



# eNews

November 1, 2021

**Mission Statement:** We strive for personal excellence and promote enthusiasm for lifelong learning. We participate in and share responsibility for creating a caring, safe and respectful community, while encouraging and maintaining positive relationships.

**Déclaration de Mission:** Nous visons l'excellence personnelle et la promotion de l'enthousiasme pour l'apprentissage pour toute la vie. Nous participons et partager la responsabilité de la création d'une communauté aimante, sécuritaire et respectueux , tout en encourageant et maintenir des relations positives.

## Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 3** Student Led- Conferences (early dismissal at 1:54 pm)
- Nov. 4** Student Led Conferences (early dismissal at 1:54 pm)
- Nov. 15** Grade 7 Immunizations
- Nov. 19 Grade 6 Immunizations
- Nov. 10** Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly – 10:45 am
- Nov. 11** Remembrance Day – No school for students
- Dec. 16** Reports Go Home
- Dec. 17** Schools Close to Winter Break
- Jan. 4** Schools Re-Open after Winter Break

All COVID-19 updates, procedures and correspondence can be found at the following link [COVID-19 Restart Plan MCM](#). All email correspondence related to COVID-19 from Mr. Graham can be found here.

*Calendar dates are constantly being updated so please keep an eye on our website and for e-mail updates throughout the year.*

<http://www.sd43.bc.ca/School/maplecreek/>

***“We don’t just go to School, We go to Maple Creek”***



## Student Led Three - Way Conferences November 3th and 4th (Interim Report #1)

This week, on November 3rd and 4th, we are having our first Student Led 3-way conference that will include the parent(s), the student and the teacher. The intention of these meetings will be to have the students, with their teachers' support, demonstrate their understanding of themselves as learners in relation to their progress up to this point. Our hope is that these meetings will enhance

the partnership between school and home with the student at the center of the communication. These will be done remotely and details of how you can sign up for an appointment and connect virtually with your child's teacher will be sent to you later this week.

Please note the times periods for each the days are as follows:

- November 3rd – 2:15 pm to 6:30 pm
- November 4th – 2:15 pm to 4:00 pm

Appointments are 10 minutes in length.

**Also, please note that both November 3rd and 4th are early dismissal days. Students are dismissed at 1:54 pm depending on your child's start time. Appointments start at 2:15pm.**

## CELL PHONE USAGE PROCEDURES AT MAPLE CREEK



It is the school's policy that students are not to use their cell phones in the school during school hours. The only exception is when specific permission is given in class by a Teacher for the purpose of using the phone to search for information for a specific projector to listen to music while doing their work.

Any student found repeatedly using their cell phone during school hours will have their phone confiscated and, in the future, stored at the school's office during school hours for a specified period (eg. 1 month).

With this information, we would like to ask our Maple Creek parents to refrain from texting or calling their children's cells with information that requires an immediate response, so the students aren't put in a position of disobeying our school policies. Instead, please remind students to check their cells after school for messages that possibly could have been left for them by you or leave a message at the office for them to pick up.

---



## Winter Weather Ahead!

Schools are not routinely closed due to snow or other inclement weather conditions. All schools in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will remain OPEN, if possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

However, on occasion, a district-wide or partial-district closure is required due to extreme weather. Partial-district closures affecting individual schools may occur due to the very different geography within our school district. If there is a partial-district closure affected schools will be identified.

The decision on schools remaining open or needing to be closed, because of extreme weather, occurs **before 6:30 a.m.** so that families can plan and make alternate arrangements.

**Any district-wide or partial-district closure will be decided and communicated by 6:30 a.m. via the School District 43 website [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca) and CKNW AM 980 radio, CKWX 1130 radio and CBC (690) radio.**

While the District tries to make the best decision with the information available, the weather does change quickly. Therefore, when schools remain open, decisions to stay at home during challenging weather conditions should be made by each family.

Extreme weather can also impact transit. Transit schedules may face significant changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents seeking information on transit schedules need to consult the Translink website: <http://www.translink.ca/>

We encourage families to continuously check the School District 43 website for updates and changes: [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca)

Learn more about SD43's process for emergency and inclement weather status updates at: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/NewsEvents/Pages/EmergencyInformation.aspx>

---



## Reminder of to do items for parents...

---

- **Student Information Verification Form (sent home with your child):** Please take the time to check over your student verification form to ensure that all information is accurate and current, especially contact information such as phone numbers and your address. Please note any necessary changes directly on the form, return it to the school and we will make these changes in our student information system. **NOTE: IF THERE ARE NO CHANGES, YOU STILL MUST RETURN THE FORM TO THE SCHOOL AND GIVE IT TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.**
- **District Policies Forms:** Please complete via your [School Cash Online Account](#).
- **Parent E-Forms (Volunteer):** Please complete via your [School Cash Online Account](#). **\*We cannot take volunteers at this time, however, when we are able to, we will have your information on file.\***
- **Parent Criminal Rec. Checks and Drivers Abstracts:** In order to volunteer at our school or on your child's field trip, we do require to have your Criminal Record Check on file. **We cannot take driver volunteers at this time, but when we are able to, we will have your information on file.** Please access the following letter to get your fee waived at your local police department: [CRC Letter 2021](#) We also require parents to have a Drivers Abstract submitted each year if they are planning to drive. You can retrieve that at the following: [Drivers Abstract ICBC](#)
- **Medical Alert Form:** (Online at [www.sd43.bc.ca/school/maplecreek](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/maplecreek)). Click on "Parent eForms". *If your child has any special medical considerations that you would like us to be aware of please print the e-form online and return it to the office.*
- **Student Fees:** Please note, we are working on uploading the fees to [School Cash Online](#), this should be available later this week. Fees are to be paid via your [School Cash Online Account](#). Thank you for your patience!

---

## STUDENT ABSENCES

Student absences are more important than they have ever been. The accurate tracking of students in and not in the building is so imperative right now. We would like to remind the parents at Maple Creek to please inform the office and homeroom teacher if their child will be away from school. **Please include their reason for not being in attendance.** You can call the office at **604-464-8581**, use the "Absence Report" function on our school website under "Quick Links" or email at [maplecreekattendance@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:maplecreekattendance@sd43.bc.ca).

If your child will be arriving **late**, you **must** also inform the office. If your child will be dismissed early, we ask that you please inform the office ahead of time. We also ask that you please advise whether your child will be walking or will be picked up from the school for their safety. If you will be picking up your child, please come to the office to let us know you are here and we will call your child to the office so that you can sign your child out.

**\*Reminder: please do not send your child to school if they are experiencing any of the symptoms listed on the daily health check.\***



## COVID – PROTOCOLS

Thanks to all for your cooperation with following and adhering to the COVID-19 protocols. These are especially important to mitigate the contact with people once the students arrive at the school. We have had a few exposures this first term, so the virus is still being contracted by people, especially for unvaccinated people.

### Here are some reminders:

- Complete the BC daily health check with your child when they are feeling any symptoms. <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s5>
- Ensure your children have their masks with them every day. It is an essential item and even more important than a cell phone 😊. We have an ever-increasing number of students arriving to school without a mask. We do provide disposable masks, however we would like to reserve these for the exception and not the rule.
- If your child is sick, please keep your child at home until the symptoms are gone.
- Review the importance of following the protocols with your children from time to time

---

## Athletics Update



Good news! Maple Creek is offering intramurals for Volleyball, Field Hockey and cross country running. Presently, there are no extracurricular inter-school leagues happening. Middle schools across the district will be offering intramurals until further notice. Field Hockey sessions will be on Tuesdays at lunch and Thursdays after school. Volleyball schedules will be formally posted this week. Cross

Country will be on Mondays at lunch and Wednesdays after school at 3:10 PM. Students are asked to pay attention to announcements so that they don't miss out on these opportunities.

---

## TEAM REPORTS!

---



### Team 1 – Black Orcas *(Mr. Dedes, M. Turenne, Mme. Tasic-Nikolic, Mme. Chuter, Ms. Sue-a-Quan & Ms. Siano)*

The Black Orcas have had a strong and powerful start to the school year, navigating past obstacles and devouring their assignments.

**In divisions 4 and 5** in math classes we have recently completed our unit on Order of Operations, focusing on BEDMAS, exponent rules and areas of squares. We have begun our new unit on Pythagoras working with right angle triangles. In Science we continue our study on life processes specifically focusing on cells. There are different types and functions of cells with organelles that perform specific jobs in them. This unit will lead us to studying worldwide pandemics and how viruses cause havoc in our bodies. In careers students presented speeches on their goals for the year academically and extra-curricularly. Humanities courses include English Language Arts 8, Social Studies 8, Core French 8 and Art 8. In divisions 4 and 5. **English:** We have arrived midway in "The Blackthorn Key" novel study, completing weekly readings and Double Entry Journals ~ Reading Responses based on student-selected quotations. Students have enjoyed meeting weekly in literature circles to engage in focused discussions of the character development, conflict, evolving events and assigned questions, also sharing their reading responses. We will continue, moving into more visual representations that will show comprehension of this story. In writing, we have been practicing narrative writing from engaging topics from "The Kids' Book of Questions" (G.Stock). Students have shown great progress developing their creative and communication competencies, taking on the challenge to express their ideas in greater depth by increasing their writing fluency, how much they write. We will move into refining writing by focusing on specific sentence and grammar structures in students' writing. **Social Studies:** After our introductory exploration of the common aspects and themes of societies and civilizations, we have been examining evidence that provide proof of Vikings and Polynesian explorations. Students are engaging in guided critical thinking and have progressed amazingly to exchange ideas during class discussions. **French:** Review of greetings culminated in group skits, with peer feedback. **Art:** Wonderful shoe designs and written explanations of their design choices were created, showing great talent!

**In Science, Divisions 2 and 3** are just finishing with our unit on cell theory. Students have been learning about the different types of cells and have been exploring how cells parts work together. In November, we will begin our immune system unit. In Math, we are continuing to explore operations with fractions. Students have been working on mastering equations with two fractions and are now completing questions with multiple fractions. Additionally, they have been exploring how fractions are used in the real world: baking, construction, telling time, athletics, etc.

**In English Language Arts, Division 3** has been reading texts that show how social and cultural constructs can shape a person's worldview. **In Career Education, Division 2** has been researching and comparing potential career choices. Later in November, they will be presenting information on a career of their choice and considering which skills they need to be successful in that field. *Division Two has had a great start to the school year. We have been getting to know each other through activities such as the class charter, My Paperbag project (for English), and activities outdoors. In French, we have been reading a story from the novel Refugees by Alan Gratz. In Sciences Humaines, we have been learning about ancient civilizations, namely the Vikings and the Polynesians, and playing historians and archeologists as we investigated sources. We are excited about Halloween activities coming up soon!*

**Division 1 Update:** In English, our class just finished reading "Stargirl" by Jerry Spinelli and the students will be working on several assignments over the next few weeks related to the novel. In French, we are working on grammar, verb conjugation in the present tense and current event articles. In Socials, the students are currently working on their presentations on ancient Chinese dynasties. In Science, our students enjoyed our microscope lab as part of our unit on cells. In Math, the students wrote their first chapter test that included concepts such as squaring numbers, square roots, and the Pythagorean theorem.



### **Team 2 - Green Quokkas** (*Ms. Asher, Ms. Lynch, Mr. Kwok, Mr. Chan & Ms. Muxworthy*)

The Green Quokkas have been having a great time throughout first term. Wrapping up our geology unit in Science, we are starting on Biology with a focus on cell biology and the immune system. Fractions have been the topic of choice in Math right now as we work towards learning and using all operations with fractions. As a team, we decided to focus on Science this term and therefore won't be starting Social Studies until second term. We have been really enjoying our Language Arts unit on identity and self through the use of various picture books and making connections. The Green Quokkas and Mr. Chan's class have welcomed Ms. Trach, a teacher candidate from UBC who will be working with his classes throughout this school year. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email your child's teacher.



### **Team 3 - Blue Llamas** (*Mme. Riahi, Ms. Pederson, Mr. Mehlretter, Mr. Shepherd, Ms. Klimko & Mr. Smith*)

Blue Llamas have been busy with their projects of term one from the beginning of October.

#### **The English classes:**

In Ms. Pederson, Ms. Klimko, and Mr. Mehlretter class: in science, students are learning all about scientific inquiry. They have been investigating mystery cubes to discover what is hidden on one side by observing and inferring. In L.A. they are looking at symbolism and how that relates to our upcoming Remembrance Day holiday.

**In French Immersion:** Students have been focusing on the impact of Human on the environment and global warming. In Socials, students have been observing types of government and governance. They are creating their own political parties and running for office.

Mme. Riahi's students have finished and presented their Biography projects in French., and just finished Integers chapters of math.

As the leaves start to wilt and fall, Mr. Shepherds class continues to move towards algebraic expressions in math. The students have worked hard on the art and English projects to create wonderful pieces of art influenced by a stream of consciousness writing. Next up on for them is working on the structure of writing.



### **Team 4 - Red Pandas** (*Mr. Domingo, Ms. Ince, Ms. Gaudin, Ms. McClean & Ms. Vanstaalduinen*)

On behalf of all the Red Pandas' teachers, a huge thank you goes out to all our students and families for an excellent start to the school year. Here on the Red Pandas, we are always focused on fostering a close-knit team environment whether that is in-person or online. While covid restrictions continue to have some effect on the ways that we gather, our community has worked hard to stay connected to one another and maintain our team energy and positive vibe.

Our team has had a great mix of in-person, and online Team Time where our students have had fun working together with their classmates during team-wide games. Our incredible student services teacher, Ms. Vanstaalduinen, has also an incredible job of connecting our students in the new Student Hub, which is new to

Maple Creek this year. We are also extremely lucky to welcome 1 new teacher this year, Ms. McClean, who has been filling in for Ms. Skucas during her maternity leave. Ms. McClean has done an amazing job of quickly connecting with all our Red Pandas students, as well as students across our whole school by passionately leading the school's volleyball teams this year. Welcome Ms. McClean and thank you for all the tremendous work you have already done. Other important shout-outs go to Mme. Gaudin for starting a tremendous SSEC group to build Science interest in our schools during lunch, and to Ms. Ince who is our school's field hockey coach. Thank you to everyone for contributing to all these great opportunities for our team and school!!



### **Team 5 - Pink Foxes** (Ms. Wigman, Ms. Kim, Ms. Principe, Ms. Siano & Ms. Harbert)

The pink foxes are well into the first term of school year. Some events that are coming up are our Pajama Day on Monday as well as Pink Fox awards. Our Pink Fox awards are the values of our team and are given out to students who show those qualities throughout the school year. All our students have just finished a school wide reading assessment which will help us to focus and plan our next teaching steps. Our grade 7's have completed the FSA's and everyone is starting to get in depth into their regular curriculum. In French, the students have been working on a Halloween Monster that they had to create and label. In Social Studies they have been looking at Early Humans and in science they have been focused on Evidence of Evolution. This week we have our early dismissals on Wednesday and Thursday for Triad Conferences if you have not signed up yet and you would like to please see the email from Mr. Graham that was sent a couple weeks ago.



### **Team 6 - Purple Hippos** (Mr. Foulkes, Ms. Kaplan, Mr. Obadia, Ms. Suchynsky & Mr. Bowes, Ms. Harbert)

Life is good in Team 6, the Purple Hippos! Our students have built a team charter and are looking forward to continuing to network through large outdoor team events and art projects as opportunities permit. There has also been a team focus on social connections and responsibility with many classes using talking circles to develop these in their communities. Academically, students are covering a variety of topics that include integers, BEDMAS, 'me magazines', evolutionary adaptations, and applying literacy skills to collected evidence.

Special shout outs to our September Purple Hippo Award winners of Bardia and Ava (div 21), Juan and Adema (div 22), Jamil and Tereza (div 23), Callum and Nicholas (div 24), and Melody and Asha (div 25.)

Our October winners were just as wonderful, including Jack and Dayton

## VALUABLES AT SCHOOL



We would like to ask parents to discuss the issue of bringing valuables eg. large amounts of money, personal electronic devices such as: ipods, cell phones, game gear, video games/equipment, or even jewelry to school.

It is very unfortunate and frustrating when personal items get damaged or go missing from unattended knapsacks or classrooms and we would like to eliminate students from experiencing the disappointment of losing something dear to them by asking them to safeguard these items if brought to school.



# FIRE DRILLS, EARTHQUAKE DRILLS AND LOCKDOWN DRILLS



Every year, we have three earthquake drills, three fire drills and at least two lockdown drills. Many of you are familiar with fire drills and earthquake drills, but some of you may not be familiar with lockdown drills. A lockdown is when we close and lock all exterior doors to the school, close and lock all classroom doors and have students sit down in the classroom as a group silently. The door windows in each classroom also get covered so nobody can peer in. Essentially, anyone who could enter the school would find the school locked up and silent with no evidence of any adults or students being present. The purpose of such a drill is to be prepared for any number of potential emergencies that may arise where we need students to be in a safe, secure area where they cannot be seen, heard or found. Being prepared for a potential emergent situation is prudent planning; however, this may cause some anxiety for some students. We recommend you sit down with your child and discuss the rationale behind a lockdown drill. At the school level, we discuss the rationale, answer any of the students' questions and have a debrief to clarify or answer any further questions after the lockdown. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Robertson – VP.



## Wildlife Alert Procedures for Maple Creek

### A. Daily Procedures:

1. All doors will be locked.
2. Exterior garbage cans emptied.
3. Principal/supervisor visually checks playfield prior to students being dismissed at recess and lunch. Staff on supervision always keep a watchful eye.

### Emergency Actions

#### B. Bear Sighting off of school grounds:

1. Phone call from neighbour or parent received. Time and location of bear sighting are noted.
2. Announcement made to notify school if sighting is near a dismissal time.
3. Students kept indoors if time of bear sighting is near a break time (recess, lunch)  
Students and parents advised of bear sighting in neighbourhood if sighted near 2:54 pm. Students walking or biking are reminded to be alert and go in pairs. If there a risk, administration may reroute students or hold students and inform parents to pick students up at the school.

#### C. Sighting of wildlife on school grounds during instruction time:

1. Staff report wildlife sightings to the office.
2. Announcement made to notify school that a bear is on school grounds.
3. Students kept in at recess and lunch.  
Coquitlam RCMP and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or further instructions.

#### D. Sighting of wildlife on school grounds if students or staff are outdoors (Morning; Recess; Lunch or Afterschool)

If sighted by supervising staff, a whistle is blown/students notified.  
Announcement made asking everyone to proceed indoors.

Students enter the school via the nearest unlocked exterior door. Move calmly towards entrances. Students then proceed to their classrooms once they are in the school. Coquitlam RCMP and Conservation Officers are contacted immediately for assistance or further instructions.

**E. If You See wildlife:**

Remain calm; don't panic. Often the wildlife is simply looking for food and will move on if it finds nothing to eat. Keep away from the wildlife and go inside – bring all children inside. Never approach the wildlife and do not run from the wildlife. Do not act submissively by crouching down or whispering. Warn others of the wildlife's presence, but don't do it by yelling. If the animal climbs a tree, keep people and pets away. When things quiet down, the animal will come down and leave. This usually happens after dark when the animal feels safe. When the animal is safely out of the area, check the area to ensure there are no attractants available.

**Staff, students and parents are instructed to not approach the bear or cubs.**

**<https://wildsafebc.com/>- this is a great resource**

---



3700 Hastings St Port Coquitlam, BC V3B 5K7  
Phone: 604.464.8581 Fax:604.937.8045  
Office Hours: 8am - 4pm  
Email: maplecreek@sd43.bc.ca

**To all Maple Creek parents/families:**

**Re: Fundraising Campaign for Maple Creek Middle School**

The Maple Creek Middle School PAC (Parents Advisory Council) is asking each family to make a **one-time donation** at the start of this school year to help raise \$5,000 to fund various school activities throughout the 2021/2022 year that are not otherwise funded.

Funds raised will benefit students directly by providing the wish-list items determined by the school to support an enriched learning environment for all students. Last year funds raised paid for classroom supplies, equipment, events and outings, as well as many other items. We are suggesting a donation of \$25 per student, or \$40 per family, but will be grateful for any amount you can provide.

Donations can be made via the KEV School Cash Online system and an email will be sent when this item becomes available. Alternatively, you can pay by cash or cheque. Please attach the bottom portion of this form and submit it with the cheque to the office. **Please make all cheques payable to "Maple Creek PAC".**

If you have any further questions, please contact the PAC Chair at [maplecreekpac@gmail.com](mailto:maplecreekpac@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support and generosity!



**Detach and return to school classroom or office with student:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosing: \_\_\_ Cash or \_\_\_ Cheque

Per Family Donation Amount: Check One  
\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 one student  
\_\_\_\_ \$40.00 family  
\_\_\_\_ Other\* \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in)

Tax Receipt requested in the name of: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Tax receipts must be requested at time of donation and are issued before Feb 28, by the Coquitlam School Board Finance Department for donations of \$25 or more. Please indicate above if you require a tax receipt.*



# THE GO-GIRLS! PROGRAM IS NOW OFFERED ONLINE!

This is a fun, safe, virtual program for youth in grades 6 - 8 focused on connecting with peers and trained volunteer mentors in a group setting.

This program offers games, activities, and discussions around relevant topics such as: friendships, problem solving, active living, social media, and balanced eating.



FREE



VIRTUAL  
USING ZOOM



MAKE  
FRIENDS



GAIN CONFIDENCE  
& SELF-ESTEEM

“GO-GIRLS! HAS TAUGHT ME  
HOW TO BE CONFIDENT AND  
STAND UP FOR MYSELF.”



This program is run through Big Sisters of BC Lower Mainland and is monitored by staff.

## WANT TO REGISTER?

Contact Vanessa Gale at  
vgale@bigsisters.bc.ca or 604-836-2122



Big Sisters  
OF BC LOWER MAINLAND