

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY
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Newsletter #5 January 2021



Happy New Year and welcome back from the winter break! It was nice to have snow on the ground for the days leading up to Christmas. Students talked excitedly about snow activities and adventures.

No act of
KINDNESS
no matter
how small
is ever
wasted.

-Aesop

As we begin this second “term” we notice a sense of calm and engagement. Students, staff and families have had the opportunity to get to know each other and routines are well established. Please take a moment to review the collaborative goal that you set with your child during the reporting conference. This goal is meant to guide learning for the term.

A sincere thank you to all of you for your flexibility and support as we navigate the complex COVID context. Together we are making the most out of a difficult situation and creating a safe and comfortable school experience for the kids. That being said, our staff is definitely looking forward to the day when we can all get together in the school in a safe and relaxed manner!

A big thank you to parents for sending clothing that is suitable for the weather and a change of clothes (just in case). Despite the mud, students are having fun out there!

This newsletter contains a lot of information aimed at the next school year. If you have students entering kindergarten or grade 8, please be sure to read the appropriate sections of the newsletter and make note of the important dates coming up. Further, if you are planning on moving this year and think you might need to change schools, please look at the information about the transfer process.

This message would not be complete without a huge thank-you to our outstanding PAC for all of their efforts on behalf of Maple Ridge Elementary. Their work has been made much more challenging by the pandemic, but they have managed to find COVID friendly ways to spread cheer, including Christmas Hampers, treats for the students and a new playground! We constantly see signs of generosity and compassion in the MRE community.

Barbara MacKinnon
Principal

Chelsea Lendvoy
Vice Principal

Here's a joke submitted by a student last week:



Why couldn't the astronaut book a hotel room on the moon?
Because it was full.

Playground

Funding for the playground came through the hard work of the PAC and a Government Grant. There were 19 proposals for the new playground submitted to the evaluation committee and a lot of care went into the selection of the winning bid. Here's a model from one side. It's scheduled to be ready for action by March 31, 2021.



MRE PAC News

The next PAC meeting is on Monday, February 8th on Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome. The link is:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88594786398?pwd=QINGWHdQRlgYbERhTE4wNIE1Tk9zUT09>



No School

Monday, January 25th – Professional Day – students do not attend

Photos

Photo Expressions (the photographer that our school uses) is holding some school portrait photo days in their Port Coquitlam studio for those who still need portraits. Any portraits taken on these days can make it into the yearbook.

The link to book a portrait sitting is:

<https://www.photoexpressions.ca/portraits/booking/studio-school-portraits-2020/>

Details and address will be available when you place your booking.

Black Shirt Day

The Anti-Racism Coalition has created a petition to observe Black Shirt Day in schools on January 15th (it will likely be officially recognized next year). Here is their statement:

In British Columbia, thousands of students wear pink shirts in support of anti-bullying. Orange Shirt Day has also been introduced across Canadian schools, where students wear orange shirts in solidarity with Indigenous survivors of the residential school system. ARC Vancouver is petitioning for Black Shirt Day to be introduced in BC, in recognition of the struggle for civil rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians. We propose that Black Shirt Day be established on January 15th, the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., the great civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize winner. We believe this will be an important step in raising greater awareness of the ongoing struggle for civil and human rights faced by Black and racialized Canadians and help to foster solidarity against all forms of racism and hate.

Our district Anti-Racism committee is hoping that teachers and students will choose to observe this day unofficially this year by wearing any black shirt they own on January 15th.

Pink Shirts—Kindness Counts



Pink shirt day is coming up on February 24. If you would like to purchase a t-shirt or a sweatshirt from the school, you can find the order forms on the Parent Portal. This is not a fundraiser.

*** Order due by Monday January 18, 2021**

Kindergarten Registration

Children who turn 5 years old in 2021 (born in 2016) are eligible to register in kindergarten for the 2021/22 school year. Registration dates for the 2021/22 school year are below:

Sibling Registration	January 6 – 12, 2021
Choice Registration	January 20 – 25, 2021
General Registration	February 3 – 10, 2021
Late Registration	February 24 – July 31, 2021
Open Registration	August 19 and on

All registration periods open at 12 pm (noon)

For more information, download the kindergarten registration brochure at <https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/2021-22-Kindergarten-Registration-Brochure-online.pdf> or visit the school district kindergarten registration page at <https://www.sd42.ca/kindergarten-registration/>

Grade 8 Registration – Secondary School - September 2021

Registration for grade 8 for the 2021-22 school year is done on the parent portal. Online registration begins on February 4, 2021 at 12:00pm (noon). The online registration form will automatically populate with your child's secondary catchment school. This is determined by your address. Please take a moment to ensure your parent portal account has your current address.

Transfers

Transfer request information for current SD42 students (K-12) who want to transfer to a different SD42 school or program during the 2020/21 school year or for the 2021/22 school year:

Kindergarten to Grade 12 students currently enrolled/registered in an SD42 school or program may request a transfer to a different SD42 school/program.

The prioritization of transfer requests is guided by [SD42 Procedure 9200.1: Student Placement](#). While every effort is made to accommodate transfer requests, making a request for transfer does not guarantee that your request can be accommodated.

Parents contemplating a transfer request are strongly encouraged to consult with the principal or vice principal at the child's current school before submitting a formal request. **To make a formal transfer request, please contact your child's current school to request the electronic Request for Student Transfer form.**

For further details on transfer criteria and important dates for the 2021/22 school year, please review the appropriate guidelines provided below:
[Student Transfer Guidelines: Elementary \(2021/22\)](#)

MRE is proud to offer both English and French Immersion Programs!

Immersion is the most effective method known for teaching a second language. Students master French in the same way that they learned English. Studies have shown that it is easier and more natural for a child to learn another language at a very early age. The aim of early French immersion is functional bilingualism. The process is so natural because French is used as the language of instruction and as a means of communication. It is also worth noting that learning subjects in French does not interfere with English language development as children spend the vast majority of time communicating in English with family and friends.

Please contact Barbara MacKinnon, Principal at MRE bmackinnon@sd42.ca if you have any questions about our program.

Online information nights are coming up for the following district programs:

WHEELHOUSE, CYBER SCHOOL AND LATE FRENCH IMMERSION

Online Information Nights:

Thursday, January 14, 2021 (6 p.m.)

Preregistration required: <https://bit.ly/3pFeyW8>

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 (6 p.m.)

Preregistration required: <https://bit.ly/3hvXYoJ>

The Wheelhouse is a classroom where students are both challenged and supported in becoming life-long learners and responsible citizens. Some of the highlights of the program include:

- Weekly Field Study Days where students learn outside the regular class setting;
- A classroom of care and discovery that is well supported by staff, parents and community mentors;
- Leadership activities that improve confidence, citizenship and social responsibility;
- Wheelhouse students are also part of the school district 1-to-1 program, where each student is assigned an iPad for use throughout the school year.

The Wheelhouse program is open to all Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students who will be going into grades 6 and 7 in September 2021.

REGISTRATION for The Wheelhouse opens online at **noon, February 10, 2021**. Registration link: <https://letstalksd42.ca/sd42-wheelhouse-2021-2022>

The program runs out of Alouette Elementary, 22155 Isaac Crescent, Maple Ridge. For more information, including a more in-depth look at the program, dates and times for student interviews, and details on how to become a Wheelhouse student, please visit The Wheelhouse online at <https://wheelhouse.sd42.ca/>.

DISTRICT CYBERSCHOOL

Online Information Night:

Tuesday, February 2, 2021 (6:30 p.m.)

Preregistration

required: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpdeirpzgsGtN4ZwTrh7x7I2koHH-RHCUj>

CyberSchool allows SD42 students in grades 6 and 7 to work at school three days a week, and from home (online) the other two days while still interacting with the class. Benefits of this program include the application of technology, collaboration in both online and face-to-face environments, and the development of independent working skills.

CyberSchool students are also part of the school district 1-to-1 program, in which each student is assigned an iPad for the school year. This option is open to all Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District students who will be going into grades 6 and 7 in September 2021.

REGISTRATION for Cyberschool opens online at noon, February 10, 2021. Registration link: <https://letstalksd42.ca/sd42-cyberschool-2021-2022>

The district CyberSchool program runs out of Alouette Elementary (22155 Isaac Crescent, Maple Ridge). For more information about the district CyberSchool program, visit <https://www.sd42.ca/program/cyberschool>.

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION

Online Information Night:

Wednesday, February 3, 2021 (7:00 p.m.)

Preregistration required:

https://sd42.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5UqfuCqqjsvE9NcrXDmi_L-HMmuKoST9J17

The SD42 Late French Immersion Program is an excellent opportunity for students who want to learn a second language or are looking for a challenge. Students who are currently in Grade 5 are eligible to begin Late French Immersion in September 2021 at Golden Ears Elementary. This two-year elementary program continues at Maple Ridge Secondary School.

To learn more about Late French Immersion, participate in our online information meeting on February 3, 2021.

For more information about our French Immersion programs, please contact Shelley Linton at 604.463.7108 or shelley_linton@sd42.ca

REGISTRATION for Late French Immersion opens online at noon, February 10, 2021.

Registration link: <https://letstalksd42.ca/sd42-late-french-immersion-2021-22>

The Late French Immersion Program runs out of Golden Ears Elementary school, 23124 – 118 Avenue, Maple Ridge.

School Closure Decision: SNOW

The decision to close schools due to accumulating snowfall is ultimately the responsibility of the superintendent, who must balance the safety of students, staff and parents with the need to provide learning. The decision is not taken lightly and is the result of a carefully thought-out process that is reviewed after each experience and refined if necessary.

The decision to close schools is made by 6:15 a.m. Details are:



- posted on the SD42 Twitter feed (@sd42news);
- posted on the SD42 Facebook feed (SD42Facebook);
- shared with News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690 radio stations;
- posted on the SD42 Website (www.sd42.ca).

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.

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/>

JANUARY 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
					Schools closed for Winter Break	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	Welcome Back - School re-opens		Sibling Kindergarten Registration begins on portal 12:00 noon		Wear your House Colours or Spirit Wear.	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		Sibling Kindergarten Registration ends at 11:59 pm		Wheelhouse Information Session 6:00 PM. Online Zoom link in newsletter.	Wear your House Colours or Spirit Wear.	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Last to order Pink Shirts (see parent portal)		Choice Program Kindergarten Registration opens 12:00 noon on portal		Wear your House Colours or Spirit Wear.	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Non-Instructional Day No School for Students Choice Program Kindergarten Registration ends at 11:59 pm	Wheelhouse Information Session 6:00 PM. Online Zoom link in newsletter. Kiwi Fruit delivered to classes.			Wear your House Colours or Spirit Wear.	