

MAPLE LANE NEWS

Newsletter #4

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Registration for Next Year - 2017-18

Kindergarten registration - families are now asked to register at our Central Registration site at the School Board Office on Granville and Minoru.

A list of document requirements is available at our school office and on the School District Website. There is a Chinese translation available as well.

Families wanting to transfer (in or out) must register their child at Central Registration first. Applications can then be made to the requested school starting Monday, January 9th.

From The Office

A Reminder...Parking Lot Before School

As you know, our parking lot can be a busy place before and after school. We ask that parents use the drop off lane to let students out of their car in the morning. Students should get out of their car using the doors on the passenger side so they don't step out into traffic. We also ask that parents do not park in the drop off lane before school and wait with their child(ren) in their vehicle until 8:30am when students are allowed to enter the school. If cars park in the drop off lane and wait until 8:30am, an unsafe situation for students is created as other cars have to park around waiting vehicles. Please stop in the drop off lane and let your child out of your car quickly and efficiently.

Flu and Cold Season

It is that time again - flu and cold season. Please help us by reminding your child to wash their hands regularly. Using soap and hot water is a great way to clean hands. The school is discouraging hand sanitizers because they are not good for your skin AND, when used widely in a classroom, fill the air with irritants that are affecting eyes and breathing. PLEASE do not send sanitizers to school: JUST REMIND YOUR CHILDREN TO WASH THEIR HANDS REGULARLY.

Around The School

GRADE 6/7 COED VOLLEYBALL

Our Grade 6/7 Volleyball Team had a fantastic season. The students enjoyed practices and excelled in game situations against Bridge, Brighthouse and Walter Lee schools. Without dedicated coaches, there would not have been a successful season. Thank-you to Mrs. Adjei-Achampong and Ms. Metcalf for volunteering many mornings and afternoons after school towards the grade 6/7 team.

Thank you! Thank you!



† To our PAC and to our parent community. At the November 2nd PAC meeting, the PAC gave us funds raised this year to purchase 7 wall mounted projectors to be placed in each of our classrooms. These projectors can be used as a powerful teaching and learning tool. Teachers can connect to the internet and display learning examples during instruction, and students can show what they have learned and created on iPads over the projector to the rest of the class. We are so lucky to have a supportive and hardworking PAC and parent community at Maple Lane.

Communicating Student Learning (Reporting)

On Tuesday, December 13th, term one reports will come home and you may notice that they look more concise than in previous years. One of the reasons for this is that the report card is meant to be a summary snap-shot of your child's learning. No one piece of paper can ever capture who your child is. But their portfolios, work, projects, and journals speak volumes as to who they are as a student, and it is this work that is the true communication of your child's learning, along with the conversations with their teacher.

With the Ministry making a shift in curriculum, there is also a shift in reporting and Richmond has begun this shift on report cards by making them more succinct. The Ministry of Education makes the following recommendations in order for us to move forward successfully with the new curriculum:

- Shift from "reporting" to "communicating student learning"
- Support meaningful communication between teachers, parents, and learners
- Report on core competencies and key areas of learning
- Focus on learning standards and big ideas in areas of learning (subjects)
- Enable ongoing communication (with provincial guidelines and supports)
- **Maintain formal, written summative reports at key times in the year**
- Use clear performance standards-based language

There is a greater move toward meaningful descriptions/collections/demonstrations of student learning.

Some information about report cards to help you talk with your child:

1. Teachers assess a child's progress based on the widely held expectations for children of that age. Letter grades for intermediate students and performance scales for primary students give parents an idea how their children are doing based on these criteria.
2. It is important to remember that children are all learning and progressing at their own rate. Some children may learn more quickly or easily than others. Some children take a longer time to learn. Teachers need to report on a child's current development. Both parents and teachers need to celebrate each child's progress and growth in learning.
3. Not all intermediate children will receive "A"s as letter grades on their report cards and for many children, this is not a realistic goal. For the many children, a C or C+ is a very good grade, especially if their effort is meeting their potential.

Here is a snapshot of what each letter grade means:



- A consistently excellent performance
- B consistently very good performance
- C+ consistently good performance
- C consistently satisfactory performance
- C- minimally meeting expectations



4. **When you and your child look at the report card, it is important to celebrate growth and improvement and to talk about areas for improvement in Term 2.**



SNOW DAYS - WHAT TO EXPECT: Snow days cause inconvenience for all of us.

Closing schools is a difficult decision for the school district – trying to weigh the safety of all with the repercussions for working families. To help assist families, we would like to outline what you can expect from us on a snow day. The following things will happen:

Schools will be OPEN unless conditions reach civic emergency proportions. **Radio announcements will only announce those schools that are CLOSED.** Most of these will be private schools. Listen to radio CKNW 980AM, NEWS 1130AM, CBC 690AM, QM 103.5FM or watch on television CBC, GlobalTV, City TV and CTV.

As well, you can get information other ways:

- the district's website
- all elementary schools' websites have a scrolling message along the top as necessary (i.e. on days which are questionable due to weather). The message will include a link back to the district's website containing detailed information.
- the snow closure hotline, (604) 295-4304, which will provide a recorded message indicating if schools are open or closed
- Twitter at RichmondSD38

Please do not phone the school. The administration will be too busy planning the day and will not be able to answer the phone.

- ❖ It may not be a regular school day as many students and teachers may be absent. If children do come to school, we will ensure that the children are cared for and are safe. Many alternate activities may be planned so that students who are absent will not miss any work.
- ❖ School will remain open until 3:00 pm and in the event that we have to close early, students will not be sent home without contacting parents first.

You have some choices:

1. Students are not required to attend school on a snow day if you feel that their safety or your own safety may be at risk (you may keep them home).
2. Make plans in advance for what you and your family will do on a snow day.
3. Children who come to school may be taking part in alternate activities.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at the school before a snow day.

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER: It is important that students are dressed for the weather. During these colder damp days, students need to have proper jackets, footwear, hats and gloves so that they can enjoy playing outside.

If it should snow, students should have extra clothing and boots or a dry pair of socks and shoes to change into if they want to play in the snow at recess and lunch.



The Maple Lane staff would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents for their support during our first term. Strong school-family connections and communication help our students be successful at school!

An extra special thank you to our Maple Lane PAC and volunteers for their hard work in making our school a great place to be!

*We wish all families a safe and happy holiday season!
See you in 2017!*



Dates to Remember

Monday, December 5 th	- ProD Day, no school for students
Tuesday, December 13 th	- Report Cards Go Home
Tuesday, December 13 th	- Maple Lane Christmas Concert: 1:30pm
Tuesday, December 13 th	- Grade 6/7 Band Concert: 6pm
Friday, December 16 th	- School Bowling Activity at Lucky 9 Lanes
Friday, December 16 th	- Hot Lunch Day
Friday, December 16 th	- Last Day of Term 1
Monday, December 19 th to January 2 nd	- Winter Break: Maple Lane is closed
Tuesday, January 3 rd	- School Reopens for Term 2
Tuesday, January 3 rd	- DARE begins for Grade 5 students
Friday, January 13 th	- Divisions 3, 4, 5, and 7 Skating
Friday, January 20 th	- Tea and Talk for Parents: 9am
Friday, January 27 th	- Talent Show

Richmond International Student Program

Interested in opening your home up for a rewarding experience....

The International Student Program allows overseas students to enter Grades 8 through 12 at selected secondary schools, and under certain circumstances, Kindergarten to Grade 7 at selected elementary schools in Richmond, Greater Vancouver. The program gives overseas students the opportunity to study alongside Canadian students in the BC public education system. As a Host Family, you will have an opportunity to welcome into your home, students from around the world. Your family will have a profound influence on the students' study abroad experience. Both your family and the students you host will ideally gain a mutual understanding and respect for each other's culture and world-view. In addition to economic remuneration, your reward will be the realization that your commitment to host international students will, in some small way, contribute to global understanding and world peace.

Each member of your family and your student will come to know each other in depth. Our Homestay program is the ideal setting for this type of experience. If you are interested in learning more about our hosting program please forward an e-mail for information.

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