

The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

Edition #1 Friday, September 2nd, 2022

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 Must arrive by 825am	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Must arrive by 825am	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Must arrive by 825am	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Must arrive by 825am	Morning Chill Space 8am-8:40am Must arrive by 825am

September Monthly Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
5	6 School Opens Refer to email or website for meeting location	7 Full Day 845am Meet in teams Red West Gym Purple East Gym Green Cafeteria Blue Band Room Bring Supplies- list on website	8 Report to temporary class as assigned by your child's team. New School Wide Math Routine Sept 7-9 th	9 Spirit assembly
12 Exploration classes begin	13 Drop in gym at lunch	14 Band Info Night 7pm (Returning band members are not required to attend)	15	16 Spirit Wear/ Team Colours
19	20	21 Open House 7pm	22	23 District Pro D
26 All Forms due to office	27 PAC meeting 7pm library all welcome Sports Day	28	29 Orange Shirt Day Assembly	30 National Truth and Reconciliation Day No School
3	4 School Photo Day (Individual)	5	6	7

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, especially our grade 6's who are new to the Middle School experience.

We are looking forward to a more normal school year and offering a fuller 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 is 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 requirement 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!

Supporting families

On August 29th, the Ministry of Education & Child Care announced a one-time fund to support BC students and their families experiencing hardship as a result of cost-of-living challenges due to global inflation. Over the next few weeks, SD43 will be consulting with schools, parents, and stakeholders to determine how this money may best support the specific needs of local families. Considerations include possible expansion of school meal programs, access to field trips and student supplies support. More information will be provided in the coming weeks regarding the [Student and Family Affordability Fund](#). In the interim if your family needs help with school supplies please email our youth worker Carolyn Cai ccai@sd43.bc.ca

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.

Wednesday, September 21st
School Community Mtg.in Gym 7:00 – 7:20pm
Parent Teacher Meeting 7:25- 8:00pm



TRANSITIONING BACK TO MIDDLE

This fall we will be re-introducing some of the essentials of the middle school experience that were put on hold during the past two years. Students will,

- Be assigned a locker
- Be working in groups
- Work with two classroom teachers for their academic courses
- Resume school band and many extracurricular activities

We will also be maintaining some new norms for now,

- Students will continue to wait outside before school, except for children who arrive before 8:20am. Students who are here super early are welcome in the Zen Den (cafeteria).
- We will continue to have students enter and exit through assigned doors to spread everyone out and make hand washing/ hand sanitization stations easily accessible to all.
- Students will continue to eat their nutrition break snack inside their classroom and be outside at break time (weather permitting)
- Students will begin the year eating their lunch inside their classroom from 12:25-12:40 and be outside for the remainder of the lunch break (weather permitting).



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,

Mr. Ryan Millar	Grade 6 (Red)
Ms. Veronika Kuba (returning)	Learning Common/ Digital Literacy
Ms. Tori Caswell	Music / Band
Ms. Claire Huang	STEAM
Mrs. Alyssa Goncalves	Montessori (temporary contract for Ms. Rubinic)
Ms. Seah Kim / Mr. Veitch (returning)	Student services
Mr. James Rosier	Education assistant
Ms. Kim Keanna	Education assistant
TBA	Learning Inclusion Support Worker

Blue Team	5 Late French Immersion
Purple	5 English classes
Green	2 Montessori classes, 3 English classes.
Red	5 English classes

District STEAM Ambassador Program- Two student leaders needed STEAM Exploration

We're launching a new Exploration course this year focusing on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics). STEAM aligns with our district goal to equip students for a world that requires practical scientific, technical and innovation skills. As a part of the district's STEAM Ambassador Program. 2-4 students from our school will have the chance to act as ambassadors promoting STEAM-based initiatives and activities at Monty. Ambassadors will attend a session at SFU in late October focused around the SD43/SFU Geo-Heritage STEAM project. More information about these exciting programs to come!

Volunteer Opportunities

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	45 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- Thursday, 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

www.montymiddle.ca

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.schoolcashonline.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



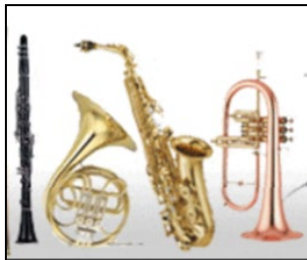
School District 43 Coquitlam

Student Activity Fee \$35.00 (this includes the student planner 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 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: Tuesday, Nov 22nd & Friday, June 9th

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 Wednesday, September 14th
@ 7:00 in the gym.
 - Instrumental rental
 - Class schedule
2. Band rental equipment night (date to be announced).



Monty has students who have a life-threatening allergy to touching or eating all foods that contain nuts. Please keep them safe by leaving all nut product at home.

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.



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 on the calendar...Sept 27th

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 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 excited to see a return to a more normal year, and 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 \$4,468 for the school, mostly through many generous donations from parents and guardians. We also held three pizza night fundraisers, as well as one treat day. We used these funds and funds from the BC Gaming Grant to buy technology and sporting equipment for the school, contribute to the Grade 8 leaving ceremonies, provide entertainment to students by hiring a magician, and give each classroom a small discretionary fund to buy supplies needed for the year. We also held a staff appreciation day near the end of the school year.

For the 2022-23 school year, we plan to run a few more treat days, as these are always popular with students. We will be looking at reintroducing some of the events that were common before Covid-19, such as a Christmas Market, and will be asking for volunteers to help make these treasured events a reality.

We are also in the process of updating the PAC constitution and bylaws, a process started before Covid-19 that is now almost complete. Many thanks to past Executive members who worked very hard on this task. We will be reviewing the draft constitution at the first meeting of the year.

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. Since early 2020, all PAC meetings have been online. Last school year in May we had our first in-person meeting since 2020, and it was a great success. We are hoping to hold both in person and online meetings this school year.

2022-2023 Executive

President – Danielle Nicholson

Secretary – David Sotelo

Treasurer – Kim Cameron, Kristine Kirk

DPAC Representative – Sabine Sasakura

Members at Large – Christine Friend, Rene Norena, Jennie Robson

Hot Lunch Volunteers – Nelly Seward, Sally Wang

Meeting Dates for 2022-2023 (there are no meetings in December and March)

September 27 (in person)

February 21

October 18 (online)

April 18

November 15

May 16 (AGM – in person)

January 17

June 20 (tentative)

For more information, email montymiddlepac@protonmail.com, or check out the PAC section of the school website, where you can find meeting minutes and the draft of our new constitution.

President – Danielle Nicholson - montymiddlepac@protonmail.com

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 parking on the south side of Edgewood Ave. 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.

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 10th, 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.



GIRLSFLY2

FREE EVENT OCTOBER 01-02

9:00 to 17:30

Abbotsford International Airport

COME FLY WITH US!

Incredible hands-on activities
Aviation, Aerospace, Marine & Defence

FREE
helicopter flights for female first-time fliers of any age!



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