

Welcome Back!



Welcome back to school everyone!

Throughout our first days back it has been great to see old friends reconnect and new friendships beginning to develop. Our staff works tirelessly to help your child settle in and to make positive connections so far in their new class. Please know that the placement of children into classes is a thoughtful process that involves hours of planning and input from all members of staff. This process began at the end of last year with our entire staff and continued through the first week of school as new students registered. We hope you will talk with your child about the positive aspects of their classroom placement and let them know that there will be opportunities for friendships old and new to flourish both in and out of the classroom setting throughout the year. We have an amazing staff who will ensure all students have a great place to learn throughout the upcoming year.

This year at RC MacDonald we are happy to welcome back almost all of our teaching staff from last year. Over the summer Ms. Watson moved to Squamish and we wish her all the best. Ms. Abel's baby Zoe arrived in August. Congratulations! Ms. Huggins, was training for the Ride to Conquer Cancer when she suffered an injury and is currently on leave. Thank you to Ms. Hutchings for teaching Division 5 everyday 😊. We have a number of new staff onboard who are super keen and add to the expertise in the building: Ms. Yun is teaching Music, Gifted and Grades 2/3. Ms. Clarke and Ms. Rawlings join our Education Assistant team with many years experience combined.

The entire RC MacDonald staff is very excited about the wonderful possibilities and exciting opportunities the year ahead holds for each and every student.

Warmest wishes for a terrific school year!

Mrs. Roberts, Principal

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

Our school population is 151 students and we have 7 divisions. Our classes meet the ministry class sizes and are well balanced. They also meet the ministry criteria regarding class composition.

TEACHING		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	COMMENTS
Ballarin, Sabrina	Div. 7 Gr. K						Friday– Pankratz
Coomer, Meredyth	Div. 2 Gr. 4 / 5						
Fitzgerald, John	Div. 1 Gr. 4/5						
Huggins, Leona	Div. 5 Gr. 1/2						On leave
Hutchings, Michelle	Div. 5 Gr. 1/2						
Hutton, Maria	Student Services						
Johnson, Kelli	Div. 3 Gr. 2 / 3						Mon – Yun
Olund, Ronnie	Student Services						
Pankratz, Tonya	Kindergarten						Fridays
Wise, Michelle	Div. 6 Gr. K / 1						Fri – TBA
Wright, Colleen	Library Div. 4 Gr. 2 / 3						Mon to Wed Thursday AM Library

TEACHING		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	COMMENTS
Yun, Lucy	Music and Gifted						Mon – Div 3; Thurs & Fri – Div 4
C.U.P.E.		MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
Cheah, Julie	Noon Hour Asst.						12:08 pm – 1:10 pm
Colombo, Rosalynn	Noon Hour Asst.						12:08 pm – 1:10 pm
DiTomaso, John	AM Caretaker						7:30 am – 9:30 am
Dyrndahl, Sandra	Secretary						8:15 am – 3:45 pm
Mandev, Rhonda	PM Caretaker						3:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Clarke, Alisa	EA						8:30 am – 3:10 pm
MacDonell, Kim	EA						8:30 am – 3:10 pm
Rawlings, Alix	EA						8:30 am – 3:10 pm
ADMIN.							
Roberts, Theresa	Principal						

PICK UP AND DROP OFF SAFETY

If you live close by, we hope you will take advantage of the opportunity to walk to school. This is a great way to connect with your child and help them get off to a good start to the school day. If you are driving to school, please obey all street signs and respect our neighbour's driveways and property. The recommended drop off is on the east side of Balfour, from the passenger side of the car directly onto our sidewalk. Please drive with caution through our school zone, especially during the first month of start-up. For pick-up please follow the same procedures to ensure clear crosswalk access and safe walkways for all of our children at the end of the day. The parking lot is for staff parking and handicapped parking only.

DRESSING FOR THE WEATHER

Students will be going outside every day for recess and lunch. (Occasionally, we do keep the students inside under **extreme** weather conditions.) We ask that ALL students come to school with coats, appropriate outdoor shoes or boots, hats, umbrellas, gloves, etc. as needed. It is strongly **recommended** that students keep a change of clothes and underwear in their gym bags (older students) or in their indoor shoe bag (younger students). To ensure student safety, we can keep our hallways dry in wet weather by having all students enter the school through their class' exterior doors. Thank you for not cutting through the hallways before school.



FOOD ALLERGY ETIQUETTE

Each school year we have several students in our community who manage significant food allergies. As they grow and develop these students will learn to successfully manage their allergies but at younger ages (especially primary grades) we expect they will require adult support. Our staff reviews medical alerts, EpiPen injections, and connects with the school nurse regarding student medical issues throughout the school year.

Please review the following strategies at home as these are standards at our school:

- Wash hands before and after eating.
- Do not share or trade food items.
- For Holiday and Birthday celebrations please give notice to the teacher. Consider bringing a non-food item or a store-bought item with the ingredients clearly labelled.

Thank you for helping keep RC Mac a safe and inclusive place for all students ☺

PETS ON THE PLAYGROUND

Please remember that if you bring your family pet to school, it must be leashed, and it must remain outside of the school building. Please stay back from groups of children if you are with your pet, and away from student line ups, both before and after school. Some of our students (and adults) have a fear of dogs and although many of us consider our dogs to be part of our family, there are individuals who are allergic and cannot be around pets. Thank you for understanding and for always cleaning up after your pet.



TERRY FOX RUN – FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 27TH



Once again RC MacDonald is proudly supporting The Terry Fox Foundation in its ongoing work to fund innovative and progressive cancer research programs. You can support our school by making a donation, either with cash or a cheque given to your child to return to their teacher or with a credit card online.

Our school is already set up on the Terry Fox website to receive **online donations**. Our school fundraising page is: <http://www.terryfox.ca/RCMacDonaldElementary>. If students would like to set up their own page for on-line donations (making sure the on-line donations are counted as money raised by them), please [CLICK HERE](#). Paper donation forms will be distributed on Friday. Be sure to return the forms to the school before the school run on the morning of Thursday, September 27th.

We have some great incentives for the students of RC Mac!

- If we meet our school goal of **\$2,000**, **Mystery Teacher(s)** have agreed to have whip cream pies thrown at them.
- The class with the largest amount of donations will get the opportunity to “pass” water balloons back and forth with Ms. Roberts.
- The student who raises the most will receive Ms. Roberts as their personal executive assistant for a morning.

Your kindness will impact the lives of so many people living with cancer.

PICTURE DAY

Individual student photos will be taken on **Wednesday, September 18th, 2019**. Each student will have a picture taken and the proofs will be sent home, with a variety of package options to choose from. There will be a day for retakes (if your child is away on September 18th) – October 16th, 2019.



ABSENT? GOING ON VACATION? LATE?

Please use the [online absence form](#) on the school website for absences and holidays.

ONLINE E-FORMS

We are hoping to have most of the following forms completed [ONLINE \(click here\)](#) this year, but if for some reason you are unable to access the internet, please contact the RC MacDonald office (604-936-0447) to make other arrangements. Please complete the following forms as promptly as possible so that we can ensure the safety of your children:



1. **SCHOOL POLICY FORM ** MANDATORY **** Please note this is **ONLY** an **online form**. Besides the school policies, this form also includes the **parent giving permission for walking field trips (i.e. fun runs, Terry Fox Run, walking to Mundy Park), whether or not you permit your child to have his/her picture published, etc.** Please complete the form acknowledging you have discussed the contents with your child – and electronically submit it to our office.
2. **EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM ** MANDATORY **** (*paper copy also sent home with your child*) - This information enables us to release your child to your designated representative in the event of a major catastrophe – **it is NOT to be confused with the contact information that was required at registration.**

3. **Medical Alert*** - To be completed only if your child has a medical concern at the start of each school year.
***IMPORTANT:** You cannot save data typed into the Emergency Release or the Medical Alert forms. After filling out the form, **PRINT** it and return it to your child's school.
4. **Optional:** A current criminal record check will be required if you wish to take part in the following. Criminal record checks are good for 5 years. You can pick up a letter at our office which allows you to receive a criminal records check free of charge.
 - **Volunteer Application** - To be completed once at each **school level** by parents and non-parents who are planning to volunteer at our school. Note: you also need to drop off a criminal record check (CRC) at the school office. ** We have had clarification that this form does not have to be filled out every year as it is tied to your CRC. When your CRC expires, so does your volunteer application. **
 - **Driver Application** - To be completed at the start of each school year by volunteers who are planning to transport students during school field trips. Note: you will also need to drop off a Driver's Abstract and a Criminal Record Check at the school office and complete a Volunteer Application Form (once per school level).
 - **Privately Owned Devices** - To be completed by staff or students who will be using privately owned devices (laptops, iPods, Blackberries, etc.) that will be connected to the district wireless or wired network.

SCHOOL and BELL SCHEDULE

8:55 am	Welcoming Bell
9:00 am	Classes Begin
10:30 am	Recess
10:50 am	Classes Resume
12:20 pm	Lunch Eating Time
12:40 pm	Lunch Play Time
1:07 pm	Classes Resume
3:00 pm	Dismissal



JOIN US FOR OPEN HOUSE & PAC MEETING WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 25TH

On Wednesday, September 25th families are invited to join the RC Mac Staff for “Open House” from 5:00-6:00pm. Interested parents are invited to stay for the September PAC Meeting 6:30-8:00pm.

CASUAL NOON HOUR SUPERVISORS?

School District #43 Coquitlam is looking for Casual Noon Hour Assistants to be available on an On-Call basis to supervise students indoors and outdoors during lunch break (one hour per day) at various schools throughout the District in Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, Port Moody and Anmore.

Previous experience working with groups of children is an asset. Successful candidates will be available over the lunch hour Monday – Friday, 5 days per week while school is in session and be willing to accept callouts to all schools in our District. We offer \$21.43 per hour plus 16% in lieu of benefits.

To apply, please click on the following link and create a user account/profile:

<https://ejp.sd43.bc.ca/postings/Account/Login>




Once you have completed your profile you will have access to the job postings.

ATTACHMENTS (PLEASE CLICK ON THE LINKS BELOW TO VIEW):

- Minister of Education Rob Fleming wishes all students and their families all the best for the year ahead. Read more [here](#).
- SD43 Superintendent of Schools Patricia Gartland welcomes all students back to school. Read more [here](#).

- Government has approved the Vaccination Status Reporting Regulation requiring parents or guardians to report the vaccination status of their school-age children. This regulation comes into force on July 1 and public health units will begin implementation of the regulation in September of 2019. Read more [here](#).
- **Lunchbox Theatre:** Theatrix (“ Toy Story” Tuesdays & Thursdays 12:20 – 1:05 from Oct 1 – Nov 7, open to Grades 1 – 5, max 30, online registration starting Sep 24 @ 7:00 pm). Read more [here](#).
- **After School Program:** Bricks 4 Kids LEGO (Thursdays 3:00 – 4:00 from Sep 26 – Nov 14, open to Grades K – 5). Read more [here](#).
- **After School Programs (Do What You Love):**
 - Love2Dance (Wednesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 Nov 6 – Dec 11) Read more [here](#).
 - MPower your Inner Ninja (Tuesdays from 3:00 – 4:30 Nov 5,12,19,26, Dec 3, 10). Read more [here](#).

COMING UP AT R.C. MACDONALD:

Individual School Photos (9:05 AM)	Sept. 18	Wednesday
District Pro D Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Sept. 20	Friday
Healthy Hair (9:00-10:00 AM)	Sept. 25	Wednesday
Open House (5:00-6:00 PM)	Sept. 25	Wednesday
PAC Meeting (6:30 – 8:00 PM, Library)	Sept. 25	Wednesday
Terry Fox Assembly (9:15 AM)	Sept. 27	Friday
Terry Fox Run (9:45 AM)	Sept. 27	Friday
Orange Shirt Day	Sept. 30	Monday
World Teacher Day	Oct. 5	Saturday
Thanksgiving Day - NO SCHOOL	Oct. 14	Monday
School Photo Retakes (9:00 AM)	Oct. 16	Wednesday
Provincial Pro D Day – STUDENTS DO NOT ATTEND	Oct. 25	Friday
 Halloween	Oct. 31	Thursday
Daylight Savings Time ENDS (set clocks back 1 hr)	Nov. 3	
Early Dismissal at 1:45PM (Fall Conferences 2:00-6:00 PM)	Nov. 5	Tuesday
Early Dismissal at 1:45PM (Fall Conferences 2:00-4:00 PM)	Nov. 6	Wednesday
Remembrance Day Assembly (10:45 AM)	Nov. 8	Friday
 Remembrance Day - NO SCHOOL	Nov. 11	Monday
Winter Concert (times TBA)	Dec. 18	Wednesday
Term 1 Report Cards at 3:00PM	Dec. 19	Thursday
 Last Day of School before Winter Vacation	Dec. 20	Friday
Schools Re-open after Winter Vacation	Jan. 6, 2020	Monday

The RC MacDonald calendar is online – all events that have been confirmed are available for you to see at a glance. Please revisit our site as *we will continue to add special event dates as they are confirmed*. Our website is:

<https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/rcmacdonald/Pages/default.aspx>