experience both academically and out of school.

Whether you have hosted in the past or are new to the experience, we have varying program lengths, allowing you to choose which works best for your family.
Learn more at https://inted.sd42.ca/host-a-student/hosting-information/.

Are you a parent or caregiver in B.C. with a dependent child? You could save up to $1,250/month on child care!

The Affordable Child Care Benefit helps families reduce the cost of licensed or registered child care.

Benefit amounts are based on:

- **Your family income**
- **Your family size**
- **Your type of care arrangement**

Use the Affordable Child Care Benefit Estimator to see how much funding you may be eligible to receive by visiting gov.bc.ca/ChildCareBenefit

Contact us

Child Care Service Centre

Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m – 4:30 p.m PT

Toll-free

1-888-338-6622 (option 1)

Fax

1-877-544-0699

Mail

PO Box 9953 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria BC V8W 9R3

More info

gov.bc.ca/ChildCareBenefit

Affordable Child Care Benefit

Helping families with the cost of child care

The Affordable Child Care Benefit is a monthly payment from the Government of B.C. that helps eligible families with the cost of child care. The amount you receive depends on your family's income, size, and the type of care your child receives.

BRITISH COLUMBIA | ChildCareBC

Step 1

Eligibility

You might be eligible if:

- You are a resident of British Columbia
- You are a Canadian citizen, permanent resident of Canada, Convention refugee or a person in need of protection
- Your child attends an eligible type of child care
- You meet the income requirements, generally earning less than $111,000
- You (and your spouse) have a qualifying reason for requiring child care:
  - Working or self-employed
  - Attending school
  - Participating in an employment program
  - Looking for work (only one parent or guardian)
  - Living with a medical condition that interferes with your ability to care for your child
  - Your child is attending a licensed preschool program
  - Your child care is arranged or recommended by a Ministry of Children and Family Development or Indigenous Child and Family Services Agency social worker
  - Your child care is arranged or recommended by a staff member authorized by an Indigenous authority to provide child and family services under Indigenous law

Step 2

Gather required documents

- Apply for funding before the end of the month in which you need child care. For example, for child care starting September 1, apply by September 30
- A copy of one piece of government-issued identification is required for each family member
- If you have a spouse, they must complete portions of the application too
- Your child care provider needs to fill in and sign the child care arrangement form
- Once you start, you will have 60 days to submit your application and supporting documents
- You may be asked to provide supporting documentation to support your reason for requiring child care

Step 3

Submit the application

Families can apply:

- Online through MyFamilyServices.gov.bc.ca
- By mail or fax - download and complete the form, then submit it

Step 4

Wait for approval and confirmation

Step 5

Benefit applied to child care fees

If approved:

- Your child care provider will submit monthly claim forms
- Families pay any remaining balance after the benefit is applied

Step 6

Renewal and updates

Benefits must be renewed upon expiry, usually every **12 months**

Important!

- **Keep your contact information up to date and immediately report any changes that could affect your eligibility**
- **Not reporting changes could mean losing your monthly benefit or having to pay back money. Report all changes to basic information, income, or child care arrangements**

Affordable Child Care Benefit

Pitt Meadows Spring Programs Registration Opens March 3

The Pitt Meadows spring program guide is now available online and will be available in print on February 12. The City of Pitt Meadows Parks, Recreation & Culture Guide is packed with a variety of activities, kids basketball, youth disc golf, sewing, sound bathing, core stretch and strength, weight training, there's programs for all age groups! **Registration for opens Tuesday, March 3 at 8 a.m**. Visit pittmeadows.ca/programguide for details.

Low-Cost and Free Activities at Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre:
Parent & Tot Mini Gym 0-5Y
Looking for an indoor activity? PMFRC offers low-cost Parent & Tot Mini Gym in the gymnasium on Mondays and Wednesdays (10:05-11:45 a.m.) and Saturdays (9-11 a.m.) for only $1 per child.

Value Times at the Fitness Centre
Work out at the fitness centre during our value times. It's only $1 for youth (13-18Y) and seniors (60Y+) and $2 for adults (19-59Y). Value times are: Tuesday 10-11:30 a.m., Wednesday 8-9 p.m., Thursday 6-7 a.m. and Saturday from 3-6 p.m.

Community Services - Let's Play (FREE Registered Program)
Let's Play is a vibrant and inclusive community program for all ages led by Community Services. Families will engage in a variety of play opportunities with their child, such as loose parts, sensory explorations, the wonder of art, music and movement, science discoveries and more. **Registration is required.** See location, dates and full details, or register at pittfitandfun.ca.

Youth Week in Pitt Meadows – May 1 to 7
Join us for Youth Week! Drop by the Constable Rick O'Brien Youth Lounge from May 1 to 7 for FREE drop-in youth (11-17Y) activities. The Youth Lounge is located in the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre. Learn more: bcyouthweek.com or pittmeadows.ca/youth

FREE Family Lounge Drop-In Program – Sundays from 3-7 p.m.
Drop by the Constable Rick O'Brien Youth Lounge with your family! The Youth Lounge will open Sundays, from 3-7 p.m. for a time of unstructured activities for you and your children. Enjoy a variety of activities including billiards, ping pong, video games, retro arcade and board games. There is also a concession with food and drinks. Our Recreation team will be on hand to supervise, but please remember that this is a parent-led program. Children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all times. Older siblings (11Y+) are also welcome, but must be accompanied by a parent/guardian. For questions or details about this program contact the Youth Lounge Supervisor at **abuckle@pittmeadows.ca** or 604.465.2456.

FREE Gardening Workshops (16Y+)
Enjoy one or all of these beginner-friendly garden workshops: Herb Harvest & Garden Tea Gathering, Pollinators & Edible Flowers, Small Space Gardening & Companion Planting, Soil to Seedling. **Registration is required.** See dates and full details in the spring guide or register at pittfitandfun.ca.

And There's More:
Youth Ambassadors Wanted!
Do you want to represent and celebrate amazing youth in our community? The City is looking for Youth Ambassadors from Grades 1 to 6. Learn more about this opportunity at pittmeadowsday.ca.

FREE Family Events in Pitt Meadows
The City of Pitt Meadows proudly hosts a number of community events throughout the year. Some upcoming events from April to June 2026 include the Pitt Meadows Dayand Pride. For full details about community events and activities, visit pittmeadows.ca/specialevents.

Personal Training at the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre
From Teen Weight Training to Personal Training, there are a variety of individual and group programs available. See full details in the Spring Guide.

Park Amenity and Grabenhorst Garden Donation Programs
The City of Pitt Meadows offers residents, community groups, businesses and visitors the opportunity to honour a loved one, commemorate a special occasion or give back to the community. From memorial plaques to benches, these programs are designed to create lasting tributes while supporting local spaces and initiatives. Learn more about the Grabenhorst Garden Donation Program and Parks Amenity Program in the Spring Guide.

Experience Art & Culture at the Pitt Meadows Art Gallery
The Pitt Meadows Art Gallery (PMAG) is located on the main floor of the South Bonson Community Centre in Pitt Meadows. PMAG is committed to supporting local and regional artists and artisans and will showcase six exhibitions per year at the main gallery and four exhibitions per year at the pop-up gallery. Admission to the gallery is free and all work is available for sale.

The Pop-Up PMAG can be found in the lobby at City Hall. This satellite gallery showcases smaller collections of work from Lower Mainland artists.

For more information about the gallery and the exhibits visit pittmeadows.ca/pmag.

Discover Trails in Pitt Meadows
Discover the beauty of the outdoors by venturing through the scenic trails and dikes of Pitt Meadows. View the Pitt Meadows Trail Guide online or pick up a printed copy at the Pitt Meadows Family Recreation Centre, the South Bonson Community Centre, City Hall or the Pitt Meadows Library.

Disc Golf Anyone?
Bonson Park is a vibrant, multi-use community space designed for year-round fun and connection, offering amenities for everyone to enjoy. The Bonson Disc Golf Course is open for play and located at 11546 Bonson Road, Pitt Meadows. Keep score when you play and download a printable score card. Drop by today! Learn more at pittmeadows.ca/bonsonpark

Explore and Discover Grabenhorst Garden
Established in 2025, Grabenhorst Garden is a stunning five-acre sanctuary nestled within the Agricultural Land Reserve of Pitt Meadows. This land has a rich story—once a horse pasture in the 1970s, then a Christmas tree farm, and now a flourishing public garden shaped by decades of love and care. As you explore, you'll discover ornamental gardens, a tranquil pond, accessible pathways, a historic barn, a place of remembrance, a community orchard and edible garden and spaces for environmental education. We hope you enjoy your visit! Open year-round 9 a.m. to dusk, Friday to Monday. Admission is Free. Plan your visit and learn more today: pittmeadows.ca/grabenhorst

Fraser Health Newsletter: Spring Health

The spring season is approaching which means warmer weather and more outdoor activities. It's also an opportunity to foster new healthy habits for our children. Here are five practical tips for school-aged kids to make the most of this season.

Get active

Warmer weather makes spring the perfect time to get outside and play. Take a walk around your neighbourhood or head to a local park or hiking trail. You can also stay active close to home with jump rope or hopscotch in your neighbourhood.

Think fresh

Springtime often brings up images of fresh fruits and vegetables. Now is a great time to teach children about where food comes from by helping them to start their own home garden. You don't need a large space to get started. Any bright space indoors or outdoors can be used to grow fresh food. For tips, check out this resource about gardening with kids.

Be sun safe

Sunburns are possible, even in spring. Use a sunscreen that has Sun Protection Factor (SPF) 30 or more. When possible, schedule outdoor activities in the morning or late afternoon and early evening. If you and your children are out in the sun during mid-day hours, wear long sleeves, loose-fitting long pants and a hat.

Be prepared for extreme weather

Spring weather can be very unpredictable and can bring heavy rains or heat. Make sure you and your family are ready for possible flooding, heat and indoor air quality issues.

Plan for summer heat by preparing your home early. Find tips on Window safety for children as well as information and resources, including programs to help, at Fraser Health's Before a heat event page.

Practice road safety

Biking is a great way to exercise and spend quality time with your family. Remember to keep safety top of mind. Protect their heads with a well-fitted helmet and teach them the rules of the road, such as the hand signals for stop, right and left-hand turns. Check out our Fraser Health's Bike safety for children page.

For tips on all of this and more, check out Fraser Health's Spring health guide.

I AM Awesome!

SPRING CAMP

Designed to help young individuals with communication styles,
triggers, looking at their special inner qualities,
how to deal with stress and how to be a friend!

MONDAY-THURSDAY
8AM-12PM

MARCH 16TH-19TH 2026
FOR 6-8YRS

MARCH 23TH-26TH 2026
FOR 9-10YRS

PRICE: $86/CHILD

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT
THE FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT CENTRE
22554 LOUGHEED HWY
604-467-6055
reg@familyed.ca
https://www.familyed.bc.ca/

THE FAMILY EDUCATION & SUPPORT CENTRE

BRITISH COLUMBIA
Ministry of Children and Family Development