



MAPLE RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

20820 River Road, Maple Ridge, BC V2X 1Z7

Phone 604.467.5551 / Fax 604.467.9825

Principal: Mme Donna Servant

Vice Principal: Mrs. Lisa Kania

SEPTEMBER 2018 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back to a New Year of Exciting Learning Opportunities!



Recently I visited a local store and a sign caught my attention. It read, *Life's little moments make the best memories*. This made me reflect on those precious summer moments with family. As a mom of three adult sons much of our time together was spent around the table eating and laughing. I do hope all of you enjoyed family time that has been captured in your memories. And now we have a terrific year to look forward to as we all come together again to learn, discover new passions, make new friends and create more best memories.

It feels wonderful to return to the MRE school community! Our dedicated team has already been very busy planning, collaborating, and setting up their classrooms. There is a joyful buzz throughout the building as we greet all our students and families. If you are new to MRE we want to extend a warm welcome to you! MRE has a reputation for being a caring and friendly community where we believe it takes a village to raise a child and that together we can make a difference. As a result, we are grateful to have a thoughtful, energetic and wonderful PAC that work hard to make great things happen for our children. (Please consider joining!)

Some of our welcome back events this month include a pancake breakfast for the students on Friday, September 7. Teachers will escort classes to the gym throughout the morning so that all children have an opportunity to come together and enjoy a meal with their friends. **If your child has a gluten allergy please send their own pancakes with them to school. We do not have gluten-free pancakes offered.** Some teachers will have a pajama day as well on this day and they will advise their classes. A huge thank-you in advance to our PAC for organizing this.

Later this month we hold the Terry Fox Run and Orange Shirt Day. The Terry Fox Run will be held on September 21 at 12:45. We begin with an assembly in the gym and then head out to our field to do several laps. Parents are welcome to join us as we honour this great Canadian hero. Finally, everyone is encouraged to wear their orange shirts on September 28. Orange Shirt Day is a commemoration that recognizes the harm of the residential school system. It has become a symbol of the commitment to ensure that everyone matters. The spirit of reconciliation offers hope for generations of children to come.

September is always eventful and we really appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we adjust to the new school year. We understand that parents and students are eager to know their classroom teacher however, schools must have an accurate understanding of enrollment numbers before placing students in classrooms. Therefore, students will go to their last year's classrooms until further notice. A lot of effort and consideration goes into ensuring the best placements for all of our students. We hope to move students to their new classes by Monday, September 10. For convenience and safety, we request that you please arrange a meeting spot for your child each day at dismissal. Once students are assigned to their new classrooms, a notice will go home with each student to indicate where they will enter and dismiss the next day.

A new school year sometimes instills both excitement and anxiety in many of us. Talking to your children about their feelings helps them to understand these emotions are common. Reassuring your child and staying calm can help him/her to transition smoothly into their new class. Remember, your own perspective can also inform how your child will view school. Give your child time to settle into their new classroom, make new friends, and adjust to a new teacher. Asking them to share the positive parts of their day can help them to feel content about going to school.

Mrs. Kania and I feel honoured and privileged to work with such a wonderful and warm school community. We look forward to working together to help make your child's experience a positive one. We send out a weekly bulletin to all through the parent portal every Friday (*The Friday Blast*). This shares reminders and important information for the week ahead. Throughout the year please stay in touch with your teacher, our staff, and visit the school website: <http://schools.sd42.ca/mre/> for additional information, and do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mme Donna Servant
Principal

Mrs. Lisa Kania
Vice Principal



Staffing Updates

Welcome to our new staff members: Ms. McClain, Miss Waddell and Miss Manyk (English classroom teachers) Mme Zepeski, Mme Alliette, and Mme Passmore (French classroom teachers). Mme Passmore will be teaching for the beginning of September as we wait to fill a vacancy. Ms. Barber, Mrs. Carruthers, and Mrs. Ambrosio are new educational assistants, and Mrs. Kyle is our new head secretary. Kaley Wells is also taking on a new role this year, as our French support teacher. Finally, Miss Shellborn got married this summer and is now Mrs. Robinson.

Pancake Breakfast Volunteers Needed

If you can spare a bit of time, please come and help prepare and serve pancakes to our community. Many hands make for lighter work. We need volunteers to prepare and serve the breakfast on Friday, September 7 from 8:30 until around 11:00. We also need volunteers to help with preparation work the day before (Thursday, September 6). Please contact Sabrina Harker by email: sabrinaharker@hotmail.com or let the office know. It's a great opportunity to get to know our community and be part of a terrific *Welcome Back* event for the children! Thanks!

Medical Intervention Forms

If your child has any health care needs that require support at school, including but not limited to administration of any medication or a life-threatening condition including anaphylaxis, diabetes and seizure disorders, new medical forms must be completed every year. The school cannot assist with any medical intervention unless these forms are completed. Please contact the school as soon as possible to complete a form. Please note, the medical forms for anaphylaxis and diabetes require a physician's signature. This procedure complies with the school district policy regarding the health care needs of children at school.

We are a Nut Aware School

As it is the start of another school year, it is important to remind everyone we have several students with SEVERE LIFE-THREATENING allergies to a variety of nuts, including tree nuts and peanuts. If this applies to your child, please make certain that you have notified the office and the classroom teacher and that you have provided the appropriate medical information and necessary medication.

Parking

Student safety is our top priority. Signs are posted that all parking lots are designated for staff and vehicles displaying the disabled tag in their windshield. **PLEASE DO NOT PULL INTO THE PARKING LOTS.** We recommend parking on a nearby adjacent street and walking your child to school. Ensure all pedestrians use designated crosswalks. Conversely, students may be dropped off in the roundabout but there is no parking in this area (except for the KidZone school bus and vehicles displaying the disabled tag in their windshield). Students may NOT be picked up from the roundabout as it is closed between 2:00 and 2:30. We appreciate your cooperation in this regard as we work together to positively impact our child's school experience and keep everyone safe.

PAC INFORMATION

Welcome Back! We hope that everyone had an amazing summer, making amazing memories! We would like to take this opportunity to **Invite** you all to our first PAC meeting on September 11, 7pm in the Library of the School.

As a reminder to our returning parents and a message to our new parents, MRE PAC is a fundamental part of the MRE community. Our PAC is not only able to bring in super fun things for the students, like Carnival, performances, and lug a mugs, but learning incentives like the book cart, technology, art supplies etc....with our ultimate goal of rebuilding our primary playground. As you know these things can't be done without you, volunteers. Our PAC is at a CRITICAL time, we can't stress this enough. With the number of parents that have left this school because their children have aged out or their families have relocated, it has left a substantial hole in the PAC, and with more parents approaching their final years we need new parents to come and fill these voids and assist with the veterans. Without volunteers there will be no fundraisers, no fundraiser, no money to pay for these amazing experiences PAC provides your student.

Now on the off chance you've read this entire message, thank you. Please encourage other parents to come with you to our first meeting. It is a great way to meet new people and maintain MRE's reputation for being a great school!

Here are some upcoming events for September, please remember that you are not obligated to participate in every fundraiser that the PAC holds, there are many in hopes that we will find the right one for you and your family.

PAC MEETING: September 11, at 7pm in the library, at this meeting there will be a call for nominations for the position of Vice Chair, if this is something you've thought of, please be sure to attend this meeting.

VESSEYS BULBS: plant it and forget it and in spring you won't need to brave the weather. Thank you in advance Dallas Bell for running this great event!

LOVE THAT DEAL! In the past our school has participated in Entertainment Books and we thought we would switch it up to something more local! The cost of the card is \$20 BUT you get your money back right away with the free purchases available on the card. So, get your neighbours and families one! It is a great fundraiser for our community and supports local businesses. Thank you, Jeanie Harmon, for taking care of this, information will come out the second week of school.

Finally, many hands...make light work, and MRE the Place to Be where kindness and respect matters.

Please feel free to message me if you have any questions
Sabrina Harker –PAC Chair sabrinaharker@hotmail.com

Blended (Combined) Classes

Many of you have inquired about the possibility of blended classes next year. Although there are definitely some structural and managerial reasons why we are seeing an increase in the number of classes where 2 or more grades are combined, there are also pedagogical and emotional/social reasons why combining students across grade levels is positive. These include:

- Research has shown there's no difference in academic achievement between children in combined classes versus straight grades.
- Students in combined grade classrooms are often less competitive with one another and more cooperative than students in same-grade classrooms.
- Children learn at different paces. Blended classes offer a wider range of curricula across 2 grade levels. Advanced students can be more easily challenged with higher-level material; struggling students can more easily return to earlier material.
- Younger children gain self-confidence and maturity by being exposed to older students; older students learn to be positive, mature role models for the younger students. (Most children come from a home environment with siblings of different ages).
- Some children will benefit by having the same teacher over two years, as the teacher comes to know the students' abilities better. This is called "looping."
- Students in blended classrooms tend to take greater personal responsibility for their learning.
- There is greater peer-to-peer learning in blended classrooms.
- Students develop friendships across grade levels and blended classrooms instill a greater sense of responsibility for one another, and a better sense of community. As one teacher tells her students, "we are like a family who cares for one another."

Student Safety

Please visit the following website <https://www.tranbc.ca/2015/09/01/prepare-to-be-schooled-bc-is-back-to-school/> for back-to-school safety information from the ministry of transportation.

School Supplies

- Students do not bring school supplies to school until they have been placed in their permanent classroom.
- **Please note that school supplies for the iPad class differ from the other classes. If your child is placed here your teacher will advise you what is needed.**
- Student Planners will cost \$10.00 (Grades 4 - 7) which can be paid on the portal. The only class that does NOT use planners is one upper intermediate iPad class. You may want to wait until students are in their new classes before submitting payment.
- Kindergarten students will pay a flat fee of \$50.00 on the portal for supplies.
- Students in grades 1 - 3 pay a flat fee of \$55.00 for all their school supplies which were bulk ordered and placed in classrooms. This fee includes the planner.
- Edu-Pac kits have arrived early and will be distributed to children within the first couple of days of school.

The portal is set up to accept payment for all items above. If you prefer to pay by cheque they can be made payable to Maple Ridge Elementary.

Maple Ridge Elementary School Supply List 2018-2019

This form indicates by grade level the supplies your child will need for next year. The exact number of individual items on the supply list is only a recommendation. Specific brand name products are suggested as their quality seems to be higher and helps to reduce student frustration if they don't work the way they are supposed to.

Please ensure your child has a change of clothes at School for inclement weather to reduce phone calls home.

PLEASE MARK YOUR CHILD'S NAME ON ALL SUPPLIES.

SUPPLIES	GRADE LEVEL	4	5	6	7 Regular Class (NOT iPad)
Binder - 1 1/2" (d-ring style)					
Calculator			1	1	1
Coloured pencils - 24 (pre-sharpened)		1	1	1	1
Dictionary, Collins pocket English (Canadian)			1	1	1
Dividers – pkg of 8					
Duo tangs		12	16	16	16
Eraser - white vinyl		6	4	11	3
Felt markers - black – fine tip (sharpie)		2	1	1	2
Felt markers – black – ultrafine thin tip (sharpie)			3	3	
Felt markers - black ultrafine		3			
Felt markers 20's – regular		1	1	1	2
Fiskar scissors 7" - good point		1	1	1	1
Geometry set-with protractor only			1	1	1
Glue - LePage's bondfast (120 ml bottle)			1	1	3
Glue stick - large uhu 40 gm		4	3	3	4
Gym strip** with labelled gym bag			1	1	1
Inside shoes (must be gym runners)		1	1	1	1
HB pencils-12 pkg pre-sharpened (good quality)		4	4	4	2
Highlighter pen - yellow chisel tip		4	2	2	1
Hilroy exercise book wide ruled 72 pgs.		2			
Intermediate ruler – 30 cm metric (cm/mm)		1	1	1	1
Correction tape		1	1	1	1
Oil pastels – pkg of 12		1	1	1	1
Papermate stick pen - medium blue					3
Papermate stick pen - medium blue erasable		3	2	2	
Papermate stick pen - medium red			3	3	
Pencil box		1	1	1	1
Pencil sharpener - self-contained		1	1	1	1
Scotch tape - transparent			1	1	1
Wax crayons - 24's (Crayola)			1	1	1
Masking tape (1/2")					1
Ear buds		1	1	1	1
Flash drive			1	1	1
Change of clothes		1	1	1	1



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Vice-Principal: Mrs. L. Kania

August 21, 2018

Dear Parents of Students in Grades 4 – 7:

We are continuing our use of the School Agenda Planners for each student in Grades 1 – 7. The agenda books help support the development of organizational skills and have received strong support from our parent community as a good tool. We will issue a School Agenda to each student and we ask that you send **\$10.00**, to cover the cost, to your child's teacher. Should there be extenuating circumstances created by this expense, we ask you to contact the school administration in strict confidence.

The first eight pages of the Agenda Planner provide useful information on school procedures and preparing schedules. We encourage families to review this information and make a note in your personal calendars of important dates for the 2018 -2019 school year.

These PLANNERS can be very useful in the areas such as:

1. **Communication between home and school.**
2. **Planning for Future Events.**
3. **Keeping track of homework.**
4. **Goal setting – home and school (long and short term).**

Students can make good use of their PLANNERS by:

1. **Having them at school on their desk or table, every day.**
2. **Being responsible for-recording their homework and recording “coming events” reminders**
3. **Taking their PLANNER home daily to use at home and to show parents.**

Parents can help by:

1. **Reviewing the PLANNER with your children (there are other useful parts of the book – time tables, calendars, math and spelling information, tips, etc.).**
2. **Looking at the daily entries and initialing the PLANNER.**
3. **Writing a comment to the teacher if needed.**

At school, teachers will assist by:

1. **Reviewing the PLANNER with the class.**
2. **Checking the PLANNERS regularly.**
3. **Talking to students about goal setting.**
4. **Allowing a few minutes at the end of the day for students to complete their PLANNERS.**

Thank-you for your support. We appreciate if payment can be submitted by September 14.

Sincerely,

Mme D. Servant
Principal

Only return this portion to the office if paying by cash or cheque please.

Student's Name

Teacher

_____ Yes, I have enclosed \$10.00 for the Student Planner

Parent Signature



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August 21, 2018

Dear Parents of Students in Grade 1 - 3:

The school will once again be purchasing your child's school supplies. The cost this year will be **\$55.00** and will include the price of the agenda. We are continuing our use of the School Agenda Planners for each student in Grades 1 – 3. The agenda books help support the development of organizational skills and have received strong support from our parent community as a good tool. Should there be extenuating circumstances created by this expense, we ask you to contact the school administration in strict confidence.

The first eight pages of the Agenda Planner provide useful information on school procedures and preparing schedules. We encourage families to review this information and make a note in your personal calendars of important dates for the 2018 -2019 school year.

These PLANNERS can be very useful in the areas such as:

5. **Communication between home and school.**
6. **Planning for Future Events.**
7. **Keeping track of homework.**
8. **Goal setting – home and school (long and short term).**

Students can make good use of their PLANNERS by:

3. **Having them at school on their desk or table, every day.**
4. **Being responsible for-recording their homework-recording “coming events” reminders**
3. **Taking their PLANNER home daily to use at home and to show parents.**

Parents can help by:

4. **Reviewing the PLANNER with your children (there are other useful parts of the book – time tables, calendars, math and spelling information, tips, etc.).**
5. **Looking at the daily entries and initialing the PLANNER.**
6. **Writing a comment to the teacher if needed.**

At school, teachers will assist by:

5. **Reviewing the PLANNER with the class.**
6. **Checking the PLANNERS regularly.**
7. **Talking to students about goal setting.**
8. **Allowing a few minutes at the end of the day for students to complete their PLANNERS.**

Thank-you for your support. We appreciate if payment can be submitted by September 24.

Sincerely,

Mme D. Servant
Principal

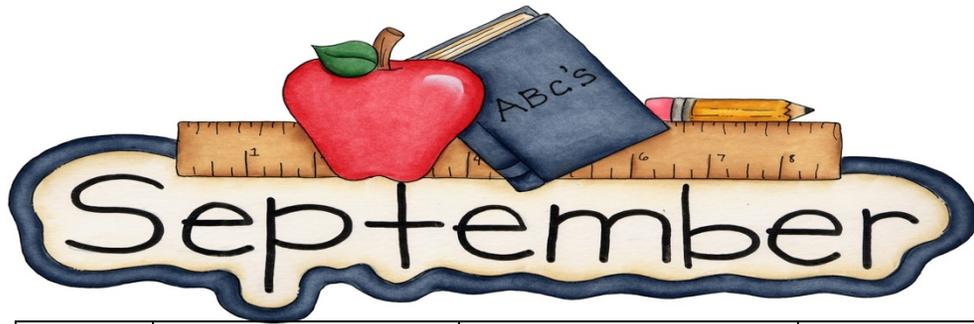
Only return this portion to the office if paying by cash or cheque please.

Student's Name

Teacher

Yes, I have enclosed \$55.00 for the Student Planner & School Supplies

Parent Signature



Maple Ridge Elementary

Sunday	M	Tues	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Welcome Back Assembly at 10:25 Dismissal at	5	6	7 Pancake Breakfast 	8
9	10	11 7:00 pm PAC meeting	12	13	14	15
16	17 Full day kindergarten begins.	18 Reading Blast 11:30	19	20	21 Terry Fox Run	22
23	24 N.I.D. - curriculum Implementation	25	26 Photo Day	27	28 	29/30