



ECOLE GOLDEN EARS ELEMENTARY

23124 - 118th Avenue, Maple Ridge, B.C. V2X 2N1 • Phone 604-463-9513 • Fax 463-9578

PRINCIPAL: Mr. J. Wheatley

VICE PRINCIPAL: Mrs. R. Wurster

September 18, 2018

<http://goldenears.sd42.ca/>

Number 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon., Sept 24. . **School Based Non Instructional Day –
No school for students**

Thurs., Sept 27. **Meet the Teacher
Open House 6 - 7 pm**

Fri., Sept 28 . . . **Terry Fox Run @1:30 pm**

Tues., Oct 2 . . . **Assembly @8:40 am**

Wed., Oct 3 . . . **PHOTO DAY!**

Mon., Oct 8 . . . Thanksgiving Day – No School

School Calendar and Bell Schedule

8:25 am Students line up at door

8:30-10:15 am Classes in session

10:15-10:30 am . . . RECESS

10:30-12:00 Classes in session

12:00 pm LUNCH

12:38 pm. Student warning bell

12:40-2:20 pm. . . . Classes in session

2:20 pm Dismissal

New Staff....

A special welcome to our new and returning staff members:

- **Ms. Morrow** will be teaching a grade 6/7 class
- **Ms. Valouche** will be teaching a grade 6/7 class
- **Mme. Nolf** will be teaching our grade 7LFI class
- **Mrs. Hsiao** will be teaching a grade 1 class
- **Mr. Walker** will be teaching a grade 4/5 class
- **Mrs. Medeiros** will now be teaching in support
- **Mrs. Vis** will be teaching in support and will be the job share partner for Mrs. Chiu on Friday
- **Ms. Masters** will be our new library/music prep teacher
- **Ms. Wood** will be the job share partner for Mrs. Maxwell on Thursday and Friday
- **Ms. Meinerz** will be the job share partner for Mrs. Cacchioni on Mondays
- **Mrs. Emond** will be returning as Mrs. Johnstone's Wednesday job share partner
- **Mrs. Surbey** will be Ms. Luchi's Friday job share partner

Message from the Principal

Welcome to Golden Ears Elementary for another school year! We hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer and is ready to get back into the swing of school life once again.

This year our staff is very excited to again provide another excellent learning experience for your child(ren). We also plan to continue to promote the importance of social responsibility and build upon our school beliefs of "taking care of yourself, taking care of others, and taking care of our school."

Next month our school will also be opening our brand new artificial turf field! Our old field always had drainage issues that prevented us using it for lengthy periods during rainy weather. This new field will provide us with the opportunity to get the children outside almost year round - a nice improvement! The field will be reserved for school use during the day and for community groups in the evening.

Lastly, I hope many families will be able to attend our upcoming Meet the Teacher Night on **Thursday September 27th from 6-7pm.**

If there is anything I can do to support you, or your child, to be more successful this school year please give me a call. Thank-you for helping to make Golden Ears the best school around!!!!

Mr. J. Wheatley
Principal

Come Join Us *for an* **OPEN HOUSE**

We are looking forward to our Meet the Teacher and Open House to be held from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 27th. It will be a wonderful opportunity for the Golden Ears staff to meet parents and for the Golden Ears parents to meet their child's teacher. Please keep in mind that your child's teacher has just begun to get to know your son or daughter and is not yet prepared to comment on academic progress.

SCHOOL NOTICES AND NEWSLETTERS

As continue to become more eco-friendly, we will continue to no longer send home a paper copy of our school newsletter. All newsletters, calendars & notices will be sent home using the Parent Portal. We will also post the entire newsletter on our school website <http://schools.sd42.ca/ge/>. Thank you.

PARENT PORTAL REMINDER

DON'T MISS OUT on another announcement, event, newsletter or field trip! These forms/announcements are only communicated from the school through the **Parent Portal**.

Recently the District sent out the following consent forms on the Parent Portal to be approved by parents online. Please approve these items if you have not already done so.

- Information Technology & Communication Systems - Appropriate Use Policy
- Outside Media
- Personal Information Consent
- Student Use of Google Drive Services
- Microsoft Office 365 Services
- Walking Field Trip

Student Planners and Supplies

School supply lists are available on the school website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/ge/>. Student Planners are mandatory for grades 2 to 7 and are available at a cost of **\$7.00 each**. In order to receive the planner as soon as possible please send this money with your child to be given to his/her new classroom teacher. **Cheques should be made payable to Golden Ears Elementary.**

Medical Alert Forms

If your child has a medical condition that could require immediate action, intervention or medication at school, we require that you complete a Medical Alert form (available at the office) ASAP

Fruit & Veggie Program Information

Each year, students at Golden Ears, get the opportunity to participate in the province's Fruit & Veggie Program. About every two weeks we get a delivery of some type of fruit, vegetable, and/or milk for the children to eat and to help them learn about healthy eating. **If you do not want your child to participate in this free program please ensure your child and their classroom teacher are aware of this.**

Students Away/Late: Again this year we are phoning home to confirm any unexplained absences. We would very much appreciate if parents could email ge_reception@sd42.ca to let us know if your child is going to be absent or late. This is a big help in cutting down the number of phone calls we need to make each morning. If you are unable to email, please call (604) 463-9513.

Email us if your child is absent



TERRY FOX RUN

On **Friday, September 28th** classes will meet in the gym at 1:15 pm to organize with buddy classes. Once classes are organized and we have discussed the walk/run, classes will leave from the gym to the running route. Students will be encouraged to bring in a small donation closer to the race date.



INDIVIDUAL STUDENT PHOTOS

Fowle Photo will be taking the individual student photos on **Wednesday, October 3rd** (class photos will be done in the spring). Two photos will be taken including a full length pose. Please remember to dress your children appropriately, including their feet! Proofs of these photos should arrive home a couple of weeks later for you to select/order a portrait package. **Retake Day will be on October 24, 2018.**

STUDENT INFORMATION SHEETS

Please watch for the Student Information Verification Sheets sent home this week.. **Please read these over carefully, sign them and return them to the school.** 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 email addresses, cell phone numbers and work numbers. Ensure your child's health care number is on the form. If any of the information on the family information forms changes throughout the year, please remember to contact the office! It is essential we have accurate contact information on file at all times. Thanks!!

MUSICAL DATES

The Golden Ears Fine Arts Program will once again be running two shows this year. Please take note of these dates! If possible, avoid booking vacations or other events that would cause your student to miss school. This is especially important for Grade 3 and 7 students, as they are featured in our shows:

PRIMARY MUSICAL

December 17, 18, 19

INTERMEDIATE MUSICAL

April 30, May 1, May 2

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

Parent volunteer drivers are very important to the running of school activities. We appreciate your help in enriching the children's learning experiences.

The school board and I.C.B.C. requires that all volunteer drivers have a Driver's Abstract and a Volunteer Driver Form on file at the school **BEFORE** any driver is allowed to take any child, other than their own, on a school outing. If you plan to help us with driving this year, please complete the necessary forms and check to see if we have a driver's abstract currently on file for you in the office.

Obtaining your driving record (Driver's Abstract)

Your B.C. driving record lists your licensing transactions and offenses over the last 5-year period.

Your driver's abstract can be mailed or faxed to you. It is available by visiting a Driver Licensing Office or by calling the Driver Licensing Information line at 1-800-950-1498 or 250-978-8300 in Victoria, or the Public Information line at 1-800-663-3051. Only the license holder can request this document.

For Maple Ridge, visit - Government Agent
175- 22470 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge,
B.C.



Information & Research on Combined Classes

This year many students are in combined classrooms. Combined classes are a reality in every elementary school, and every child will be in both straight and combined classes during their elementary school years. Some [parents](#) can be concerned about possible negative impacts of being in a combined - there is none. With this in mind, we have put together some information below about combined and straight grade classes to help families better understand:

1. **Research has shown there is no difference in academic achievement between children in split classes versus straight grade classes.**
2. **A single grade class is a multi-grade class as children are all at different stages of development.** Every child develops at his/her own rate and pace.
3. Three common misconceptions about combined classes.
 - A combined class is comprised of the more capable students in the younger grade and students who struggle in the older grade.
Truth: **Every class** is balanced both academically and socially whether it is a straight or combined grade class.
 - If a child is in the older grade with younger students, they will not be challenged.
Truth: Teachers use differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all the learners in both straight and combined classes. Instruction is customized to students' stages of learning.
 - In a combined class, students will miss grade level curriculum.
Truth: A teacher in combined classroom is to be able to integrate different subject matters and bring students together to promote a one-class atmosphere.
4. Sometimes, children may remain with a teacher for a second year. There are many benefits in continuing with the same teacher and in the same learning environment for more than one year.
 - The teacher knows the students abilities and is therefore able to provide appropriate instruction.
 - Students can continue a second year with familiar routines and expectations, which naturally leads to leadership skills.
 - The child and teacher have built a relationship of trust over the years. The student becomes extensively familiar with the learning environment and naturally begins to understand himself as a learner and a person.
5. Benefits for the students
 - The older students have opportunities for leadership, mentoring and peer support. They learn to be positive, mature role models for the younger students.
 - The younger children gain self-confidence and maturity by being exposed to older students.
 - There is greater peer-to-peer learning in blended classrooms.
 - Students develop friendships across grade levels and instill a greater sense of responsibility for one another, and a better sense of community.

REMINDERS.....



Volunteers & Visitors

The safety of our students 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!

When Biking to School...

If your child rides their bike to school, please tell them to use the bike rack in the inner courtyard. We also ask the students to walk their bikes on school grounds and bring your lock safety.

Scooters/Rollerblades, etc.

School property is a *feet only* zone. Please walk onto the school grounds carrying your scooters, roller blades, skateboards, etc. to prevent accidents from happening.



Outside Classroom Doors

Students, please remember to use your outside classroom doors to enter and exit the school and **not** the front door.

Cell Phone Use

Please help us preserve the positive learning environment of the classroom. To reduce distractions and disruptions in the classroom from cell phones students are asked to leave all electronic devices in their backpacks during the school day. Emergency calls for your child during the day can be directed through the office and we can send a runner.

Supervision

Supervision is provided at Golden Ears between 8:25 am and 2:25 pm. At least 8 staff members are on duty during recess, and the noon hour.

There is no supervision of students before or after school. The school is not responsible for children arriving early or staying late unless the teacher has requested it. Our school operates a Learning Center out of the library from Tuesday through Thursday and therefore we insist on students being extremely quiet near the front entrance. Those who cannot follow this expectation will be asked to wait outside.

Inclement Weather



Please remember to send a change of clothes with your child to keep in the classroom, if your child tends to get wet and dirty when our rainy weather begins. This would save some phone calls home!



2018-2019 DISTRICT SCHOOL CALENDAR

Schools opening day for students	Tuesday, September 4, 2018
<i>Non-instructional day (curriculum implementation)</i>	<i>Monday, September 24, 2018</i>
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 8, 2018
<i>Non-instructional day (province-wide)</i>	<i>Friday, October 19, 2018</i>
<i>Non-instructional day (district)</i>	<i>Friday, November 9, 2018</i>
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 12, 2018
Student Conferences – Early Dismissal 11:30 am	Thursday, December 6, 2018
Student Conferences – No School	Friday, December 7, 2018
Schools close for break	Friday, December 21, 2018
Winter break	Monday, December 24, 2018 to Friday, January 4, 2019
Schools reopen after break	Monday, January 7, 2019
<i>Non-instructional day (curriculum implementation)</i>	<i>Friday, January 25, 2019</i>
<i>Non-instructional day (school-based)</i>	<i>Thursday, February 14, 2019</i>
<i>Schools not in Session</i>	<i>Friday, February 15, 2019</i>
Family Day	Monday, February 18, 2019
Student Conferences – Early Dismissal 11:30 am	Thursday, March 7, 2019
Student Conferences – No School	Friday, March 8, 2019
Schools close for break	Friday, March 15, 2019
Spring break	Monday, March 18, 2019 to Friday, March 22, 2019
<i>Schools not in Session</i>	<i>Monday, March 25, 2019 to Friday, March 29, 2019</i>
Schools reopen after break	Monday, April 1, 2019
Good Friday	Friday, April 19 2019
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22, 2019
<i>Non-instructional day (district)</i>	<i>Monday, April 29, 2019</i>
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2019

ELEMENTARY (K-7) DAILY SCHEDULE: 8:30am to 2:20pm. 295 instructional minutes per day. Kindergarten gradual entry the first 2 weeks of September.

NB: Kanaka Creek Elementary will run its year round calendar separate from this calendar.

SECONDARY (8-12) DAILY SCHEDULE: 8:30am to 2:40pm. 320 instructional minutes per day.

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:

848 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten.

873 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7.

947 hours of instruction for students in grades 8 to 12.