



Mountain Meadows Elementary

October 2017

Volume 2

At Mountain Meadows Elementary School we strive, as a community of teachers, parents and students, to promote social responsibility, lifelong learning and academic success in a safe and caring environment.

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Well into the swing of things ...

We have had an excellent school start up over the course of the first 1.5 months of this school year. We are now an 11-division school, and we continue to register new students at Mountain Meadows.

Many school-wide events have occurred, including our Multicultural Potluck luncheon, Open House, Terry Fox Run and Workout Wednesday. Many other initiatives are planned, including Hip Hop week and an expanded community garden in front of the school.

We have had several staffing changes since the start of the school year. Rachelle Skidmore is at Mountain Meadows three days a week now: Tuesdays and Thursdays in Student Services and Fridays as the division 9 Grade 1 teacher. Cara-Lee Kelly and Angie Covo have joined our Education Assistant

team. In addition, Aries Enriques has joined our Mountain Meadows staff as our evening caretaker.

Intramural sports have started at lunch-time for grade 4&5 students, as has choir on Thursday mornings. Extra-curricular programming options now exist after school thanks to the efforts of MME parents Victoria Leslie and Angela Blackall. We are so excited to see children step up to take on a variety of leadership jobs in and around the school.

We are now well into the swing of things at MME, and we find ourselves only wishing there were more hours in the day to do absolutely everything we'd like to.

Last week your children brought home their interim report cards. I encourage



you to spend time chatting with your kids about their many strengths and successes. There will invariably be areas that all students can work on. Please look upon these not as areas of concern, but instead as opportunities for growth. At Mountain Meadows we consider ourselves an extension of home and we look forward to working with you!

K.McMeiken

Remembrance Day Service – Photos for Slide Show

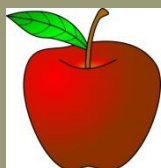
Our Remembrance Day service will take place the morning of Thursday, November 9th. For the second year in a row the service will include a slide show that features the photos of MME staff and student family members who have served their countries in the Armed Forces, Navy, in the Peace-Keeping Corps etc either recently or in the past. Any MME family wishing to have its family member(s) recognized in the Remembrance Day slide show is asked to email photos to

Kate McMeiken at kmcmeiken@sd43.bc.ca, along with the individual's service details: which country, service type, locations served, relationship to MME student etc. The photo and details shared will be included in the slide show. Unless I hear otherwise, I will use the photos and details submitted last year by returning MME families. For those wishing to either change photos from last year, or for those new to our school who wish to

contribute photos, please have photos and details to Kate McMeiken no later than Tuesday, November 2nd. Thank you very much for considering this opportunity.



The Mountain Meadows Action Plan for Learning (APL)



Our focus for this school year is on Social Emotional Learning. It is our goal to enhance learning by supporting students to become self-aware and resilient community members.

We are committed to ...

BUILDING COMMUNITY!!



*Remember to **tweet** others the way you want to be **tweeted**.*



Reverse Lunch Coming to Mountain Meadows

As a staff we have discussed at length ways to move our Action Plan for Learning (APL), that focuses on supporting the Social Emotional Learning needs of students, forward. We have adopted a number of practices in classrooms that allow for the authentic and meaningful exchange of values and goals between children at Mountain Meadows. We have also introduced a number of initiatives at the school that allow for meaningful engagement of children in leadership both in their classrooms and outside.

We have decided to introduce the practice of the reverse lunch at Mountain Meadows ... a practice that a number of elementary schools have put

in place, to support the need of children to burn energy playing and then refuel with a hearty lunch. Kids are so anxious to get outside that they often do not eat adequately. We have also noted an increase in dysregulation amongst students during the current eat-first, play-second schedule.

Our plan is to implement the reverse lunch starting in early November, after spending the next couple of weeks talking it up in all of our classes, and ensuring that all checks and balances are in place for the switch. We are committed to maintaining this reverse lunch until the start of winter break. During the fall months, we will monitor its

effectiveness, and we will provide all stakeholders in our community (parents included) with an opportunity to provide feedback in the early new year.

The overall length and time of our lunch hour will be the same as currently (12:00-12:47) ... however there will be an equal amount of playing and eating time in the reverse lunch schedule:

12:00 – 12:24 Students play outside

12:24 – 12:47 Students eat lunch in their classrooms

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this proposed change to a reverse lunch.

Orange Shirt Day at MME

Many staff members and students donned the colour orange on Thursday, September 28th as acknowledgement of the plight of many aboriginal people who were forced to attend residential schools in B.C. Orange Shirt Day originated after the experience that a little girl, Phyllis, had when she was sent to a residential school in Mission in 1973. Upon arriving at the school, her new orange shirt ... a gift from her mother ... was taken away from her and never returned. Orange Shirt Day recognizes the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being, and it is an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. More information about Orange Shirt Day can be found at <http://www.orangeshirtday.org/phyllis-story.html>.



School Fees

Online Payment Update

We are very pleased with the high percentage of families who have joined sd43.schoolcashonline.com and are enjoying the convenience and security of paying school items on line. If any families are having trouble registering, please email Mrs. Poland at spoland@sd43.bc.ca with your issue and she will attempt to help you get your account set up. The following items have been posted on line and electronic reminders of outstanding fees are being sent regularly to registered families.

Planners:

Gr.1-5 \$10.00

School Supplies:

Kindergarten \$45.00

Duotangs

Gr.1s \$4.20

Laity Pumpkin Patch Field Trip:

Div.10 & 11 students \$8.00

Emergency Prep Fee:

Kindergarten & New Gr.1s
\$15.00

New Gr.2s & 3s
\$10.00

New Gr.4s & 5s \$5.00

For those not registered on line, please either register and pay on line, or send your payment in school planners (exact change if paying cash, or a cheque made out to Mountain Meadows Elementary) as soon as possible.

If payment of fees presents a hardship for your family, please contact Mrs. McMeiken to arrange a fee waiver.

Safety at School

Using Crosswalks

Thank you very much for reiterating to your children the importance of using the crosswalk when crossing Noons Creek Drive. Unfortunately drivers have been known to speed up and down Noons Creek. Crossing in the designated cross walk is critical to student safety. The Port Moody Police have often parked across from our school catching motorists who run the stop sign. I would like to thank our local law enforcement for their help with this.



Rainwear

With fall upon us, and with the likelihood of inclement weather more and more, please ensure that your children have proper rainwear (coats and boots). Fleece jackets are like sponges in the rain. A coat that has some form of water resistance would be ideal, as students do go outside to play for recess and lunch rain or shine.

Gym wear

Please ensure that your children have proper footwear at the school for gym (runners) and not crocs, sandals, boots or other footwear not specifically designed for use in a gymnasium. Children cannot play sports safely in the gym without proper running shoes.

Emergency Drills

In an effort to prepare our staff and students for the potential of an emergency occurring during school hours, we practice a number of different drills throughout the course of the school year as mandated by our District. These include fire drills (6), earthquake drills (3), a hold & secure drill – formerly Code Yellow (1), Code Red lockdown (1). Our school will participate in the Great B.C. Shakeout earthquake drill this coming Thursday, October 19th. Please be sure to speak to your children about how things went during the drill.

It is imperative that Emergency Release forms stay current for all MME families.

Reminders and replacement forms will be sent home to families whose forms have not yet been received back. Please let our office know via email if the data (contact numbers, email addresses, authorized people to release children to during a major emergency) changes during the school year.

Subscribing to our school's twitter account (@mmeadowssd43) is recommended, as this is the easiest and quickest way to receive updates during an emergency.

Counselling Corner

Hello! My name is David Eng and I'm beginning my ninth year as the counsellor at Mountain Meadows. I wanted to take this opportunity to answer some commonly asked questions and clarify my role as a counsellor in the school setting, and how I may be able to assist your child(ren) and family.

Commonly Asked Questions

What sort of qualifications and background do you have?

Counsellors in the Coquitlam School District first need to be certified teachers with previous teaching experience who have completed a master's degree in Counselling Psychology from an accredited university. Before becoming a counsellor I worked as a classroom, resource, and skill development teacher.

What exactly do you do?

As counsellors, we have a multi-faceted role to play in the school as mental health professionals. We're here to support all students succeed academically, personally, and socially in school. Students and families often benefit from the support of the counsellor for a variety of concerns including but not limited to friendship challenges and conflicts, illness or death in a family including pets, family concerns including separation and divorce, anxiousness, improving organizational skills, effective parenting support for behavioural challenges, and other social, emotional, and academic concerns that may arise.

Don't be afraid...I'm here to help!

In my experience, it's not uncommon for individuals and families to feel a little hesitant in approaching the school for counselling help. My role is to simply provide support regarding common concerns that happen to healthy, happy families in our busy day-to-day lives.

How do I know if my child or family needs your help?

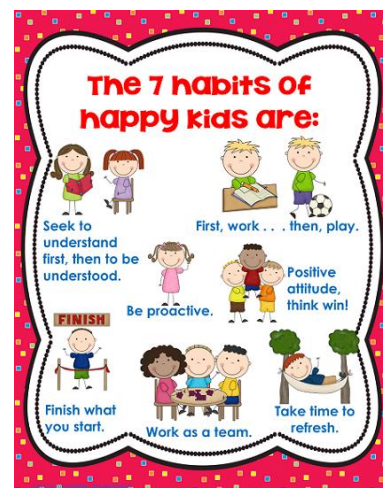
If you feel your child is not thriving in school, a good place to start is to have a conversation with your child's teacher. Your teacher will often then make a referral to me if they feel I can be of assistance. Having said that, please don't hesitate to enlist my help yourself if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child(ren).

How do I contact you?

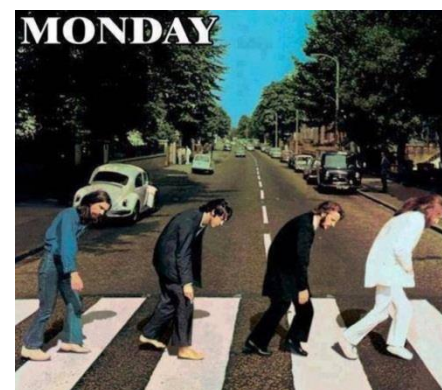
I'm at the school on Mondays and Thursdays, so please feel free to drop in on those days to speak with me regarding any concerns you may have about your child(ren). You can always call the school at (604) 469-2238 and leave a message with our secretary, Mrs. Shirley Poland, and I'll follow up promptly. I can also be reached by email at deng@sd43.bc.ca. And as I mentioned above, you can speak to your child's teacher, and he/she can put in a referral for me to speak with you.

Take care, and I look forward to helping students and families thrive in our learning community!

David Eng



"You feel empty inside. How long has this been a problem?"



Ensuring your child gets enough sleep is critical.

Communicating Student Learning at Mountain Meadows

The students at Mountain Meadows Elementary will receive five reports in all, three of which are formal report cards (in December, March and June), and two of which are informal.

Informal Reports

1. Interim Report: home in planners Friday, October 13th ... please sign and return to your child's classroom teacher.
2. Student-Led Conferences: Thursday, February 22nd, early dismissal at 1:50pm.

Formal Reports

1. Term 1 Report Card: Friday, December 8th.
Parent/Teacher Communication: Thursday, December 14th, early dismissal at 1:50pm
2. Term 2 Report Card: Monday, March 12th.
Parent/Teacher Communication: Thursday, March 15th, early dismissal at 1:50pm
3. Term 3 Report Card: Thursday, June 28th (last day of school)

How does the new revised and redesigned curriculum affect reporting at Mountain Meadows?

There will be a new District Reporting Template used in the 2017-2018 school year. It will have some features similar to past report cards, but a number of features that are quite different as well. The new report card template will include performance scales, letter grades (gr.4 & 5), and student and teacher comments. If you are interested in having a sneak peak at the new reporting template, please attend the upcoming PAC meeting on October 23rd, as the template will be introduced to attending parents at the meeting. Please refer to the letter on the next page from SD43 Superintendent, Patricia Gartland for additional information, about the new reporting template.

The Scholastic Book Fair is Coming!!

The always much-anticipated Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Mountain Meadows for three days from November 1-3. It will take place in our school's Multi-Purpose Room, with multiple opportunities before school and after for families to visit and purchase books, posters and other items from Scholastic. Consider getting some early holiday shopping done. More details about the shopping schedule will come out soon. Thank you to MME parents, Jen Mackie and Shannon Oliver, for organizing this year's book fair.



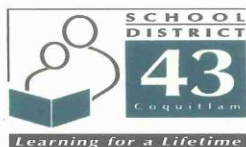
Hip Hop Week is Fast Approaching!

We are so pleased to have the opportunity to host popular hip hop dance instructor, Sue Cejalvo-Howse, again this October, the week of Oct.23-27. Sue will teach each of our eleven classes a hop hop routine over the course of five instructional days, culminating in a colourful, energetic and highly entertaining performance for parents and caregivers, scheduled after lunch on Friday, October 27th. An exact time for the community once is your wish to attend, starting around 1:00 for financing this school community.



performance will be shared with our determined together with Sue. If it we anticipate the performance or 1:15pm. Thank you to our PAC wonderful opportunity for our

Letter from SD43 Superintendent re. Reporting Template



550 Poirier Street, Coquitlam, BC Canada V3J 6A7 • Phone: 604-939-9201 • Fax: 604-939-7828

October 2, 2017

Dear Parents and Guardians:

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, all kindergarten to grade 8 teachers in School District 43 (Coquitlam) will be using a standard report card for communicating student learning. This enhanced report card is designed to align with the Ministry of Education's Reporting Order, the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning and the Board of Education's Directions 2020 Goals.

This report card was field-tested and refined, last school year, by a team of teachers and school administrators. The report uses performance scales, letter grades, teacher and student comments to communicate student progress. The result is a report card that supports the redesigned B.C. curriculum, (<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>) which has an increased emphasis on thinking skills and core competencies: communication, creative thinking, critical thinking, positive personal and cultural identity, personal awareness and responsibility, and social responsibility across subject areas.

Some schools and programs, for example the Montessori Program, have developed alternate methods of communicating student learning to parents that do not rely on issuing letter grades. The approaches used by these schools conform to the Ministry of Education Reporting Order and have been reviewed and authorized at the school district level.

Changes in communicating student learning and reporting are essential to the authentic implementation of B.C.'s redesigned curriculum. Parents and guardians play an important role and will continue to be invited to participate in the dialogue about assessment and the communication of student learning in preparing students for a rapidly changing, exciting and opportunity-filled future.

Thank you for your support for student learning and for the implementation of the Ministry of Education's redesigned curriculum.

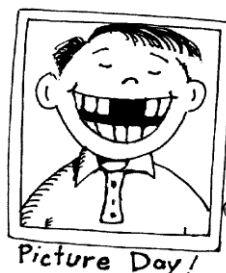
Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland
Superintendent of Schools

Serving the communities of Anmore, Belcarra, Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and Port Moody

Photo Retakes with Lifetouch – November 8th

Retake Picture Day is coming! Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 8th, 2017. This is an opportunity for students who missed the October sitting to have their picture taken. It is also an opportunity for students who didn't love their picture to have it retaken. **For those students having their picture retaken, simply return the Proof Portrait Sheet and Order Form (scheduled to arrive at MME in the next two weeks) to the Lifetouch photographer on photo retake day.**



Letter from MME re. Halloween Costumes



Mountain Meadows Elementary School

999 Noons Creek Drive, Port Moody, B C V3H 4N3 Phone: 604-469-2238

www.sd43.bc.ca/mountainmeadows

mountainmeadows@sd43.bc.ca

 @mmeadowssd43

October 17, 2016

Dear Mountain Meadows parents / guardians:

Mountain Meadows is abuzz with excitement as Halloween approaches in a couple weeks. This excitement is likely permeating your home as well, with your children finalizing their costume choices for Halloween.

In terms of costumes at Mountain Meadows Monday, October 31st, if your child wishes to have a costume at school, we ask that s/he brings the costume to school in a bag rather than wear it. We will have a slightly extended lunch time to allow students who wish to go home for lunch and change into costumes. **Children who wish to go home at lunch must be picked up by a parent / caregiver at 12:00pm. Please let our office know if you will be taking your child home over the lunch hour.** We will reconvene at 1:00pm for attendance, and the annual school-wide Halloween parade in the gymnasium will commence at 1:10pm. Classes will come into the gymnasium, and sit in a large circle in the centre of the gym. Once called upon, classes will rise and parade around the outside of the circle, with parents and caregivers on the outer perimeter taking photographs. Students will be returning to their classrooms after the parade (approximately 1:40pm) to resume class activities. **There will NOT be early dismissal on October 31st.**

When finalizing costume selections with your children, please keep in mind that we have children as young as four years of age in our school. As a result, please consider costumes that are appropriate for all age groups at Mountain Meadows. For safety reasons, we ask that children **not** bring costume props or accessories to school on the 31st (no swords, hooks, light sabres etc.).

Finally, please remember that we are a Nut Aware school. If sending treats in your child's lunch box or for any class events that might be scheduled, please ensure that the items do not contain nuts or nut products.

Thank you very much. We look forward to seeing your children in their Halloween garb on October 31st.

Kind regards,

Kate McMeiken
Principal

Tips for a Safe Halloween



words and other costume props stay at home



void trick or treating alone



asten reflective tape to costumes and bags



xamine all treats carefully



old a flashlight so you can see well



lways test costume make-up before wearing it



ook both ways before crossing the street



itter is not a good thing. Put candy wrappers in the garbage



nly walk on sidewalks



ear well-fitting masks and costumes



at only the treats that your parents say are okay



njoy yourself and have fun



ever forget to share chocolate with your teacher or principal, particularly if it's dark.



999 Noons Creek Drive
Port Moody, B.C. V3H 4N3

PHONE:
(604) 469-2238

E-MAIL:
mountainmeadows@sd43.bc.ca

We're on the Web and on
Twitter !

See us at:

www.sd43.bc.ca/School/mountainmeadows/Pages/default.aspx

or



@mmeadowssd43

Calendar for Late October, November & December

Great B.C. Shake Out (Earthquake Drill)	Oct.19
ProD Day- no school for students	Oct.20
PAC Meeting (Library)	Oct.23, 7:00pm
Hip Hop Week	Oct.23-27
Hip Hop Performance	Oct.27 (after lunch, exact time TBA)
Halloween Parade	Oct.31 (after lunch, exact time TBA)
Scholastic Book Fair	Nov.1-3
LIFETOUCH Photo Retakes	Nov.8
Remembrance Day Service	Nov.9 (10:45am)
SD43 School Closure Day	Nov.10
Remembrance Day (School Closed)	Nov.13
PAC Hot Lunch	Nov.17
ArtStarts Performance – Birth of the CPR	Nov.20 (9:15am)
Curriculum Training Day / Non-Instructional Day (school closed for students)	Nov.24
Holiday Market	Dec.7
1 st Term Report Cards Home	Dec.8
Early Dismissal / Parent Teacher Communication	Dec.14 (early dismissal 1:50)
PAC Hot Lunch	Dec.15
Winter Concerts	Dec.21 (1:15 & 6:30pm)
Last Day of School Before Winter Break	Dec.22
First Day of School After Winter Break	Jan.8

Parking Etiquette

I would like to thank our MME families for refraining from using our staff parking lot to do drop off and pick up of students for all of the reasons stated in past correspondence. Just this past week, however, we have received complaints from residents along Alpine and Cypress who notice MME families parking in such a way that driveway entrances are impeded. Please ensure that any parking in residential areas does not impede residents from accessing their own driveways. Thank you for showing consideration to the residents in the area.

