

Webster's Corners Elementary School NEWSLETTER

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

Home of the
Wildcats



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SEPTEMBER 2020

To say that we're living in challenging times would be an obvious understatement. However, I'm very proud of our Webster's community in the way that we have approached our new reality. We've worked very hard as a staff to ensure children's safety as well as continuing to nurture their social-emotional well-being. Our staff has been concentrating in September on welcoming our students back and making sure that they feel safe and comfortable at school. We're carrying on as best as we can with regular routines, with of course, the added emphasis of health and safety. Establishing routine and consistency is an important consideration for our students in helping re-establish a sense of normalcy. Thank you also to our parents for supporting the school community and by communicating with me about your needs and those of your children. The beauty of a small school is that we can connect, even in these times, and collaborate to figure out what's best for your children. Our new normal will have similar features and components as in previous years but in a different way. We'll still be having assemblies, albeit via zoom, where students will receive ROAR certificates. I'm still telling my bad "dad" jokes every morning, to the chagrin of our students ;-), and teaching and learning and having fun is still happening at Webster's. This week, each class will also be doing their own version of the Terry Fox Run and parents can donate online to the Terry Fox Organization, if they wish.

We're getting on with life at school as best as possible with our new reality while teaching our students how to be safe and healthy during this pandemic. As always, my virtual door is always open and I'd love to hear from you, anytime you'd like to touch base.

Thank you for your patience and support,

Ramin Mehrassa

WELCOME TO OUR OUTSTANDING STAFF

We have had a couple of changes to our staff over the summer and we are pleased to welcome new staff members (in bold print) to our school.

Classroom Teachers:

Ms. B. Bento

Ms. L Lane

Ms. L. Neumann

Ms. A. Shay

Ms. S. Sanders

Ms. L. Medland

Librarian/Prep

Mr. A. Logan

Support Teacher:

Mrs. J. Fuller

Counsellor:

Ms. J. Sheehan

Child & Youth Care Worker:

Ms. B. Olsen

ABED Worker:

Ms. J. Desgagne

Educational Assistants:

Ms. S. Pearson

Ms. S. Queen

Ms. M. Goes

Ms. C. Adams

Mrs. A. Roberge

Mrs. C. Lilley

Ms. C. Turner

Ms. A. Willems

Secretary

Ms. J. Ross

Noon Hour Supervisors:

Ms. B. Kaur Dhesi

Ms. M. Forbes-King

Custodian:

Ms. A. Marer



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to:

Lavina, Evie, Hailee, Brooklynn, Asher,
Mariam, Geno, Ian, Cruz, Soha and Silas

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. (\$55.00 for Div. 1 and Div. 6) online via the portal. There is also a \$7.50 planner fee payable through the portal for divisions 2,3,4 and 5.

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.

SCHOOL EMERGENCY CLOSURES

On the rare occasion, school may be cancelled due to *extreme* winter weather conditions. Public announcements affecting the closure of schools will be made only by the Superintendent of Schools. The decision to close schools will be made by 6:00 am and information will be:

- posted on the SD42 Website (www.sd42.ca)
- posted on the SD42 Facebook feed (SD42FACEBOOK)
- posted on the SD42 Twitter feed (@sd42news)
- shared with **All News 1130, CKNW, and CBC 690** radio stations

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:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/head-lice#.XYEFoSouUk>

<http://www.lice911.com/>
<https://www.licesquad.com/>



2020/2021 KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS

A big welcome and congratulations to all of our Kindergarten students who started full time school on Monday, September 14th.

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://www.sd42.ca/program/aboriginal-education>

If you have any questions, please call the Aboriginal Education office at 604-466-6265

Please return any completed forms to the school office.

ASSEMBLIES

Our next zoom ROAR assembly will be on Thursday, October 15th. Please stay tuned for details.



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.

ADVISING US OF ABSENT OR LATE STUDENTS

If your child is going to be absent or late for any reason, please remember to inform us via the portal or email the school at wce_reception@sd42.ca. You may also phone in the absence to 604-462-7595. An answering machine is available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week for your convenience.

Arriving late for school in our current context will be extremely challenging to manage; as such, **we ask that you ensure your child arrives for the 8:30 am welcome by your child's teacher at their designated meeting location.** If your child does arrive late for school, they are to report to the main entrance and knock on the door. A staff member will let them into the office for attendance purposes.

VOLUNTEERS AND VISITORS

At this time, due to COVID 19 safety precautions, we cannot allow parents entry to the school. We appreciate your help in maintaining a safe environment in our school. Should you need to talk to me, please contact me via email (rmehrassa@sd42.ca) or by phone (604-462-7595).
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 2:30. Thank-you for your cooperation!

8:25 AM	Welcome Bell Students line up, doors open
8:30 AM	CLASSES BEGIN
10:20-10:35 AM	Recess
11:50 AM	Students go outside
12:30 PM	Students come inside to eat
2:20 PM	CLASSES DISMISSED

MEDICAL INTERVENTION FORM

If your child requires the administration of medication 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

The PAC at Webster's Corners Elementary is an integral part of our school community and donates their time and effort in order to provide a more positive school experience for our students. Our PAC is very welcoming and eager to have new members. For more information, please contact the PAC Executive by emailing them at the following email address: websterscornerspac@hotmail.ca

PAC EXECUTIVE (2020/2021)

Chair: Jessica Underwood
Vice-Chair: Tiffany Reichert
Treasurer: Ira Javier
Secretary: Bonnie Kivimaa
DPAC Rep.: Jill White

SCHOOL DISTRICT 42

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 Marc Beaudet, the Hospital Homebound Teacher, at 467-1101, or by email at mbeaudet@sd42.ca.

**B.C. TRAINING &
EDUCATION SAVINGS GRANT**

Did you know children born in 2009 or later can qualify for a \$1,200 grant when they are signed up for a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP)? No RESP contribution is required. Visit the website <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/scholarships/bc-training-and->

education-savings-grant for more information or email BCTESG@gov.bc.ca.

UPCOMING DATES

Oct. 7	Student photos
Oct. 12	Thanksgiving Day – no school
Oct. 15	Zoom ROAR assembly 1pm
Oct. 23	Non-instructional Day – no school
Oct. 28	Photo Retakes
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day – no school
Nov. 12	Non-instructional Day – no school
Nov. 19	Zoom ROAR assembly 1pm
Nov. 26	Reporting Conferences – early dismissal at 11:30am
Nov. 27	Reporting Conferences all day – classes not in session

2020-2021 Webster's Corners Calendar

Schools opening day for students – early dismissal at 11:00am	Tuesday, September 8, 2020
Open House	Thursday, September 24, 2020
Non-instructional day (School Growth Planning Day)	Monday, September 28, 2020
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2020
Non-instructional day (province-wide)	Friday, October 23, 2020
Peak Feast	Tuesday, October 27, 2020
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2020
Non-instructional day (school-based)	Thursday, November 12, 2020
Fall Book Fair	Monday November 23, 2020 to Friday Nov. 27, 2020
Reporting Conferences – early dismissal at 11:30am	Thursday, November 26, 2020
Reporting Conferences all day – classes not in session	Friday, November 27, 2020
Christmas Concert	Wednesday, December 16, 2020
Schools close for break	Friday, December 18, 2020
Winter break	Monday, December 21, 2020 to Friday, January 1, 2021
Schools reopen after break	Monday, January 4, 2021
Non-instructional day (district-based)	Monday, January 25, 2021
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2021
Non-instructional day (school-based)	Tuesday, February 16, 2021
Spring Book Fair	Monday, March 1, 2021 to Friday, March 5, 2021
Reporting Conferences – early dismissal at 11:30am	Thursday, March 4, 2021
Reporting Conferences all day – classes not in session	Friday, March 5, 2021
Schools close for break	Friday, March 12, 2021
Spring break	Monday, March 15, 2021 to Friday, March 19, 2021
Schools not in Session	Monday, March 22, 2021 to Friday, March 26, 2021
Schools reopen after break	Monday, March 29, 2021
Good Friday	Friday, April 2, 2021
Easter Monday	Monday, April 5, 2021
Non-instructional day (district-based)	Wednesday, May 12, 2021
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24, 2021
Last day for students – early dismissal at 12:00pm	Tuesday, June 29, 2021
Year-end administrative day	Wednesday, June 30, 2021
Schools closed for Summer vacation	Thursday, July 1, 2021

ELEMENTARY (K-7) DAILY SCHEDULE: 8:30am to 2:20pm. 295 instructional minutes per day; 179 days of instruction. Kindergarten gradual entry the first 2 weeks of September.

Minimum number of hours of instruction that must be offered as per School Act and Calendar Regulation:
853 hours of instruction for students in kindergarten. 878 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7