

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY  
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Phone 604.467.5551 / Fax 604.467.9825  
<http://schools.sd42.ca/mre>

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## Newsletter #2 October 5, 2020



The first weeks of school have flown by. The mild weather in the last days has felt like a wonderful gift. While we are not able to meet in large gatherings at this time, the growing feeling of connection, belonging and learning at MRE is evident.

Each year, staff meet to review and revise the School Growth Plan. The focus for MRE continues to be on improving literacy skills and building capacity around social and emotional learning (SEL). Aside from bringing learning and enjoyment, being able to read and write connects us with each other and with the world. SEL builds a foundation for safe and positive learning and well-being that enhances students' ability to succeed in school, career, and life. The updated Growth Plan will be posted on the school website in the next weeks.

The month ahead brings many new activities and opportunities. Some classes will be taking part in pumpkin/harvest themed activities in the school yard with the notion that, "if we can't go to the pumpkin patch, we'll bring the pumpkin patch to us." In a typical year, parents and guardians would be invited to join students for a Halloween parade. This year, with an abundance of caution around health and safety, celebrations will be scaled-back. Individual teachers will be letting students know what to expect for the day of Halloween.

MRE...A Community of Kindness and Respect. We hope your return to school has been positive. Please have a good read of our newsletter (you may need a cp of coffee) and pass on pertinent information and reminders to your children. Our ongoing partnership as we work together for your children is vital.

Enjoy the long weekend this month with your family. Happy Thanksgiving!

Barbara MacKinnon  
Principal

Chelsea Lendvoy  
Vice Principal



### Student Verification Information Forms

Student Verification forms were sent home with all students in September. It is imperative that all parents fill this form out as accurately as possible and return it to the school promptly. In the event of illness or an emergency we need accurate information

about how to contact you. Your immediate attention to this matter is appreciated. Please ensure the form is complete, signed and dated.

## Parent Portal

If you are not yet on the parent portal, please call or email the office and we will help you do this, as it's the most efficient way for parents and guardians to get current information from the school. Please complete consent forms that are listed on the portal as soon as possible. We require these in order to publish any student photos in newsletters, on our website, in our yearbook, or to share with the School Board. We also require consent for nature walks that venture off school grounds. Your earliest attention to this allows us to enhance publications that share all the wonderful things that are happening at MRE!

## Communication

As we continue to reduce handling of materials and the consumption of paper, most school-based publications, including the *Friday Blast* and this monthly newsletter will be sent home via the parent portal. Pertinent information will also be updated on our school website: <http://mre.sd42.ca/> . You can also check the district website at <https://www.sd42.ca/>. We also have a school-based Facebook page called Maple Ridge Elementary SD 42. Teachers will be using a variety of methods for their class level communications.

## School Supplies

Thank-you for submitting fees for supplies and planners. If you haven't completed this, we appreciate you attending to this as soon as possible. Fees can be paid on the portal.

## Student Safety

Please remember to wear a helmet when riding your bike, scooter or rollerblading and please *walk* on school property.



## Terry Fox Run 2020

We raised over \$864! Well done MRE!!!

The online donation website is still open at : <http://www.terryfox.ca/MapleRidgeElementary>



## Aboriginal Education

On September 30<sup>th</sup>, the Aboriginal Education Department hosted a short presentation in honor of Residential School survivors and those who were lost.

The aim of this presentation was to discuss the legacy of Residential schools and highlight the importance of Orange Shirt Day.

Later this month, the Aboriginal Education Department is offering an incredible opportunity for Maple Ridge Elementary students to take part in and experience the cultural teachings of Pow Wow Dancer Shyama-Priy (on Zoom).



**Photo Retake Day** - Wednesday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Earthquake Drill

British Columbia is located in a seismically active region where a few thousand earthquakes occur each year. Although only a small number of these earthquakes is large enough to cause damage, it is important for all of us to be informed and prepared. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, MRE will be participating in a locally-driven, province-wide, "Drop, Cover, and Hold On" drill, called "The Great British Columbia ShakeOut."

The website: <https://www.shakeoutbc.ca/> provides information that you may find useful.



## No School

**Monday, October 12, Thanksgiving Day**  
**No Classes**

**Friday, October 23<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Provincial Pro-D Day**  
**Students do not attend school**



## Students Late or Absent

If your child is going to be absent from school or late for any reason, please remember to call the school at **(604) 467-5551**. An answering service is available 24 hours a day 7 days per week for your convenience. You can also report your child's absence on the parent portal, or by emailing: "MRE Reception" [mre\\_reception@sd42.ca](mailto:mre_reception@sd42.ca). If we do not have confirmation of absence from home, the office will contact the numbers we have available.

### Late Arrivals

We are excited to see every child every day. Due to COVID safety measures, we are minimizing traffic at the office and in the hallways. Children can knock at their classroom windows or doors and they will be let in. Please accompany younger students while they do this. It may be the case that the class is in the gym or library when the student arrives. In this event, the student should go to the front door of the school.



**Medical Alert Forms** - Just a reminder that if you have a child that uses an EpiPen, or has other health related issues, proper paperwork is required to be **updated each year**. Forms are available to download and print from the portal. **Please complete and return the paperwork with the medication as soon as possible. If the medication is to be kept with the child or in the classroom, please make a note of this on your form.**

Thank you.



### Legal Issues:

The office **must** have the latest copy of custody/visitation agreements in order to be enforced. Please stop by the office and we will make a copy for our records.



## Westcoast Recess and Lunch – Dress for The Weather

A reminder to parents and guardians that MRE students play outside even when it is cold, rainy or even snowy. Only on rare occasions will we keep students inside. We would ask that you send your child/ren to school dressed for the weather (boots, coats, mitts, umbrella ...). If your child has a tendency to get wet playing on the slides or in the field, **please send an extra set of clothing.**



## Lost and Found

Please remind your child to take a moment to look in the box near the office if you are missing something.

Unclaimed items will be donated to local charities before the winter break. Thank you for your assistance.

**Hospital Homebound Support:** 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 at their school. 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. Homebound students qualify for support if they are absent from school for 10 consecutive school days.

**Head Lice:** This is the time of year when head lice may show up in your child's hair, although COVID precautions will no doubt lessen the likelihood. To prevent head lice among children at school, we ask that you remind your child not to share any personal items, such as combs, brushes, or hats. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Public Health Nurse at (604) 476-7000.

## MRE PAC News

Check out the Maple Ridge Elementary PAC Facebook page – MRE Parents Association  
The next meeting is at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>

## Curious Minds Daycare And Preschool

[www.curiousmindslearningcentre.com](http://www.curiousmindslearningcentre.com)

Curious Minds operates in the portable behind our school. Their preschool still has limited spaces available.

Schedule Options Available:

2 days/week (Tues/Thurs) = \$100/month

3 days/week (Mon/Weds/Fri) = \$125/month 5 days/week = \$200/month



Please see Ms. Sarah or Ms. Heidi in the Curious Minds Daycare Center (on school grounds), contact via phone at 604-315-3240 or email at: [curiousmindslearning@shaw.ca](mailto:curiousmindslearning@shaw.ca)



This is fire prevention week. Every year there is a contest that can not only lead to a great prize, but more importantly leads to students learning more about fire-safety. You are welcome to enter this contest from home. See details below:

Fire Prevention Week runs from October 4 to 10 and the theme is “Serve Up Fire Safety in the Kitchen™”. This year's campaign aims to educate people about the simple but important things they can do to keep themselves and those around them safe because, unfortunately, kitchen and cooking fires are still one of the leading causes of fires in BC.

All poster and video contest rules and information can be found at [www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek](http://www.gov.bc.ca/FirePreventionWeek).

October 23 – Deadline for sending completed posters and video links to BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund

Poster entries must be received at the BC Professional Fire Fighters’ Burn Fund, 3891 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P1 or emailed to [FirePreventionWeek@burnfund.org](mailto:FirePreventionWeek@burnfund.org) no later than October 23, 2020

Video entries must be posted on YouTube and link sent via email to [video@burnfund.org](mailto:video@burnfund.org) no later than October 23, 2020

November 17 – Judging of entries.

## District News

**Have you thought about a career with our school district?**

To see the opportunities we have available, visit us at <http://www.sd42.ca/careers/>