



Parent Communication:

Maintaining contact with parents and students is important to us. We rely upon email, the parent portal, Facebook, Twitter and the planner app to keep families abreast of what's going on. You can follow us on Facebook or Twitter for announcements and reminders. The Gazette on the school website is updated daily.

If you haven't been receiving emails this year, you'll need to resubscribe. We strongly encourage parents to do this by logging onto the parent portal and subscribing on the login page.



<https://gss.sd42.ca/>

Grade 8 Parent Info Zoom Session:

We are hosting a Grade 8 Parent Information Session on Zoom. This is an opportunity to better understand the path and process at GSS. If you choose to join the zoom session please ensure your mic is off and the name of your login includes your last name; simply good "Web-educate".

October 5, 2020 7PM

Join Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/91575804682?pwd=OGJudzAvNIA2Q3o1QVNxUUg3M2pXZz09>

If prompted: Meeting ID: 915 7580 4682.
Passcode: 4nuZea

Sept - Nov 2020 Dates

Oct 5 Gr 8 Rotation 2
Oct 5 Gr 8 Info Zoom Session
Oct 12 Thanksgiving Holiday
Oct 14 Photo Retakes
Oct 6 Collaboration - Early Dismissal
Oct 18 First Day of Q2
Oct 23 Pro D Day
Oct 27 Gr 8 Rotation 3

Nov 2 - 6 Provincial Assessment Week
Nov 11 Remembrance Day holiday
Nov 12 Pro D Day
Nov 17 Last Day Quarter 1
Nov 18 Flex Learning Day
Nov 19 Quarter 2 Orientation Day
Nov 27 Reports Cards available online



GSS Newsletter

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Attendance Notification:

If your student is ill or if you are planning a holiday, attendance notification can be added to the parent portal. This will push all the teachers directly.

Failing that, you can contact the office.

<https://parents.sd42.ca/Parents/ParentLoginPage.aspx>

Absence reports are collected every morning and added to the daily attendee data. Once the absence is recorded by the office, all the teacher will see the "excused absence".

Grade 12 Attendance Matters....:

Excessive absences can interfere with participation in the graduation ceremonies. Every school in the district maintains guidelines that limit absences to the equivalent of 15 days per year. Students who exceed this limit may not be allowed to participate in the grad ceremony. If you have any questions or want to review your students attendance records, please contact the office.

Lice and Scabies Season:

Fraser Valley Health has reported that in the last few years there has been an increase in lice / scabies activity in teens. They believe this is due to teens putting their heads together for "Selfies". Please be sure to communicate with any school if there are issues of Lice in your family. We have no reported cases at this time.

More information can be found at:

<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/scabies>

https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/head-lice#.W-3Mti_kT8



School success starts
with attendance

In a Quarter System Attendance Really Matters...

In a quarter system a day is equal to a year long week, and a week is equal to a day. The reality of a student choosing not to be in class very quickly adds up. We use a school auto dialer system that calls home for absences/ lates every day. Please know that over time I have come to understand that this system is very accurate. Teachers are very accurate with their attendance, as we understand this is a legal document. If you receive a phone call in every likelihood your son or daughter missed the equivalent of a week's worth of classes. We are happy to work together to support improved attendance, please be sure to have conversations of support at home. If you have any questions or want to review your students attendance records, please contact the office.



What If someone is Sick , or feels Sick:

Provincial Health & BCCDC Updates – Illness Procedures and FAQ

Stay Home When New Symptoms of Illness Develop

Students and staff should stay at home when new symptoms of illness develop. The key symptoms to watch for are fever, chills, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of smell or taste, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

- If the staff or student (or their parent) indicates that the symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition and are not unusual for that individual, they may return to school. **No assessment or note is required from a health care provider.**

- For mild symptoms without fever, students and staff can monitor at home for 24 hours. **If symptoms improve, they can return to school without further assessment.**

- If symptoms include fever, or if after 24 hours, symptoms remain unchanged or worsen, seek a health assessment. A health assessment can include calling 8-1-1, a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner, or going to a COVID-19 testing centre.

When a COVID-19 test is recommended by the health assessment:

- If the COVID-19 test is **positive**, the person should stay home until they are told by public health to end their self-isolation. In most cases this is 10 days after the onset of symptoms. Public health will contact everyone with a positive test.

- If the COVID-19 test is **negative**, the person **can return to school once symptoms have improved and they feel well enough**. Symptoms of common respiratory illnesses can persist for a week or more. Re-testing is not needed unless the person develops a new illness. BCCDC has information on receiving negative test results.

- If a **COVID-19 test is recommended but is not done because the person or parent chooses not to** have the test or a health assessment is not sought when recommended, and the person's symptoms are not related to a previously diagnosed health condition, **they should stay home from school until 10 days after the onset of symptoms, and then may return if feeling well. enough.**



Karina LeBlanc Game Changer Award

As a legacy of the Maple Ridge 2020 BC Summer Games, this year's Karina LeBlanc Game Change Award will provide one outstanding Maple Ridge youth with \$1,000 to recognize their significant work and dedication to developing sport in their community.

<https://www.bcgames.org/News/Latest-News/ArtMID/1810/ArticleID/1913/Karina-LeBlanc-Game-Changer->



Scholarships and Bursaries:

Grade 12 students should begin to work on application packages for the many scholarships and bursaries that are available. The District Scholarship and Bursary applications are due in the Career Centre in early March. Students are encouraged to visit the grad webpage of our website to review the criteria and specifics for each award. SD42's Scholarship Book and application forms can be downloaded by visiting the Career Centre webpage at:

<https://gssccareercentre.wordpress.com/>

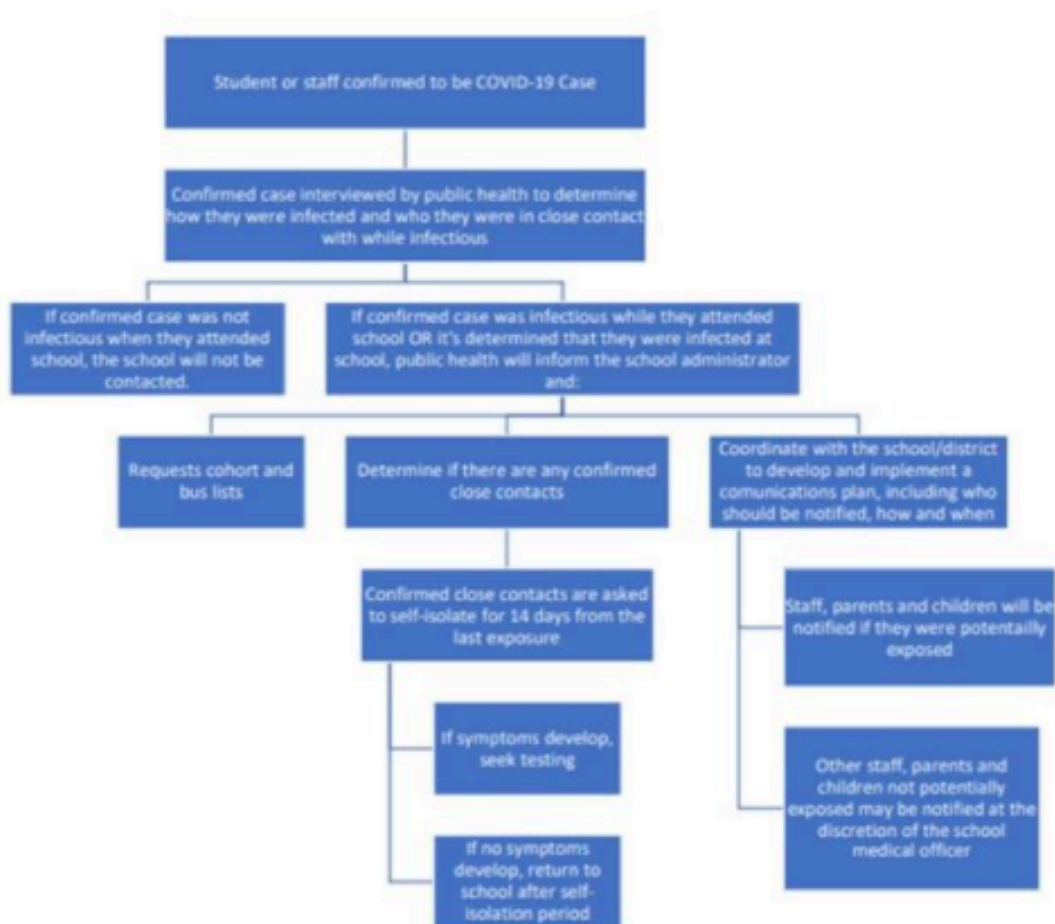
What If someone is Sick , or feels Sick cont:

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, the person can return to school when symptoms have improved and they feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

Students or staff may still attend school if a member of their household develops new symptoms of illness, provided the student/staff has no symptoms themselves. If the household member tests positive for COVID-19, public health will advise the asymptomatic student/staff on self-isolation and when they may return to school. Most illness experienced in B.C. is not COVID-19, even if the symptoms are similar.

Students and staff who experience symptoms consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition can continue to attend school when they are experiencing these symptoms as normal. They do not require reassessment by a healthcare provider and should not be required to provide a health-care provider note. If they experience any new or unexplained symptoms they should seek assessment by a health-care provider.

Appendix B: Public Health Actions if a Staff, Student or Other Person Who Has Been in the School is a Confirmed COVID-19 Case



Confirmed close contacts are determined based on the length of time of exposure and nature of the interaction. Only public health can determine who is a close contact.



Grad 2021 Update:

Looking ahead Grad 2021 will begin to take shape in the early spring. In a typical year, graduation is celebrated in three events, a School Leaving Ceremony, Grad Dinner Dance and a Dry Grad. The decisions about the shape and format of these events will be guided by the leadership of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Looking to the Restart BC Plan, a Summary PDF is published online at: https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/gdx/bcs_restart_plan_web.pdf

All GSS grad information is posted to: <https://gsscarenecentre.wordpress.com/grad-2019/>

In the coming weeks there will be a parent portal message containing information about the first steps towards grad, grad photos and the purchase of caps, gowns and stoles.

The guidelines from the Ministry of Health gives clear guidance about group size and the format of events. We will, of course be compliant, with future regulations, and work to be inclusive of every student and family. While we are hopeful for a return to a more normal late spring, we do not see a situation where the regulations will open enough to allow for a “full” Dinner Dance / Dry Grad event. We will make a final evaluation of this plan early in the winter in order to communicate in a timely manner.

At this time we do see a modified School Leaving Ceremony. Small groups of students and guests attend in a scheduled manner. Students would “walk”, with limited guests present, while we will record the event allowing for complete inclusion. This event will occur June 10, 2021, the potential schedule could be up to 8 hours long. Please begin to plan accordingly.

Report Card Follow up:

Report cards will be issued Nov 27th. Please be sure to promptly **download** the report card in its digital format from the MyClass System. Report cards will only be online for 30 days.

We do care about each student's pace and progress at school. Please feel free to contact teachers via email, or if you have a concern that is greater than a single teacher or subject, be sure to be in contact with the grade counsellor or grade administrator as necessary.

Improvements mid-year are best supported with good planning and communication. Please do not be afraid to start a conversation about your child and their learning.

Challenges with online Sign in - Office 365:

Students should be using their school district email student#@me.sd42.ca. This will allow them access to their Office 365. They should navigate to me.sd42.ca and enter their student number and district password. If they are having difficulty resetting their password please ask them to try the following password formula:

Student first and last initials, year of birth, month of birth and day of birth.

For Example:

Jane Smith's birthday is on May 17th, 1965 so her password would be: js1965.05.17

If this doesn't reset their password, they can see the library for login assistance and a password reset.

MyClass is the student / parent view of MyEdBC. Once the student has logged in, they can change their primary email to anything they choose, but when the accounts are created they are set with the SD42 student email.



Inclement Weather:

The decision whether or not to close schools due to inclement weather conditions is the responsibility of the Superintendent who must balance safety with the need to provide learning. The Superintendent will use her best judgement to make a school closure decision. The decision making process is complicated by the fact that weather conditions can vary significantly between neighbouring communities, may change and may differ from original forecasts. A final decision is made by 6:00am so that a timely communications process can be initiated. The decision is posted on the district website <https://www.sd42.ca> and sent to major radio and television outlets such as All News 1130 and CKNW 980.

Student Information Update:

Please log into MyClass to view the PDF BC Student Information Verification Form shown on the front page under Published Reports.

This document contains the information we currently have on file for your student, including Parent Contacts, Emergency Contacts, any medical information, etc. If any of this information is incorrect, please print the form, handwrite the changes, sign and date the form. Please return the corrected, signed form to the school office so that changes can be made to your student's record.

Here is the link to the MyClass Information Page: <https://myedbc.sd42.ca/MyClass>

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, or wish a printed hard copy, please feel free to contact gssreception@sd42.ca.

School Safety Notification System Updated 2019:

The Maple Ridge–Pitt Meadows School District has updated its *School Safety Notification System* in collaboration with the Ridge Meadows RCMP. The revised notification system follows provincial recommendations and covers the six following scenarios:

Drop, Cover, and Hold – Used in the event of an earthquake, explosion, or any event that shakes the school.

Hold and Secure – Used when there is a security concern, such as a police incident, in the neighbourhood of the school.

Lockdown – Used to prevent intruders from entering occupied areas of the school, or in times when it is necessary to isolate students and staff from a danger outside or within the building.

Shelter in Place – Used as a short-term measure to protect students and staff from potential dangers outside the school (e.g. environmental weather-related emergencies, dangerous wild animals on school grounds, or a missing child).

Room Clear – Used to move people away from a hazard contained in one room/area.

You can find more information about the revised *School Safety Notification System* on the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/school-safety-notification/>





From the [Maple Ridge News](#)

Former Garibaldi Secondary student, Jonathan Poh, explores his aversion to thrift stores in his CBC Nonfiction finalist story. (Photo special to THE NEWS)

Former Maple Ridge resident is a finalist for 2020 CBC nonfiction prize

[Full Story](#)

Garibaldi Secondary grad Jonathan Poh is gaining some national recognition for his story, *Value Village*. The former Maple Ridge resident is one of five writers named as finalists for the 2020 CBC Nonfiction prize. The nomination came as something of a surprise to the writer. “When I entered the competition back in February, I didn’t have high expectations,” Poh said. As a writer/editor for a leading fashion/contemporary culture website, Poh had often told other people’s stories, but this was the first time he had turned the spotlight on himself, and his childhood in Maple Ridge. “It started off as an exercise just to get to know myself a little better, and when I got the news that I was long-listed and then a finalist [for the competition], it was a huge shock.” Poh’s introspective piece starts off describing a sensitivity to a smell – specifically, the notable aroma of the inside of a thrift store. “Though I know I should be more respectful, the smell of any thrift store makes me wrinkle my nose, scrunch my face up like a five-year-old being forced to eat vegetables,” Poh writes. “Makes me locate the exit so I can get the hell out.” As an adult, he decided to explore why the scent held such power over him, and was able to trace it to an incident in elementary school where he was shamed for wearing second-hand clothing.

READ MORE: [Maple Ridge teen author releases](#)

The writer and his family moved to Maple Ridge from Singapore in 1992, and in order to save money, they would often shop in second-hand stores like Value Village or the Salvation Army. It was not an issue until Poh was mocked by his classmates. He said the process of writing about himself was difficult at first. “There were a lot of things I didn’t want to face in my life,” he said, referencing the acts of bullying he revisited. “But as I started writing, the act of recreating those events – and trying to draw meaning from what happened to me – was actually very empowering, and very cathartic.” He recognized something as simple as a reaction to a smell can be traced back to trauma. “It stays with you, and it’s physical,” he said. “I didn’t realize that this one event was actually triggering a really strange reaction every time I entered a thrift store that lasted into adulthood.” It was not until his wife pointed it out that he grasped the condition was worth exploring. “I wrote off the the public embarrassment and instances of bullying as something most kids go through, and didn’t give it much thought,” he said. As a fashion journalist, he said, the biggest and most urgent conversation in the industry is sustainability. “And one of the solutions is thrifting,” he said emphatically. “So that was another one of the things that spurred me onto write this story. “I wanted to explore my own resistance to thrifting – this thing that is actually good for the environment, and a great counter to the fashion industry, which has produced so much clothing waste.”

He has yet to enter a thrift store since writing the article – as the pandemic has kept him away from crowded spaces – but he is interested in checking one out when the opportunity presents itself. Poh said he wants to see if his perspective has changed now that he has gotten to the root of his issue with the second-hand stores.

While elementary school had its rough points, Poh credits a high school teacher for his foray into writing. **“The person who inspired me to take writing seriously was Mr. Steve Moore,”** he said. Poh said taking the Writing 12 course was a pivotal point in his life. “He inspired me to recognize the power of words, and the power of literature to impact culture, and that was pretty eye opening for me,” he noted.





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