

Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/chief-maquinna/Pages/default.aspx>

September 2022

We acknowledge that we live, work and learn on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

We wish to acknowledge the history of our neighborhood and community as we have all benefited from the richness of their teachings.

“The beginning is the most important part of the work”

- Plato

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2022-23 school year at Maquinna. We hope you had a great summer with some new adventures with family and friends. We look forward to a year of learning together and building community. We welcome your support and would like to work together for best student learning.

A warm welcome to all new families to Maquinna!

A new school year is a beginning: maybe a new grade, a new school, a new teacher or new friends. At our first assembly, we asked students to be open minded about: their learning, making new friends and trying new opportunities. We also asked them to always try their best and to be kind and respectful.

We hope the new school year will be more “normal” with all the great activities that are an important part of students’ learning and Maquinna traditions.

Best regards,

Ms. Joyce Chong

This newsletter has some updates as well as important school information. Please check your email (and junk/spam folder) daily for newsletters, updates and notices from the school/district.

This will be the only newsletter you will receive in physical copy. Newsletters will be emailed out regularly at the beginning of every month. You can also access a copy on the School Website [HERE – Newsletters](#). If there is important information to be shared, we will send out additional emails.

THIS IS AN IMPORTANT NOTICE. PLEASE HAVE SOMEONE TRANSLATE IT

這是一份重要通告，請找人為你翻譯。중요 공지 - 영어를 읽지 못하시는 분은 번역을 부탁드립니다.

INTRODUCTIONS AND FAREWELLS:

We welcome Ms. Aimee Williams as one of our Kindergarten teachers, Mr. Daniel McFaul who is job-sharing with Mrs. Biagoni this year in grade 3 as Mrs. Larosa is on maternity leave this year. Congratulations to Mrs. Larosa who welcomed a baby girl this summer! We also welcome Ms. Francesca Carbonneau as a Resource and Prep teacher. We said farewell to Mr. Milo Wu, our counsellor who is away for a year. We also welcome back Ms. Linda Lee who has been an SSA with the school this past year. Over the summer, we also said

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farewell to Ms. Melina Costantino and a welcome to Ms. Kelsey McCready, our new Youth and Family worker. We welcome back Ms. Dora Kwok in the Library.

CLASS PLACEMENT/ORGANIZATION:

We are now in our classes for the 2022/23 school year. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we waited to move into our new organization. Thank you for supporting your child by reassuring them that these decisions have been made with a great deal of thought and caring by the adults at the school and that they will soon settle into their new class.

VSB COMMUNICABLE DISEASE PREVENTION PLAN:

You should have received a welcome back letter on September 1st and a second letter with Covid=19 updates and health awareness information on September 2nd. The Ministry of Education and VCH have removed many of the Covid-19 protocols within schools and we have been able to resume many school activities that we had prior to Covid. We will continue to follow the Districts Communicable Disease Prevention plan (Sept, 2022) which can be found here: [VSB Communicable Disease Prevention Plan](#). This includes hand hygiene, health awareness, respiratory etiquette, and not sharing food. Wearing masks is a personal decision and is respected by all.

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT:

Please help us by having your child stay home at the first hint of any illness/symptoms. We will be sending any students who are ill home, without exception. Thank you for your help.

STUDENT SAFETY:

Safety is of paramount importance to us. These are a few requests from the school to families to keep everyone safe:

- Pick up and Drop off are done outside. Please wait with your young child outside. If you are late, please proceed to the office to sign in and get a late slip.
- If you are on school business, please be sure to sign in at the office when entering the school.
- Supervision before school starts at 8:40. Please do not drop your child off earlier.
- Supervision after school ends at 3:23. Please pick up before this time. If your child stays on school grounds, they must be **actively** supervised by you or another adult.
- Students who have not been picked up within 15 minutes of dismissal should report to the Office so that we may contact you or an emergency contact.
- We will not release your child to anyone other than those listed in Emergency contacts – please be aware of this when planning playdates or pick-ups by other families, friends or relatives. Please call the SAFE ARRIVAL line or email the teacher if you give permission for someone else to pick up your child that is not listed in your emergency contacts.

CAUTION – PARKING INFORMATION:

Safety is a major concern when children are coming to and going from school. Please exercise extreme caution when dropping off or picking up your child. Please review with your child the rules for crossing a road, looking both ways and not crossing between parked cars.

A reminder to all families that there is NO STOPPING OR PARKING on East 2nd or East 3rd Avenue as posted on city traffic signs. It is illegal to park or stop there. Illegal parking activity will be monitored, and information sent to the VPD traffic division. Please make use of our crossing guards located at the corner of 3rd and Slocan starting on September 26th. We ask that you do not drive or back into the staff parking lot as students

use the sidewalk to enter the school yard off of East 3rd Ave. This will ensure no child or adult is hurt during the busy morning drop offs and afternoon pick-ups. . Try to park a distance away and walk to the school to drop off your child or to pick up your child.

STUDENT CELL PHONES:

Please remind your child that no cellphones are to be used during the school day. They should be stored in backpacks or desks. Students needing to call home are always welcome to use school phones.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND OTHER FEES:

Please see attached for the Fee Schedule for the 2022-23 school year. More information will be coming with the FORMS package coming home next week. All VSB students receive their supplies throughout the school year with the \$35.00 fee charged. We encourage you to use the SchoolCashOnline.

FORMS, FORMS, FORMS

IMPORTANT FORMS WILL BE COMING HOME NEXT WEEK! A package of important paperwork (address, verification, emergency reunification, AUP, Social media consent forms and CASL forms etc.) will be sent home the week of September 19th. Please review these carefully and return them to the school as quickly as possible so our information is up to date. Thank you!

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE/EMAIL:

Please notify the school immediately if you change your address/phone number or email during the school year. Please ensure all contact information is current. We need all parents' email addresses as we would like to continue our environment sustainability program by reducing paper and photocopying ink.

VISITORS

Visitors on school business are welcome to come into the school using the school's front doors (East 2nd Ave.) We ask that you stop by the office to sign in so we are aware of who is in the building. All other doors will remain locked for safety.

SAFE ARRIVAL:

Reminder: please call the Safe Arrival Line for absences, late arrivals, appointments, and early pick-ups. Thank you for letting the office know at (604) 713-4705, select 1 for Safe Arrivals or email the office at maqsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca.

SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT/AUP

Please review with your child the School Code of Conduct found in your child's agenda. A digital copy is found on our school website: [HERE - Code of Conduct](#). It is a document that governs student expectations and behaviour, that we follow carefully. Also, it is important for families to review the Acceptable Use of Technology policy found [HERE-AUP](#)

HELP WANTED: Maquinna PAC needs volunteers for Pizza days on Friday mornings throughout the months of October to December. Please email the PAC at maquinna.school.pac@gmail.com if you have some time to volunteer.

MAQUINNA CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Ms. Plant and Mrs. Lougheed have started practices for Cross Country. The practices are on Monday afterschool until 4:00 and at 8:15 on Friday mornings. Please see your child's consent form for more information about Meets.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 19 – National Day of Mourning – No school

Sept 21 – Professional Day – No school for students

Sept 23 – Terry Fox Run and Assembly – 9:05 a.m. – Starts in Gym – All Welcome

Sept 28 – Meet the Teacher Night and PAC meeting (More information to come)

Sept 29 – Orange Shirt Day Assembly 9:05 a.m. – in Gym – All Welcome

Sept 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No School

Oct 4 – Individual Photo day – Artona (Retakes on Nov 1/22)

Please join us for Friday Assemblies usually held every Friday at approximately 9:05 a.m. You are welcome to enter through the Green GO door in the undercover area or the front door on East 2nd. Please sign in at the office. Parent/Family seating is at the back of the gym on the right.

A message from PAC

Pizza Day Lunch Fundraiser - Fridays

The PAC will be offering Pizza day again on most Fridays starting in October and running to December. A paper order form will be sent home on Friday, September 16th. Deadline for order is September 29th. No late orders will be accepted.



PAC Meeting:

The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 28th and will be combined with the Meet the Teacher evening starting at 5:30 pm. Please save the date as there are more details to come.

Any guardian can attend the meetings, and it is okay to just listen in. We always have an update from the principal about how things are going at school, we decide on how to spend fundraised dollars to support the student's educational needs, and we sometimes talk about policies to bring forward to other parent advisory councils to improve the student experience.

We will be holding elections and there are opportunities for a position on the PAC. We are also searching for a class parent in each classroom to help with communication. It is a great way to meet other families and to be connected with what's happening at Maquinna. Please consider joining and taking a position on the Parent Advisory Committee. Thank you for your ongoing support. Maquinna School PAC

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