



ECOLE GOLDEN EARS ELEMENTARY

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

PRINCIPAL: Mrs. R. Scoular

VICE PRINCIPAL: Mrs. R. Wurster

September 16, 2019

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

Number 1

DATES TO REMEMBER

Mon., Sept 16 . . Assembly @8:40 am
PAC Meeting @6:30 pm
Mon., Sept 23. . Non-Instructional Day – No School
Thurs., Sept 26. . Meet the Teacher
Open House 6 – 7 pm
Fri., Sept 27 Terry Fox Run @1:00 pm
Wed., Oct 2 PHOTO DAY!
Mon., Oct 14 . . . Thanksgiving Day – No School

School Calendar and Bell Schedule

8:25 am Students line up at door
8:30-10:20 am Classes in session
10:20-10:35 am . . . RECESS
10:30-11:50 am. . . . Classes in session
11:50-12:30 pm. . . . LUNCH
12:30-2:20 pm. . . . Classes in session
2:20 pm Dismissal

New Staff....

A special welcome to our new and returning staff members:

- **Ms. Damoc** will be teaching a grade 4/5 class
- **Ms. Qually** will be teaching Kindergarten
- **Ms. Birch** will be teaching a grade K/1 class
- **Ms. Watkins** will be the job share partner for Ms. Birch on Tuesday
- **Ms. Cortina** will be the job share partner for Ms. Morrow on Monday and Wednesday
- **Ms. Oxenbury** will be teaching in support
- **Ms. O'Farrell** will be teaching in support
- **Ms. Summers** will be our new library/drama prep teacher
- **Ms. Wood** will be the job share partner for Mrs. Johnstone on Wednesday and Mrs. Maxwell on Thursday and Friday
- **Ms. Meinerz** will be returning as the job share partner for Mrs. Cacchioni on Mondays
- **Mrs. Emond** will be returning as Mrs. Chiu's job share partner for Friday

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." We are focusing on Belonging/Community for the month of September. You will notice posters around the school: *Be Here - Be You - Belong. This school belongs to all of us.* We have welcomed approximately 38 new students into our school this fall.

This fall we are starting with Play First, Eat Later at lunch time. Our recess is slightly later, and our lunch is earlier. Play First has been positive at other schools as students are ready to eat when they come in. Students are settling down to eat and are not rushed to get outside. Play first is from 11:50 to 12:13 then Eat Later is from 12:13 - 12:30. As a staff we will review this after Christmas.

Lastly, I hope many families will be able to attend our upcoming Meet the Teacher Night on **Thursday September 26th 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!!!!

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 26th. 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
- Emergency Release
- 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 27th classes will meet in the gym at 1:00 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 2ND (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 23, 2019.**

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!!

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.

Cutlery

We ask that students bring a spoon or fork in their lunch bag. We will not be providing plastic spoons or forks from the office. **REASONS:** one time use of plastic cutlery is not environmentally friendly. Thank you for your assistance.

We continue to be a pack-it-in-pack-it-out school with snacks and lunches.

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 instil 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!

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, counsellor, or administrator. He/she will complete the Learning 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 at mbeaudet@sd42.ca.



THRIVE EMPOWERMENT SOLUTIONS

Fall 2019 Programs for Girls Aged 6 - 12



Sole Girls Fall Sessions

Release your inner awesome at Sole Girls! Learn to be fearless, build confidence, live healthy, make new friends, & goal set. Empowering games, mentorship & discussion plus weekly training to run a 5km fun run at the end!

9 weeks
Ages 8 - 12



Wednesdays, September 25 - November 20
Alouette Elementary School

Afternoons
3:30 - 5:15 pm

Evenings
6:15 - 8:00 pm



Adventures in Wisdom

Get active, meet new friends & discover how awesome you are! Story-telling & Interactive games & activities helps younger girls recognize & embrace their greatness. Girls learn to take control of their thoughts & feelings to help build positive relationships, develop confidence & discover their potential!

5 weeks
Ages 6-8



Tuesdays, October 15 - November 20
Golden Ears Winter Club (beside Planet Ice)
Afternoons, 4:00 - 5:15 pm

Golden Ears Park Charity Hike for



Youth Wellness

Come and join us for a fun hike/walk to Viewpoint Beach in Golden Ears via the East Canyon Trail! The best part - it's by donation with all funds given to our Youth Wellness Centre! We'll enjoy the natural scenery along the way, and will spend 1+ hours at the beach enjoying games, activities and a scavenger hunt!

Pro-D Day - Monday, Sept 23rd 10 am - 1 pm

Ages 8 - 13

COME JOIN OUR TRIBE!
REGISTER AT:

www.thrivesolutions.org/programs
604.477.7780



FOLLOW US AT:



@thrivemapleridge



THRIVE

Empowerment &
Fitness Programs

Register your 8 - 12 year old daughter in a Sole Girls or GLOW program & we'll donate \$25 to your PAC

Use code PAC25 at registration & name your school in comments



The Redesigned Curriculum at Golden Ears Elementary



How has the curriculum been redesigned & how does this benefit student learning?

The BC curriculum has been redesigned to support the changing world students are entering. The redesigned curriculum is student-centred and flexible, maintains a focus on literacy and numeracy skills, and includes Aboriginal perspectives.

Kindergarten to Grade 10 teachers are already using the new curriculum in all our schools. The redesigned curriculum for Grade 11 and 12 is being fully implemented this September.

So how and what will your child be learning? Each month in our school newsletter, we will highlight a key feature of the redesigned curriculum and share stories about how this feature is being implemented in your child's classroom. We will also tell you why these skills and abilities will help your child succeed

Below, you will find the first installment of our monthly feature on the redesigned curriculum.

For more information about the BC curriculum, visit: <https://www.sd42.ca/new-curriculum/>

The Redesigned Curriculum at Golden Ears Elementary

Why does collaboration have a prominent role in the redesigned curriculum?

The ability to work effectively with others has become a critically important skill for career and life success. “Coordinating with others” is listed as one of the 10 skills to thrive by the World Economic Forum.

The *Communication* core competency highlights the importance of effective collaboration by focusing on the development of students’ listening skills, students’ ability to engage in formal and informal conversation, and their ability to generate and share ideas. When students work together to accomplish goals in areas such as inquiry, problem-solving, and community projects, they incorporate information from multiple sources of knowledge, perspectives, and experiences. Students learn to appreciate different perspectives and also learn to build consensus. As a result, the creativity and quality of the solutions students propose are both enhanced.

The relational importance of learning for all students is also captured by the First Peoples’ Principles of Learning, which recognize that learning is a highly social process that builds relationships within the family and the community. Ultimately, this emphasis on relationship “reinforces a way of being in the world that helps shape our actions, as we think about how our actions affect those around us.”

—From: Chrona. J: <https://firstpeoplesprinciplesoflearning.wordpress.com/> 2019



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.