

ÉCOLE MARY HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1890 Humber Crescent, Port Coquitlam, B.C., V3C 2V7

Phone: 604-942-0264 Fax: 604-942-3157



Learn to Live



Live to Learn



NEWSLETTER

Margo McKnight, Principal

September 2009

It's All About Respect!!

MISSION STATEMENT:

Within our community we strive to develop enthusiastic, respectful citizens who value diversity and learning and who pursue excellence in a safe and caring environment.

School Goal: to increase students' reading comprehension

WELCOME BACK!

We would like to welcome all of the students and parents of Mary Hill Elementary School to a new school year. A very special welcome goes out to the families who are new to the school. You will find the Mary Hill community warm and welcoming.

Our school population stands at 257 students. During the first days of school, students were involved in learning activities within a temporary grade group. Staff worked very hard and spent considerable time in organizing students into classes for the school year. As you will recall from letters sent home, many factors are considered when making up classes for student placements. Thank you for honouring these decisions through your supportive comments and actions. Classes are now into regular programming for the school year.

As a school staff, we are dedicated to providing the best possible learning opportunities for your child. We will be encouraging and expecting our students to do the best they can in all respects. We also will be expecting a high standard of cooperative and responsible behaviour from students. We look forward to the days ahead as we work together with your support and assistance to make this a memorable year. The school day begins at 8:25 am when the bell rings to call children in to the school. Classes begin at 8:30 am. You will help both your child and your child's teacher if you bring your child to school on time every day.

Parents please note that student supervision outside begins at 8:10 a.m. until the entry bell each morning. Students should not be arriving at school prior to this time unless a teacher will be supervising students for a specific school related activity. We ask that parents and students wait outside until the bell rings. The teachers are very busy getting organized in the morning and cannot be responsible for supervising students. We would also ask that parents say good-bye to the children before they enter the school. Parents must ensure that their children are picked up from school on time. Please do not ask your child to wait for you at the lower playground as there is no supervision and it is not wise to rely on other parents who may or may not be there. In the event that you are held up by traffic or an emergency please call the school office to let us know about this.



PARENT/TEACHER NIGHT- SEPTEMBER 23rd, 6:30 pm

Parents and students in Grades 1 to 5: please be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 23rd! We are trying a different approach this year. Please go to the gym with your child at 6:30 pm. We will introduce all the staff and there will be a special presentation. Then parents will move to the classrooms to meet with the teachers. The students will stay in the gym for a movie. We will have two sessions for parents and teachers to accommodate families with more than one child. The students will be sent from the gym to the classrooms so that they can introduce their parents to their teacher. Here is a timetable for the evening:

- 6:30 pm sharp - parents, students and staff in the gym
- 6:45 - 7:10 pm - Session #1 parents and teacher
- 7:15 - 7:40 pm - Session #2 parents and teacher
- 7:40 pm - students sent to classrooms to meet parents
- 8:00 pm - home to bed!

This is an important first step to establish strong communication between parents and teachers. Don't miss it!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION

Parents are invited to meet with Margo for coffee and conversation on Thursday, October 8th at 8:35 am in the staff room. This will be an open forum so bring your questions. Please call the office at 604-942-0264 to let us know that you are coming - we want to make sure that there is enough coffee for everyone! If you can't make the 8th, the next Coffee and Conversation will be Thursday, November 5th. If you feel that your toddlers can attend and be busy while we talk, please bring them!

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The safety of our students is our greatest concern. We would like to remind parents that the **DROP-OFF ZONES ARE NOT TO BE USED FOR PARKING**. The drop-off zones are on Aire Crescent and on Humber Crescent. These zones are governed by city by-laws. Please look at the signs and respect the posted restrictions. Here are some other reminders:

- **PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE STAFF PARKING LOT.**
- **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE YOUR CAR UNATTENDED IN THE DROP-OFF ZONES**
- **PLEASE DO NOT DOUBLE PARK OR LET YOUR CHILD OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET**
- **PLEASE DO NOT LET YOUR CHILDREN RUN BETWEEN CARS ON THE STREET OR IN THE PARKING LOT**



HOME AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

We strive to maintain close communication with our parent community throughout the school year. Newsletters, will be issued on a regular basis and represent one of the ways we hope to keep everyone informed. The newsletters will be posted on the school website at <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/maryhill/Pages/default.aspx>. There will be an announcement that a new newsletter is available, students will alert parents in their planner and an email will be sent to all parents directing them to the website. Any families who do not have access to the internet will receive a paper copy and all teachers will post each newsletter outside their classroom. Please remember to call us whenever you have any questions or concerns. A concern caught early is usually less likely to develop into a misunderstanding.

NEW FACES ON STAFF:

We would like to introduce the following staff members who are new Mary Hill Elementary this year and those we are thrilled to have back! Please welcome:

- Ms. Fraser back with us in a K/1 English class
- Mr. Wunderlich in a 2/3 English class
- Mr. Bird is back in a 3/4 English class
- Mrs. Ross is back with the 3/4 English class
- Mlle Toal back with us in a 3/4 French Immersion class
- Mlle Buchanan in a 2/3 French Immersion class
- Mme Belsey back in the K/1 French Immersion with Mme Strain
- Mrs. Knittel in the Resource Room
- Our new Special Education Assistant on staff is Ms. Parsons and there is one more to come.



ASSEMBLIES

We have changed the time for our assemblies this year. They will be at *10:30 am Wednesday mornings*. Please check the calendar for specific dates!

STRONGSTART CENTRE AT MARY HILL

Our new StrongStart Centre is up and running. Susan Kopp is the facilitator who will be welcoming children and parents. The hours for the centre are 12:45 pm to 3:45 pm whenever the school is open. Parents or caregivers must be with the children, 0 to 5 years old. Please enter by the main door by the office. Registration is required and can be done on the first visit. This is a very exciting addition for our Mary Hill Learning Community!

INDIVIDUAL PHOTO DAY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8TH

- This year you will receive a proof sheet to help you decide whether or not you would like to order pictures.
- You must have your photo taken for school services whether you are buying a package or not.
- Photo packages will be delivered to the school in approximately 3 weeks.
- Retake day will be announced later.



IS YOUR CHILD GOING TO BE ABSENT OR LATE FOR SCHOOL?

Please phone the school to advise us if your child will be absent or late for school. We have an answering machine if you need to call outside of school hours. This greatly helps reduce the time Mrs. Kochen spends phoning home every morning. Phone: 604-942-0264

SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEAL PROGRAM

The school meal program is available once again this year. Thank you for your quick response the first week of school. If you would like to order lunches for October, the forms have been sent home this week and should be returned by Wednesday, September 23. If you have any questions regarding the lunch program please contact Margo McKnight 604-942-0264. Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING H1N1 (Human Swine Flu)

Dear Parent/Guardian,

With school back in and large numbers of people again gathering in buildings, health officials anticipate that the number of cases of H1N1 flu may increase.

We are asking for your help in controlling the incidence of H1N1 in your child's school to help keep the number of infections as minimal as possible. **When calling in your child's absence, we ask that you let the school know if your child is exhibiting any of the following symptoms:**

- high fever
- cough
- sore throat
- headache
- body chills
- fatigue
- eye pain
- shortness of breath
- loss of appetite

Some people with human swine flu have also reported nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Spread of H1N1 influenza virus from person to person occurs in the same way as seasonal flu, which is mainly through coughing or sneezing by people infected with the virus. You can reduce the risk of getting any flu strain by taking standard precautionary measures:

- wash your hands often with soap and warm water. In the absence of soap and water, clean them with alcohol-based hand rubs (with adult supervision for younger children), especially after you cough or sneeze and before you eat
- cover your nose and mouth with a clean tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash immediately after you use it
- if you don't have a tissue, cough and sneeze into your sleeve - into your bent arm
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth, as infection can spread that way
- avoid close contact with people who are sick
- **if your child gets sick, ensure that he/she stays at home and limits contact with others**

You can call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1 if you have any symptoms or concerns, and speak to a nurse anytime day or night. Information is also available on the school district website at www.sd43.bc.ca

Thomas Grant

Tom Grant
Superintendent of Schools



VOLUNTEERS IN SCHOOLS / VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

As in past years, we acknowledge that school volunteers provide a valuable contribution to the successful operation of our school. The support volunteers provide to Mary Hill Elementary has a direct and positive influence on the quality of education for our students.

Volunteer activities may include:

- volunteering with small groups or individual students;
- assisting students with special projects;
- assisting with coaching opportunities
- providing transportation and supervision on field trips and extra-curricular events; and
- assisting staff with organizational tasks.

While encouraging volunteer involvement in our school, we are also committed to providing a safe, secure and caring environment for all our students. The Board of Education of School District No. 43 (Coquitlam) recently approved volunteer procedures, which are now in effect. To support this, volunteers must fill in the following forms.

VOLUNTEER DRIVER CHECKLIST - Note: We require our volunteer drivers to carry a minimum of \$1,000,000 in liability coverage on their vehicles.

- Complete the "School Volunteer Application" form
- Complete the "Driver Certification of Insurance and Vehicle Specifications" form
- Complete the School "Volunteer Code of Conduct" form
- Obtain a free "Driver's Abstract" from ICBC (see instructions below)
- Obtain a free "Criminal Record Check" (see instructions below).
- Return all of the above to the school in the envelope provided

VOLUNTEER CHECKLIST (for volunteers who will not be driving students at any time during the school year)

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- Complete the School "Volunteer Code of Conduct" form
- Obtain a "Criminal Record Check" (see instructions below).
- Return all of the above to the school in the envelope provided

DRIVER'S ABSTRACT - How to get one

You can obtain a printed copy of your **driver's abstract** free of charge by attending an ICBC point of service and presenting your driver's license or by telephoning 1-800-950-1498 (ICBC Customer Service). The document will then be faxed within minutes, or mailed to you. For your convenience, you are welcome to have ICBC fax your driver's abstract to our school at 604-942-3157. This needs to be updated yearly.

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK - How to get one

Complete the "Consent for Disclosure of Criminal Record Information" form. Take this form, the Volunteer letter from the Principal, and picture I.D. to the Coquitlam RCMP detachment at 2986 Guildford Way corner of Pinetree Way (604-945-1550). These are valid for up to 5 years. You may receive the criminal record check on the spot or within a day or two.

Packages with all the forms and information are available at the office. If you have any questions about volunteering at Mary Hill Elementary or the process involved, please do not hesitate to call the school at 604-942-0264.

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009 - 2010

Schools Open	Tuesday, September 8
Non-Instructional Day (Common District Day)	Friday, September 25
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 12
Early Dismissal	Wednesday, October 21: 1:30 pm
Non-Instructional Day (Common District/ Common Provincial Day)	Friday, October 23
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11
Early Dismissal	Tuesday, December: 1:30 pm
Schools Close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 18
Winter Vacation	December 21 - January 1
Schools Open	Monday, January 4
School Based Non-Instructional Day	Friday, January 22
Non-Instructional Day (Common District Day)	Friday, February 12
Early Dismissal/ Student Led Conferences	Thursday, March 18: 1:30 pm
Schools Close for Spring Vacation	Thursday, March 25
Spring Vacation	March 26 - April 5
Schools Open	Tuesday, April 6
Good Friday	Friday, April 2
Easter Monday	Monday, April 5
Non-Instructional Day (Common District Day)	Friday, April 16
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24
School Based Non-Instructional Day	Monday, June 7
Last Day for Students	Tuesday, June 29
Administrative Day	Wednesday, June 30
Schools Close	Wednesday, June 30

MARY HILL ELEMENTARY STAFF FOR 2009 - 2010

Principal: Margo McKnight

<u>DIV.</u>	<u>ROOM</u>	<u>GRADE</u>	<u>TEACHER</u>
1	10	4/5	Sandi Carter
2	11	4/5	Christine Yeager (M,T,W)/Benji Coghill (Th,F)
3	05	3/4	Michael Bird and Lara Ross
4	08	2/3	Peter Wunderlich
5	13	1/2	Stacey Wade (M,T,W)/Sherry Downing-King (Th,F)
6	09	KP/1	Chealsy Fraser
11	03	4/5 FI	Tracy Macdonald
12	12	3/4 FI	Melissa Toal
13	06	2/3 FI	Nicole Buchanan
14	01	1/2 FI	Lise De Repentigny
15	14	KP/1 FI	Laura Belsey (M,T,alternating W) / Kelly Strain(alternating W,Th,F)
16	Kindergarten	KA FI	Karen Shrimpton (8:30 - 11:00)

SUPPORT TEACHERS:

Librarian/Computer	...	Benji Coghill
Resource/LA	...	Tami Cameron
Resource/LA	...	Dominique Knittel
French LA	...	Chantal Schuler
Literary Resource - French	...	Sylvie Karsenti
Counselor	...	Jane Irvin
Music	...	Sherri-Lyn Citulec
Speech/Language	...	Joanne Russell

SUPPORT STAFF:

Secretary	...	Pearl Kochen
Teacher Aide English	...	Eileen Doran
Teacher Aide French	...	Sandra Edgecombe
Special Ed Assistant	...	Katharine Phillips
Special Ed Assistant	...	Suzanne Parsons
Special Ed Assistant	...	Tara Friesen
Special Ed Assistant	...	Della O'Reilley
Special Ed Assistant	...	Nicole St. Pierre
Special Ed Assistant	...	___to be announced___
StrongStart Facilitator	...	Susan Kopp
Custodian PM	...	Paul Eigeldinger
Custodian AM	...	Cathy Jones
Noon Hour Supervisor	...	Ann Bergeron
Noon Hour Supervisor	...	June Lam
Noon Hour Supervisor	...	Jenny Layne

IMPORTANT DATES:

Wednesday, September 23
Wednesday, September 23
Thursday, September 24
Friday, September 25
Wednesday, October 7
Thursday, October 8
Thursday, October 8
Thursday, October 8
Monday, October 12
Thursday, October 15
Wednesday, October 21
Wednesday, October 21
Friday, October 23

Assembly - 10:30 am - Parents welcome!
Mary Hill Parent/Teacher night - 6:30 pm
Terry Fox Run - 1:30 pm
District Professional Day - students do not attend
Assembly - 1:30 pm - Parents welcome!
Individual Photo Day
Coffee & Conversation - 8:35 am
PAC Meeting - 6:30 pm
Thanksgiving Day
Interim Reports go home
Assembly - 1:30 pm - Parents welcome!
Early Dismissal: 1:30 pm
Provincial Professional Day - students do not attend

MARK
YOUR
CALENDAR!

COMMUNITY NEWS



REC NEWS FROM PORT COQUITLAM PARKS & REC. - PRO D DAY CAMPS - DISTRICT 43

- 7 to 10 years
- Friday, September 25th - 9 am to 4 pm Cost: 1/\$35
- Friday, October 3rd - Hyde Creek Rec. Centre - Cooperative games, crafts, sports, swimming and more! Extend a camp available. 7:30 to 9:00 am - \$6.75 and 4:00 to 5:30 pm- \$6.75
- Please fill out medical form at front desk.
- To register call 604-927-8400, 604-927-7970 or 604-927-7946 and at 604-927-PLAY

Fall Leisure guides available now at any of our City of Port Coquitlam Recreation Centres.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS AT HYDE CREEK - GYM PROGRAMS FOR 5 - 10 YEARS

- Monday - Indoor Soccer - free with a Grade 5 Active Pass
- Tuesday - All Sports Games Club - Free with a Grade 5 Active Pass
- Wednesday - Gymnastics Club
- Thursday - Indoor Floor Hockey - Free with a Grade 5 Active Pass
- Friday - Basketball - Free with a Grade 5 Active Pass
- At Hyde Creek Recreation Centre Gym from 3 to 5 pm
- 6/\$25.50 or drop in for \$5/2 hours or \$2.50/1 hour. Gymnastics Club is 6/\$60 or Drop In \$12.

CLASSROOM PROGRAMS AT OUR REC CENTRES - 3:30 - 5:00 PM

Monday - At Hyde Creek

- Art Attack for 5 - 10 years
- Jazz, Tap and Hip Hop for 7 - 12 years
- At Rec Complex - Kids in the Kitchen for 5 - 10 years

Tuesday

- Creating with the Masters for 5 - 10 years
- Kinderdance for 4 - 7 years
- Family Art Drop In for all ages

Wednesday

- Kids in the Kitchen for 5 - 10 years

Thursday

- Cartooning for 7 - 10 years

Friday at Hyde Creek

- Jewellery Workshop for 7 - 10 years
- Swim, movie, pizza for 7 - 10- years

COMMUNITIES EMBRACING RESTORATIVE ACTION (CERA) SOCIETY PRESENTS:

EMPOWERING YOUTH

- Giving youth the skills and confidence for peaceful and effective conflict resolution.
- Join us for a fun and interactive evening highlighting the work of empowering youth in District 43. Includes dinner, silent auction, door prizes, student presentation and free take home resources for parents and students. Children and youth welcome.
- Tickets: \$15 (some sponsorships available for students - call 604-931-3165)
- Location: Two Parrots Pub and Restaurant, 170 Golden Drive, Coquitlam
- Date: Tuesday, September 29, 2009 from 6 pm - dinner and 7 pm - program
- For more information visit www.cerasociety.org

CELEBRATING THE RETURN OF THE SALMON!

- 10TH annual Hyde Creek Salmon Festival on November 15, 2009 from 11 am to 3 pm
- Located at the Hyde Creek Educational Centre and Hatchery, 3636 Coast Meridian Road and Hyde Creek Recreation Centre, 1379 Laurier Avenue in Port Coquitlam.
- Free admission and parking
- Various environmental, community and government group displays, nature walks, crafts, games, face painting, bbq

KEEP ACTIVE AND KEEP STRONG



Back to school also means the start of organized activities and sports for many young people. Children and youth need to take care of their bodies in order for them to have fun and perform optimally physically and in school.

To help your child be at their best, provide support to:

- Keep well hydrated throughout the day - water is needed for many basic functions in our bodies
- Follow a healthy diet - Eat 3 meals and snacks every day, choosing foods from each of the 4 food groups
- For most children, there is no need to supplement any nutrients if a balanced diet is followed
- Make sure they get adequate sleep - school age kids need 8 - 10 hours per night
- Be smoke-free, talk to your children about the dangers of smoking and ensure their environment is smoke-free.
- Be active - it is recommended that children have at least 30 minutes of activity everyday
- Role model healthy behaviours - after all, you have the most influence over your child's health choices.

Eat Well...Be Active...Live Tobacco Free.



SHARE

FAMILY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Youth Addiction Services, 2615 Clarke Street, Port Moody, BC V3H 1Z4
A Five Evening Parent's Support Group

The journey of parenting can have many highs and lows. This is especially true when faced with the challenging and sometimes discouraging task of parenting a teenager.

SHARE'S Youth Addiction Services assist youth who are currently using or who are at risk for substance misuse.

In our work with youth we've learned that parents can experience struggles in their relationship with their teenage sons or daughters. The Parent's Support Group offers the following:

- ◆ A place to talk about your parenting concerns, especially those related to your teen's substance use.
- ◆ New ways to understanding your child's behaviour and to seek solutions
- ◆ A place to feel included, understood and heard
- ◆ Encouragement and support
- ◆ Hope
- ◆ A confidential, safe environment

This cost-free drop-in group is offered specifically to parents/caregivers of youth.

WHEN: Every Monday for 5 weeks, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
September 28th - November 2nd, 2009

WHERE: SHARE Family & Community Services
2615 Clarke Street (2nd floor), Port Moody

- ◆ For more information, please call **Earon** at 604-937-6967
- ◆ Refreshments will be provided

FINE TUNE YOUR PARENTING SKILLS

(For parents of children aged 5 to 11 years)

Two different parenting programs will be offered this term. The information and contact person is listed below. As this is only offered in one Zone this year - make sure you register quickly to assure a space.

Steps to Effective Parenting:

Alderson Elementary: Wed., Oct. 21, 28, Nov. 4, 18, 25, Dec. 2nd, 9th Time: 9:30 - 11:00
Book Cost: \$25 payable first class

How to Talk so Kids Will Listen - How to Listen so Kids Will Talk

Rochester Elementary: Tues., Oct 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, 24. Time: 7 pm - 9 pm
Book Cost: \$20 payable first class

Facilitated by: Marna Omichinski/Youth Worker

To register: email: nomichinski@sd43.bc.ca or phone: 604-313-8902