

c̓usq̓unel̓a News

24093 104th Avenue, Maple Ridge, BC V2W 1J2 ♦ Phone: (604) 466-6231

Website: <https://elementary.sd42.ca/cusqunela/>

PRINCIPAL: Mr. W. Reamsbottom

VICE PRINCIPAL: Mrs. T. Tait



"Walk Together as One, Learn Together as One"

Newsletter #1 – September

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we settle into the rhythm of a new school year, I am delighted to share that our start-up went very smoothly! The halls have been buzzing with excited energy, smooth transitions, and only a few minor hiccups – just enough to remind us we're human.

This year, we're thrilled to welcome 670 students across 30 class divisions. It's a vibrant and diverse community, and already the building feels alive with curiosity, laughter, and learning. There's something truly special about the way a school settles once students find their classrooms and routines begin to take shape – it's as if the walls themselves breathe a little easier.

We have already had our first school-wide Gathering of the year and after covering a few housekeeping items, we turned our focus to building a healthy, caring community through small acts of kindness. It was a beautiful reminder that even as we continue to grow in size, the simplest gestures can have a big impact.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We're off to a fantastic start, and I'm so looking forward to all the wonderful things ahead!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notes from the Office: The best way to communicate to the office, if your child(ren) will be missing any portion of school, is via the Parent Portal. Be sure to let us know approximate arrival or departure times with the clock. You can also call 604-466-6231 or email cqe_reception@sd42.ca.

Dropping off a forgotten item, or food, for your child during the day? Please let your child know you will be leaving it in the office, labeled with their name on it and an approximate time to come retrieve it.

Please see page 2 for some general information and rules.

Breakfast Club: Food is available for those who need from 8:00-8:20am enter via the doors between the bike racks and gym.

PAC: What a great first PAC meeting this week and wonderful start to the year. Mr. Reamsbottom shared that this year's theme will be "community of kindness", and we are excited to focus our PAC efforts to help the school achieve this! Look for the PAC table at the school open house, we will have information about upcoming events and will be selling squares for the October VIP parking raffle! October 1st is Pancake Day! A favourite event amongst the students, staff, and parent volunteers! If you'd like to help, please follow updates on our "c̓usq̓unel̓a Volunteers" Facebook group. Save the date for our Movie Night on October 23rd! We also have ongoing fundraisers with Mables Labels, Kanaka Liquor Store, Cob's Bread, and the Return It Depot!

Upcoming Events

- Sept 8-16 Hot lunch ordering open
- Sept 24 PAC Hot Lunch – Subway & Domino's
- Sept 20-27 Hot lunch ordering open
- Sept 25 **Open House 2:30 – 3:30**
- Sept 29 Truth and Reconciliation Gathering – 10:45
Orange Shirt Day
- Sept 30 Truth and Reconciliation Day – School closed
- Oct 1 PAC Pancake Day
- Oct 3-11 Hot lunch ordering open
- Oct 8 Fire Drill 11:30
- Oct 10 Non-Instructional Day
No school for students
- Oct 13 Thanksgiving – School closed
- Oct 14 PAC Hot Lunch - Fuel
PAC Meeting 7:30pm
Via Zoom
- Oct 16 Great Shake Out 9:45
- Oct 23 PAC Movie Night
- Oct 24 Non-Instructional Day
No school for students
- Oct 29 PAC Hot Lunch – Masala Boyz

SOME FRIENDLY REMINDERS...

Arrival and Departure: Please ensure your child is going in their pod door in the morning and leaving through pod doors in the afternoon. Students must check in at the office after 8:40 am. ***Parents should never be in the building or going to classrooms without first checking in at the office, this includes the portables.***

Parking Lot: Please remember that our parking lot is **one-way with designated lanes for parking, kiss and go drop off/pick-up, and thru traffic**. It typically takes 10-15 minutes for the congestion to dissipate in the morning and afternoon. If we all remain patient and kind this will go much faster. Please see the attached map if you are unsure of the parking lot guidelines.

Litter-less Lunches: To help teach the students how to better take care of the environment *ćasqənele* has a litter-less lunch policy. As part of this process students are asked to pack out whatever they don't eat from their lunch each day including wrappers from packaged goods. Please note: There are no utensils, and no microwaves in the school for student use. Please send items that need to be hot in a thermos and send utensils.

Bikes and Scooters: Students have been asked to walk, not ride, scooters and bikes on school property and we request they get locked up on the bike racks found around the school. E-bikes and e-scooters are not allowed on school property. Please note, the school is not liable for any lost or stolen bikes or scooters.

After School Arrangements: To minimize phone calls to the office and class disruption, please ensure that your children are aware of lunch and/or after school arrangements when they arrive to school in the morning. Notes in your child's planner or emails to the teacher are great communication options as well. All teacher emails can be located under the staff tab on the school website. We are pleased to be of assistance when unexpected problems arise, however, we do appreciate your efforts to keep those occurrences minimal. Thank you for understanding.

ćasqənele Tuesday: Wear your *ćasqənele* Spirit Wear, shirts with kind messages, Terry Fox or orange shirts on Tuesdays to help your class win a visit from Spark, our resident eagle.

PAC: *ćasqənele* PAC meets on the second Tuesday of each month, with a few exceptions, please come to a meeting, let your voice be heard and help do good things for our students! The PAC also has a Facebook group that is updated frequently, you will need to ask to join and fill out questions prior to approval, this ensures the safety of our staff and students. Email: cusqunelapac@gmail.com
Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2769354153092188>

Parent complaints: If a parent is concerned about a decision made by a teacher, the parent first has an obligation to raise the concern with the teacher directly. If the concern is not resolved, the parent may request a meeting with the teacher and the principal to discuss the issue. If after this meeting, the parent is still dissatisfied with the decision made or action taken, a meeting with the principal and the assistant superintendent may be requested to resolve the matter. This information can be found in your child's planner as well as on the SD42 website: <https://www.sd42.ca/appeal-process/>

Lost and Found: The lost and found boxes are located by the gym doors. Please feel free to come look through the bins to find your child's missing items. Please be sure to label your child's clothing items, especially coats, to help enable these items return to your family!

Medical Alerts: Just a reminder that if you have a child with health-related issues that may need medical intervention while at school, this includes any short-term medication, proper paperwork is required to be updated *each year*. Please drop by the office to complete the necessary forms.

Parent Portal: It is easy to "unsubscribe" from portal communications, if you stop receiving regular messages please check your status.

Dress for the Weather: It is important your child is sent to school dressed appropriately. As well, an extra set of clothes kept at the school will enable your child to change should they get wet or muddy while playing during recess or lunch. We send the students out during these breaks no matter the weather. Please encourage them to dress for the weather.

First 3 spots for
DAYCARE ONLY

Parking Spots

DROP OFF
ONLY

NO
PARKING

Kiss and Go Lane

Thru Lane / No Drop Off Here

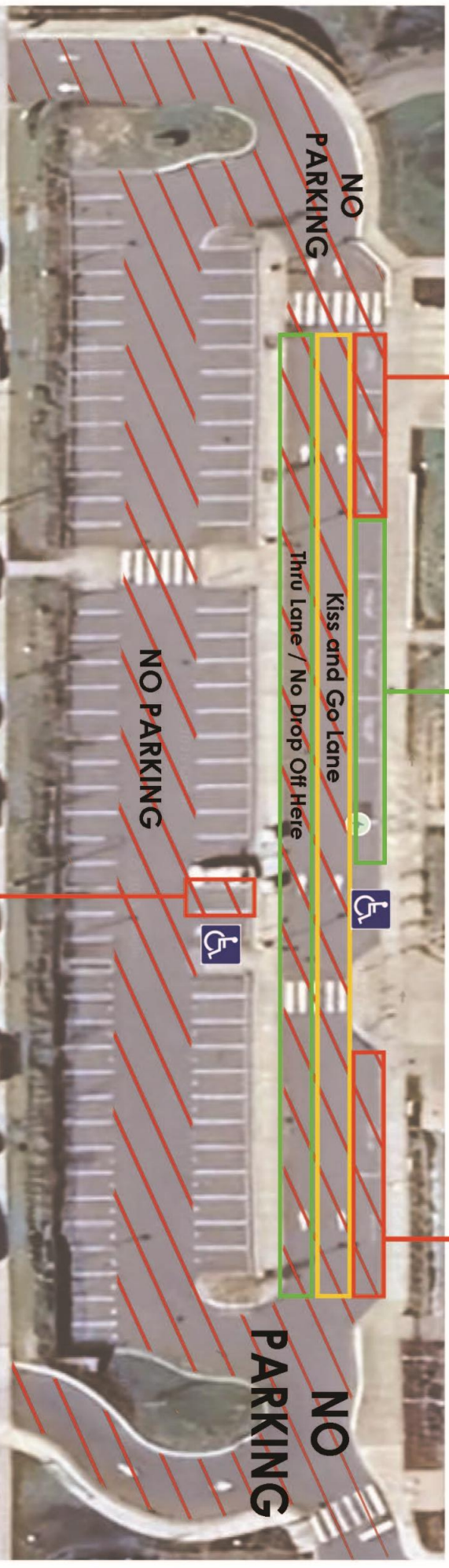
NO PARKING

NO
PARKING

EXIT

ENTER

VIP
Parking
ONLY





AFTER-SCHOOL FALL PROGRAMS 2025



Ćasqənelə Elementary



REGISTRATION IS OPEN FROM SEPTEMBER 9 AT NOON TO OCTOBER 8 AT 11 P.M.

ALBION FC: AFTER-SCHOOL SOCCER (GRADES 3–5)

Students will participate in fun and engaging activities that will develop their soccer skills at all levels. There will be an emphasis on building confidence and teamwork through a variety of soccer drills, games, and fun challenges. This program takes place both indoors and outdoors depending on gym availability. Sessions may be cancelled due to inclement weather.



Mondays
2:20 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 20 to Dec. 1
Location: Gym/field
\$65

**No session November 10*

Students will go straight to the program at the bell.

All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Programs could be cancelled due to low enrolment.

To register, go to schooldistrict42.perfectmind.com.

For more info: Hannah Macdonald, (604) 837 2384 or hannah_macdonald@sd42.ca.