

The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

Edition #1 Tuesday, September 4th, 2023

Weekly activities begin Sept 12th / Band schedule begins Oct 1st

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Advanced Concert Band: @ 7:50	Beginner Concert Band: @ 7:50	Advanced Concert Band: @ 7:50	Beginner Concert Band: @ 7:50	
Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Cafe	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Cafe	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Cafe	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Cafe	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Cafe

September Monthly Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4	5 School Opens Refer to email or website for meeting location	6 Full Day 845am Meet in teams refer to email from Monty. Bring Pencil case, pencil crayons and lunch/ snack. Wear shoes for outside tour	7 Report to meeting space as assigned by your child's team. Bring ALL school supplies students will organize	8 Spirit assembly
11 Exploration classes begin School forms online Emergency release forms on online	12	13	14 Band Info Night 7pm (Returning band members are not required to attend)	15 Spirit Wear/ Team Colours
18	19	20	21 In Person Open House 630pm	22 District Pro D
25 Emergency release forms due All online forms due	26 PAC meeting 7pm library all welcome Sports Day	27	28 Band Rental Night 630-730pm	29 Orange Shirt Day Assembly wear orange
2 (October) National Truth and Reconciliation Day No School	3	4 Individual Student Photos	5	6

Please see our school calendar on our website: www.montymiddle.ca

Mrs. Husband's For Your Consideration- Welcome



On behalf of the Montgomery staff, we would like to welcome back all returning students and their families. We would also like to offer a special welcome to our new students, particularly our grade 6's who are new to the Middle School experience.

We are looking forward to a school year that will allow us to offer a full middle school experience. Infectious diseases are a new reality and while many of the restrictions have changed, new habits have formed. Staying home when ill, hand washing/ sanitizing throughout the day and cough and sneeze etiquette are essential to keeping everyone healthy.

September will be very busy with countless opportunities for students and parents to get involved. Please take the time to read our monthly newsletter and check our website regularly to keep informed about all the great things happening at Montgomery.

Class Organization

Start up is always a very hectic time and we appreciate your patience and support. Students will meet with their advisory class as soon as we get the approval from the Board Office. Our goal is to develop balanced, educationally sound classes for our approximately 460 students. Much time and discussion were involved in the placement of each student and several factors are considered, including gender balance, academics, learning needs, and social and emotional development. We are also required to follow the requirements set out by the Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on class size and composition. All factors are considered, and every effort is made to ensure the best possible educational placement for all students. It takes students a few days to settle into to their new classes and to feel comfortable with their teachers and classmates. Our staff is committed to working in partnership with you and keeping you informed and involved in the months to come. The Montgomery Staff is eagerly looking forward to an exciting and rewarding year!

In Person Family Open House- Students Welcome

Open House is an opportunity to meet the teachers and talk about classroom expectations and routines along with meeting other neighbours and community members.

Thursday, September 21st
School Community Mtg. in Gym 6:30 – 6:50pm
Parent Teacher Meeting 7:00- 7:30pm





We have students who have a life-threatening allergy to peanut and all tree nuts. Their allergy includes touching shared surfaces that may have trace amounts of nut oil. Please ensure that food coming to school is nut free so that every student can come to school safely.

IMPORTANT HEALTH REMINDERS

Vaccines

Vaccines are important tools to protect against many serious communicable diseases. Vaccination protects from serious illness due to COVID-19 and is the most effective way to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities. All COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in Canada protect against serious complications, including from the omicron variant. It is important to get all recommended vaccine doses to get the most effective protection against serious cases of COVID-19. People 6 months and older are eligible for COVID-19 vaccines. More information about COVID-19 vaccines is available from the [BCCDC website](#). Students and staff are also encouraged to ensure they are up to date on [all recommended vaccines for other communicable diseases, including COVID-19 vaccines](#).

Health Awareness

Staff, parents, caregivers, and students should not come to school if you are sick and unable to participate fully in routine activities. The importance of completing a daily health check is an important way to keep everyone healthy.

What To Do When Sick

Anyone in the school who is showing symptoms of illness, such as [COVID-19 or gastrointestinal illness](#), should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities. Staff and students children can attend school if their symptoms are consistent with a previously diagnosed health condition (e.g., seasonal allergies) or symptoms have improved enough to where you feel well enough to return to regular activities and any fever has resolved without the use of fever-reducing medication (e.g. acetaminophen, ibuprofen). The [When to Get Tested for COVID-19 resource](#) or the [B.C. Self-Assessment Tool](#) provides more information on whether you should get a test for COVID-19. If you are unsure or concerned about your symptoms, connect with your health care provider or call 8-1-1.

Staff, children, or other persons in the school setting who test positive for COVID-19 should follow the guidance on the [BCCDC website](#) as to how long they should self-isolate. They can return to school when they no longer need to self-isolate as long as symptoms have improved, and they are well enough to participate in regular activities.

People with symptoms who test positive for COVID-19 should stay home until their fever has resolved and they feel well enough to participate in daily activities.

Non-medical masks and face coverings

The decision to wear a mask beyond when it is required by public health is a personal one, based on individual preference.

Respiratory Etiquette

Parents can help teach and reinforce good respiratory etiquette practices among students, including:

- Cough or sneeze into their elbow or a tissue. Throw away used tissues and perform hand hygiene.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

Hand hygiene

Rigorous hand washing with plain soap and water or using an [effective hand sanitizer](#) reduces the spread of illness. Everyone should practice diligent hand hygiene. To learn about how to perform hand hygiene, please refer to the BCCDC's [hand hygiene poster](#).

MONTY SCHOOL ROUTINES

Before school

- Students are expected to wait outside before school. Students can wait in the cafeteria before school without their cell phones. Supervision is available from 8am.

Nut break and lunch time.

- Students will eat their nutrition break snack outside their classroom and ideally outside (weather permitting). Please pack easy to eat snacks.
- Students will continue to eat their lunch inside their classroom from 12:35-12:43 and be outside for the remainder of the lunch break (weather permitting). Students who need more time to finish their lunch are given more time but those students who are eager to get outside can do so quickly.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

This year we are welcoming 140 new students and several new staff to our community. Many have significant experience in either other schools or other districts and moved to the Coquitlam School District to work closer to home. We are very excited about the year ahead. Please welcome,

Ms. Veronika Kuba (returning)

Ms. Marina Meredith

Ms. Zakkiyya Khan

Ms. Dana El-Khatib

Grade 6/7 Red Team

Learning Common/ Digital Literacy

Education Assistant

Learning Inclusion Support Worker

School Organization- We have made some changes to our teams this year and as a result several teachers have changed to another team or team colour. If possible, students who were in grade 7 remained with their grade 7/8 teachers or were assigned to a teacher that was on their team last year.

ÉCOLE MONTGOMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023 - 2024 Staff Organization

PRINCIPAL: Sarah Husband

Rob Heinrichs

ADV	TEACHER		ROOM	GRADE	Team #	Expo
TEAM 1 - BLUE						
1	Riccardi, Sandra / Lepine, Brigitte (Wed)	FRIM	227	6	One	Block 3
2	Vinayakrishnan.Devika / Lepine, Brigitte (Mon/Tues)	FRIM	122	7	One	Block 3
3	Blizzard, Christopher - Blue Team Lead	FRIM	126	8	One	Block 3
4	Hashmi, Lukman	FRIM	221	8	One	Block 3
TEAM 2 - GREEN						
5	Bertoia, Tara - Green Team Lead / Copeland, Taryn (Fri)		114	6 / 7	Two	Block 4
6	Sievers, Vayla / Copeland, Taryn (Wed)		103	6 / 7	Two	Block 4
7	Baldonado, Francis		113	6 / 7	Two	Block 4
8	Turner, Scott		110	7 / 8	Two	Block 4
9	Christianson, Brad		111	7 / 8	Two	Block 4
TEAM 3 - PURPLE						
10	Rubinic, Stacie - Purple Team Lead	MONT	121	6 / 7 / 8	Three	Block 5
11	Piper, Michael	MONT	125	6 / 7 / 8	Three	Block 5
12	Sitter, Mark		214	6 / 7	Three	Block 5
13	Tuan, Nadia- Shared Athletic Director		211	7 / 8	Three	Block 5
14	Perry, Paige- Shared Athletic Director		212	7 / 8	Three	Block 5
TEAM 4 - RED						
15	Prestia, Rob - Red Team Lead		226	6 / 7	Four	Block 6
16	Wylie, Mike		229	6 / 7	Four	Block 6
17	Kuba, Veronika		225	6 / 7	Four	Block 6
18	Best, Hilary / Huang, Claire (Fri)		222	7 / 8	Four	Block 6
19	Welch, Chris		220	7 / 8	Four	Block 6

Volunteer Opportunities for families

Event	Date	Needs	Contact
School sponsored lunch program for families struggling with food security.	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs or Friday @ 8am to help prepare lunches	30 minutes once per week at before school to help with our youth worker with our lunch program OR help with picking up groceries once per week.	ccai@sd43.bc.ca
Chess club	One lunch per week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-two parents to sponsor a weekly chess club at lunch break (expertise in chess not needed) 	shusband@sd43.bc.ca
PAC sponsored Hot Lunch/ Treat Day	Approximately 7x per school year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assist with organizing the lunch and distributing them to classrooms. 	montymiddlepac@protonmail.com
PAC sponsored x- mas market This event generates funds to purchase x mas hampers for families in our community	Third week of November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parents to collect and organize donations Parent to set up the market Parents to “sell” goods and collect money (end of November). 	montymiddlepac@protonmail.com

Orange Shirt Day- Friday, Sept 29th Please wear orange.

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in the spring of 2013. It grew out of [Phyllis' story](#) of having her shiny new orange



shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.

The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and because it is an opportunity to set the stage for anti-racism and anti-bullying policies for the coming school year. Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments,

schools, and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.



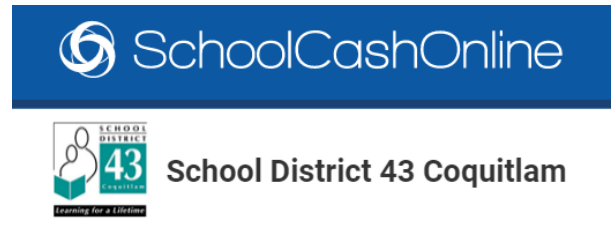
School News

Online Payments

School expenses including fieldtrips, athletic fees and school events are made through an online payment system that will allow you to view and pay your child's student fees safely and conveniently. This system is used until your child completes gr 12 and is automatically updated when they move to a new SD43 school.

All families need to be registered so please get your account online now! Here's how to get started:

1. Go to <https://sd43.schoolcashionline.com>
2. Click on "Get Started Today"
3. Create your account
 - o Enter first and last name; click continue
 - o Enter fields: address, phone number, e-mail address; click continue
 - o Choose a password and security question
 - o Make sure to OPT IN to receiving e-mail notifications for updated school information



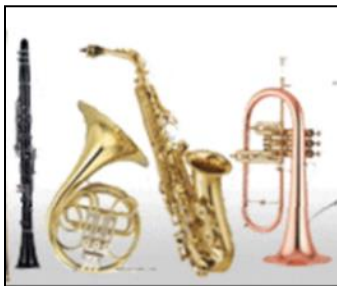
Student Activity Fee \$37.00 This fee includes the student planner, class photo and locker rental as well as school wide activities such as sports day and pancake breakfast/ Camp Monty. This fee should be paid by the end of September. If you family needs assistance with this fee, please email shusband@sd43.bc.ca

Athletic Fee \$20 for students who play on a school team. This is a **one-time** fee that will cover all teams and all three seasons throughout the year. Students will also have a form to complete which acknowledges their commitment to the Middle School's athletic code of conduct.

Gr. 6 Immunization Days: **Thursday, Nov 30th & Friday, June 7th**

This is an important event for all Gr. 6 students. Forms will be sent home to all Gr. 6 students to complete for their public health immunizations.

For more information about the immunization process please contact the Fraser Health District @ 604-777-8730 or feedback@fraserhealth.ca



Band Registration Evening – If your child is interested in joining the school band for the first time and learning how to play a musical instrument or expand their musical skills please attend.

1. An organizational/ informational meeting on Thursday, September 14th 7:00pm in the gym for new band students.
2. Band rental equipment night Thursday, September 28th 6:30-7:30pm or until the instrument rental is completed.

Clubs and Volleyball

Many wonderful school teams and clubs will begin quickly. Please encourage your child to come out and join in. Middle Schools in Coquitlam School District have a no cut policy which means that everyone who comes out, attends practices and is a positive member of the team plays...equally.



The cross country (running) team, swimming and volleyball teams will get started once we have confirmed coaching staff.

Our school clubs and teams are a great way to meet new people and make a new friend.



Sport Day in September? Fun with purpose There is no mistake in the calendar...Sept 26th

Monty is having an early sports day to help students build their connections with their new classmates. Building a positive community takes work.

Important School Expectations

- 1. Closed campus-** Montgomery Middle is a closed campus. This means that once students arrive to school in the morning they are expected to remain at school until the end of the day. Families are welcome to sign out and pick up their child for lunch.
- 2. Mobile Phones-** We have significantly invested in technology as a school to ensure that students have technology available as a learning tool. Mobile phone use is not permitted inside the school from the start of the day 8:45 until 3pm.

If you need to contact your child, please call the school and we will either have your child return your call or pass the message to them. Texting students during class time (ie. pick up time), interrupts the learning of your child and others when you expect your child to reply. Please talk with your child about your expectations. Students have access to a phone at the office in the event they need to contact you.

- 3. Vaping products-** Students are not permitted at any time to use or be in the presence, possession of any alcohol or drugs, (including all vaping products). Given that consequences are so significant (usually a formal suspension), parents are asked to review this with your child. Vaping has become an epidemic in many schools. While it is not currently a problem at Montgomery we want to work with parents and our students to ensure that Monty continues to be a healthy place to learn.

PAC News and Events

Hello from your PAC, and welcome to another year of school. We are looking forward to continuing to support our students and school.

The purpose of the PAC is to promote the education and welfare of students in the school, be the collective voice of parents, encourage parent involvement in the school, and to advise and assist the administration and staff in matters pertaining to the school and students.

Last year, the PAC raised over \$5000.00 for the school, mostly through many generous donations from parents and guardians. We also held three pizza night fundraisers, as well as hot lunches and treat days. We used these funds and funds from the BC Gaming Grant to support the purchase of technology for the STEAM program and sporting equipment for every class to use a break times, contribute to the Grade 8 leaving ceremonies, provide entertainment to students, and give each classroom a small discretionary fund to buy supplies needed for the year. Highlights of our year were the Christmas Market, which raised money for the school to help families in our community, and the Multicultural Lunch, where students got to try foods from many different cultures. We also held a staff appreciation day near the end of the school year.

For the 2023-24 school year, we plan to continue to run events including hot lunches, treat days and the Christmas market - all of these are always popular with students. We will be asking for volunteers to help make these treasured events a reality. We are especially looking for a parent or guardian to step up as a hot lunch coordinator.

We encourage all parents and caregivers to be engaged with their child(ren)'s school and joining PAC meetings is one way to get connected. All parents and caregivers are automatically PAC members. We hold meetings once a month and we plan to host most meetings in person at Montgomery Middle. Some meetings may be held online through Microsoft Teams.

2023-2024 Executive

President: Danielle Nicholson

Treasurer: Kristine Kirk

Members At Large: Agnes White

Secretary: Anna Britton

DPAC Representative: Helena Wang

Meeting Dates for 2023-2024 (there are no meetings in December and March)

Tuesday, Sep 19	7pm	Tuesday, Feb 20	7pm
Tuesday, Oct 17	7pm	Tuesday, Apr 16	7pm
Tuesday, Nov 21	7pm	Tuesday, May 21 – AGM	7pm
Tuesday, Jan 16	7pm	Tuesday, Jun 18	7pm

For more information, email montymiddlepac@proton.me, or check out the PAC section of the school website, where you can find meeting minutes and other information.

School Drop Off/ Pick Up and Student Safety

Help us keep your children safe, please read the parking signs.



Student Pick Up/ Drop Off

There is no stopping parking on Edgewood Ave at pick up time. Please arrive after 3:10pm so that your child is ready for pick up in the cul-de-sac.

Parking Lots

The lots are not for drop off or pick up unless a parent is entering the school

KUGLER AVE- please respect our neighbours by allowing them access to their homes. Please organize a pick up point with your child on Montgomery Ave.

DISTRICT NEWS

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance [Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc.](#)

Our school board is offering you the opportunity to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Insurance and Financial Services Inc. (iA Financial Group).

Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance provides protection against unexpected costs arising from accidental injuries. The program is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.



Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, while at home and in school;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans, such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);
- Out-of-province or country emergency medical expenses.

If your address changes during the school year, your Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada. Insurance premiums for children are \$14.50 or \$33.50 per year, depending on the plan selected. A discount is available for families with 3 or more children. Adults age 20 to 64 can also be insured for \$32.00 per year.

For more information or to apply online, please visit kidsplus.ca, or speak with a Kids Plus™ Client Service Administrator at 1-800-556-7411.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Fall KidSport Used Equipment Sale

Saturday, September 9th, 10am- 1pm @ Poirier Forum –

Admission is by donation or item(s) for the SHARE Food Bank.

Open to everyone! A huge variety of high quality used sporting goods at incredible prices. Everything from bikes and hockey gear to fitness equipment and wetsuits and everything in between. You can outfit a child for hockey (including skates and a helmet) for \$100. Lacrosse (including a stick and helmet) for \$90. Plus, there's no tax. Cash and Credit Cards accepted.

All proceeds subsidize registration fees for kids from families who are struggling financially.

To make this event a huge success KidSport needs equipment! Families are encouraged to drop off their **gently** used sporting goods (nothing older than 6 years please) of any kind from Aug 29 – Sept 9 at the following locations:

- Port Coquitlam Community Centre
- Port Moody Rec Centre – front desk
- Poirier Sport and Leisure Complex – front desk

If you have gently used equipment this is a great opportunity to free up some space, donate equipment (including bikes) and make a great contribution to our community. We're always looking for more volunteers, please contact: Chris Wilson cwilson630@gmail.com

KidSport Tri-Cities We provide grants to help cover the costs of registration fees so that all kids aged 18 and under in Tri-Cities can play a season of sport.

Our chapter accepts applications and administers grants of up to \$400 per child/year, for kids who live in Tri-Cities, or in one of the other communities we serve. [Click here](#) for a link.