



# Mountain View Elementary School

740 Smith Ave, Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 4E7

PH: (604) 936-7288

[www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/mountainview](http://www.sd43.bc.ca/elementary/mountainview)

October 10, 2023

Dear Parents and Students:

Thank you to all who attended our Open House last month. It was so wonderful to welcome you into our classroom learning spaces and to introduce you to our Mountain View staff members. We extend a big thank-you to our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) volunteers who provided popcorn and fellowship in the courtyard that evening.

Thanks to all parents who have reviewed and signed off on the Mountain View Parent Forms for this school year. Please attend to this important task if you have not already done so. See [here](#) at Mountain View Elementary > Quick Links > Parent eForms

The screenshot shows the Mountain View Elementary School website. The header includes the school logo and navigation links. The main content area features a large image of a bulletin board with a 'Survival Day' theme. Below the image, there are three sections: 'School News', 'On the Calendar', and 'Quick Links'. The 'Quick Links' section contains three links: 'Absence Report', 'MyEd Portal', and 'Parent eForms'. The 'Parent eForms' link is circled in yellow, and a yellow arrow points to it from the right.

A hardcopy of the family “Emergency Release” form (**yellow form**) is being sent home with your child today. Please complete it and return it to your child’s teacher by Friday, October 13th. Please be sure that any alternate listed as a contact have been made aware that they have been designated and that they reside fairly near the school.

We encourage you to report absences, including early dismissals, and lates through the "[Absence Report](#)" link on the website. It is on the right-hand side, under "Quick Links." You can also bookmark this link on your phone or browser so that you always have it. This way, no matter what staff are away, the office and teaching staff are aware of the absence, and all is entered into our system.

In this fall season, we can expect lower temperatures and rainy days. Inspired by the health and learning benefits of fresh air and exercise, we continue to be a “west coast recess” school. Unless the weather is exceptionally stormy, we will go outside for recess and lunch breaks, rain, or shine. Please ensure that your child comes dressed for the weather and has a spare set of dry clothes to keep in their classroom (in case a puddle happens to jump up on them)



Ms. L. Salloum  
Principal



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## UPCOMING CALENDAR DATES (See Calendar attached):

Monday October 9th	Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday October 19th	School Photo Day
Friday, October 20	Provincial Professional Development <b><i>School Not in Session</i></b>
October 23rd – 27th	Interim Reporting Window
Tuesday, October 31st	<b>Halloween Parade (9:15 – 9:45am) in the gym.</b> <i>Parents welcome to attend. Please enter through the courtyard. Gym doors will open at 9:05am.</i>
Wednesday November 1st	<b>Early Dismissal (1:45pm)</b> for 3-Way Conferences
Friday, November 10	<b>School Closure Day</b>
Monday November 13	<b>School Not in Session</b> In Lieu of Remembrance Day
Monday November 20	Professional Development Day <b><i>School Not in Session</i></b>

## MOUNTAIN VIEW STAFF (2023-24)

Our [school website](#) has now been updated with a list of our current staff members.

We all look forward to a great year ahead! 😊

## INTERIM REPORTING / 3-WAY CONFERENCES

Our Interim Reporting period is coming up. During the week of October 23-27th, teachers will be providing a summary for parents of their child's learning progress at this mid-point of the first school term. In the week to follow, teachers will be hosting 3-way Conferences (parent/teacher /child).

To accommodate these conferences, all students will be dismissed at 1:45pm on Wednesday November 1st. Classroom teachers will create a 3-way conference schedule for the students/families in their class.



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## HALLOWEEN GUIDELINES (See letter attached):

Halloween is around the corner, and we know how much our students look forward to it. Please review the following guidelines to help make the day enjoyable for all:

- Students are welcome to come to school in a costume that is comfortable enough to wear all day and does not interfere with their ability to learn.
- When selecting a costume, we ask families to consider the young population that we serve and ensure that your child's costume is not too frightening or of a violent nature.
- For safety, please leave props at home and ensure that if your child's costume includes a mask, it can be easily removable.
- students will not be able to change in and out of costumes once at school due to washroom policies that are in place.
- Please do not choose a costume that requires "hands-on help" to maintain throughout the day.
- Specific plans relating to your child's learning group will be communicated to you by the classroom teacher.
- **Please do not send treats for the class, food or otherwise, without first discussing it with your child's teacher.**
- If you do not wish your child to participate in activities related to Halloween, please inform your child's teacher in advance to discuss alternate arrangements.

## STUDENT PLANNERS HAVE ARRIVED!

Early in September, we announced there would be a delay in the arrival of our 2023-24 student planners as unexpected circumstances had damaged the original stock. We are happy to announce that the replacement planners have now arrived! This year, our school will be purchasing one planner for each student in grades 1-5 (our kindergarten students use a different form of communication). Please note that there will be a charge of \$10 to replace a lost or damaged planner.

## SAFETY PROTOCOLS AND PRACTICES

- Each year, we put several practices into place that help us to prepare for emergencies. Last month, I sent home a pamphlet that describes some of the drills we will practice throughout the year. We will be starting with a fire drill / evacuation next week and continue to space our drills out throughout the year.
- To assist with our emergency preparedness, please be sure to keep your child's emergency contact information up to date. We are only able to release students to those listed as emergency contacts.
- **We ask all visitors to report to the front office prior to entering the school building.** The exception to this is if there is a planned event to which our students' family members are invited.



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- Should you drop off an item for your child during the school day, please make sure it is clearly labeled. This includes lunches and/or water bottles. For safety reasons, we cannot accept lunches dropped off by delivery services or businesses.
- Students are to be picked up at 2:45pm each day (unless otherwise stated). Students wishing to use the playground after dismissal time must be supervised by a parent or guardian and continue to abide by our Code of Conduct.

## BC AGRICULTURE IN THE CLASSROOM PROGRAM

Mountain View will continue to participate in the “Fruit and Veggie” program this year, sponsored by BC Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, the Province of British Columbia, and the Provincial Health Services Authority.

On twelve occasions throughout the school year, participating students will receive a healthy treat (fruit or vegetable) at no charge. Please note that your child’s participation in this program requires your permission.

Those who have returned their signed permission forms will receive “carrots” as they head home for the day on Thursday, October 19th. To read more information about the program, please visit:

<https://www.bcaitc.ca/bc-school-fruit-vegetable-nutritional-program>

We thank Ms. Alexandre-Garcia, our Youth Worker, for coordinating this on our behalf.

## HEALTHY SCHOOLS FRASER HEALTH (See letter attached):

Learn when and how to have your child’s eyes, ears, and oral health checked.



# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <i>Truth and Reconciliation Day</i> <i>Stat</i>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	10 <i>PAC Meeting</i>	11 <i>Fire Drill</i>	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 <i>School Photo Day</i>	20 <i>Provincial Professional Day</i>	21
22	23	24 #	25	26	27	28
29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>	1 <b>Early Dismissal (1:45pm)</b> for 3-Way Conferences			



**1080 Winslow Ave., Coquitlam, British Columbia V3J 0M6 ● Phone 604-939-9201**

October 6, 2023

### **A Message to SD43 families: Safe and Appropriate Halloween**

Halloween across all schools in SD43 is a fun and festive day which brings the school community together. Typically, the time around Halloween is incident-free and very respectful.

From time to time, a few students “in character” push the boundaries of what is socially acceptable, or what is appropriate behavior in schools, sometimes at the expense of others. With that in mind, for student safety and school climate reasons, and to ensure that every student and adult in our community enjoys the time around Halloween, we would like your assistance in reinforcing these guidelines with your children:

- Students in costume should be easily recognizable and/or identify themselves to any staff member when queried. Also, students “in character” are to conduct themselves appropriately. Behaviors which intimidate, harass, or humiliate members of the community do not contribute to a fun, festive, and safe environment.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are inappropriate, as are costumes which are hyper-sexualized, or costumes which depict elements of sexual exploitation.
- It is also important to note that costumes which portray negative stereotypes or that demean or make fun of any group of people are inappropriate. Costumes should not make light of anyone’s religious, cultural, ethnic or racial group.

As a reminder, by law and School District expectations, the use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks at school is strictly prohibited. This pertains to students before, during or after school, on or offsite.

With respect for each other, we can avoid any disruption to school communities in the form of vandalism and/or disrespectful, potentially dangerous behaviour. Students and parents need to be mindful that inappropriate behaviour will be addressed by school administration under the authority granted by the BC School Act and with the involvement of police where appropriate.

Please refer to these readily available public websites for more information:

<https://www.coquitlam.ca/286/Fire-Safety-Tips>

<https://www.portcoquitlam.ca/city-services/fire-emergency-services/fire-safety-information/>

<https://www.portmoody.ca/en/city-services/fall-safety-tips.aspx#Halloween-Safety>

Have a safe and happy Halloween.

Sincerely,

Patricia Gartland  
Superintendent/CEO

## October – Child health screenings: vision, hearing and dental

### Make dental, hearing and vision checks part of a healthy routine

Health screenings help find issues early which can make treatment easier and more effective. It's important for your child to have regular eye exams and routine dental checkups. It is also important to recognize any hearing loss early as this is essential for speech and language development. Read on to learn when and how to access services for your child.

#### Dental

Tooth decay is the most common, but preventable, childhood chronic disease. It is important to establish good oral hygiene at a young age and have children's teeth checked by a dentist regularly. To find a local dentist near you who is accepting new patients, visit the BC Dental Association's [Find a Dentist database](#). If you are a member of a low-income family and you do not have extended health coverage, there are several programs that can help you access [affordable dentistry for your children](#). You can also contact the dental program at your [local public health unit](#) and ask about resources available in your community.

#### Vision

[BC Doctors of Optometry](#) recommends children receive their first eye exam when they are six to nine months old with a follow up exam at least once between the ages of two and five and then yearly once they enter school. You can find an optometrist accepting new patients near you at the College of Optometrists of British Columbia's [Find an Optometrist database](#). In B.C., basic eye exams, one per year, are free up to the age of 18. Some optometrists may charge a small user fee of about \$35 per visit so be sure to ask about any fees before you make an appointment.

#### Hearing

Good hearing is essential for speech and language development and plays an important part in a child's social and emotional growth. It is important to recognize hearing loss early and seek out testing and treatment if needed. Fraser Health's Public Health community audiologists provide hearing services for children from birth to 19 years of age. If you have a concern about your child's hearing, referrals can be made by a parent or caregiver, a health care provider or education professional to your [local public health audiology \(hearing\) clinic](#).

Find more information on child health screenings and how to access free vision, hearing and dental exams on Fraser Health's website: <https://ow.ly/oK9z50PegZB>

