



3700 Hastings Street, Port Coquitlam, B.C. V3B 5K7
Telephone: (604) 464-8581 Fax: (604) 461-7832

Maple Creek Update

Hard to believe we are past the midway point of November. This Wednesday our grade 6/7 students will rotate to their next exploration classes, which officially signals we have completed one quarter of the school year!

Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, Nov 23	Grade 7 Exploration Rotation
Thursday Nov. 24:	PAC Hot Lunch #2
Mon, Dec 5/Fri, Dec 9:	Spirit Week! More info coming from leadership students!
Monday, Dec. 5:	PAC Meeting – 7pm in library
Thursday, Dec 8:	Band and Choir Concerts (1:30 school / 7pm community)
Friday, Dec 9:	School Wide Spirit Assembly 1:30
Wednesday, Dec 14	Exploration Performance Assembly #2
	Report Cards released to MyEd Portal
Friday, Dec 16	Pancake Breakfast with Santa! 7:30am – 9:00am

Report Cards: Thank-you to all parents that participated in triad conferences at the start of November. We are hopeful that these meetings were useful and productive. Term 1 formal reports will be published to your MyEd portal on Wednesday, December 14th. Reminders on how to access your portal (and details about the reports cards) will follow in the weeks to come so that everyone is prepared!

Illnesses: Just a reminder to all staff and students, if you are feeling sick, please stay home. This will be another challenging winter with flu, colds and covid...so the more we can do to be safe and practice good hygiene the better. We continue to have hand sanitizer around the building (and encourage frequent hand washing), masks continue to be available for anyone that wants them, and again – stay home if you are sick.

Some students will likely have come home and reported multiple TOC's (substitute teachers) in their room during the day – including principals, vice-principals and other school staff! We have been short staff on many days over the last few weeks and continue to do our best to cover absences. Please be aware, staff shortages might impact our ability to run specialty programs and extra-curricular activities – but classroom coverage and safety will always be a priority and never compromised.

Please remember, email maplecreekattendance@sd43.bc.ca or call 604-464-8581 to report an absence.

School Heat: Maple Creek is a wonderful building full of great spaces and positive energy. Unfortunately, Maple Creek is also an older building that occasionally has mechanical problems. I am pleased to report that the ventilation challenges that alerted us on November 11 led to some important maintenance and upgrades. We will continue to monitor the east wing of the building for adequate heating. The district is working to replace some of the components of the heating system, and this will be done with as little disruption as possible. More info will be provided when we have it.

Pancake Breakfast with Santa: On the last day of school before winter break (Dec 16), staff will be hosting a pancake breakfast for students. Pancakes will be served starting at 7:30 in the gym area. More info will follow but we are expecting a 'soft start' to the day with pancakes being served until approximately 9. We are expecting students to arrive on time (or early) to participate.

Snow Club Update: For the following reasons, we have decided to replace Ski / Snowboard Club with a Gr. 8 Mountain Day (more info to come – scheduled for start of March). The reasons for not booking Ski Club this year include:

1. We could organize for a maximum of 70 students to attend Ski/Snowboard Club this year. The numbers are in part due to limits on the mountain, but also limits to our staff and busing. With only 70 students able to participate we believe a vast majority of students wanting to participate would be declined. Even if we were to limit the activity to grade 8's (seeing as we have not had Snow Club for several years) – we still believe more than half (we have 225 grade 8's) would be disappointed. This does not seem to be an equitable or fair activity despite plans for a lottery system to fill the spots (which would likely separate friends and family members!).
2. The costs of busing up the mountain has tripled since the last time Ski Club was held. The cost for the buses would be close to 2/3 of the total price of our trip...and for 4 trips, the cost would be extensive and prohibitive to many.
3. As mentioned above (under illness), we have been short staff many days over the past two months. Ski Club relied on staff members leaving in the early afternoon, prior to dismissal. We are very concerned that we would not have staff left to cover classes...or, in the event of ill staff, enough support to supervise the events.

We hope parents understand our decision, and as mentioned, we are planning a grade 8 field trip to Seymour Mountain that is inclusive of all, and hopefully a wonderful time will be had. More details regarding this event to come.

Darren Macmillan
Principal