

ALOUETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Phone 604-463-8730 / Fax 604-463-3281

Website : <http://schools.sd42.ca/alouette/>

Principal: Mrs. Donna Servant

Vice Principal: Mrs. Julie Clarke



MARCH 2021 NEWSLETTER

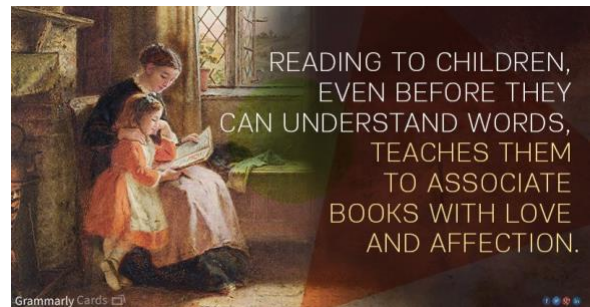
February flew by as there were many events at Alouette for us to enjoy. Our Global Day of Play was a success as many classes engaged in fun activities that did not involve technology. Throughout the school children enjoyed board games, card games, make-believe and more. We held a Zoom assembly on Kindness Counts Day and shared how giving and receiving kindness actually releases chemicals in the brain to make both parties feel happier!

Spring break is only two weeks away and I hope you have time to enjoy the great outdoors with your children. Research shows that playing outside contributes significantly to the development of self-regulation and social skills. Through free play, children learn to compromise, negotiate, problem-solve, communicate, perspective-take, and develop empathy. The link below is a quick read that outlines some of these benefits for children. The clocks do move ahead in March and we are looking forward to the longer days that invite us all to spend more time appreciating nature.

<https://heartmindonline.org/resources/play-outside>

Many students noted that literacy was a goal for them during their last conferences. Spring break might be a great time to visit the Maple Ridge Public Library to find some really interesting books. Research shows that children who read books for just 20 minutes a day perform better in school. Some ways to get your child reading include

- setting aside a reading time in a comfortable place
- reading together
- having a wide range of books of interest for children
- asking questions about the story or what they think will happen next
- It also helps if you get caught reading yourself!



Staying home for spring break is an opportunity to read and enjoy the natural beauty that surrounds us in Maple Ridge. We have much to look forward to as spring approaches. We hope you find some time to slow down and create special memories with your family.

Mrs. Donna Servant
Principal

Mrs. Julie Clarke
Vice Principal

Health and safety update for families from Superintendent Harry Dhillon

Daily Health Check

The province has updated its *Daily Health Check* for students. The updated checklist is available through the online [K-12 Health Check App](#) and on the [district website](#).

Additional information is available starting on page 25 of the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) document.

Physical Education

ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY:

Outdoor activities and programs are encouraged as much as possible. Teachers will plan physical activities that do not involve prolonged physical contact or crowding and that support physical distancing of 2 metres outside of learning groups.

SECONDARY ONLY:

Wearing masks during high-intensity exercise (indoor or outdoors) is left to personal choice. Masks do not replace the need for physical separation.

For low-intensity exercise activities, secondary students are required to wear masks when they are indoors, unable to maintain physical distancing, and a barrier is not present.

Weight room users are to maintain 2-metre physical distance and wipe down equipment after each use with a disinfectant.

Additional information is available starting on page 40 of the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) document.

Music Programs, Choir and Singing

All K to 12 staff and secondary students will wear masks while singing indoors unless they are behind a physical barrier. Physical contact will be minimized within the same learning group, and students and staff will be spaced as far apart as possible. Students are to maintain a 2-metre distance if they are not within their cohort while singing indoors or outdoors.

Additional information is available starting at the bottom of page 38 of the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) document.

Visiting Schools

Visitor access to schools continues to be restricted only to those individuals who support activities that benefit student learning and well-being. All visitors **must** wear a mask.

Parents/caregivers and other visitors on school grounds should maintain a physical distance of 2 metres and avoid crowding.

Mask Protocols

As I noted in a letter to families on February 4, modifications have been made to mask guidelines and are outlined [here](#).

Other Changes

Other changes include improved protocols around staff interactions and shared space.

Revisions have also been made around crowding, gathering, and close face-to-face contact.

Additional information is available in the [Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings](#) document.

SD42 ENHANCED CLEANING IN SCHOOLS – VITAL OXIDE

The health and safety of our students and staff is always our primary concern. In the context of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we have the added responsibility of ensuring that our facilities are cleaned and disinfected in accordance with the *Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings*.

The school district currently uses Vital Oxide solution as part of its enhanced daily cleaning regimen implemented to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. It is hypoallergenic, biodegradable, fragrance-free, food-safe, and non-toxic. The product is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency and has one of the safest classifications possible while also killing 99.999% of bacteria and viruses within minutes.

The district initially used a bleach-based cleaner when schools reopened for in-classroom instruction in September but switched to the eco-friendly Vital Oxide in late October/early November to address feedback received from schools. Fraser Health has confirmed that this product is not hazardous and non-toxic, and is not expected to cause respiratory or skin irritation. Eye contact may cause mild irritation.

As always, if you have any concerns, please make sure to share these concerns with me. You can reach me at the school by phone or by email at dservant@sd42.ca. In rare instances where an adverse reaction does occur, the district can switch to a different hypoallergenic product for that classroom.

WEST COAST RECESS

It has been very cold and soggy outside and often the field can be quite muddy. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes at school, boots a suitable coat for the wet/cold weather, along with mittens and a tuque. Covid protocols require students to be outside for more time than previous years. Research shows that the outdoors is a safer environment during the pandemic. Furthermore, there are many benefits to being outside. There are more open spaces outside for children to be physically active and they also have a chance to socialize with students from other classes. Thanks for your support!

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 at the link below for detailed information. Late registration is now open until July 31 for parents who may have missed previous registration phases.

<http://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration/>

GRADE 8 REGISTRATION

Deadline for Grade 8 online registration has closed. Families that missed this phase must complete a paper registration form at their catchment high school.

Parents will be notified by email before Spring Break about their child's assigned school. Movement between schools requires a transfer process. Please contact the school where your child has been placed for a transfer form. Please refer to guidelines at the attached link.

<https://www.sd42.ca/student-registration/>



Please be sure to let the school office know if your child will be leaving school early for Spring Break. Last day for students is March 12th. We welcome students back on Monday, March 29.

LOST AND FOUND

Items will be on display in the front of the school on March 1, 2, and 3. Please take a look through the collection and claim what is yours. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

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.

February through April 30, 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 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!

MOVING AND STUDENT TRANSFER REQUESTS

If you are moving before the next school year or planning to transfer to another school please visit the district website <https://www.sd42.ca/student-registration/> for information and transfer deadlines. The first transfer phase ends April 11. Please contact the principal, Donna Servant, at 604-463-8730 to discuss and to request a copy of the transfer form.

STUDENT INCLUSIVE CONFERENCES

Please be sure to sign up for a zoom conference with your teacher. Conference days are March 10 (early dismissal at 11:30) and March 11 (no school for students). This time is dedicated for these meetings that are important for student growth and celebrating accomplishments. Please mark your calendar as these opportunities are very important for our children.



Get ready to Spring forward on Sunday March 14 at 2 a.m. Clocks are turned forward 1 hour.

EASTER BREAK

There is no school on Friday, April 2, Good Friday, and Monday, April 5 is Easter Monday.



✓ 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.

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Lost & Found in front of school	2 Lost & Found in front of school	3 Lost & Found in front of school	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Conferences - Early dismissal at 11:30	11 Conferences - No school	12 Crazy Hat Day	13
14 Daylight Saving Begins	15 SPRING BREAK Schools closed March 15 - 26	16	17 Saint Patrick's Day	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29 Schools Reopen	30	31		April 2 Good Friday, Schools Closed	