



ALOUETTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

22155 Isaac Crescent, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 0W9

Phone 604.463.8730 / Fax 604.463.3281

Principal: Mrs. Donna Servant

Vice Principal: Ms. Melissa Ferris

OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

The autumn days are getting shorter, but the air feels refreshing, and the evenings are cozy. Thanksgiving is approaching, a great time to reflect on the good in our lives. I feel so fortunate to live in the lower mainland where I can enjoy spectacular views of mountains and lush greenery every day. Three sons and a husband have made for lively family gatherings and I'm grateful for dogs and pets who are always there to comfort and listen. Maple Ridge indeed feels like home and I'm grateful to have lived here for twenty-four years. I'm also happy and proud to work with children every day. They never cease to make me smile and always remind me what a wonderful world it really is.

September was eventful as children settled into their classrooms, made new friends, and got to know their teachers. Bulletin boards have been decorated with new art, classrooms are buzzing with learning and our days are filled with excitement. The Terry Fox Run was a success as children ran with their buddy classes. Thanks to the parents who volunteered their time to supervise different stations. The month ended with our orange shirt week, and we were fortunate to work with Joseph Dandurand, a Knowledge Keeper and celebrated poet, playwright and author as well as staff from our Ab Ed Department throughout the month of September. Joseph gifted us the Kwantlen song that we shared at our ceremony on September 29. It was inspiring to see many classes learning about the meaning behind our National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The month ahead brings many new opportunities. Classes are going on neighbourhood walks, visiting parks, and planning field trips and events. The district cross-country run takes place on October 25 and 27 for Alouette students in grades 1 through 7. We have our first Art Starts performance titled, *Rock & Roll Canada vs. World* and we wrap up October with Halloween festivities.

Alouette continues to promote our values of respect and kindness throughout our teachings. These values remind us that building positive relationships are at the core of a community's success. Please join us at our next PAC meeting on October 6 at 9:00 a.m. Contact alouettepac@gmail.com for the Zoom link. We have an amazing school because we know that working together, we can create a wonderful world for today and tomorrow. Wishing you all a joyful Thanksgiving celebration with your families.

Mme Servant
Principal



Ms. Ferris
Vice Principal

No School for Students:

Monday, Oct 3rd School Growth Planning Day

Monday, Oct 10th Thanksgiving Day

Friday, Oct 21 Provincial Wide Non-
Instructional Day

HEALTH & SAFETY

Thank-you for continuing to practice health awareness. Please keep children home who exhibit any symptoms of illness.

STAFFING UPDATE

We are saying farewell to Mr. Ross and wishing him all the best in his new position closer to home! Mr. Ross has taught Grade 6/7 at Alouette for many years and made a difference to our community. The position is posted, and we will advise when the position is filled.

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

We sent home Student Verification Information Forms with each student the week of September 19th. This is a printout of the contact information and phone numbers we have on record for your child. **Please be sure to make any necessary changes on the sheet, sign and return it to your child's teacher.** This is the contact information we will use in the event of an emergency. All forms must be returned even if there are no changes.

STUDENTS LATE OR ABSENT

If your child is going to be absent from school or late for any reason, please remember to call the school at **(604) 463-8730**. An answering service is available 24 hours a day 7 days per week for your convenience. You can also report your child's absence on the parent portal. If we do not have confirmation of absence from home, the office will contact the numbers we have listed on the form indicated above.

DROPPING OFF ITEMS FOR STUDENTS

When an item must be dropped off for a student, please bring it to the office and we'll take it to their classroom at a suitable time. Please do **not** go to your child's classroom as all visitors must wear a visitor tag and check in at the office. We appreciate your help in ensuring students have all they need for the day when they arrive at school.

STUDENT PHOTO RETAKES

The photographer will be at our school October 11 for any photo retakes.

STUDENT SAFETY

Please remember to wear a helmet when riding your bike, scooter or rollerblading and **please walk on school property**. In this regard, we appreciate you reminding your children to refrain from riding wheels while on school property. This is included in our Code of Conduct to ensure everyone feels safe. We have had many near misses, and this can be most unpleasant and startling. Thanks for your support in keeping everyone safe while outside.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

Students will be outside for recess (15 minutes) and lunch (20 minutes) most days. We ask that parents ensure their children are dressed appropriately for our rainy west coast weather with a coat, boots, and umbrella if necessary. Please keep in mind that our field can be very soggy and quite muddy. Students must keep a spare change of clothes in their backpacks. Research shows that students benefit from daily opportunities to play outside in the fresh air. After being outside, students are better able to focus, and it also strengthens their immune system. There are more open spaces outside for children to be physically active. Students also have a chance to socialize with peers from other classes.

PARENT PORTAL

If you are not yet on the parent portal, please contact the office and we will help you do this as it's the most efficient way for parents and guardians to get current information from the school.

CONSENT FORMS

Please complete consent forms that are listed on the portal **as soon as possible**. We require consents to publish any student photos in newsletters, on our website, in our yearbook, or to share with the Board. We also require consent for classes that do nature walks off school grounds. Your earliest attention to this allows us to enhance publications that share all the wonderful things that are happening at Alouette!

EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM

This consent form was added to the portal on September 21. Please complete the form as soon as possible. It advises us who has permission to pick up your child early from school in the event we must send students home early if there is an emergency.

WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

Alouette asks students to *pack-it-in and pack-it out*. Students are asked to pack all waste, wrappers, and uneaten food back into their lunch bags for processing at home. We encourage parents/guardians to pack sandwiches, fresh fruit, fresh veggies and treats in reusable containers instead of disposable plastic bags. Similarly, where possible, we ask that they provide their child(ren) with reusable drink containers. Thank-you for helping to keep our environment clean!

HEAD LICE

To prevent head lice among children at school, we ask that you remind your child to not share personal items such as combs, brushes, or hats, and that you check your child's head regularly for the presence of head lice. Early detection and appropriate treatment will significantly reduce head lice in our school. For more information on how to detect and treat head lice please visit Fraser Health website at: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/head-lice#.XwSIipNKhQI>

SCHOOL FEES

Planners	\$7.00
Kindergarten	\$55.00
Intermediate (excluding Wheelhouse)	\$20.00

Thank-you for submitting fees for supplies and planners. If you haven't already done so, we appreciate you attending to this as soon as possible. Payments are accepted on the portal or payments can be given to your teacher in a clearly labelled envelope.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

In the interest of safety and security it is imperative that we know who is in our school at all times. All visitors must report to the office and wear a visitor tag. All volunteers must complete the volunteer application and remain in the designated space with their teacher-sponsor or area of purpose.

READING CORNER

Helpful tips for families can be found at the link below:

<https://spark.sd42.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Joyful-ReadingReading-Success-at-Home-Helpful-Tips-for-Families-.pdf>

Visiting the public library regularly is a great way to discover new books. For more information check out the website at <https://www.fvrl.bc.ca/>

And finally, you may want to check out the website of our very own Alouette library. Mrs. Waterman shares a wealth of resources and information. <https://gss.sd42.libguides.com/aelib>

MISSING BOOKS

Please have a look around to check for library books, home reading books and home reading book bags. Some of them have gone missing and we really appreciate everyone checking.

CHILD CARE WORKER/YOUTH CARE WORKER

Social emotional growth is an essential component for healthy development in children. As part of this learning in schools, Alouette provides students with an opportunity to work with our Child Care Worker (CCW), Mrs. Joanne Wilson, in the classroom, in small groups and/or individually for check-in.

CCW's provide opportunities to strengthen friendship skills; develop coping and regulation strategies; enhance effective communication; and boost self-esteem/self-image. Care is taken to ensure support is offered at the least disruptive time for learning. Should you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Donna Servant (principal) or Ms. Melissa Ferris (vice principal) at 604-463-8730.

COMMUNICATIONS

As we continue to reduce our paper consumption, most school publications will be sent home via the parent portal. Newsletters and other pertinent information will also continue to be updated on our school website: <https://elementary.sd42.ca/alouette/>

Newsletters are published on the first school day of the month and distributed through the parent portal.

HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

Halloween is always an exciting time, and we are looking forward to the festivities. Teachers will send information about class celebrations. At this time, I would like to send a reminder of our district's dress code that is also found in our code of conduct located in student planners:

Dress Code:

The school district is committed to providing students with learning environments that are safe, responsive, and inclusive. 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.

We appreciate your discretion in student costuming, keeping in mind that we do have little friends in kindergarten. Thanks for your support and we wish you all a safe and happy Halloween!

PAC INFORMATION

On behalf of the Alouette PAC Executive team, welcome back to another year and welcome to all our new students and families!! We work together to create fun, community-building things like hot lunches, pumpkin carving contest, treat days, events, and more!

EVERY parent at Alouette is a PAC Parent - whether you participate in meetings or not, whether you volunteer in the school or not. If you are a parent/guardian under the School Act in our school, you ARE a PAC member, with all the rights and privileges of every member whether you exercise them or not. We exist and function according to the legislation under the BC School Act. EVERY parent is a PAC member.

We have been putting out information and reminders to parents, connecting parents with resources and will continue to do so. The PAC's main role is to make sure you have a voice in our school community. One of our other important roles is to engage with the school to identify and improve opportunities and learning outcomes for ALL students.

The Executive is elected annually by our members which consist of every parent/guardian at our school. Our members (you!) are encouraged to participate as much or as little as they are able. Our success as a PAC throughout the year is critically dependent on parent involvement, even if it is just your voice.

PAC Executives are all volunteers, doing the best we can with what we have. Please be patient with us, and we welcome any questions or suggestions and try to address those as quickly and as accurately as possible. Any discussions with individual parents are considered privileged and held in confidence by the Executive.

Our first PAC meeting of 2022/2023 will be October 6th at 9:00am. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing many things including where we are now, options for what this year may look like, and the administrators will be on hand to provide a report and answer questions as best as they are able. Please email alouettepac@gmail.com if you wish to attend **and we will send you a zoom invite.**

We use a program called HotLunches.NET, which allows online ordering for things such as hot lunch, fundraisers, and spirit wear. Hot Lunches.NET requires registration but is free to parents. Information on how to register will be sent out shortly.

For parents new to the school:

Our most current information/discussion is in our Facebook group: Alouette Elementary PAC -- Primarily for providing information/resources etc. as relates directly to the school.

2022/2023 Alouette PAC Executive

Chair – Jasmin Schuss

Treasurer – Talia Braun

Secretary – Erin Stewart

DPAC Representative – Blaire Mikoda

Hot Lunch – Karen Robins and Alicia Skorepa

Member at Large: Sabrina Trimboli

Are you interested in welcoming an International Student
into your home and sharing the experience of being
part of a Canadian family?

We are always looking for great host families!



**MAPLE RIDGE
PITT MEADOWS**
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

www.inted.sd42.ca  [@intedsd42](https://twitter.com/intedsd42)  www.facebook.com/IntEd.SD42

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT:**

International Education
Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District
20575 Thorne Ave., Maple Ridge,
BC, V2X 9A6, Canada
604-466-6555
<https://inted.sd42.ca/homestay>



FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT CENTRE

Visit the link below for the fall brochure of programs and services.

https://www.familyed.bc.ca/files/ugd/5abc98_8578c36ca5924ec2addf09d4afebfc4a.pdf

ANGER MONSTER



CHILD'S PROGRAM

This children's program is designed to teach children 8-12 yrs old what anger is. This program is designed to allow participants to be able to identify their triggers and learn tools to help control their anger.

ADULT'S PROGRAM

The parents program features skills from Neufeld Institute, including various anger cycles and goals of behavior. Participants will also learn how to help support their child's efforts to tame their anger, along with different calming techniques.

OCT 15- NOV 5 (SATURDAYS)
330-530PM
PRICE: \$90

(based on a registration for one adult and one child)



FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT

The Family Education & Support Centre
22554 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge
(604) 467 - 6055 or reg@familyed.ca



PARENTING RESILIENT CHILDREN



Understand better what resiliency is and how we can foster it in our families.

Please note this program will take place online, via Zoom.

OCT 11TH (TUES) 10AM - 12PM
PRICE: \$15

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

The Family Education & Support Centre
22554 Lougheed Hwy, Maple Ridge
(604) 467 - 6055
reg@familyed.ca

October

Alouette Elementary

Sunday	Mond	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 No school for students (School Growth Planning Day)	4	5 World Educator Day	6	7	8
9	10 Thanksgiving Holiday	11 Photo retakes	12 Art Starts Performance for students Shake out drill in afternoon	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 No school for students (Provincial-wide non-instructional day)	22
23	24	25 PAC Primary Pumpkin Patch	26	27	28	29
30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN!					