

## Alouette Elementary

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Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0V9  
<http://schools.sd42.ca/alouette>  
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Principal : Mrs. Donna Servant  
Vice Principal : Mrs. Julie Clarke

## MAY 2021 NEWSLETTER



Recently I was standing in a line at the grocery store listening to a delightful conversation between an elderly gentleman and a tiny tyke who was in line behind him. The child couldn't have been more than four-years old, wearing an ear-to-ear grin at the attention. She was proudly pulling a heavy grocery-filled basket with her mom beside her. Many of us were standing on our socially distanced square observing this pleasant interaction. The little girl stood proud when this cheerful bystander commented on her *Wonder Woman* shoes. They both laughed and everyone around us smiled.

This interaction came after a morning where I had the opportunity to teach kindergarten. The children were so accepting and helpful. Happy actually, to have me in their class and showing me how it is run. Spending time with children can teach us a lot about appreciating the moment. They teach us to slow down, engage in make-believe play, laugh, read story books, and share in the simplest of life's treasures. In a time when the pandemic weighs on everyone, it's helpful to look to the children and their innocent way of finding joy in the little things.

While many of our traditional events have been cancelled, there continues to be much to celebrate at Alouette. Many classes are enjoying outdoor learning experiences, Body Science classes ran virtually, and teaching and learning has continued to flourish. Alouette participated in the district Reading Link Challenge and Mrs. Wightman's class came 2<sup>nd</sup>! Looking ahead, our intermediate classes will be sharing their speeches virtually, we will enjoy a spirit day (*Dress Like Your Teacher on May 5*) and we will meet our new little friends at our Welcome to Kindergarten event on May 26. (Existing kindergarten children dismiss at 12:00 on this day.)

Your kindness and patience are appreciated as we make our way through this pandemic. Sometimes it feels like I will need magical super-hero shoes to make it to the finish line. But observing the joy in our students makes me feel positive and hopeful that we really are on the right track. Stay safe and enjoy the sunny month ahead.

Mrs. Donna Servant  
Principal

Mrs. Julie Clarke  
Vice Principal

## **HEALTH & SAFETY**

Please remind children to apply their sunscreen, and to wear a hat and bring a water bottle to school. It's important to ensure they are dressed suitably for the outdoors. Our students are outside for 15 minutes at recess and 40 minutes at lunch. We also hold some classes outdoors. There are very few covered areas to get away from the sunshine and we want them to be protected from the strong UV rays at this time of year.

Thank-you for following the provincial health officer orders and remaining socially distant at pick up and drop off. We appreciate your decision to wear a mask through the crowded areas.

Please continue to assess your children daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19, or other infectious respiratory disease before sending them to school. **If a child has any symptoms, they must not go to school.** If your child is not attending due to illness or any other reason, please contact the school number to report the absence. If your child becomes ill while at school, we will contact you to come to the school right away. **Parents or caregivers must pick up their child as soon as possible if they are notified their child is ill.**

## **WHEELS AT SCHOOL**

Please ensure children wear a helmet if they are riding a bike/scooter to school. Their heads are precious, and we care that they are safe. We do ask children to walk their wheels when on school grounds to avoid any accidents due to congestion at arrival and dismissal. Thanks for your support!

## **PARKING**

Student safety is our top priority. Signs are posted that all parking lots are designated for staff and vehicles displaying the disabled tag in their windshield. **PLEASE DO NOT PULL INTO THE PARKING LOTS.** We recommend parking on a nearby adjacent street and walking your child to school. Ensure all pedestrians use designated crosswalks and approach with caution. The roundabout in front is only for drop off. Please do not park in the drop off zone and escort your child to class. We appreciate your cooperation in this regard as we work together to positively impact our child's school experience and keep everyone safe.

## **HIGH SCHOOL VISITS CANCELLED**

Grade 7 visits to high schools are cancelled this year due to Covid safety protocols. Grade 7's will have a regularly scheduled day at their elementary school (May 26). Each high school will have a virtual presentation at 7:00 pm on May 26 for families and students. More information will be sent through the portal.

## **THANK-YOU RIDGE MEADOWS SOCCER CLUB!**

Thank-you for your generous donation of soccer balls to our school! Ridge Meadows Soccer Club gave us a supply of soccer balls for our children's classes.

## **THANK-YOU ALOUETTE!**

Once again, our community pulled together to support our families who sadly lost all their belongings in a recent apartment fire. As a result of your generosity we were able to provide support as they cope with this tragedy. These families are grateful to be surrounded by a community that cares.

## **LATE KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION**

The **Late Registration** phase of Kindergarten Registration is now open until July 31 for parents who may have missed previous registration phases. For information about our online registration process, including registration phases, required supporting documentation and acceptance criteria, please visit: <http://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration/>

## **READY, SET, KINDERGARTEN**

We will be hosting a kindergarten orientation on Wednesday, May 26 for Kindergarten students that will be starting in September 2021. All children must be accompanied by only one parent/guardian. **This year's current Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 12:00 on this day.** Please contact the office at 604-463-8730 if you have not received your time frame information by May 10.

## **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 on your children in case of emergency.** Thank you.

## **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.

## **NEXT YEAR'S CLASS PLACEMENT**

We are 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 21, 2021**. *Please refrain from requesting specific teachers or peers by name.*

## **BLENDED (COMBINED) CLASSES**

Some parents have inquired about blended classes. Although there are definitely some structural and managerial reasons why we are seeing an increase in the number of classes where 2 or more grades are combined, there are also pedagogical and emotional/social reasons why combining students across grade levels is positive. These include:

- Research has shown there's no difference in academic achievement between children in combined classes versus straight grades.
- Students in combined grade classrooms are often less competitive with one another and more cooperative than students in same-grade classrooms.
- Children learn at different paces. Blended classes offer a wider range of curricula across 2 grade levels. Advanced students can be more easily challenged with higher-level material; struggling students can more easily return to earlier material.
- Younger children gain self-confidence and maturity by being exposed to older students; older students learn to be positive, mature role models for the younger students. (Most children come from a home environment with siblings of different ages).
- Some children will benefit by having the same teacher over two years, as the teacher comes to know the students' abilities better. This is called "looping."
- Students in blended classrooms tend to take greater personal responsibility for their learning.
- There is greater peer-to-peer learning in blended classrooms.
- Students develop friendships across grade levels and blended classrooms instill a greater sense of responsibility for one another, and a better sense of community. As one teacher tells her students, "we are like a family who cares for one another".

## **ALOUETTE YEARBOOK**

It is very important to verify that all your permissions are up to date on the portal. We can only insert class photos into our yearbook if we receive permission from every child in the class. If your child does not have a portal permission, then we cannot publish their photo in our annual yearbook. Please avoid disappointment and submit your permissions at your earliest convenience. Our office staff can assist you if you have any questions.

## **READING LINK CHALLENGE 2021**

This year's Reading Link Challenge was a huge success! This Reading competition is sponsored and organized by the Fraser Valley Regional Library. It is targeted for students in grades 4 and 5 who like to read and enjoy the challenge of testing themselves on details from the books. The students have 10 weeks to read 6 chapter books. This year was different in that we could not have students from different classes working together so each Grade 4/5 class formed a team. Our Alouette teams were:

The Think-A-Lakers from Mrs. Wightman's class  
Wong's Warriors from Mrs. Wong's class  
The Novel Nerdz from Mrs. Rupert's class  
The Bookaneers from Mr. Patterson's class  
The Chiunaverse from Mr. Chiu's class

The In-School Challenge was in March and boy, was it close. Mrs. Wightman's class won by one point! Every team displayed good sportsmanship (in spite of intense disappointment) and did their best! Mrs. Wightman's Think-A-Lakers went on to represent Alouette at the district level of challenge where they came 2<sup>nd</sup>!! Congratulations to all our Alouette readers and to the incredible Think-A-Lakers from Mrs. Wightman's class! And thank-you Mrs. Waterman for organizing the event for Alouette!

**Wednesday, May 12 Non-instructional day**  
**Monday, May 24 Victoria Day Holiday**  
**No School**

## **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.

## ***ALOUETTE PAC***

Our next PAC meeting is 9:00 am on Friday, May 7 by Zoom. Please email [alouettepac@gmail.com](mailto:alouettepac@gmail.com) for the link. We hope you will join us!

## May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	<b>3</b> Lost & Found on display out front.  Divs. 4 & 5 to Timberline Ranch	<b>4</b> Lost & Found on display out front.  Grade 4 speeches by zoom in afternoon	<b>5</b> <b>Dress like your teacher day!</b>  Lost & Found on display out front.  Grade 5 speeches by zoom in pm.	6	<b>7</b> PAC Meeting 9:00 am by Zoom.  Grade 6 & 7 speeches by zoom in pm.	8
9  Mother's Day	<b>10</b> Divs. 4 & 5 to Timberline Ranch	11	<b>12</b> Non-Instructional Day - No school for students	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	<b>24</b> Victoria Day - No School for Students	25	<b>26</b> Virtual high school presentations 7:00 pm  Ready, Set, Kindergarten! (Current kindergarten children dismiss at 12:00)	27	28	29
30	31					