



September 2018 Newsletter

Blue Mountain Elementary

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Message from the Principal: Welcome back to another school year! We are happy to see familiar faces in our classrooms, hallways, and outside, as well as to see many new faces with our new students and their families.

We had a good first week. We have 315 students enrolled. On Monday students started in their new classrooms. Teachers have spent hours organizing and reviewing class lists in June and first week of September. Students will need their school supplies for their new classroom asap. School planners can be purchased from their classroom teacher for \$6.00.

We have a number of new staff members. You may notice some familiar faces who have returned as well as new faces around the school. We are fortunate to have all of these excellent staff at Blue Mountain. We are pleased to welcome the following staff to Blue Mountain:

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| -Ms. Wiebe | Gr 5/6 |
| -Mrs. Haggard | Gr 4/5 |
| -Mrs. Dykeman | Gr 4/5 |
| -Ms. Vanhaater | Kindergarten |
| -Mrs. Harris | Support |
| -Mrs. Merriman | Short-term EA K Support |

Mrs. Lutsch and Mrs. Soper are both off on Medical Leave. We are wishing them a full recovery and looking forward to their return sometime this fall.

Mr. Derinzy surprised us all on the last day of June to announce his retirement. He decided after a wonderful year of teaching he was ready to retire vs waiting another year or two. We wish him well and will miss him greatly at Blue Mountain.

To keep everyone safe, Parents, we need you to pull up as far as you can and quickly kiss and go. When cars stop at random spots it does not allow for the maximum number of cars to drop off. Please **do not pull up and leave your car unattended**. If you need to leave your car, you need to park on the street or in one of the limited parking spots. By all of us working together, it can make drop off less stressful for all.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Renée Scoular

STRONG START OPEN HOUSE

On Wednesday, Sept 19 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., Strong Start will have an OPEN HOUSE to view its new home. As many of our families have attended Strong Start, you are invited. Mark your calendar to drop by at Garibaldi Senior Secondary to see Strong Starts' new home.



Upcoming Events

- September 4
School Opens
- September 10
Students go to new classes
- September 13
7:00 PAC Meeting
- September 19
After School: Yoga Starts (Stage)
- September 21
Terry Fox Coin Drive: Dimes, Nickels, Quarters
- September 24
Non-Instructional Day – No School for Students
- September 25
Terry Fox Coin Drive: Loonies
- September 26
Terry Fox Coin Drive: Toonies
- September 27
Terry Fox Run at 1:30
Terry Fox Coin Drive: Bills
- September 28
Individual Photo Day
- October 1
Open House 6:00 to 7:00 pm

PHOTO DAY.....*Mark your calendars!!!* Photo Express will be here for individual student photos FOR ALL GRADES on FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 28. Please watch for a notice coming home in the next few weeks. As in the past, participation in the program is strictly voluntary. **However, EVERY student is REQUIRED to have their photo taken for identification purposes. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PURCHASE THE PHOTO PACKAGE.** The photographer will begin taking photos at 8:30 a.m. Students must have their own brushes or combs for final hair fix ups.

Important School News

MEDICAL FORMS: If your child has any health care needs that require support at school, including the administration of any medications, medical forms must be completed. The school cannot assist with any medical intervention unless these forms are completed. Please contact the school as soon as possible to complete a form. This procedure complies with the policy regarding the health care needs of children at school. If there are any questions, please contact the school. Thanks.

NOTE: If you are new to the school or your child has a recently diagnosed medical condition, please inform your child's teacher and we will send forms home.

THREE CLASSROOMS with Severe Allergies:
Mrs. Ponte-Serra – All Nuts/Peanuts; Mrs. Wilson-Nuts/Peanuts; Mrs. Lowrie/Terris-Peanuts/Nuts.

ACCIDENT INSURANCE: Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance reimburses for accident-related medical and dental expenses not covered by provincial, extended health or dental plans. If interested please visit web site at www.iapkidsplus.com.

Dressing for Fall: With upcoming/possible cooler temperatures and rainy weather, we ask that you ensure your child/children are dressed appropriately for the weather. We strive to have 'West Coast' Recess/lunches (students outside on rainy days); therefore sending your child with boots, rain-gear, hats, gloves, is necessary and appreciated. **Please ensure your child has a pair of dry indoor shoes and an extra change of clothes –just in case your child falls down and gets wet.** By sending an extra change of clothes, this alleviates office pile up at the phone to call home and wasted learning time. Thanks for your assistance.

INDOOR SHOES are mandatory. ALL students need to have a clean pair of shoes left at school so they can change into daily. These shoes should be either lace up or Velcro shoes as they will be wearing them to gym and playing active games. To keep our school clean and for your child's safety, indoor shoes are a must. Thanks.

STUDENT SAFETY: Children riding bikes or scooters should wear a helmet at all times and are not permitted to ride on school grounds. Let's keep everyone safe!

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEETS

Student Information Sheet for each child will be sent home next week. It is **ABSOLUTELY IMPERATIVE** we have all information filled out and returned to your child's teacher ASAP. We must have these forms on file in the office in the case of an emergency. Please make sure all emergency contacts are individuals who would be readily available, if needed. **ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO PROVIDE CELL PHONE NUMBERS AND WORK NUMBERS.** Please ensure your child's health care number is on the form. **IF ANY OF THE INFORMATION CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR,**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT THE OFFICE! It is essential we have accurate contact information on file at all times. Thanks!!

More Important School News

HEAD LICE: Reminder, please check your child's/children's hair for head lice as it is head lice season. If you notice any of the following, please contact the office. This will be kept confidential and a standard letter will be sent out to the relevant classes informing parents of the presence of lice. Evidence of Head Lice may be as follows:

- nits found on the hair
- live or dead lice seen on the scalp
- nit shells from hatched lice or dead eggs found in the hair

ParentPortalReminder

DON'T MISS OUT on another announcement, event, newsletter or field trip! In the fall, all forms and announcements will continue to be communicated from the school through the SD42 Forms and Parents Portal. If you are not on the portal please take a few minutes of your time to create an account at <https://parents.sd42.ca/>.

Parent make sure you have completed the policy/permission forms awaiting your approval on the portal!

District forms have been sent out through the portal. These forms are necessary to complete so your child can go on walking field trips, use iPads, etc. Please complete them ASAP. Remember to scroll down in each box as this indicates to the district that you have read the forms. If you have any issues, please come and see Mrs. Scoular.

Phone Use:

Just a reminder that children are not allowed to use the phone unless it is an urgent situation. Coordinating home visits, etc, is something that students are expected to do the previous evening. The office phone must remain free for business or emergency calls.



Tardiness:

Students arriving after 8:30 a.m. are late. Please continue to be supportive of our punctuality goals by helping your children arrive on time for classes. Valuable instructional time for the child is often lost as the first few minutes of class are usually when initial instruction/teaching for the lesson occurs. If your child arrives **after 8:45**, please have them check in at the office before proceeding to their classroom.



After School Programs at Blue Mountain: Please watch for an orange brochure in your child's backpack informing you of the Fall selection of After School Programs. Programs are offered three times per year, Fall, Winter and Spring running for either 4-6 weeks, our first set will start the beginning of October. Registration information can be found in the brochure, if your child requires extra support in the classroom please contact Drea Owen prior to registration to ensure the program will be a good fit. Children benefit from participating in after school programs both academically and socially, creating opportunities to build on traditional learning outcomes but also through new friendships and experiences. Our After School Programs offer subsidies for any family who requires assistance by contacting Drea Owen at 604-346-9815 or at drea_owen@sd42.ca.

BME Breakfast Program has started this week! For any new families... our BME breakfast program is supported by the Food Bank as well as donations. We offer a sit down meal for any students who would like it. Food offerings change daily... but generally include a choice from cold cereal, toast, yogurt tubes, granola bars, cheese strings, and juice. Some mornings we have fresh pancakes, frozen waffles or eggs. Students **must** enter via the outside set of doors by the gym, rather than coming in through front doors and down the hall. Doors open at 8am and food service is 8am-8:20am. After they have eaten, students exit the school to go and line up outside with their class.

If you are interested in cooking for the Breakfast Program, we do have Monday available. Also our coornitor, Merilee Gordon, will continue this year but this will be her last as her child is in gr 7. If you would like to volunteer to assist this year with the Breakfast program please talk with Mrs. Scoular or Merilee. Thanks.

TERRY FOX RUN AND DONATIONS: As mentioned in a portal announcement, we will collect coins and bills as followed to support the Terry Fox Foundation:

Friday, Sept 21 - dimes, nickels, quarters

Tuesday, Sept 25 -Loonies

Wednesday, Sept 26 -toonies

Thursday, Sept 27-Bills

Blue Mountain Terry Fox Run is scheduled for Thursday, September 27 at 1:30 p.m.

STUDENT PLANNERS

Planners are an excellent way for students to stay organized and a great tool for communication between you and your child's teacher. Please make a point of looking at your child's planner daily so you can stay up to date with classroom work and activities. Our school planner costs \$6.00 each. In order to keep track of all monies coming in, please send payment (cash or cheque made payable

to Blue Mountain Elementary) in a sealed envelope or baggie with your child's name, classroom teacher and division/grade. Planners are distributed by the classroom teacher who also collects the \$6.00. Thanks.



Drivers Abstract:

All parents and staff who offer to drive students on field trips and special events will be required to obtain a copy of a Driver's Abstract. You can call 1-800-98501498 and they will mail or fax your driving record to you or directly to the school. (BME fax number is 604-463-4955). Or you can apply at the Government Agent located at 175 22470 Dewdney Truck Rd. Maple Ridge, BC V2X 5X6. Abstracts are required to be updated every two years.



VOLUNTEERS & VISITORS

The safety of our student is a major priority. If you are in the school to volunteer or just visiting, please remember to sign in at the office and get a Visitor Pass. If a staff member or student sees the Visitor Pass they will know you are officially signed in. If you are dropping off a lunch, etc., you will not be required to wear a tag but you must check in at the office. We appreciate your help to maintain a safe environment in our school. Thank you!

PAC NEWS: The PAC meets on the second Thursday of each month. Our first PAC meeting is scheduled for this Thursday, September 13th at 7:00 pm in the library.

We welcome all parents. Please join us as we try to support our children's school.

PARKING

Please do not park at Garibaldi Senior Secondary (GSS). We know that parking / dropping off / picking up are difficult at Blue Mountain. GSS requires their bus loop for drop off and pick up.

DISTRICT NEWS

Hospital Homebound Support

Do you have a son or daughter who is ill or injured and unable to attend school?

School District No. 42 provides support to students who are unable to attend school for medical reasons. The Hospital Homebound teacher works with elementary and secondary students who have not been allocated support teacher time through a special needs designation.

Students may be absent due to a non-contagious illness or they may be recovering from surgery or an injury. Instruction is provided in Ridge-Meadows Hospital or in the student's home.

How does Hospital Homebound support work?

The Hospital Homebound teacher provides direct instruction and support to students, with the goal of helping them return to class with as little interruption to their education as possible. The teacher also helps students maintain connections with the people and programs at their school. While receiving Hospital Homebound support, students continue to be registered at their school and in their classes. Students work on the core academic subjects. They often use the same materials and complete many of the same assignments as their classmates, although some adaptations may be necessary depending on the child's illness. Students typically receive two to three hours of support each week.

When can a student be referred?

Homebound students qualify for support if they are absent from school for 10 consecutive school days. Students who are hospitalized can be referred upon admittance to Ridge-Meadows Hospital.

How do I refer my son or daughter?

Contact your child's teacher, counselor, or administrator. He/she will complete the Student Support Services referral form. A physician's authorization form is also required (available at the school). For more information contact Marc Beaudet, the Hospital Homebound Teacher, at 467-1101, or by email mbeaudet@sd42.ca



Appeal Process – SD42 Problem Solving/Appeal Process

In School District No. 42, we believe in working together to support our children. With input from parents, students, staff and community members, the district has developed guidelines intended to help prevent and/or resolve conflict.

Under Section 11 of the School Act, parents and students have the right to appeal decisions made by Board employees that “significantly affect the education, health or safety of a student.” An

amendment to the School Act introduced in the spring of 2007 allows parents or students to appeal a decision of a Board of Education made under Section 11 to a Provincial Superintendent of Achievement. The Board has approved a new policy that is accompanied by a procedural bylaw that provides guiding principles for all steps of the appeal process.

The link to the appeals process is now the second bullet under the parent tab on the website and can also be accessed at <http://www.sd42.ca/appeal-process/>. Also, included at this link are the following documents which are focused on proactive approaches to solving issues and can be helpful information to facilitate positive problem solving outcomes for parents and staff.



- What Parents Can Do to Help Their Children
- <http://cdn.www2.sd42.ca/assets/media/appeals-process-parent-guide.pdf>
- A Guide to Problem Solving
- http://cdn.www2.sd42.ca/assets/media/appeals-process-problem-solving_0.pdf
- Building Blocks for Successful Communication
- <http://cdn.www2.sd42.ca/assets/media/Building-Blocks-for-Successful-Communication.pdf>
- Community Support Resource Guide for Parents (updated 2016)
- <http://cdn.www2.sd42.ca/assets/media/15012016Community-Resource-Guide.pdf>

WHO IS AN ABORIGINAL STUDENT?

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. This includes First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit Ancestry. **No documentation is required and the ancestry can go back several generations.** Ministry of Education funding is provided to support the success of all Aboriginal students through culturally appropriate educational programs and services. We encourage all students of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit Ancestry to complete a self-identification form as this allows you to access various supports and programs during the school year if you wish. If you have any questions about this process please do not hesitate to contact:

Diane Graves

Principal, Aboriginal Education

Phone: 604- 466-6265

Email: Diane_Graves@sd42.ca