

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY
20820 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1Z7
Phone 604.467.5551 / Fax 604.467.9825
<http://schools.sd42.ca/mre>

Principal: Barbara MacKinnon
Barbara_Mackinnon@sd42.ca
Vice Principal: Chelsea Lendvoy
chelsea_lendvoy@sd42.ca

Newsletter #1 September 7, 2020



Welcome Back! Bienvenue!

As we head into this school year, I want to extend a huge welcome to all of you. My name is Barbara MacKinnon and I am delighted to be the new principal at MRE. The sense of community and care here is evident and I can hardly wait to meet you all.

This newsletter has two parts. The first contains information about “regular” school start-up topics and the second part gives details specific to **safety in Stage 2 of COVID**.

Part One

The First Days

September 8 and 9, 2020

Classes will not be in session. On these days, staff will be reviewing Health and Safety Guidelines and carefully preparing the school for students.

September 10 and 11, 2020

Students will attend 2 hours each day for their safety orientation.

You will get an email/portal announcement on Wednesday Sept. 9, 2020 to inform you about

- the name of the child’s teacher and their division number
- where to line up
- what time to attend.

There are two time slots: 8:30 -10:30 for divisions 11-19, and 12:20- 2:20 for Divisions 1-10.

Approximately, this means younger students attend the morning session and older students come in the afternoon. Kindergarten students will follow the schedule that was set previously with the K teachers.

September 14th and onward

School hours as usual – 8:25 – 2:20

2020 Classes

Our Maple Ridge Elementary community will be in learning groups/cohorts. A learning group is essentially the class division — students, teacher and support staff. We will be *unable to change* any classroom assignments this school year because of the cohort requirement. Staff has spent a great deal of time building these classes taking into consideration parent requests, friend groups and learning styles.

Bell Schedule

The “welcome bell” is at 8:25

Students enter at 8:30

Recess is from 10:20 - 10:35

Lunch is from 11:50 - 12:30. Children eat, under the supervision of their teacher, *after* playing outside.

Dismissal is at 2:20

Hand hygiene will be frequent and is addressed in the safety section of the newsletter.

Late Arrival at School

Please, contact the office by calling 604 467-5551 or emailing: mre_reception@sd42.ca to let us know if your child(ren) will be absent or late.

It is important for students to be on time. As part of safety protocols, school doors will be kept locked. If students do arrive a few minutes late, they knock and enter through their outside classroom door. If they are in a class with no outside door, they will go to the main entrance where staff will let them in.

Staffing Updates

We are fortunate to have four new staff members join the MRE team. Ms Manyk will be teaching grade 1/2 while Ms Robinson is on a parental leave. We are happy to share with you that Ms Robinson and her husband adopted three beautiful children! Mr. Ryan Sesto will be teaching on Mondays in a job-share position with Ms Ritchie, and Ms Jennifer Stanford will be Ms Waddell’s “Monday partner.” John Kim joins us as a new custodian.

Parking and Crossing River Road

Our school is on a very busy road and student safety is vital.

- DO NOT pull into the parking lots. These are for staff and for vehicles with a valid SPARC (handicap) permit. There is limited parking for Curious Minds Daycare.
- We suggest parking on a nearby street and walking the rest of the way to school.
- Pedestrians must use designated crosswalks
- Students may be dropped off in drive-thru at the front of the school, but there is no parking in this area (except for daycare buses, taxis, and vehicles displaying the SPARC tag in their windshield).

- Students may NOT BE PICKED UP from the drive through area. It is closed between 2:00 and 2:30.

Green Zone

At this time, the Green Zone will not be open before/after school as it has been in previous years.

Gradual Entry and Blended Learning

A letter about the return to school process from our Superintendent, Sylvia Russell, was posted on the parent portal and on the district website on Sept. 4th. You can find it here:

<https://www.sd42.ca/announcement/september-superintendent-secondary/>

As more information becomes available, it will be sent to you.

School Supplies

Students do not bring school supplies until notified by their teachers.

Supplies are bulk ordered for students in Kindergarten - Grade 3. There is a flat fee that covers all 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.

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. Please email mre_reception@sd42.ca if you need a supply list.

Photos – Smile 😊

School photos will be taken very early this year. Our date is September 16th. In the week afterwards, you will receive an access code to preview and order photos. Photographers will follow strict safety protocols and all ordering will take place online. More information will follow.

Garbage/Recycling

We ask that whatever is left from your child's lunch goes home in their lunch bag, including empty juice boxes and food wrappers. In this way, we will create far less garbage at school and you will have a better idea of what your child is finishing for lunch.

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.

Part Two

Safety at MRE – Stage 2 COVID

As we return to school, I want to share with you a few of our school's health and safety protocols. I hope that this snapshot of some of our health and safety procedures will help you feel confident that our school has a good plan to maintain a safe learning space for your child. More details can be found in the document that is linked at the end.

Daily Screening

On a one-time basis, parents/guardians will be asked to complete a checklist and send it to the school confirming they understand:

- 1) how to conduct the Daily Health Assessment,
- 2) that this health assessment/check must be conducted daily, and
- 3) that they must keep their child(ren) home if their child(ren) are have symptoms or are ill, and seek the advice of a healthcare professional.

You can access the checklist here: <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Daily-Health-Assessment-Checklist.pdf>

Daily Health Assessments

Staff, students, and any authorized visitors must not attend a school/worksite and must stay home if they:

- 1) are ill or have any symptoms of a cold, flu, or COVID-19.
- 2) have travelled outside Canada in the last 14 days (PHO Order)

- 3) have been identified by public health as a close contact of a confirmed COVID-19 case or outbreak.
- 4) live in a household with someone who has been tested and public health has confirmed is a COVID-19 case.

Access to the School Building

Access to the building by parents /guardians is by appointment only, approved directly by the school administrator and for essential school business or on an emergency basis only.

All other communication and business should occur by phone, virtual meeting or email.

Please be aware that parents/guardians/daycares must remain outside of the school during drop off and pick up. DURING STAGE 2 (COVID) Parents and visitors are not to go directly to the classrooms or enter the building. Please, contact the office to speak to administration or set up a meeting if necessary.

Symptom Assessment and Illness Policies/Procedures

- Parents/guardians will need to perform a daily health assessment using a district-provided checklist before sending their child(ren) to school. Students who show any symptoms of illness must not attend school.
- All district buildings will have symptom assessment signage at front entrances.
- Students who develop symptoms of illness while at school will be moved into an isolated waiting area at the school while they wait to be picked up.

Screening And When To Stay Home

Parents/guardians will be required to do a daily health assessment of their child(ren) every morning using a district-provided checklist before sending their child(ren) to school. Students who have any symptoms of illness must not attend school. District staff will need to perform this same daily assessment and will also be required to stay home should they have any symptoms of illness.

Keeping A Safe Distance From Others

Elementary students in a learning group do not need to stay two metres apart but should limit personal contact. Classrooms will be configured to allow for distance between students and adults as needed.

Wearing A Mask And/Or Face Covering

Although masks are not required for elementary school students, the school district will provide a reusable cloth masks to all elementary students who want one. Staff who interact with multiple learning groups will be required to wear a mask and face shield when they are unable to maintain physical distancing.

Practicing hand hygiene

Our school has a regular hand washing schedule throughout the building to ensure students' hands are clean when they: enter the school, eat, participate in recess/lunch, and after any

other activities where they may be using shared equipment. All of our classrooms have sinks and hand hygiene signage has been placed throughout the building.

Enhanced Cleaning

All schools will be cleaned in accordance with the Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings. General cleaning (including single-use surfaces like student desks) will occur once every 24 hours, while frequently touched surfaces as well as all shared equipment, appliances, manipulatives, and tools, will be cleaned and disinfected twice every 24 hours. The school district has hired additional custodians to meet the demands of these enhanced cleaning routines.

For more details, please reference the Ministry Document which informs school settings.

Provincial COVID-19 Health & Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf>

Frequently asked questions (FAQ) specific to school settings

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/childcare-schools/schools>