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Newsletter # 0.1 August 31, 2021



Welcome Back - Almost! Bienvenue!

We are excited to see you soon!

This short newsletter is being sent before the start of the school year. It contains timely information about calendar and schedule changes and well as COVID updates. A regular newsletter will follow on the first day of school. Please contact us if you have questions.

Warm regards,

Barbara MacKinnon Chelsea Lendvoy

Principal Vice Principal

The First Day of School – September 7th

You will have received communication from our superintendent, Harry Dhillon, to let you know that the schedule for first day of school **has been adjusted** to allow staff to receive training/orientation about recent updates to the updated Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings.  The dedicated time in the morning will also provide time for staff to plan and prepare for student attendance in the afternoon in alignment with the updated guidelines.

**MRE students attend on the first day, September 7th, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:25 p.m.** (not 8:25 to 11:00 a.m. as previously scheduled)

Regular daily attendance (8:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.) will start on Wednesday, September 8th.

**Kindergarten** families with input interviews scheduled for the morning of September 7th will be contacted by the kindergarten teachers about re-scheduling.

Where to go and what to bring on the first day

Tuesday, September 7th, 12:30 – 2:25 p.m.

* All **returning** students line up in the same spots as in the 2020-21 year. They will return to their previous classrooms.
* Students who are **new** to the school go to the library.
* Please do not send any school supplies until students are placed in their new classes. This will happen once final numbers and class configurations are known, likely after Thursday, September 9th,
* Grade 4-12 students and adults must wear masks in indoors areas. Masks are encouraged for students in grades K-3.
* As there is no scheduled recess in the afternoon, a snack is not necessary.

Calendar change – the updated calendar for the year can be found at the end of this newsletter

**September 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - New Statutory Day**

In June 2021, the federal government announced a new annual statutory day to commemorate and honour those who were lost, the Indigenous survivors, and the families and communities who continue to grieve as a result of the residential school system in Canada. This new federal statutory day is called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and will be observed annually on September 30. Schools will not be in session. The previously scheduled non-instructional day on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 has been moved to Friday, October 1, 2021. The amended District School Calendar is available [on the district website.](https://www.sd42.ca/district-school-calendars/) The updated MRE calendar is included at the end of this newsletter.

New Bell Schedule – beginning Wednesday, September 8th, 2021

Please note: End of day dismissal has changed to 2:25 p.m.

8:25 Entry Bell
8:30 Classes begin
10:20 - 10:35 Recess
11:50 - 12:15 Outside play before lunch

12:15 – 12:30 Lunch eating time

12:30 Classes resume

2:25 Dismissal

School Supplies

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

**Kindergarten to Grade 3**

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 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)**

You can find supply lists for grades 4-7 at:

<https://elementary.sd42.ca/mapleridge/school-supplies-lists/>

Students who pre-ordered supplies from Creative Packs will have their kits delivered to

their classrooms once classes are finalized. You can contact Creative Packs [www.creativepacks.ca](http://www.creativepacks.ca) if you are still interested in ordering through this company.

Many classes will also be using school planners (agendas) which cost $10.00.

COVID Health and Safety Measures

Updated COVID-19 guidelines for K-12 schools [were announced last week](https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021EDUC0058-001663), and are detailed in the [*Provincial COVID-19 Communicable Disease 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) document. Key measures include the following:

* **COHORTS:** Cohorts, also known as learning groups, are no longer recommended by public health as a COVID-19 mitigation measure and will not be used.
* **MASKS:** All K-12 staff, visitors, and students in grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas of the school and on school buses. Students in kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear masks. Exceptions to the mask requirements are outlined on [page 20 of the provincial guidelines](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidlines.pdf#page=20).
* **DAILY HEALTH CHECKS:** Daily health checks are required before students/staff come to school. A daily health check list is posted to the[school district website](https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/Daily-Health-Assessment-Checklist-Updated.pdf) and all school websites.
* **HAND HYGIENE:** Diligent hand hygiene will continue to be emphasized, with handwashing encouraged upon school entry, before/after breaks, before/after eating, after using washrooms, and after touching shared equipment.
* **PHYSICAL DISTANCING:** Although public health no longer recommends strict physical distancing of two metres, schools will use strategies to help with respecting personal space, including using available learning spaces and making use of outdoor space as appropriate.
* **CLEANING:** General cleaning, as well as cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces, will occur at least once in a 24-hour period and when visibly dirty.
* **VENTILATION:** Ventilation systems in all school district facilities meet WorkSafeBC requirements and requirements as set out in the provincial guidelines with all air filters continuing to be replaced on a regular basis. Improvements to SD42 ventilation systems [are listed here](https://www.sd42.ca/assets/media/SD42-Ventilation-Systems.pdf).
* **VACCINATIONS:** According to public health, vaccines are the most effective way to reduce the risk of COVID-19 in schools and communities. Public health strongly encourages all eligible students (12+) and staff to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Registration is available:
	+ Online through the [Get Vaccinated portal](https://www.getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca/s/)
	+ By calling 1-833-838-2323
	+ In person at any [Service BC location](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/citizens-services/servicebc)
	+ People can also be immunized at [drop-in vaccine clinics](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/vaxforbc) throughout the province
* **TARGETED MEASURES:** Local public health orders may be put in place for entire regions or communities, including schools, as determined by the Medical Health Officer.
* **VISITORS:** We will be continuing to carefully manage and document visitors in our schools in alignment with current provincial guidelines. If you need to visit your child’s school, please call the school or email staff to make appropriate arrangements. School doors may be locked when staff are not available to greet prospective visitors. All prospective visitors will need to complete a daily health check and sign in with their contact information.

MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY

2021-22 Calendar

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| School opening day for students (12:30 – 2:25 p.m.) | Tuesday, September 7, 2021  |
| Photo Day (Individual photos)  | Wednesday, September 22, 2021  |
| MRE Terry Fox Run  | Friday, September 24, 2021  |
| National Day For Truth and Reconciliation (school not in session) | Thursday, September 30, 2021 |
| Non-instructional day (School Growth Planning Day)  | Friday, October 1, 2021 |
| Thanksgiving Day  | Monday, October 11, 2021  |
| Non-instructional day (province-wide)  | Friday, October 22, 2021  |
| Remembrance Day  | Thursday, November 11, 2021  |
| Non-instructional day (district-based)  | Friday, November 12, 2021  |
| Student Inclusive Conferences – (dismissal at 11:30)  | Thursday, December 2, 2021  |
| Student Inclusive Conferences – (classes not in session)  | Friday, December 3, 2021  |
| Christmas Concert (proposed dates) Families choose one concert to attend  | Wednesday. December 15, 9:00 a.m. Thursday, December 16, 1:00 p.m.  |
| Schools close for break  | Friday, December 17, 2021  |
| Winter break  | Monday, December 20, 2021 to  Friday, December 31, 2021  |
| Schools reopen after break  | Monday, January 3, 2022  |
| Non-instructional day (school-based)  | Monday, January 24, 2022  |
| Family Day  | Monday, February 21, 2022  |
| Non-instructional day (school-based)  | Tuesday, February 22, 2022  |
| Student Inclusive Conferences – (dismissal at 11:30)  | Thursday, March 3, 2022          11:30 dismissal  |
| Student Inclusive Conferences – (classes not in session)  | Friday, March 4, 2022  |
| Schools close for break  | Friday, March 11, 2022  |
| Schools not in Session  | Monday, March 14, 2022 to Friday, March 18, 2022  |
| Spring break  | Monday, March 21, 2022 to Friday, March 25, 2022  |
| Schools reopen after break  | Monday, March 28, 2022  |
| Good Friday  | Friday, April 15, 2022  |
| Easter Monday  | Monday, April 18, 2022  |
| Non-instructional day (district-based)  | Wednesday, May 11, 2022  |
| Victoria Day  | Monday, May 23, 2022  |
| Last day for students – (dismissal at Noon)  | Thursday, June 23, 2022  |
| Year-end administrative day  | Friday, June 24, 2022  |
| Schools closed for summer vacation  | Monday, June 27, 2022  |