



Maple Ridge Elementary School

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March Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4



Principal's Message

The students and staff have been working hard the past couple of months since returning from holidays. Students have written a school-based writing assessment so that their teachers can see their progress with their writing and provide the necessary supports heading into the third and final term of the year. The staff is constantly collaborating and working together at each grade level to ensure we are doing all we can to see your child succeed academically.

Although we encourage students to work together and much of their time here at school is spent in working groups or pairs it is very important to assess, evaluate and promote individual improvement and understanding. These literacy assessments are one way for our students to show what they can do independently.

March will also see some added fun with Winter Carnival week and March Break. During our Winter Carnival Activity Day on Friday, March 15, Mr. Knowlton and I will be duct taped to the wall as a reward for the students doing such a great job on the Read-a-thon and surpassing their goal by doubling the amount of money that they had hoped to bring in. It is an important month academically also as March 18th will mark the beginning of Term 3. Term 2 report cards will come home on March 27th while our Parent/Teacher meetings will happen on March 28 and 29.

Thank-you for your continued support,

Robin Isenor

Principal

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The next SAC meeting will take place on **Monday, March 11th from 6:30-7:15 pm in the Meeting Room.** The meetings are open to all MRE parents to attend and gather information about what is happening here at MRE so please feel free to attend even if you are not a member of the committee.

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Mar 1	February Virtue Assembly
Mar 8	Eval./Assess. Day (No School)
Mar 11	SAC/Home and School meetings
Mar 11-15	Winter Carnival Week Activities
Mar 18-22	March Break
March 28	Evening Parent/Teacher Session (5:30-7:30 pm)
March 29	P/T Session and Staff PD (No School)

Virtue of the Month

Helpfulness

Helpfulness is being of service to someone. When you are being **helpful**, you do useful things that make a difference.

Helpfulness can be doing something that others cannot do for themselves.

Home and School

The next Home and School meeting will be held on **Monday, March 11th from 7:15 – 8pm**. Please feel free to join the group at any time and share any ideas that you may have to support a sense of community here at MRE. We are always looking for new ideas and parent involvement when it comes to our volunteer efforts.

Pancake Lunch

On Tuesday, March 5th students at MRE will be treated to a pancake lunch. The lunch will include a dish of fruit salad, pancakes, and a drink. We hope all of the students enjoy their lunch!

Winter Carnival Activities

During the week of March 11th-15th the staff and students will be participating in some activities during Winter Carnival week. Please see the schedule of events on the back of the newsletter for details of the events that are happening. As part of the activities during the week students will take part in a presentation from the Discovery Centre here at Maple Ridge. Every class will have an in-class presentation as well as a chance to explore the planetarium which will be set up in the gym over a two day period.

General Parent Information

Arrival Time for Students

The registration bell goes at 7:55am and the bell to start instruction rings at 8:00am. If you are dropping your child off in the morning it is very important that you arrive by 7:50am so that your child has time to get into the school, get changed, and prepare their things before the 8:00am bell.

Attendance Line

If your child is absent it is important that you leave some key information on the attendance line. Please be sure to leave your name, your child's first and last name, their class, and a reason why they are out. **We especially need to know if your child is home sick** in case we have a high number of students suffering from the same symptoms. We have an obligation to report high numbers of student absences, either in a particular class or the whole school, to the Department of Health. If we don't know the reason then we can't proactively deal with a potential situation.

Communication

Our website (mre.ccrce.ca) is a good source of information and will be updated as frequently as possible. We also have a Facebook account that you can receive immediate communication from.

Non-school days for students

A reminder that students will not be present at school on **Friday, March 8th** due to an evaluation/Assessment day for staff to work on upcoming Term 2 Report Cards. Also, **Friday, March 29th** will be our morning Parent/Teacher sessions along with Staff PD from 10:30-2:30 so students will not be present on this day.