

# The Current - Monty Middle Newsletter

January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 5<sup>th</sup> edition

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## SCHOOL SAFETY UPDATE

Thank you for your support this week as we updated our safety plans to prepare for the return to in class learning. We recognize the challenge of having children at home when many families are coping with changes at work or with their business. Significant efforts have been made to slow down and manage the staffing shortages and student absences that we expect in the weeks ahead. The goal of the Ministry of Education, SD43 and all schools is to enhance safety so we can remain open and provide in person instruction.

## SAFETY MEASURES CURRENTLY IN PLACE

- Daily Health Check- stay home if you are ill or showing signs of a cold or flu [K-12 Health Check \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/diseases/communicable/k-12-health-check).
- Always wear a mask inside, unless seated and eating
- Staggered schedule
  - Two nutrition breaks, two lunch breaks
  - Two entry and exit times
- Students eat all food seated at their desk
- Assigned entry/ exit doors and times to keep classes apart
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection
- Regular and frequent handwashing/ sanitizing
- Limit volunteers, visitors including parents, parents must make prior arrangements before coming to the school. Meetings will be virtual.



## ENHANCED SAFETY MEASURES

- Classrooms spaces have rearranged furniture to maximize the space available
- Recommitted to open classroom windows to increase ventilation
- Encourage (not require) staff and students to wear a mask while outside
- Move drama program to the cafeteria
- Move two advisory classes in small spaces to larger spaces in the school (drafting room and fitness room).
- Move learning assistance group to larger space
- Adjusted exit and entry door schedule to create more space between classes
- Added additional temporary staff room spaces to create more space between workers
- School gathering and events will be held virtually
- Changed term two PE program –  
Basketball will be moved into spring and badminton will be placed in term two. Wrestling will not be taught.
- Changed term two (Winter) extracurricular program-  
Basketball moved to spring and badminton moved to term two (Winter). Wrestling will not be offered at this time.

## HOW CAN FAMILIES HELP?

- Ensure your child comes to school with a properly fitting mask each day (extra disposable masks are available).
- Review the school changes and discuss the importance and impact of following the safety protocols.
- Stay home if your child is sick or has cold or flu like symptoms.
- If your child is absent or leaving early, complete the [online absence report](#) or call the school
- Remind your child to bring their computer to and from school each day (if their class is part of the BYOLD program).

While our school and district commitment are to in person learning, we ask that families make tentative plans should your child's class or school be closed on a temporary basis. Good planning helps all of us manage challenging situations better.

Our goal is to offer an engaging basketball season to students and to do so safely. We expect the next few weeks to be disrupted by student and staff absences. Moving the basketball season will increase the chance that games and practices can proceed as scheduled.

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## POSSIBLE SCHOOL CLOSURES

1. **Health closure** of a school, which is determined by Fraser Health due to the COVID-19 case count in, or related to, a school.

2. **Functional closure** of a school, is determined by the school or school district due to a lack of staff to provide the required level of teaching, supervision, support, and/or custodial to ensure the health and safety of students.

This week, SD43 has worked with both CUPE and the CTA to make detailed plans to ensure that this is an option of last resort. Schools will deploy non enrolling teachers and district staff will be used to make every effort to keep classes open and safe. Some school services such as learning services, Challenge program, EAL and Band may be impacted.



## PROGRAMS OF CHOICE AND CROSS BOUNDARY APPLICATIONS

COVID has transformed many parts of the education system. **The process of applying to programs/ schools for September 2022 has also changed.** Planning for 2022/ 23 has now begun in earnest.

Please note:

- application timelines for programs of choice applications have been moved to **January**
- Grade 9 student tours and information sessions will be online.
- Program of choice information sessions are fully online and available now

More detailed information about each program and the process for applying can be found on the SD43 website.

- [Programs of Choice](#) application process
- [Montessori/ Late French Immersion virtual presentation link](#)
- [Cross Catchment](#) application process

### Sibling applications-

Parents must apply for a space in a program of choice for a younger child, even if there is an older sibling who will be at the same school in 22/23 in the same program. While a sibling is given priority for placement, space will not be available if an application has not been made.

**PROGRAMS OF CHOICE  
REGISTRATION HAPPENING SOON!**

**FRENCH IMMERSION  
MANDARIN BILINGUAL  
MONTESSORI  
REGGIO**

**Register Online!**

Application forms will be available online  
from January 6, 2022 9 am  
until January 12, 2022 4 pm

# January Monthly Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	4 School staff return to work	5	6 Programs of choice applications open online	7
10  Students return Same schedule  Band Program temp. postponed	11  Return signed report card or send email to the teacher confirming you have seen it.	12  Programs of choice applications open online at SD43.bc.ca	13	14 Black Shirt Day (commemorates Martin Luther King's Birthday)  Student Gov meeting 330pm Teams
17	18 Jersey Day show off your favourite sports team or your Monty team  Virtual PAC meeting 7pm	19	20	21 Monty Spirit Wear  Student Gov meeting 330pm Teams
24 School Based Professional Dev Day- No School	25	26	27	28 Monty Spirit Wear Montgomery is open and in session Student Gov meeting 330pm Teams Top 5 Competition (Virtual)

Please note that many schools have a pro d on January 28th, Montgomery will be in session. We have scheduled our school based pro d on a Monday to ensure that all staff are able to attend. This helps us implement the school goals and strategies that we learn in our pro d sessions.

## ***BLACK SHIRT DAY- Celebrated on Jan 14<sup>th</sup> at Montgomery.***

***On January 15th, thousands of students, educators, and citizens across British Columbia and Canada will wear black shirts in recognition of the struggle for civil rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians.***

***Commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Black Shirt Day is both a day of education and remembrance, and an invitation to a necessary conversation about racial justice.***

## SHARE FOOD BANK Donations...Thank you/ Merci

We would like to extend a thank you to every family that was able to help us fundraise for the Share Food Bank for the Christmas/ Winter Break. With the help of the Blue Team and their organization and promotion of the "Giving Tree" we were able to support the Share Food Bank. We are leaving the donation open for the month of January to give families the chance to contribute if they are able.

Direct donations of money have the biggest impact as the food bank can stretch the money donated and access food at a reduced cost as well as purchase items that are most needed.

[Click here](#) to access the Share Food Bank Donation Page

### Providing Food to Those Who Are in Need

The SHARE Food Bank provides direct food support to supplement the diets of hundreds of individuals and families each week in the Tri-Cities. We believe people should have access to healthy and nutritious food where they live and in a dignified manner.

Eligibility for Food Bank assistance includes those working, receiving income assistance, pensions or employment insurance and MUST be residents of the Tri Cities, Anmore or Belcarra. Food hampers are distributed at three locations every Wednesday.



### Monty Hoe Down

One of the many unique Monty traditions, is our annual Hoe (Ho) Down on the final afternoon of school before Christmas Break. This yearly line dance event is a highlight for many students and staff. It is also the culminating event following the PE dance unit.

While the Hoe Down was different this year, we were able to bring each team together in the gym. By using the stage, bleachers, and the gym floor we were able to have fun and do so safely. Unfortunately, the emergence of another variant has changed in person events.

A huge thank you to the Red team for your over-the-top decorations and enthusiasm. Many students were recognized for their energetic dancing and awesome outfits. Yee Ha!



### Candy Grams for Flood Relief



Prior to the break the Student Government organized Candy Grams for the entire school. Every student received a "gram" or positive note from another student along with a Candy Cane. Students could also buy extra "grams" to send to friends with the proceeds going to the Red Cross Flood Relief Campaign. We succeeded in raising over \$500 while also sending many positive feelings around the school. Well done everyone and a special thanks to the Student Government.

## PAC News and Events

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 18th, 2022 - 7:00pm – online**  
email [montymiddlepac@protonmail.com](mailto:montymiddlepac@protonmail.com) for a link.

### Welcome to our 2021/22 PAC Executive:

President: Danielle Nicholson

Treasurer: Kim Cameron

Secretary: Michelle Wong

District PAC Rep: Sabine Sengmueller

Members at Large: Manjit Herar, Christine Friend

Welcome to 2022! We hope you had a safe and fun Winter Break!

Every month our wonderful Principal Mrs. Husband puts together a slideshow of events that happened around the school in the last month. Join us and see what your kids have been up to! This month will be photos of the Hoe Down and other events.

Have empty pop, juice, or liquor bottles from your holidays? Drop them off at any Return-It location via Return-It Express. Enter in the school's phone number (604-939-7367), put the printed label on your bag of refundables, and the money will be credited to PAC!

Me & Ed's pizza night! Keep your eyes open for another pizza night in late February or early March. More details to follow in the next newsletter.

Thanks for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us at [montymiddlepac@protonmail.com](mailto:montymiddlepac@protonmail.com)

Danielle Nicholson and your PAC Executive

## DISTRICT NEWS

### Winter Weather and School Closures

Schools are not usually closed because of snow or other weather conditions. All schools in the Coquitlam School District will remain open, if possible, during winter weather, including snowfall.

Our schools are in very different climate zones from one another and there may be the need for **some** schools to be closed within SD43 while others remain open. If there is a partial closure of schools within the school district, these individual schools will be named. Full or partial school closures do not happen often.

Extreme weather can also change the transit bussing. Bus schedules may have changes or cancellations due to the weather conditions. Parents looking for information on public bus schedules need to consult the Translink website:

<http://www.translink.ca/>

Coquitlam School District school closures will be decided by 6:30 a.m. or earlier and will be announced on:

1. School District 43 website [www.sd43.bc.ca](http://www.sd43.bc.ca) and school website
2. Radio

CKNW	980am radio
CKWX	1130am radio
CBC	690am radio



**Please do not call the school.**

## DISTRICT NEWS

# JUMPSTART

*Creating bridges between English, Social Studies, Art, and life. No walls, no boundaries.*



**Are you a student who is:**

- always drawing, doodling or thinking visually all the time?
- excited to find connections between English, Social Studies, Art?
- interested in big ideas like freedom, identity, and independence?
- looking to express your learning in a diverse and new ways?
- keen to contribute to and take part in building a community?
- curious about the world and what makes people tick?
- wants to learn to create art that explodes with meaning?



**Then JumpstArt is where you belong!**  
**JumpstArt: thinking inside, outside, and around the box.**

*Please visit [jumpstartgleneagle.ca](http://jumpstartgleneagle.ca) and [gleneagle.org](http://gleneagle.org) for more information or to complete the online application .*