

Chief Maquinna Elementary Newsletter

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

September 2025

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the 2025-26 school year at Maquinna! We hope you had a wonderful summer with great adventures and time spent with family and friends. We look forward to a great year of learning together and building community. The staff and I welcome your collaboration to support your child's learning this year.

A very warm welcome to new Maquinna families!

It's been great to see old friends and meet new ones during the first week of September. Grades 1-7 students have been working on:

- Reviewing the 3 R's of our School Code of Conduct: Respect yourself, Respect Others and Respect this Place
- Our Brains and calm down strategies
- Problem-solving (4 Steps and WITS program)

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Best regards,
Ms. J. 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 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.

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. If there is important information to be shared, updates will be sent via email.

Maquinna PAC has some important information regarding fundraising in the Maquinna PAC section of the newsletter (see below).

INTRODUCTIONS AND FAREWELLS:

We would like to welcome Ms. Liu who will be teaching Kindergarten with Mrs. Olding this year. We also welcome Ms. Lo and Ms. Douglas, our two new Resource Teachers. We welcome back Ms. Louise, classroom teacher, and Ms. Marina, Student Support Worker. Sadly, we said farewell to Mr. Coblenz (PHE), Ms. Claudia and Mrs. Lougheed in June.

CLASS PLACEMENT/ORGANIZATION:

We have moved into classes for the 2025/26 school year. Thank you for your understanding and patience. Your classroom teacher may have reached out already to introduce themselves. We ask that you support your child by reassuring them that these decisions are 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 (DROP OFF AND PICK UP INFORMATION):

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 in designated areas for each class. 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 come into the school, please be sure to sign in at the office.
- Supervision before school starts at 8:40 for morning drop off and ends at 3:18 for pick-up. Supervision is only for student arrivals and pick-ups and not for the playground. Please do not drop your child off earlier than 8:40 a.m. and please pick up promptly at 2:58 pm. If your child stays on school grounds after 3:00, they must be **actively** supervised by you or another adult.
- Students who have not been picked up within 10 minutes of dismissal are brought to the Office so that we may contact you or an emergency contact for pick-up.
- We will not release your child to anyone other than those listed in **Emergency** contacts – please be aware when planning playdates or pick-ups by other families, friends or relatives. Please call the SAFE ARRIVAL line (604-713-4705 – Choose 1), talk to Mrs. Mah, or email the teacher if you have someone else picking up your child that is not listed in your emergency contacts. The line is open 24/7.

KEEPING EVERY STUDENT SAFE: PARKING AND TRAFFIC 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. A reminder to all families to follow all traffic signs posted around the school. Also, U-Turns are illegal on any of the roads surrounding the school. Your assistance with safety will ensure no child or adult is hurt during the busy morning drop-offs and afternoon pick-ups.

Please do not enter the staff parking lot for any reason. Please do not walk through or ride a bike through the parking lot. Please do not back into the parking lot to turn your car around. You may hit someone on the sidewalk.

Please respect our crossing guards located at the corner of East 3rd and Slocan. They are our Grade 6 and 7 students. 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 student safety.

“NO WHEELS” POLICY ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

A reminder that the VSB has a policy of “NO WHEELS” (bicycles, skateboards, scooters) on school property. When you get to school grounds, get off your “wheels” and walk it to a safe place to park. Drop off and pick up times are extremely busy where bicycle stands are located.

STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL:

Please see the attachment for our Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol – in the event of a student making a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community. The school may initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process.

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 which is part of our School and District Code of Conduct, attached to the email. Students needing to call home are always welcome to use school phones. If there is something important to communicate to your child, please call the office (604)-713-4705. They can be a distraction during instruction. 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 TO BE 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.) will be sent home with each child soon after we move into our new classes. 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/>. Please indicate on the Forms Instruction page that they have been completed online. These forms help us with student safety and urgent contact information.

Consent forms in your package:

- AUP – Acceptable use policy for technology (K-3 and 4-7)
- CASL – consent to receiving VSB and School information, newsletters, updates, emails.
- Neighbourhood walk – class walks within 10-15 minutes from the school
- Social Media (2 forms):
 - o Within VSB
 - o External

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 you may purchase a “Maquinna Book Bag” for \$18.00 at the office. Many of our Kindergarten students use them for Kindergarten to grade 3.

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.

SAFE ARRIVAL:

Please call the Safe Arrival Line (604) 713-4705, (select 1 for Safe Arrivals) for any absences, lates, appointments, and early pick-ups. You can also email the information to magsafearrival@vsb.bc.ca. The Safe Arrival Program ensures every child is accounted for on a daily basis. Mrs. Mah will call home if we do not know why your child is absent.

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. 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 in their student information package.

DONALD'S MARKET FUNDRAISER: PLEASE READ

For the month of September, Maquinna PAC will receive ten cents for every re-usable bag that customers bring to carry home their groceries. Please support this fundraiser by shopping at Donald's Market (Hastings Street) and bringing a re-usable bag(s) to carry home your groceries! This applies to any customer. Please spread the word.

HELP WANTED:

Maquinna PAC is seeking 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 if you have a few hours to volunteer on these days.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept 18 – Individual photo day for students and staff (Re-takes on Oct 17)

Sept 19 – Professional Day – No school for students

Sept 22 – Safer Space Presentation for Maquinna Families (Library) – Digital Safety for your Children at 6:00 pm in the library – All Welcome

Sept 24 – Open House/Meet the Teacher/PAC Pizza fundraiser and PAC meeting night. 5:00 pm – All Welcome – more information to come. (PAC meeting at 6:00 pm)

Sept 29 – 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 for students/staff

Oct 3 – Terry Fox Run and Assembly – 9:05 a.m. – Starts in Gym – All Welcome

Oct 8 and 9th – Goal Setting conferences with Classroom Teacher – Early Dismissal at 2:00 pm.

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. Parent/Family seating is at the back of the gym on the right side.

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 with your Student Forms package. **REMINDER: No late orders will be accepted.**

MABEL's LABELs Fundraising (prevent lost items):

The Chief Maquinna Parents Advisory Committee has partnered with Mabel's Labels to raise funds for the school! Mabel's Labels provides durable personalized labels for all of your kid's stuff (backpacks, shoes, lunch boxes, water bottles, clothes, etc!) that are dishwasher, microwave, and laundry safe. They offer free shipping throughout Canada



and the US, and the labels are delivered right to your door. This fundraiser is on-going, so you can order anytime - there is no deadline! That said, now is the perfect time to stock up on labels for the new school year.

To order your labels and support the school PAC at the same time, visit: <https://mabelslabels.ca/fundraising/support> and enter 'Chief Maquinna' in the search bar and navigate to the school's fundraising page. If you accidentally visit their regular website instead, mabelslabels.com, you can still credit the school by hitting the "Support a Fundraiser" link in the top right of the screen. All credited orders generate 20% in commission for the school!

While you browse the site, check out the 'Logo Label Pack' combo that includes Chief Maquinna's custom labels with the school's new sports logo, The Maquinna Dragons!



Go to campaigns.mabelslabels.com
and choose our school from the list!

PAC Meeting:

The next PAC meeting will be on Wednesday, September 24th and will be combined with the Meet the Teacher evening. Please save the date as there are more details to come. There will also be a pizza fundraising dinner opportunity and a survey link to determine numbers for ordering will be sent shortly.

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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