

The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

Edition #1 Tuesday, September 2nd, 2025

Weekly activities/ breakfast begin Sept 9th / Band schedule begins October.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Advanced Concert Band: @ 7:45am	Beginner Concert Band: @ 7:45am	Advanced Concert Band: @ 7:45am	Beginner Concert Band: @ 7:45am	
Morning Chill Space/ light breakfast 8am-8:40am Café Monte	Morning Chill Space/ light breakfast 8am-8:40am Café Monte	Morning Chill Space/ light breakfast 8am-8:40am Café Monte	Morning Chill Space/ light breakfast 8am-8:40am Café Monte	Morning Chill Space/ light breakfast 8am-8:40am Café Monte

September Monthly Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	2 School Opens Refer to email or website for meeting location (sent on Friday, August 29 th) School forms online	3 Full day 845am-3pm Meet in teams refer to email from Monty. Bring Pencil case, pencil crayons and lunch/ snack. Outside tour	4 Report to meeting space as assigned by your child's team.	5 School Welcome Assembly
8 Expo classes start Bring ALL school supplies students will organize Emergency release forms go home	9	10	11 Band Info Night 7pm (Returning band members are not required to attend)	12
15	16	17 Individual Student Photo Day	18 In Person Open House 7pm	19 District Pro D
22 Emergency release forms due All online forms due	23 Sports Day	24 PAC meeting 7pm library all welcome	25	26
29 Truth and Reconciliation Assembly wear orange	30 National Truth and Reconciliation Day No School	1 (Oct)	2	3

Please see our school calendar on our website: <https://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/montgomery>

Ms. Shorthouse's For Your Consideration- Welcome

Welcome (and welcome back) Monty families! I hope you have enjoyed a healthy and happy summer full of outdoor fun and quality time with friends and loved ones. It is a privilege to be here at Montgomery Middle as the Acting Principal in Ms. Husband's absence, and I wish her a speedy return to restored health and the work that she loves.

September 2025 marks the beginning of a new chapter in the lives of our new grade 6 students. We welcome them to Monty and we wish them a positive and exciting transition to middle school. We encourage them to try new things, embrace new experiences and get involved in the many clubs and activities that the school has to offer. September is all about getting acclimated to middle school life and learning about everything that Monty has to offer. We are here to support you with this, so please ask if there is anything we can do to support you! For those in grades 7 and 8, either new or returning to Monty, I would like to thank them in advance for their leadership during the upcoming year. It cannot be stated enough the importance of investing time and energy not only in your classroom learning, but also in the amount that you do outside of the classroom participating in extracurricular activities and volunteering around the school. This message has clearly been instilled in Monty students as evidenced by the fantastic support our student leaders provided at Camp Monty on the 28th. Please keep this up!

I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our clerical team, caretakers and teachers readying the school for September 2nd opening. Thank you all so much!

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

Class Organization

Start up is always a very hectic time and we appreciate your patience and support. Students will meet with their permanent 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 505 students. Much time and thought goes into 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. 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 18th
School Community Mtg. in Gym 7:00 – 7:25pm
Parent Teacher Meeting 7:30- 8:00pm





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. This an important way to keep everyone healthy.

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 wash hands.
- Refrain from touching their eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands.
- Refrain from sharing any food, drinks, unwashed utensils, cigarettes, or vaping devices.

MONTY SCHOOL ROUTINES

Before school

- Students are expected to wait outside before school. Students can wait in the cafeteria before school without their personal electronic devices' phones. Supervision and breakfast are available from 8am.

Nut break and lunch time.

- Students eat their nutrition break snack outside their classroom and ideally outside (weather permitting). Students have the option to remain inside or go out. Please pack easy to eat snacks.
- Students eat their lunch inside their classroom from 12:40-12:48 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. There are also many clubs and intramurals to join.

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

This year we are welcoming ~200 new students and several new staff to our community. Many teachers have significant experience in other districts and moved to the Coquitlam School District to work closer to home. We are very excited about the year ahead. Please welcome:

Kate Shorthouse
Jackie Hamnett
Erika Gurney
Arianna Mills
Janelle Lee
Andrew Isaak
Linda Louise St Arnaud
Jack Tubajon
Tanya Woods
Draven Ducharme
Madeline Harrington
Alice (Eunh Yung) Hur
Joanne Kim
Donalee Roos

Interim Principal
Vice Principal
Grade 6 Teacher
Grade 6 Teacher
STEAM Teacher
Learning Support Teacher
Learning Support Teacher
Learning Support Teacher
Education Assistant
Education Assistant
Education Assistant
Education Assistant
Education Assistant
Learning Inclusion
Support Worker

Admin Team
Admin Team
Team Rockies
Team Rockies
Team Expo
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services
Student Services



Sport Day in September? Fun with purpose
There is no mistake in the calendar...Sept 23rd

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

ÉCOLE MONTGOMERY MIDDLE SCHOOL

2025 - 2026 Staff Organization

PRINCIPAL: Kate Shorthouse VICE PRINCIPAL: Jackie Hamnett

ADV	TEACHER		ROOM	GRADE	Team #	PREP
TEAM - ROCKIES						
1	Gurney, Erika		221	6	One	3
2	Mills, Arianna		210	6	One	3
3	Prestia, Rob - Rockies Team Lead		226	6 / 7	One	3
4	Martini, Lara		229	6 / 7	One	3
5	Best, Hilary / Rubinic, Stacie (Fri)		222	7 / 8	One	3
6	Welch, Chris		220	7 / 8	One	3
TEAM - CASCADES						
7	Sievers, Vayla /Lepine, Brigitte (Wed)		103	6 / 7	Two	4
8	Gronnemose, Shay	AD	113	6 / 7	Two	4
9	Bertoia, Tara - Cascades Team Lead /Lepine, Brigitte (Fri)		114	7 / 8	Two	4
10	Turner, Scott		110	8	Two	4
11	Christianson, Brad		111	8	Two	4
TEAM - LES ALPES						
12	Riccardi, Sandra	FRIM	227	6	Three	5
13	Baldonado, Francis	FRIM	225	7	Three	5
14	Blizzard, Christopher - Les Alpes Team Lead	FRIM	126	7	Three	5
15	Hashmi, Lukman	FRIM	121	8	Three	5
TEAM - ATLAS						
16	Sitter, Mark		214	6 / 7	Four	6
17	Tuan, Nadia		211	7 / 8	Four	6
18	Perry, Paige - Atlas Team Leader		212	7 / 8	Four	6
19	Elie, Tara	MONT	125	6 / 7 / 8	Four	6
20	Brodie, Christine	MONT	122	6 / 7 / 8	Four	6

Aida, Tracy (Llewellyn)- EXPO Team Lead	ART EXPO & GIFTED	197	Monday to Thursday
Anderson, Allison	Indigenous Youth Worker	202	Mondays
Beauregard, Tara	Learning Support -ELL	108	Monday to Thursday
Cai, Carolyn	Youth Worker	202	
Caswell, Tori	MUSIC EXPO & BAND	194	Monday to Thursday
Coupland, Taryn	DIGITAL LITERACY EXPO	205	Mon-Wed/ Thurs - Lepine
Diep, Allison - Team Lead	Counsellor	OFFICE	off Wednesday
Isaak, Andrew	Learning Support	223	
Lee, Janelle	STEAM EXPO	196	
Rubicin, Stacie	HOME EC EXPO	123	Mon-Thurs/ Fri Adv 5
St Arnaud, Linda Louise - Team Lead	Learning Support	223	
Tubajon, Jack	Learning Support	223	
Woods, Tanya	Education Assistants		35 hours 7:30am-3pm
Becker, Stephanie / Ducharme, Draven / Harrington, Madeline /			30 hours 8:30am-3pm
Hur, Alice (Eunh Yung) / Kim, Joanne / Narvaez, Luisa / Newman, Devon / Rosier, James			
Roos, Donalee	LISW		8:20am-3pm

Volunteer Opportunities for families

Event	Date	Needs	Contact
School sponsored lunch program for families struggling with food security.	1x /week or 1x/month	Help with picking up groceries once per week. Costco shopping 1/month Starbucks pick up Cobbs bread pick up	ccai@sd43.bc.ca
Chess club	One lunch per week	One-two parents to sponsor a weekly chess club at lunch break (expertise in chess not needed)	kshorthouse@sd43.bc.ca
PAC sponsored Hot Lunch/ Treat Day	Approximately 7x per school year.	Assist with organizing the lunch and distributing them to classrooms.	montymiddlepac@protonmail.com
PAC sponsored Winter market This event generates funds to purchase 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

National Truth and Reconciliation Day School Assembly- Monday, September 29th. Please wear orange.

The wearing of orange shirt 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. National Truth and Reconciliation 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.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

 SchoolCashOnline



School District 43 Coquitlam

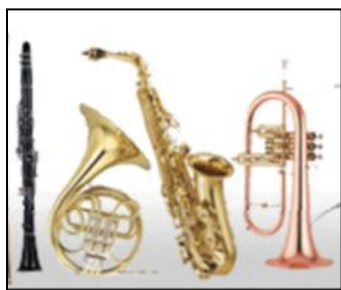
Student Activity Fee \$37.00 This fee includes the student planner, class photo and locker rental as well as school wide activities such as sports day and pancake breakfast/ Camp Monty. This fee should be paid by the end of September. If you family needs assistance with this fee, please email kshorthouse@sd43.bc.ca.

Athletic Fee \$20 for students who play on a school team. This is a yearly **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: Friday, March 6th & Friday, May 8th

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 Tri-Cities Health Unit @ schoolnurses@fraserhealth.ca or call 604-949-7251.



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 11th 7:00pm in the gym for new band students.
2. Band rental equipment night is TBD. We will let you know once the date is confirmed!

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, fencing 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.

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. **Personal Electronic Devices-** We have significantly invested in technology as a school to ensure that students have technology available as a learning tool. Mobile phones/ smart watches use is **not permitted** inside the school from the start of the day 8:37am until 3pm and will need to be stored in lockers. Phone are also not allowed in the school prior to the start of the day, if they come early for Café Monty.

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 and tobacco products). Given that consequences are so significant (usually a formal suspension), families 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.
4. **E-Bikes and E-Scooters** – Beginning Sept 2025, Montgomery Middle will be expecting our students and their families to come into compliance with the Provincial Rules regarding e-bikes and e-scooters. BC requires that users be 16 years of age. Candidly students are not using these devices responsibly because they are not developmentally ready and are endangering themselves and others. **As a result, e-bikes and e-scooters will not be permitted at Montgomery Middle.** Here are links for your reference:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules>

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/cycling-regulations-restrictions-rules/e-bikes>

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.

For 2025-26, PAC meetings will be on Wednesday nights.

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 did wonderful fundraising for the school, mostly through many generous donations from parents and guardians. We also held two 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 to thank all staff for their hard work.

For the 2025-26 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 parents/guardians to join our hot lunch team - please contact us at montymiddlepac@protonmail.com to get connected.

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 our meetings in person at Montgomery Middle.

2025-2026 Executive

President – Danielle Nicholson

Secretary – Jen Bradley

Co-Treasurer – Kristine Kirk

Co-Treasurer – Lily Gu

DPAC representative – Chris Hilliker

Members at Large – Valorie Salimpoor, Devon Steeves (Hot Lunch Coordinator), Kathy Lee, Zeyad Saleem, Brendan Reid, Hannah Chow

Meeting Dates for 2025-2026 (there are no meetings in December, March and June)

Wednesday Sept 24 7pm

Wednesday Oct 15 7pm

Wednesday Nov 19 7pm

Wednesday Jan 21 7pm

Wednesday Feb 18 7pm

Wednesday Apr 22 7pm

Wednesday May 20 7pm - AGM

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.



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.

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

DISTRICT NEWS

New School for Montgomery

Ecole Montgomery Middle School will be replaced with a new building. The Province's \$86.5-million investment will have 600 student spaces and also include the addition of a neighbourhood learning centre, which will offer Indigenous programming. In keeping with the Province's CleanBC emissions-reduction goals, the school will be designed with a greenhouse gas emissions reduction of more than 75% compared to a LEED Gold baseline building. The replacement school is expected to be ready to welcome students and staff in fall 2028. This year the design process will begin this exciting process.

COMMUNITY NEWS

KidSport

**Saturday
September 6
10am–1pm**

So **ALL** Kids Can Play!

USED EQUIPMENT SALE

sponsored by:

Saputo

**POIRIER FORUM
618 POIRIER STREET
COQUITLAM**

Admission by **donation**
or non-perishable item
to the **SHARE Food Bank**

**SAVE on your family's
sports equipment!**

The KidSport Used Equipment Sale has everything from bikes and hockey gear to fitness equipment, wetsuits, and more!

Open to EVERYONE!

equipment for **ALL** kids and adults!

Outfit a child for lacrosse or hockey, including helmet, stick, and/or skates for approximately \$100!

GIVE back! Donate your gently used* equipment

From August 22 – September 5, donate your used equipment at the following locations:

- Port Moody Recreation Complex (main lobby)
- Poirier Sport & Leisure Complex (main lobby)
- Port Coquitlam Community Centre (lower arena lobby) www.kidsporttricity.ca

***gently used**
equipment is:

- less than 6 years old
- in good condition
- wearable for league sports



TRY RUGBY

United Rugby

YOUTH AGES 4 TO 11 COME OUT
AND TRY RUGBY FOR FREE!

**@ Maple Creek
Middle School**

SUNDAY, SEPT 7
10:00 - 11:00 AM

UNITEDRUGBY.CA

Contact minis@unitedrugby.ca
for more details

