



November 2018 Newsletter

Blue Mountain Elementary

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Message from the Principal:

Before we know it, the Christmas season will be here. We will have two daytime **Christmas performances on Thursday, December 21st at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.**

As I write this newsletter, our students are looking forward to dressing up for Halloween. Please remember to follow our guidelines about the dress code which was recently sent out on the portal. We want to have fun in a safe manner. We ask that Halloween candy remains at home as students tend to eat candy versus eating their healthy snacks and lunch. In addition, we have a number of students with allergies who cannot come in contact with candies/food with tree nuts and peanuts. We appreciate your assistance.

Mrs. Scoular

Terry Fox Total = \$713.45



Upcoming Events

- November 1**
Div.10 – Allco Park
- November 4**
Daylight Saving
- November 6**
Div.1, 2, 3 – Hike
- November 7**
PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm
- November 8**
10:45am – Remembrance Day Assembly
- November 9**
Non Instructional Day
- November 10**
Winter Market, 10am-3pm
- November 12**
Remembrance Day Observed (school closed)
- November 13**
Hot Lunch: Swiss Chalet
- November 15**
Giants Assembly
- November 19**
Div.14 – Save-On-Foods field trip
Div.12, 13 – Save-On-Foods field trip
- November 22**
We Day Vancouver
- November 27**
Hot Lunch: Sushi
- November 28**
Bookfest
11:30 dismissal – Student-Led Conferences
- November 30**
Student-Led Conferences, all day
No classes for students
Movie Night: ELF, 6:00 pm

WOLF PAW

Recognition for one of the Six Pillars of Character

- Div. 1 – Alexis, Brian, Zez
- Div. 2 - Kaitlyn
- Div.6 - Rachel
- Div.7 - Aaliyah
- Div.8 – Maddie, Nikolas, Sadie
- Div.9 - McKenzie
- Div.11 - Hunter
- Div.13 – Grace, Guneet
- Div.14 – Josie, Mehraj
- Div.15 – Henry

Parent Portal Reminder

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/>.

Parents: Make sure you have completed the policy/permission forms awaiting your approval on the portal!

These forms are located on the **Parent Portal**. Please log in and complete the following forms asap.

Occasional Walk Form, Media Release forms, Information Technology & Communication Systems – Appropriate Use Policy, Personal Information Consent, Yearbook Consent, Student Use of Google Drive Services and Student Use of Microsoft Office 365 Services

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.

LOST & FOUND CLOTHING

We are only 2 months into the school year and our lost and found is being filled weekly! All of our Lost and Found items are located on a clothing rack in the front foyer. We encourage everyone to take a moment and stop by to see if you are able to claim any items. Unclaimed items will be donated to charity after our conferences.

BOOKFEST

Fifty grade 4-7 students have been reading together since September on order to compete in a district wide reading completion called Bookfest. The students are reading up to 6 books in order to participate in trivia games against other schools at the culminating event at The Act on November 28. We will also be meeting the author of the book Laser Moose and Rabbit Boy, by Doug Savage. Doug Savage will be visiting our school on Nov.29th.

DISTRICT CROSS-COUNTRY

Congratulations to all of the Intermediate and Primary Cross-Country runners – everyone did a GREAT job! Thanks to Mr. Ferguson and Ms. Wilson for coaching our students.

Intermediate Runners:

Tyler C., Dylan F., Marcus L., Alyssa B., Jacob G., Ethan K., Isabella T., Jordyn W., Sadie L., Sienna B.

Primary Runners:

Keigo C., Sofia T., Ary D., Parsa K., Kaede C., Joshua E., Carter C., Hunter N., Ryder R., Jaxon C., Easton J., Carter W., Tsz Hin W., Sierra C., Mackenzie C., Dalilah C., Ian L., Chase N., Ben F., Sean R., Ryder M., Yadev S.

“What to Expect when you are Conferencing”

This year all our classes will be doing ‘student inclusive conferencing’ for both the first and second term reports as a way to better inform parents of the work in class and to better involve both the student and parents. The School District has moved towards a new reporting format which includes student portfolios, Competencies Student and Teacher assessment, Literacy and Numeracy Reporting, and Student Goal-setting.

What will the conference look like (Intermediate)?

Exactly how the conference will be organized is not standardized across the school district or even the school, but several principles do provide a focus. The conference is ‘student-inclusive.’ The teacher will not do all the speaking. There should be equal opportunity for all parties at the conference to have input. There will be time dedicated to looking at the student’s work. This may be in the form of portfolios or work samples. Student, parent and teacher will discuss the student’s work and progress in using the ‘competencies’ (communication, social responsibility, critical thinking, creative thinking and personal responsibility) to focus this discussion. There will also be specific discussion about the student’s numeracy and literacy skills. The student will be presenting one or two goals for the coming term and consensus on these will be sought. Parents will have time to ask questions. A document will be generated, from the conference, which will serve as the formal report.

What will the conference look like (K/Primary)?

How conferences are organized will vary between classrooms and schools across the district; however, the following commonalities provide a focus for the conference. The conference is students-inclusive which means that the student, parents and the teacher will all participate in the dialogue. There will be time dedicated to discuss the children’s work –samples, photos, portfolios and so forth, and to talk about areas of strength and areas of growth. In the primary grades the focus is on literacy and numeracy. During the conference, parents, child and teacher will develop a goal for future learning and will identify how to support that goal.

What sort of preparation will the student and teacher have done before the conference?

The student and teacher will have worked together to gather or organize some sort of body of work for the conference. The student will have learned about the competencies and will either have completed a self-assessment on these competencies or the competency sheet will be introduced at the conference. The teacher will also either already have made decisions about this assessment for the student, or come to the conference ready to do so. In addition, the teacher will have assessed your child’s literacy and numeracy skills. The student will have generated ideas for their goal setting, or arrived at the conference with a proposed goal(s). This set of competencies allows for discussion to focus on the student’s learning ‘across the curriculum.’ These competencies represent “a holistic and unifying approach to learning, spanning all courses and the grades in the common purpose of enriching students’ learning experience and preparing.

FAMILY PHOTO AT PHOTO EXPRESS

Photos will be taken in our portrait studio at 11916 207 St in Maple Ridge. As in the past few years, we will have online booking available. Your families will be able to choose your school, and that will earmark the funds for your school. Here is the link for booking:

<http://www.photoexpressions.ca/portraits/fundraisers/>

Family photos (\$15 sitting fee) will be available between Nov 4 to Dec 17, and our premium Christmas-themed event (\$20 sitting fee) will run Oct 17 – Dec 16. All times for each event will be available to any school, and the school keeps \$15 from each sitting.

For the regular family photos each family also receives a free 8x10 portrait, not available with the premium Christmas event.

HALL OF FAME – September 2018

- Div. 1 Dina N., Lucy, C. Kinsey W.

Div. 5: Jashan D., Grace M., Aiden L-W.

Div. 8: Kingston H., Yadev S., Baylian H.

Div. 10: Ali A., Kelvin S.

Div. 12: Ivy K., Anna K.

Div.14: Josie L., Kaylee W.
- Div. 4: Maddy W., Khali S., Suraiya R.

Div. 7: Jacob P., Dessa H., Sean R.

Div. 9: Catrina M., Hunter N., Ella T.

Div. 11: Ella C., Ary D., Aiden I.

Div. 13: Madison B., Grace C.

Important memo on Parking lot Safety and Routines at Blue Mountain Elementary

Traffic issues surrounding BME Elementary have been a safety concern to all for the last few years, with the problem increasing as our population continues to grow. Our PAC, parents, and school neighbours have expressed safety concerns over driver behaviour and the amount of traffic in and around the school. Although we have repeatedly asked drivers to be aware of the restrictions, we continue to see double parking, unattended vehicles, and severe congestion, especially at pick up time. These circumstances are a considerable risk to our students and there have been too many ‘near misses’ as children weave through double-parked or unattended cars to get to their ride. These conditions aggravate drivers and pedestrians, which has led to discourtesy, conflict, and unsafe road conditions.

Safety is everyone’s responsibility and we need to ensure that we all do our part.

Common Traffic Problems at our Schools Include:

- Parking, stopping illegally, leaving vehicles unattended, blocking spaces intended for parents of children with disabilities
- Unsafe turns and U-turns
- Not stopping for children at crosswalks
- Arriving very close to bell times causing traffic congestion

Other Safety Problems:

- Children darting across the driveway or street through parked/waiting cars unaccompanied by an adult
- Crossing in between vehicles or mid-block instead of at the marked crosswalk
- Letting children out of the car on the driver side (traffic side) of the vehicle
- Double parking / reversing a vehicle out of the parking lot onto street

School Parking Lot Rules:

STAFF PARKING stalls, these spaces are reserved at ALL times for BME staff members.

HANDICAP SPOTS for those displaying valid handicap permits.

City of Maple Ridge, Highway and Traffic Bylaw No. 6704-2009:

The City of Maple Ridge bylaw states in part; that no vehicle shall block a driveway or park within 3 meters of a driveway. Please be considerate of the neighbours. They need to be able to come and go safely too. **Note:** The by-laws department will be issuing fines to anyone who is in violation of these by-laws;

Highway and Traffic Bylaw 12.1 –

- (b) Driveway – in front of or within 3 metres of a public or private driveway;
- (c) Intersection – in or within 6 metres of the approach or far side of an intersection, except as permitted by a sign
- (d) Hydrant – within 5m of a fire hydrant measured from a point in the curb or edge of the roadway which is closest to the fire hydrant to the nearest wheel of the vehicle
- (e) Crosswalk – on a crosswalk or within 6 metres of the approach side of a crosswalk

Suggestion to help keep the area safer:

- Consider parking away from the school and walking your child to school.
- Ensure all pedestrians use the designated crosswalk.
- Do not block the crosswalk with your vehicle.
- Do not let children out on the driver’s (traffic) side of the vehicle.



The Redesigned Curriculum at *Blue Mountain Elementary*

CURRICULAR COMPETENCIES: Fostering deeper and more transferable learning

The **Curricular Competencies** are a combination of skills, strategies, processes and habits of mind that students develop over time. They reflect the “Do” in the Know-Do-Understand model of learning. Deeper learning is better achieved through “doing” than through passive listening or reading, and it immerses students in authentic tasks that connect learning to the real world.

Curricular Competencies are subject-specific, and they are linked to the curriculum-wide [Core Competencies](#). A focus on the development of competencies actively engages students in their learning, and helps them to become critical and creative thinkers.

Coming in December – Career Education.



Caption here that explains how this photo illustrates the work done at school level in the area of Curricular Competencies.



Core Competencies: What are they and why are they in the new curriculum?
The new curriculum centres around the following three core competency areas: **communication, personal and social, thinking**. They are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Competencies are evident in every area of learning and in every grade, and come into play when students become actively engaged in their learning. During the school year, students will have an opportunity to self-assess their proficiencies in these core competencies.