

Webster's Corners Elementary School NEWSLETTER

Principal: Mr. Ramin Mehrassa Email: rmehrassa@sd42.ca

Home of the
Wildcats



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September 2017

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

What a great start to this school year! I saw students fully engaged in learning at all the various stations in our opening week. And the positive feel of our school has continued from last year; we had a really smooth start-up, with lots of smiling faces, thanks to the hard work of our incredible staff. Of course, a huge thank you also goes out to all of our amazing parent volunteers during the first two weeks of school! Without your help, neither the bird house building nor the Open House would have been as successful and fun as they were. With a wonderful start like we've had, I can't wait for the rest of the year's activities to unfold. Our staff has been working hard to prepare for our second year of PEAK, packed full of hands-on learning and community service activities, intended to help our students grow and learn, support our school community and also enrich and improve our wider community and surroundings.

I look forward to seeing as many parents as possible involved and engaged in our school, whether it be for help in our classrooms, volunteering for school events or joining the PAC. I also look forward to meeting and connecting with our Kindergarten and new parents. Here's to a great year everyone!

Mr. Mehrassa

WELCOME TO OUR OUTSTANDING STAFF

We have had several changes to our staffing, over the summer and we are pleased to welcome new staff members (in bold print) to our school:

Classroom Teachers:

Mrs. Y. Mann

Mr. B. Wickham

Ms. L. Neumann

Mrs. C. Bzowy

Mrs. R. Yip

Mr. C. Mitchell / **Mrs. D. Larsen**

Ms. A. Shay/**Ms. J. McClain (maternity leave)**

Ms. S. Sanders

Ms. N. Qually

Mrs. L. Medland

Librarian/Prep

Mrs. K. Blom

Prep/Learning Assistance

Ms. M. Long

Support Teacher:

Mrs. K. Paterson

Counsellor:

Mr. J. Hooper

Child & Youth Care Worker:

Ms. A. Gauley

ABED Worker:

Ms. L. Jackson

Educational Assistants:

Ms. W. McRae

Ms. S. Pearson

Ms. L. Billing

Ms. S. Queen

Ms. M. Goes

Secretary

Ms. J. Ross

Noon Hour Supervisors:

Ms. S. Rowell

Ms. D. Delmark

Mrs. C. Windsor

Custodians:

Mr. R. Frier

Mr. J. Jongs



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to: Kavan, Mohammad, Jack, Hailee, Asher F., Carolina, Mehnaz, Natalie, Mason, Mariam, Savier, Ava, Geno, Ian, Cruz and Ethan.

FRONT GARDEN

A big thank you to Amanda Murray and Kelly Mayo for weeding and cleaning up our front garden. And we'd also like to send out a huge thanks to Caroline Cass for the topsoil. The front garden looks marvelous!

WOOD DONATION

Thanks to one of our parents, Dave Dees, who was able to secure our school a generous donation of wood from his work. That donation really helped us with the building of the birdhouses during the first week of school.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

A reminder that school supplies have been purchased by teachers over the summer for all classrooms. If you haven't already done so, please pay the \$47.50 fee online via the portal or by cash/cheque to the office. Please make cheques payable to Webster's Corners Elementary.

REDESIGNED CURRICULUM

Please see the attached sheet for information on how the curriculum has been redesigned and how this benefits student learning.

RCMP VISITS

The RCMP and the School District are working to increase the connection between police officers and our schools. As a result, the Maple Ridge detachment has assigned more officers to visit our schools several times per month to interact with and get to know students and staff.

Please read the "Welcome back" attachment from the RCMP.

NUT AWARE

The Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows School District, while not being able to guarantee an allergen-free environment in its schools, will take reasonable steps to provide an allergy-safe and allergy-aware environment for students with life-threatening allergies. As we have several students at Webster's who have life-threatening allergies to nuts (peanuts and tree nuts), we ask your cooperation in keeping the classrooms safe for all students by choosing snack and lunch foods for your children that are nut-free. Thank you in advance for being sensitive to this request.

HEAD LICE

This is the time of year when head lice may show up in your child's hair. To prevent head lice spreading among children at school, we ask that you remind your child not to share personal items such as combs and brushes. We also ask that you check your child's head weekly for the presence of head lice. Early detection and appropriate treatment will significantly reduce the incidence of head lice in our school; your cooperation is very much appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns regarding head lice, or require further information, please contact the school or the Public Health Nurse at 604-476-7000. You may also click on the links below for further information:

<http://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-info/health-topics/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/head-lice/head-lice>
<http://www.lice911.com/>
<https://www.licesquad.com/>

SCHOOL PLANNERS

Please note that planners are NOT used by students in Div. 1, Div. 2, Div. 9 & 10

School Planners for the 2017/2018 school year have arrived and been distributed. The cost for the school planner is \$7.50. Payment can be made via the portal or else to your child's teacher by cash or a cheque (payable to Webster's Corners Elementary).

Included in the school planner is our School Information section. When your child receives his/her planner, we ask that you please spend some time together reviewing this section, which is located in the first 8 pages. Our School Information section is also available under the "Welcome" tab on our website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/wc/>

2017/18 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

A big welcome and congratulations to all of our Kindergarten students who started full time school on Monday, September 18th.



ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

Who is an Aboriginal Student?

Aboriginal Ancestry is determined on a voluntary basis through self-identification. The term *Aboriginal* includes people who are First Nations (status or non-status), Métis or Inuit. No documentation is required and the ancestry can go back several generations. Ministry of Education funding is provided to support the success of all Aboriginal students through culturally appropriate educational programs and services.

We encourage all students of First Nations, Metis, or Inuit Ancestry to complete a self-identification form as this allows you to access various supports and programs during the school year. Self-identification

forms can be picked up at the school office. Alternatively, you can download a copy of this form at the Aboriginal Education website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/abed/general-forms/>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Diane Graves
Principal of Aboriginal Education
604-466-6265

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Please go to www.iapkidsplus.com for information on student accident insurance.

ASSEMBLIES

Our assemblies usually take place on Monday mornings at 10:45. Parents are always welcome and encouraged to attend school assemblies; please watch for notification for upcoming assemblies.



WEST COAST RECESS

At Webster's Corners, like other schools in the District, we have a West Coast recess. We feel it's important that our students play outside, get fresh air and plenty of exercise. Due to the often wet conditions of our climate, it is important that children have a hooded jacket or umbrella and waterproof footwear. Please also ensure that your child has a complete change of clothes at school. Unless we experience an especially torrential downpour or very cold weather, we will all be enjoying the outdoors at recess and lunch breaks.

PHONING IN ABSENT OR LATE STUDENTS

If your child is going to be absent or late for any reason, please remember to contact the school at (604) 462-7595. An answering machine is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week for your convenience. If your child is not well enough to go outside at recess and lunch, he/she is probably not well enough to be at school (when children are sick, they should stay at home in order to get better and to stop the spread of germs).

You may also inform us of your child's absence via the portal or by emailing us at: wce_reception@sd42.ca.

NEWSLETTERS BY PORTAL/WEBSITE

All newsletters will be sent via the School District Portal. Newsletters will also be posted on our school website and Facebook page on the 3rd Thursday of each month; however, if you are registered on the portal, then you will receive a notification when the newsletter is available.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

The safety of our students is a major priority, therefore if you are in the school to volunteer or are just visiting, please remember to sign in at the office and get a Visitor Pass. The School District requests that all schools enforce this policy this year. If a staff member or a student sees the Visitor Pass, they will then know that you are officially signed in. We appreciate your help in maintaining a safe environment in our school. Thank you!

BELL SCHEDULE

The welcome bell will ring at 8:25. All students are asked to line up outside their classroom doors, or in the outside zones for their particular classrooms where their teachers will greet them in the morning. We

request that students arrive at school, no sooner than 5 - 10 minutes before the 8:25 a.m. bell. This request is made out of concern for your child's safety and security, since there is no supervision available before school starts. Similarly, at the end of the day, students are dismissed at 2:20 and staff supervision does not extend beyond 2:35. Thank-you for your cooperation!

8:25 AM	Welcome Bell – students line up, doors open
8:30 AM	CLASSES BEGIN
10:10-10:25 AM	Recess
12:00 PM	Students go outside
12:20 PM	Students come inside to eat
12:40 PM	Lunchtime over
2:20 PM	CLASSES DISMISSED

PERTINENT STUDENT PERMISSION FORMS

All students will soon be receiving portal notices about a package of some very important forms that will need to be completed online. Please look out for these forms and complete them as soon as possible.

MEDICAL INTERVENTION FORM

If your child requires the administration of any medication during school hours, it is **IMPERATIVE** that you come to the office and fill out a "Medical Intervention Form" before any medication can be dispensed. This form is also available on our website. The school cannot assist with any medication unless this form is completed. Children are not permitted to bring any medication of any kind to school to be taken by themselves. Please **DO NOT** send any prescriptions or over-the-counter medication to school with your child without contacting the office first. For safety reasons, all medications must be in their **ORIGINAL CONTAINER** and will be stored in a locked cupboard in the office. A record is kept of all amounts given to any child. This procedure complies with Board policy regarding medications to be taken at school.

PAC INFORMATION

Webster's PAC meetings take place on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, in the library. New members are always welcome; please consider joining our dynamic PAC. We value your participation!

PAC Executive 2017/2018

President: Jessica Underwood

Vice President: Sarah Bunten

Treasurer: Katia Gailans

Secretary: Amanda Murray

DPAC Rep: Paula Blamey

PHOTO RETAKES

Student photos retakes will be take place on October 13th.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

After School Programs at Webster's Corners: Please watch for an orange brochure in your child's backpack informing you of the Fall selection of After School Programs. Programs are offered three times per year, Fall, Winter and Spring, running for either 4-6 weeks. Our first set will start the beginning of October. Registration information can be found in the brochure.

If your child requires extra support in the classroom please contact Drea Owen prior to registration to ensure the program will be a good fit. Children benefit from participating in after school programs both academically and socially, creating opportunities to build on traditional learning outcomes but also through new friendships and experiences. Our After School Programs offer subsidies for any family who requires assistance by contacting Drea Owen at 604-346-9815 or at drea_owen@sd42.ca.

THE LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The Learning Partnership Offers Up Early Learning Tools for the New School Year

The early years experts at The Learning Partnership have developed some great tools to offer parents of early learners on how to make the most of the new school year, both in the classroom and in their own family rooms.

Four Healthy Media Activities for Families with Pre-Schoolers

<<http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/back-to-school/healthy-media-activities-for-families-with-pre-schoolers>>

The influence of media is everywhere. Raising children in this digital age is filled with opportunity and also with challenges. The early years are a critical time in making healthy media choices and developing solid habits that nurture positive growth. So, how can families successfully structure and navigate the virtual world on behalf of their young children? We have four ways for you to engage in healthy media consumption activities for your little ones.

Seven Common Household Items that are Early Learning Tools in Disguise

<<http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/back-to-school/early-learning-tools>>

The Learning Partnership's Welcome to Kindergarten program provides families with a kit of early learning items and activities to help parents engage with their children and get them ready for school. But even if you haven't been to a Welcome to Kindergarten session, you have things already in your home that you can use to help your child develop the foundations needed for a successful transition to school - such as, listening and speaking, sharing and taking turns, vocabulary development, print, alphabet and number awareness, hand and finger coordination and creative thinking.

Six Ways to Stay Active and Healthy Throughout the School Year

<<http://www.thelearningpartnership.ca/back-to-school/child-health-and-wellness>>

With summer winding down, the endless afternoons of running and playing outside are coming to an end – but cooler weather doesn't have to mean staying

inside! This school year, The Learning Partnership suggests six simple ways to keep your children healthy and active.

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/>

HOSPITAL HOMEBOUND SUPPORT

Do you have a son or daughter who is ill or injured and unable to attend school?

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. 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.

How does Hospital Homebound support work?

The Hospital Homebound teacher provides direct instruction and support to students, with the goal of helping them return to class with as little interruption to their education as possible. The teacher also helps students maintain connections with the people and programs at their school. While receiving Hospital Homebound support, students continue to be registered at their school and in their classes. Students work on the core academic subjects. They often use the same materials and complete many of the same assignments as their classmates, although some adaptations may be necessary depending on the child's illness. Students typically receive two to three hours of support each week.

When can a student be referred?

Homebound students qualify for support if they are absent from school for 10 consecutive school days. Students who are hospitalized can be referred upon admittance to Ridge-Meadows Hospital.

How do I refer my son or daughter?

Contact your child's teacher, counsellor, or administrator. He/she will complete the Learning Services referral form. A physician's authorization form is also required (available at the school). For more information contact Natalie Gehm, the Hospital Homebound Teacher, at 467-1101, or by email at ngehm@sd42.ca.

FAMILY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT CENTRE

Please see the attached information from the centre.

UPCOMING DATES

Sept. 25	Curriculum Implementation day - School not in session
Sept. 26	Pancake Breakfast
Sept. 29	Terry Fox Run
Oct. 9	Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 13	Photo Retakes
Oct. 18	We Day
Oct 20	Province-wide non-instructional day – school not in session
Nov. 7	Veteran's Tea
Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov 9	School not in session – curriculum implementation day
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day