



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20820 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1Z7

Phone 604.467.5551 / Fax 604.467.9825

Principal: Mme Donna Servant

Vice Principal: Mme Chelsea Lendvoy

SEPTEMBER 2019 NEWSLETTER



Welcome back to our wonderful school! I am very happy to return to MRE for the third year. The longer I'm here, the more it feels like home. If you are new, we wish you a warm welcome! We are delighted to have you join our community. Our values of acceptance, kindness and respect adorn our beautiful front entrance. Our classrooms are spacious, decorated, and filled with resources, our library is open and inviting, and we have a huge field at the back for all to enjoy. Yet the people here, are indeed, our strength. I feel so lucky to

work with such a caring and dedicated team of educators that I can call friends, to be surrounded with energetic and joyful children every day who help me recognize the beauty in life and get to know so many committed and supportive families in our community. Positive energy has been buzzing through our school as our team has been planning together, setting up classrooms, and full of hope for an exciting year ahead. Working together with our PAC we create many incredible opportunities for our children. (Please consider joining!)

The first day of school brings back warm memories of enjoyment and stress. I remember taking my first son, Matt, to the shoe store before his first day of kindergarten. I selected three pairs of shoes that I could afford and asked him which ones he liked. He said he needed to try them on. The first pair fit nicely but he needed me to time him. I was curious about his request but before I could inquire, he had taken off running in a circle around the store. His younger brothers often asked, "Mommy, what's Matt doing?" And I responded that he's doing his own thing.

Returning, out of breath, Matt asked, "How long was that?" I guessed it was ten seconds and told him. He then put on the next pair and he was off again. Now his brothers and I watched as he ran with purpose around the store. When he returned I said that this took eight seconds. He then confidently put on the final pair of shoes, securing them tightly with the Velcro. He took off. This time I said that it was a remarkable run and he completed the store tour in five seconds. Matt was elated. He looked up proudly and asked me to buy him the "Five-Second Shoes." Matt is now thirty, but this memory reminds me of how special that first day is for all of us.

A new school year often instills both excitement and anxiety in many of us. Talking to your children about their feelings helps them to understand these emotions are common. Reassuring your child and staying calm can help him/her to transition smoothly into their new class. Remember, your own perspective can also inform how your child will view school. Give your child time to settle into their new classroom, make new friends, and adjust to a new teacher. Asking them to share the positive parts of their day can help them to feel content about going to school.

September is always eventful, and we really appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we adjust to the new school year. We understand that parents and students are eager to know their classroom teacher however, schools must have an accurate understanding of enrollment numbers before placing students in classrooms. Therefore, students will go to their last year's classrooms until further notice. A lot of effort and consideration goes into ensuring the best placements for all of our students. We hope to move students to their new classes by Monday, September 9. For convenience and safety, we request that you please arrange a meeting spot for your child each day at dismissal. Once students are assigned to their new classrooms, a notice will go home with each student to indicate where they will enter and dismiss the next day.

Some of our welcome back events this month include a pancake breakfast for the students on Friday, September 6. Teachers will escort classes to the gym throughout the morning so that all children have an opportunity to come together and enjoy a meal with their friends. **If your child has a gluten allergy please send their own pancakes with them to school. We do not have gluten-free pancakes available.** Some teachers will have a pajama day as well on this day and they will advise their classes. A huge thank-you in advance to our PAC for organizing this.

We have also arranged for Ryan Laird (musician) to do a presentation titled *Bigger Than That* for all our classes on Wednesday afternoon. His mission is to use music to teach about inclusion, empowerment and resiliency. Visit his website <https://biggerthanthat.org> for more information. Later this month we hold the Terry Fox Run and Orange Shirt Day. The Terry Fox Run will be held on Friday September 27 at 12:45. We begin with an assembly in the gym and then head out to our field to do several laps. Parents are welcome to join us as we honour this great Canadian hero. Finally, everyone is encouraged to wear their orange shirts on Monday September 30. Orange Shirt Day is a commemoration that recognizes the harm of the residential school system. It has become a symbol of the commitment to ensure that everyone matters. The spirit of reconciliation offers hope for generations of children to come.

Mme Lendvoy and I feel honoured and privileged to work with such a dedicated and caring school community. We look forward to working together to help make your child's experience a positive one. We send out a weekly bulletin to all through the parent portal every Friday (*The Friday Blast*) and a monthly newsletter. These share reminders and important information for our community. Throughout the year please stay in touch with your teacher, our staff, and visit the school website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/mre/> for additional information, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mme Donna Servant
Principal

Mme Chelsea Lendvoy
Vice Principal



Staffing Updates

We are fortunate to have some new staff members join our MRE team. We welcome Chelsea Lendvov as our new Vice Principal, Mme Schlacht, Mme Ellingson and Mme Ouarghi are new French Immersion Teachers, Miss Louie is teaching intermediate. We welcome back Mrs. Span and Mme Conroy who are both returning from maternity leave. Mrs. Higginson is a new educational assistant, and Mr. Hooper is our new counsellor who will be in room 1042 on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. (We will have a new kindergarten transition educational assistant who had not yet been hired at time of publishing.)

Parking and Crossing River Road

Student safety is our top priority. Signs are posted that all parking lots are designated for staff and vehicles displaying the disabled tag in their windshield. **PLEASE DO NOT PULL INTO THE PARKING LOTS.** We recommend parking on a nearby adjacent street and walking your child to school. Ensure all pedestrians use designated crosswalks and approach with caution. **We remind all families that we do not have a crossing guard to assist children across River Road so please teach your children to stand and wait for vehicles to stop before crossing the street.** Students may be dropped off in the roundabout but there is no parking in this area (except for daycare buses, taxis, and vehicles displaying the disabled tag in their windshield). Students may NOT be picked up from the roundabout as it is closed between 2:00 and 2:30. We appreciate your cooperation in this regard as we work together to positively impact our child's school experience and keep everyone safe.

A new path has been built to redirect pedestrians away from traffic that is turning into the roundabout. This is a safety upgrade to facilitate entry and exit from the main entrance for families crossing River Road.

We are continuing to work with engineers from the town of Maple Ridge to increase visibility and safety of the pedestrian crosswalk.

Portable on Field

Curious Minds daycare and preschool will be moving into the new portable on the field. There may continue to be some safety fencing around construction areas. The district hopes to have all in place by September 3. We appreciate everyone's patience if there are a few unexpected delays.

Medical Intervention Forms

If your child has any health care needs that require support at school, including but not limited to administration of any medication or a life-threatening condition including anaphylaxis, diabetes and seizure disorders, new medical forms must be completed every year. The school cannot assist with any medical intervention unless these forms are completed. Please contact the school as soon as possible to complete a form. Please note, the medical forms for anaphylaxis and diabetes require a physician's signature. This procedure complies with the school district policy regarding the health care needs of children at school. If there are any questions, please contact the school.

We are a Nut Aware School

As it is the start of another school year, it is important to remind everyone we have several students with SEVERE LIFE-THREATENING allergies to a variety of nuts, including tree nuts and peanuts. If this applies to your child, please make certain that you have notified the office and the classroom teacher and that you have provided the appropriate medical information and necessary medication. Students with life-threatening allergies should wear a waist pouch containing an epi-pen and a second one should be stored in the office. This is school district policy.

Parent Portal Permissions

Please login to the parent portal and submit permissions for all items listed as soon as possible. It is critical that we receive photo permissions in order for your children's class photos to be published in our yearbook. These books create treasured memories for all. If your child is in Grade 7, we need permission for their photos to be displayed at the June ceremony. Permissions must be completed annually for each child.

We also require all children to have updated **Emergency Release Forms**. There will be a drill on October 17, and we will rely on this information for releasing all students.

Student Planners

Students in Grades 4 through 7 require a planner (except grade 6/7 iPad class). These are used as a home/school communication book and allows children to develop organizational skills as they keep track of homework and track goals. The cost is \$10.00 and may be submitted on the portal (once students transition to their new classes) or submitting a cheque payable to Maple Ridge Elementary to the office or to your teacher along with attachment at end of this newsletter.

School Supplies

Students do not bring school supplies until they have been placed in their permanent classroom.

Supplies are bulk ordered for students in Kindergarten - Grade 3. There is a flat fee charged and covers all art and school supplies for the year. Please submit payment on the portal (after students have been transitioned to their new classes) or by cheque payable to Maple Ridge Elementary in an envelope with attachment at end of this newsletter .

Kindergarten \$50.00

Grades 1 - 3 \$55.00

Intermediate students (Grades 4 - 7) who pre-ordered supplies have had their kits delivered to their classrooms. You may still order directly from Creative Kids or purchase items on your own. All lists have been attached to this portal message.

MRE Intermediate Choir

Students in grades 4 to 7 are invited to join the choir. We perform at assemblies and practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from 2:20 - 3:00 in the first term. We begin on Tuesday September 24 on the stage. Please see the attached notice as some weeks there are no practices due to other staff commitments.

Thank-you to our GC Club!

Our Global Citizens Youth Club lead by Mrs. Pajak, won \$2500 for a successful application for the Bake a Difference Award. The proceeds from their bake sale at MRE last year as well as this award was donated to the We Villages Program, directly supporting children in India. Thank-you for making a big difference in this world!

Pancake Breakfast Volunteers Needed

If you can spare a bit of time, please come and help prepare and serve pancakes to our community. Many hands make for lighter work. We need volunteers to prepare and serve the breakfast on Friday, September 6 from 8:30 until around 11:00. We also need volunteers to help with preparation work the day before (Thursday, September 5). Please contact Nicole Keough by email at nekoalne@hotmail.com or let the office know. It's a great opportunity to get to know our community and be part of a terrific *Welcome Back* event for the children! Thanks!

New Bell Schedule

Our district has adopted a new bell schedule. Recess will now be 10:20 - 10:35 and lunch will be 11:50 - 12:30. Children will continue to eat lunch prior to playing outside.

Blended (Combined) Classes

Many of you have inquired about the possibility of blended classes next year. Although there are definitely some structural and managerial reasons why we are seeing an increase in the number of classes where 2 or more grades are combined, there are also pedagogical and emotional/social reasons why combining students across grade levels is positive. These include:

- Research has shown there's no difference in academic achievement between children in combined classes versus straight grades.
- Students in combined grade classrooms are often less competitive with one another and more cooperative than students in same-grade classrooms.
- Children learn at different paces. Blended classes offer a wider range of curricula across 2 grade levels. Advanced students can be more easily challenged with higher-level material; struggling students can more easily return to earlier material.

- Students in blended classrooms tend to take greater personal responsibility for their learning.
- Younger children gain self-confidence and maturity by being exposed to older students; older students learn to be positive, mature role models for the younger students. (Most children come from a home environment with siblings of different ages).
- There is greater peer-to-peer learning in blended classrooms.
- Students develop friendships across grade levels and blended classrooms instill a greater sense of responsibility for one another, and a better sense of community. As one teacher tells her students, “we are like a family who cares for one another.”

PAC INFORMATION

Welcome Back! We hope that everyone had an amazing summer, creating special memories! We would like to take this opportunity to **Invite** you all to our first PAC meeting on September 10, 7pm in the Library of the School. As a reminder to our returning parents and a message to our new parents, MRE PAC is a fundamental part of the MRE community. Our PAC is not only able to bring in super fun things for the students, like Carnival, performances, and lug-a-mugs, but learning incentives like the book cart, technology, art supplies etc....with our ultimate goal of rebuilding our primary playground. As you know these things can't be done without you, volunteers. Participating on our PAC is a great way to meet new people and maintain MRE's reputation for being a great school!

Here are some upcoming events for September, please remember that you are not obligated to participate in every fundraiser that the PAC holds, there are many in hopes that we will find the right one for you and your family.

VESSEYS BULBS: Plant it and forget it and in spring you won't need to brave the weather. Catalogs and order forms will be coming home soon. 50% of the proceeds go back to our school! Thank you in advance Dallas Bell for running this great fundraiser!

LOVE THAT DEAL! The cost of this coupon card is \$20 BUT you get your money back right away with the free purchases available on the card. So, get your neighbours and families one! It is a great fundraiser for our community and supports local businesses. Thank you, Jeannie Harmon, for taking care of this, information will come out shortly.

Finally, many hands...make light work, and MRE the Place to Be where kindness and respect matters.

Please feel free to message me if you have any questions
Nicole Keough –PAC Chair nekoalne@hotmail.com



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Principal: Mme D. Servant
Vice-Principal: Mme C. Lendvoy

August 19, 2019

Dear Parents of Students in Grades 4 – 7:

We are continuing our use of the School Agenda Planners for each student in Grades 1 – 7. The agenda books help support the development of organizational skills and have received strong support from our parent community as a good tool. We will issue a School Agenda to each student and we ask that you send **\$10.00**, to cover the cost, to your child's teacher.

The first eight pages of the Agenda Planner provide useful information on school procedures and preparing schedules. We encourage families to review this information and make a note in your personal calendars of important dates for the 2019-2020 school year.

These PLANNERS can be very useful in the areas such as:

- 1. Communication between home and school.**
- 2. Planning for Future Events.**
- 3. Keeping track of homework.**
- 4. Goal setting – home and school (long and short term).**

Thank-you for your support. Please submit payment by September 13.

Sincerely,

Mme D. Servant
Principal

**Please return this portion in an envelope along with payment to the office or your child's teacher.
Cheques are made payable to Maple Ridge Elementary**

Student's Name

Teacher

_____ Yes, I have enclosed \$10.00 for the Student Planner

Parent Name



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August 19, 2019

Dear Parents of Students in Kindergarten - Grade 3:

The school will once again be purchasing your child's school supplies. The cost this year will be **\$50.00** for Kindergarten and **\$55.00** for students in Grades 1 - 3 (and includes a planner). Fees cover all art and school supplies for the whole year. We are continuing our use of the School Agenda Planners for each student in Grades 1 – 3. The agenda books help support the development of organizational skills and have received strong support from our parent community as a good tool.

The first eight pages of the Agenda Planner provide useful information on school procedures and preparing schedules. We encourage families to review this information and make a note in your personal calendars of important dates for the 2019-2020 school year.

These PLANNERS can be very useful in the areas such as:

1. **Communication between home and school.**
2. **Planning for Future Events.**
3. **Keeping track of homework.**
4. **Goal setting – home and school (long and short term).**

Thank-you for your support. We appreciate if payment can be submitted by September 13. **Fees are accepted on the parent portal** or sending cash or cheque in an envelope with the attachment below.

Sincerely,

Mme D. Servant
Principal

Return this portion to the office if paying by cash or cheque please. Cheques made payable to Maple Ridge Elementary. Please submit in an envelope along with payment.

Student's Name

Teacher

_____ Grades 1 - 3: Yes, I have enclosed \$55.00 for the Student Planner & School Supplies

_____ Kindergarten \$50.00 for School Supplies

Parent Name



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MRE Intermediate Fall Choir (Grades 4 - 7)

September 2019

Dear Parents,

Your son/daughter has expressed an interest in joining the Maple Ridge Elementary choir. We have explained to the prospective choir members that this will require a commitment, both in terms of time and effort. We will be performing at the October assembly, the Remembrance Day ceremony and the Christmas Concert.

This term practices will take place on the stage every Tuesday and Thursday after school, from **2:20 pm to 3:00 pm**. Our first practice will be on Thursday, Sept 24. Please note there are **NO** choir practices on the following dates:

- Thursday October 17
- Tuesday October 22 and Thursday October 24
- Thursday October 31
- Thursday November 7
- Tuesday November 19 and Thursday November 21
- Thursday November 28
- December 17 and December 19

Please sign and return the cut-off portion at the bottom of this permission form and return it with your child to school. Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Hayward
Mme. Servant



✂️*****



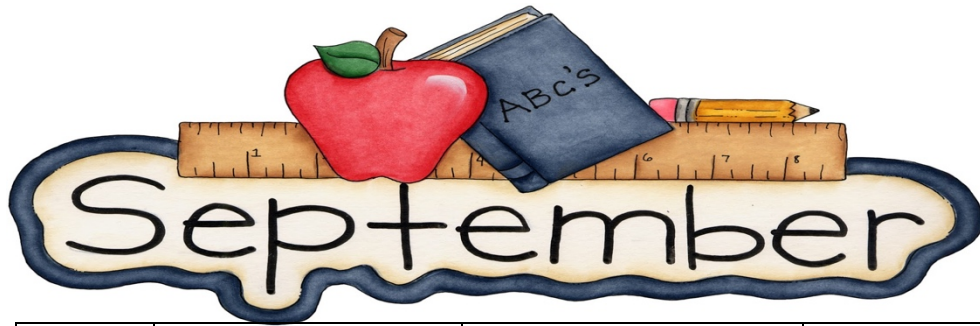
Intermediate Choir Permission Form

I give permission for my child, _____, to participate in the MRE Intermediate Choir. I understand that practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday from 2:20 pm to 3:00 pm, beginning September 24. My child will attend as many practices as possible. There is no choir on October 17, 22, 24 and 31, November 7, 19, 21 and 28, and December 17 and 19.

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Phone Number: _____



Maple Ridge Elementary

Sunday	M	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Welcome Back Assembly at 9:45 Dismissal at 11:00	4 1:00 Bigger Than That Performance	5	6 Pancake Breakfast	7
8	9	10 7:00 pm PAC meeting in library	11	12	13	14
15	16 Full day kindergarten begins.	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 N.I.D. <i>No School for students</i>	24 Choir starts 2:20- 3:00 on stage	25	26 Choir 2:20 - 3:00	27 Terry Fox Run	28
29	30 Orange Shirt Day 					