

Maple Ridge Elementary School

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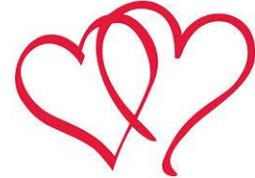
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February Newsletter

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Principal's Message

Looking back on January it seemed to fly by. Here we are, roughly at the mid-point of the school year already. This is the time of year when we spend a great deal of time looking at data from the first half of the year in hopes to inform our instruction and day-to-day practices for the second half. This data could include academic performance, social interactions and attendance figures just to name a few.

Our goal, along with yours, is to see improvement in every child from the beginning of the year to the end of the year in each of these areas along with many others. With everyone working together, including the individual student, this goal is certainly attainable.

It is an exciting time as we look forward to the second half of the year. It is also an important time of year that requires focus, hard work, and tons of encouragement if the results we desire are to be fully realized and achieved.

One big day that we have in February is our Primary Registration where we welcome students and families for next year. If you know of anyone that should have registered at this point please let them know there is still time, but not much. Registration is on February 6th and an appointment must be made at the main office with Ms. Blois.

The staff looks forward to another great month at Maple Ridge. Please take the time to talk with your child about the Virtue of Kindness this month. Many of the conversations that I have with students who have disagreements often focus on what it means to be kind. Physical altercations often start with someone being unkind and many times, students don't understand their role in these situations if they are the ones doing the talking.

Thank-you for your continued support,

Robin Isenor

Principal

Upcoming Dates to Remember

- Feb 2 P-2 Author Visit
- Feb 6 Primary Registration
- Feb 6 School Based Writing Assessment
- Feb 12 SAC and Home and School meetings
- Feb 15 Family Dance
- Feb 19 Family Day (no school)**

Virtue of the Month

Kindness

Kindness is showing you care.

Be thoughtful about people's needs.

When you are tempted to be cruel, to criticize or tease, decide to be **kind** instead.



School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next SAC meeting will take place on **Monday, February 12th from 6:00-7pm**. We are still looking for one community member to fill an empty seat. It would preferably be a non-parent where we have parent representation already but that is not mandatory. If you know of anyone that might be interested, please pass their name along to Mr. Isenor.

Home and School

Thank-you to everyone who was able to come out and support our last Family Movie Night. We hope to have another one towards the end of March but there will be more information to follow. We are having a **Family Dance on Thursday, February 15th from 6-7:30pm**.

Our next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday, February 12th. Anyone interested in lending a hand or offering ideas to our committee are more than welcome to attend.

Early Dismissal Reminder

There are times when school may be closed early due to weather conditions, power outages, etc. Here are some important reminders about these procedures.

- If an early dismissal is announced in the morning on the radio, CCRSB website, and other social media sources parents **will not** be notified. Typically an early dismissal means school will be closing 2 hours earlier than usual but it could also be only 1 hour earlier. This means students at MRE will be leaving at 11:50am or 12:50pm. **Please ensure that a note is sent in to indicate any change in bus routine to accommodate the early closure.**
- If a **2 hour** early dismissal is announced we **will not** be offering cafeteria service. Students will have a chance to eat a snack right before boarding the buses to go home so please feel free to pack an extra recess snack. Parents that have purchased lunch for that day will receive a storm coupon that can be used at a later date. **Cafeteria service will remain available for a 1 hour early dismissal.**
- In the case of an early closure that **is not** announced in the morning (ie. power outage) we will contact each parent/guardian to ensure that students arrive where they need to, safe and sound, before our buses leave the driveway. If we cannot get in touch with you and we have to send the buses, your child will remain at school with staff until we can reach someone to come pick them up.

School Based Writing Assessments

Students at MRE will be participating in writing assessments on Monday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 6th. This assessment will be looking at all aspects of writing with a focus on conventions (punctuation, etc.) as this is our main writing goal this year. Teachers will have a chance to evaluate and analyze the assessments to guide future instruction in the area of writing.

Primary Registration 2018-19

Primary Registration for the 2018-19 school year will be taking place on **Tuesday, February 6th**. If you have a child that will be turning 5 years old on, or before, December 31st 2018 you may contact the school (902-883-5361 ext. 103) to schedule an appointment time. **Please be sure to have a copy of your child's birth certificate and their Health Card number when you come for your appointment.** If you have any questions please give us a call.

Cafeteria News

- Please make sure that all money for lunches, whether they are daily or weekly orders, has your child's name, class, and lunch choice with it. If you do not have a lunch form, a piece of paper is fine as long as the information above is written on it.
- It is always a good idea to label lunch containers, lunch bags and water bottles. We are starting to collect a few items that have been left behind in the cafeteria and it is challenging to find their owners.