

# Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

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

## September 2024

*With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliwətal (Tseil-Waututh Nation).*

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2024-5 school year at Maquinna! We hope you had a wonderful summer with some great adventures with family and friends. We look forward to a great year of learning together and building community. The staff and I welcome your support and would like to work together to provide the best learning for your child.

A very warm welcome to new Maquinna families!

At our first assembly, we asked students to:

- be open minded about their learning, to making new friends, accepting others as they are, and trying new things.
- always try their best and to keep trying, especially if it is hard.
- always be kind and respectful in what they say and what they do.
- be honest and to own their mistakes and to move forward

We ask families to review the Maquinna Code of Conduct which can be found in their agendas or on the school website. Thank you.

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 a 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 못하는 분은 번역을 부탁드립니다**

### INTRODUCTIONS AND FAREWELLS:

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Emily Truong who will be job-sharing with Ms. Carmen Huang. Welcome back, Mrs. Truong! We are sad in saying farewell to Mrs. Celeste Larosa, who was Mrs. Meghan Biagioni's job-share partner. Ms. Anne Van will be in the classroom with Mrs. Biagioni's class on Th/Fri.

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We also said farewell to Ms. Michelle de Groot, Ms. Elaine McGinty, Ms. Manbir Gill, and Ms. Tyler Radcliffe, our Student Support Workers.

### CLASS PLACEMENT/ORGANIZATION:

We are now in our classes for the 2024/25 school year. Thank you for your understanding and patience while we waited to move into our new classes. Thank you for supporting your child by reassuring them that these decisions have been made with a great deal of thought and care by the adults at the school and that they will soon settle into their new class and everything will feel more comfortable. Modelling a positive attitude for your child will help them settle more quickly and support the relationship that is built between teacher and student and family.

### 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. 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 first entering the school.
- Supervision before school starts at 8:35. Please do not drop your child off earlier.
- Supervision after school ends at 3:18. 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 (604-713-4705 – Choose 1) or email the teacher if you give permission for someone else to pick up your child that is not listed in your emergency contacts. The line is open 24/7.

### KEEPING EVERY STUDENT SAFE: PARKING INFORMATION:

Safety is a major concern when children are coming to and from school. The roads and sidewalks can be busy places with students, families, bicycles and buggies. 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. **Please do not enter the staff parking lot for any reason.** Please do not walk through or ride a bike through the parking lot.

A reminder to all families that there is NO STOPPING OR PARKING on East 2<sup>nd</sup> or East 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue on the side of the school, as posted on city traffic signs. It is illegal to park or stop there. Please park on the opposite side of the road and walk your child inside the school. We would rather you be late, than unsafe. Thank you.

Please make use of our crossing guards located at the corner of East 3<sup>rd</sup> and Slocan starting on September 24<sup>th</sup>. They will help your child to cross the street safely. We ask that you follow the traffic signs and do not park near the cones set up for safety. Also, U-turns on East 3<sup>rd</sup> to avoid the potholes causes traffic to build and is a dangerous practice. This will ensure no child or adult is hurt during the busy morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups.

### 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 and do not come out during the school day. Please see the revised Cell Phone Policy attached to the email. It is now a part of our School Code of Conduct. Students needing to call home are

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always welcome to use school phones. If there is something important to communicate to your child, please call the office (604)-713-4705. We will continue to learn and use technology using school iPads and laptops. Thank you for keeping the classroom a “distraction free” place of learning.

## **FORMS, FORMS, FORMS AND SCHOOLCASHONLINE:**

**IMPORTANT FORMS HAVE BEEN SENT HOME:** A package of important paperwork (address, verification, emergency reunification, AUP, Social media consent forms and CASL forms, Neighbourhood walk forms, PAC Lunch fundraisers, etc.) have been sent home with each child. Please review these carefully, sign, and return them to the school as quickly as possible so our information is up to date. The consent forms can also be completed online at <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/>. These forms help us with student safety and urgent contact information.

Please pay School Fees for 2024-25 on SchoolCashOnline. Please register an account if you are new to Maquinna. Please call the office if you need assistance with your account. We prefer no cash at the school for many reasons. \* Please note there is an additional \$14 for new Book Bags for Kindergarten and new primary students are able to purchase one at the office if they are interested as most students have them.

## **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 environmental 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.) We ask that you stop by the office to sign in so we are aware of who is in the building at all times.

## **SAFE ARRIVAL:**

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](mailto:maqsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca). Mrs. Mah will try to contact you if your child is absent and it has not been reported to the office. If you inform the classroom teacher, please also let the office know.

## **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, which we follow carefully. It outlines expected behaviour, possible consequences and aligns with the District Code of Conduct. It is also important for families to review the Acceptable Use of Technology policy found [HERE-AUP](#). New families will have a written copy to sign and is in their student package.

**HELP WANTED:** Maquinna PAC needs volunteers for Pizza days on Friday mornings throughout the months of September to December and on alternate Wednesdays for Hot Dog days. Please email the PAC at [maquinna.school.pac@gmail.com](mailto:maquinna.school.pac@gmail.com) if you have a few hours to volunteer on these days.

## MAQUINNA CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

Ms. Plant, Ms. Aimee and Mrs. Lougheed have started practices for Cross Country. Please see your child's consent form for more information about Meets and practices. Grades 2-7 students are able to participate. An additional District letter is attached to this email with important information.

## BACKPACK BUDDIES PROGRAM

Backpack Buddies supports the weekend hunger gap. Many children who come from food-insecure homes rely heavily on school meal programs. However, over the weekend these children may not eat at all until school starts again on Monday. Or their parents may forgo meals so their kids can eat. This is what we call the "weekend hunger gap." Backpack Buddies addresses this crisis by providing kids with bags of kid-approved meals and snacks every Friday to last them the weekend and beyond. **NOTE:** These are the bags filled with non-perishable snacks that come to our school on Thursdays and are distributed in the undercover area. There is a more limited supply of bags this year. If you are interested in this program, please let Ms. Chong know. Thank you

## STUDENT INSURANCE:

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below;

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

[www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com](http://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com)

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan - Group insurance

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 19 – Individual photo day for students and staff (Retakes on Oct 4)

**Sept 20 – Professional Day – No school for students**

Sept 25 – Meet the Teacher Night and PAC meeting (More information to come)

Sept 27 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Assembly 9:05 a.m. – in Gym – All Welcome

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

Oct 1 – Terry Fox Run and Assembly – 9:05 a.m. – Starts in Gym – All Welcome

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 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please sign in at the office. Parent/Family seating is at the back of the gym on the right.

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*A message from PAC*

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## **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 was sent home this week with your Student Forms package. Deadline for order is September 18<sup>th</sup>. **No late orders will be accepted.**

## **PAC Meeting:**

The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> and will be combined with the Meet the Teacher evening. 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 the Maquinna community. 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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