

## Alouette Elementary

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Principal : Mrs. Donna Servant  
Vice Principal : Mrs. Julie Clarke

## APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER



Just over a year ago schools closed for a while, planes were grounded, doors and windows were shut and many of us sat listening to Dr. Bonnie Henry every day. Gradually we learned new ways of living, safely. I remember the pots and pans clinking at 7:00 pm as we hailed our medical workers, working in the trenches, saving lives. Walking in this neighbourhood brought me joy as so many windows were decorated with children's artwork of hearts, representing kindness. Our groceries were delivered, and I learned the art of substituting in many of my cooking dishes as some items just couldn't be found.

And now we are almost at the end of this marathon of a pandemic. As spring approaches, it is filled with not only a sense of renewal, but also hope. Hope that soon we will be through the pandemic and enjoying the freedom that we once knew. Doors and windows will open again, we will hug again, and we will visit friends again. We're so close! It's important for all of us to remain vigilant with our safety protocols so we can help everyone make it safely across the finish line. Thank-you for continuing with daily health checks and keeping children home when they are not well. Handwashing and social distancing are some of the safety measures that impact us all. More information will be coming out soon about mask wearing. We have an incredible community here at Alouette and everyone's actions and sacrifices are appreciated.

Looking ahead, the warmer weather allows for more outdoor learning activities. Our primary children enjoy science exploration outside, and several intermediate classes will be learning about cycling safety. Later this month our intermediates will be preparing speeches for presenting to our classes through Zoom in May. And our PAC has generously supported virtual class workshops on *Body Science* at the end of April. Please see the letter that was sent out on March 29 on the portal for details.

As April begins, the signs of spring are everywhere: rain showers, bright sunny skies, flowers blooming, birds singing and trees budding. Spring reminds me of life in an elementary school...it's always eventful, constantly changing and sometimes surprising. One thing that resounds is that when we handle the "bolts from the blue" with openness, hope, perseverance, communication, and teamwork, everything is possible! Stay safe and think positive.

Mme Donna Servant  
Principal

Mrs. Julie Clarke  
Vice Principal

## HEALTH & SAFETY

The BC Centre for Disease Control has a helpful new online resource for B.C.'s education community. Built for parents, students, and school staff, the [K-12 Schools and COVID-19 website](#) has a wealth of valuable information including:

- **Health and safety measures** that have been put in place to prevent COVID-19 from spreading in schools
- **Protocols** when there is a positive COVID-19 case in a school
- **Shareable resources**, like a contact tracing infographic
- **Quick links** to tools like the COVID-19 Self Assessment Tool and the new K-12 Health Check app
- **Frequently asked questions**

Check out this new BCCDC website for reliable information and resources about COVID-19 prevention in schools. New information is added regularly

## STUDENT INFORMATION

Please remember to let the school office know if any of your child's information changes, i.e. home phone number, cell phone number, work phone number, address, emergency contact information, email address, etc. It is very important that the school has updated information about your children in case of emergency. Thank you.

## STUDENT LEARNING SURVEYS 2020/2021

The Provincial Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

The Learning Survey will be administered to students in grades 4 and 7, all school staff as well as our parent community. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included. The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm) Please follow the section under *Direct Access* (no logon number is required). Scroll to district 42 Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows and then scroll to Alouette Elementary.

All responses are anonymous and confidential. The surveys can be completed any time before April 30. We look forward to your input!

## PLANNING FOR SEPTEMBER AND STUDENT TRANSFERS

Although spring has just begun, plans are in full swing for September. If you know that you will be moving and not attending Alouette Elementary for the 2021/2022 school year, please let us know so that we can more accurately plan. Grades 1-6 students wishing to transfer schools for September must complete a Student Transfer Request Form that can be obtained by contacting the office or the principal. Please make sure this is done as early as possible so that the new school can consider your request as students transfer out. Due to space limitations, many schools are only able to consider students within their catchment. Proof of address is required. Visit the district website (<https://www.sd42.ca/student-registration/>) for information and transfer deadlines.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for the 2021/22 school year is open to children who are **5 years old on or before December 31, 2021**. Visit the district website for detailed information. Late registration is now open until July 31 for parents who may have missed previous registration phases. Parents will be advised of their child's tentative placement via email and ask that you send all supporting documentation to your child's school.  
<http://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration/>

## WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN

The **Welcome to Kindergarten Program** shares strategies and resources that make early learning through play a priority in the home and support children in a successful transition to school. More information to come.

## READING CORNER

Reading cartoons is still worthwhile reading!

Research has shown that boys often prefer more visual and nonfiction reading that contain facts and information while girls prefer more fictional stories. If your son does not seem as interested in reading, try different types of literature. Bring home some nonfiction books on amazing facts and strange creatures or more visual reading such as comic books (i.e. Garfield or Calvin and Hobbs). Research has shown that comic books actually really help students to predict and infer. Both are key reading skills that good readers use. Remember, any reading is good reading because it all helps to reinforce the patterns within the English language.



## NEXT YEAR'S CLASS PLACEMENT

We are soon beginning to create our classes for next year. Please be assured that staff devote considerable time, care and attention to this process. This very complex and lengthy responsibility occurs over several weeks and continues into September when class placements are finalized.

Throughout the year, there have been many opportunities for parents and teachers to discuss each child. Staff work together to consider the following criteria very carefully: **social emotional skills and relationships**, as well as **learning styles, strengths and needs**. Our goal is to create safe and engaging inclusive classrooms that balance these factors, as equitably as possible.

If you feel there is further information to consider about your child, you may submit input to the principal in writing by May 28, 2021. *Please refrain from requesting specific teachers or peers by name.*



Earth Day on Thursday, April 22, 2021 - End Plastic Pollution!!

**Quick Fact:** Earth Day promotes environmental awareness and calls for the protection of our planet.

## DRESS CODE

The school district is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, responsive, and inclusive. The district recognizes that decisions about dress reflect individual expression of identity, socio-cultural norms, and that they are personal. Students may attend school and school-related functions in dress of their choice provided that their choices:

- Conform with established health and safety requirements for the intended activity;
- Do not represent or promote weapons, gang culture, alcohol or drugs;
- Use respectful language;
- Do not depict or promote violence, racism, sexism or discrimination; and
- Are not intimidating to others.

Ultimately, the school administration has the responsibility to apply the dress guidelines when necessary. If any person dresses in an inappropriate manner, the student should be advised personally and discretely and given an opportunity to meet school district guidelines.

## ✓ DAILY HEALTH CHECK

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers **MUST** conduct a *Daily Health Check* of their child(ren) before sending them to school. The Daily Health Check is also available online at <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/>

### SYMPTOMS

- Fever (above 38°C)
- Chills
- Cough
- Loss of sense of smell or taste
- Difficulty breathing



### WHAT TO DO

#### 1 or more of these symptoms:

- Stay home.
- Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

### SYMPTOMS

- Sore throat
- Loss of appetite
- Headache
- Body aches
- Extreme fatigue or tiredness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Diarrhea



### WHAT TO DO

#### 1 symptom:

- Stay home until you feel better.
- Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

#### 2 or more of these symptoms:

- Stay home and wait 24 hours to see if you feel better. If symptoms don't improve or if they get worse, get a health assessment. Contact a health care provider or 8-1-1 about your symptoms and next steps.

### CLOSE CONTACT

If you are a close contact of someone who has COVID-19 and have any of the symptoms listed above:

- Get tested and stay home.
- Fraser Health will advise you if you are a close contact. For more information on close contacts, go to <http://www.bccdc.ca/covid19closecontacts>.
- If you are unsure, please call 8-1-1.

### INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Have you returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?

- All students and staff who have travelled outside of Canada are required to self-quarantine for 14 days after arrival under both provincial and federal orders.



If your child develops severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing (eg. struggling to breathe or speaking in single words) or chest pain, call 9-1-1 or go to the nearest Emergency Department.

## April 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 <b>GOOD FRIDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	3
4	5 <b>EASTER MONDAY SCHOOLS CLOSED</b>	6 Lost & Found in front of school	7 Lost & Found in front of school	8 Lost & Found in front of school	9 Hub Cycling Neighbourhood Ride Divs. 1 - 5	10
11	12 Timberline Divs. 2 & 3	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Timberline Divs. 4 & 5  Body Science workshops	20  Body Science workshops	21  Body Science workshops	22 EARTH DAY	23  Body Science workshops	24
25	26 Timberline Divs. 2 - 5  Body Science workshops	27  Body Science workshops	28 Secretaries Day  Body Science workshops	29	30 Last day Student Learning Surveys	