



MACCORKINDALE NEWSLETTER

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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 back, everyone!

I am thrilled to welcome you all to a new school year at MacCorkindale. It is my pleasure to be back for my second year as your principal.

We kicked off the year with our first assembly on Wednesday, and it was wonderful to see so many familiar faces as well as some new ones. I am excited to introduce a few new staff members who have joined us this year. Ms. Yan is our new Intermediate Resource Teacher, Ms. Sian is our new part-time Prep and Resource Teacher, and we are delighted to welcome back Ms. Tsai, who will be covering a maternity leave. Additionally, Ms. DiFrancesco has joined us as our new area counsellor, and Ms. Melanie is our new SSA. We are still finalizing staffing for our Grade 7 classroom and are fortunate to have Mr. Charlton start the year off with us. During the assembly, I had the pleasure of reading a book by Ben Gundersheimer titled "We'll Make Things Better Together." It was a great way to start the year, emphasizing the importance of collaboration and community.



We have been given the green light to move to our new classes from the district. The plan is to have students return to their current classes on Monday and we will move to new classes after morning attendance has been taken.

As we embark on this new school year, I encourage you to engage actively in your child's education journey. Communication between the school and home is essential, and it truly takes a community to educate a child. Let's work together to create a supportive and enriching environment for our students.

Looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

Daily Schedule

The daily school hours:



Warning Bell: 8:55 am
School start: 9:00 am
Recess: 10:30–10:50 am
Lunch: 12:10–12:55 pm
End of Day: 2:58 pm

Digital Device Use

We understand that parents need to stay in communication with their child(ren). However, cell phone use is not permitted during the school day, **unless it is under the direct supervision of a staff member**. Students have been asked to keep their devices on silent in their backpacks during the school day. If there is a need to make an important phone call, students can make the call using our office phone during the school day. We want to protect the educational environment of our students. We ask that parents support the school on this matter as we ensure that our students stay safe and are enjoying a healthy lifestyle by playing and socializing face to face during our recess and lunch breaks. Parents may be asked to pick up personal digital devices if they are used without prior adult permission.



Class Placements

At MacCorkindale, our staff takes great care in organizing students into classes for the new school year. In designing our new classes, the staff works together to build classroom communities that reflect all that we have learned about your child. The guiding principle in the placement of students and the organization of classes is to enhance the learning of each child within the larger context of the needs of all children. This is not an easy task. MacCorkindale staff invests a great deal of time and thought into this process.



Placement in a combined class does not reflect in any way your child's academic ability. Placement in a combination class at the lower grade does not mean that your child will cover the curriculum of the upper grade or receive an advanced program. The same holds true for a student who is in the upper end of a split class- your child does not receive a non-advanced program because students from a lower grade are in the same classroom; nor will your child be academically penalized by being placed into the combination class, rather than a straight class. Our teachers do an excellent job of placing all students.

2024-25 General School Fees & Other Fees



The Vancouver School Board will continue its service of purchasing basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and passing the cost savings on to families. The School Supply Fee for 2024- 2025 will remain at \$35.00 per student. This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Teachers may ask for specific items for their division/class.

School CashOnline Payment Information

All payments collected by the school are done online on the School Cash Online platform. Information regarding paying fees and how to get set up on School Cash Online can be found here:

<https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/schoolcashionline.38cf0a28294.pdf>

To pay all fees including school fees, fieldtrip costs required by the classroom teacher, please wait for an email from the School Cash Online system indicating that collection of fees has started.

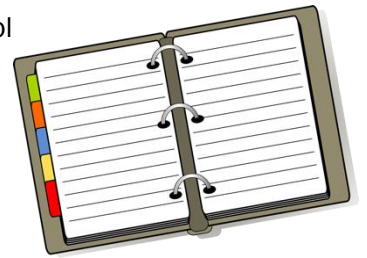
School Forms

The school board has transitioned to online forms. Students will be bringing home a smaller package of forms in the next couple of weeks. Please ensure that all information on the Student Verification Form and reunification form is **current and correct**. Also, remember that if there are changes to telephone numbers and emergency contact numbers, please **inform the office immediately** for your child's safety. Information such as school fees, internet use and other important information will also be provided. Please take a close look at each document and return the ones that require signatures to the school as soon as possible.

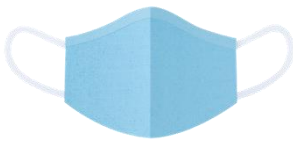


Student Agenda/Planner

Students at MacCorkindale will be using an agenda/planner in most grades K-7. School agendas/planners are a valuable tool for teaching children how to organize and plan for school. While students are not required to have an agenda/planner it is designed to assist students with the skills of organization and time management and is a very useful communication tool often used between teachers and families. This year, the PAC has covered the cost of student agendas. Thank you PAC!



Health Protocols



Wearing masks continues to be a personal choice in the school. We will be following handwashing protocols throughout the day. Please ensure you keep your child home if they are ill. We will be sending any students who are ill home without exception.

Recess and Lunch Time

Students across all grades will be outside for a 20 minute and a 45-minute leisure/play time each day. Every day is an outside day, with the exception if there is an extreme weather situation. It is important that students are dressed appropriately for outside play. If their clothes become wet and cold, it is very difficult for them to focus on learning throughout the day. Please ensure that your child is dressed for outside play. Consider sending extra clothes for your child as a change.



Lunches



Lunches will continue to be eaten in classrooms at a designated time scheduled by the classroom teacher. Please remember to send utensils as needed, and a water bottle to school, so your child can fill it up at our fill station. If a student forgets their lunch and you need to drop it off, please bring it to the school, labelled with your child's name, to be placed on the lunch drop-off table in the hall by the office. We will either call your child to the office or deliver it close to lunch time.

Visitors

We will be happy to meet with you at any time, however, appointments are appreciated and encouraged. The office is a busy place, knowing you are coming will help us create a safe, welcoming space for all. For the safety of our students, all visitors must sign in at the office. Students will continue to be dismissed from outside school doors.



Safe Arrival

Reporting Student Absences:

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be late or absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents can call the office number at **604-713-4775**, you may call any time, 24 hours a day. Messages are checked in the morning. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine. If you are coming in late, please report to the office to sign-in and receive a late slip.

Student Sign Out Procedure

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child or notify the classroom teacher, they/she/he will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a "missing" student and will commence a search of the school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches. Thank you for helping us keep your child(ren) safe!

Extended Absences

We encourage all students to attend school consistently, on time, every day. However, we understand that there will be times where an extended absence is unavoidable. In the case of an extended absence, please provide written notification to the school office. All extended absences in excess of 20 school days should be discussed with the Principal. Enrolment cannot be guaranteed if an absence exceeds 20 consecutive school days.

Early Pick Up

Please let your child(ren)'s classroom teacher know when your child will be picked up early. Please inform the office and sign out your child. The office staff will phone the classroom to let the teacher know to send your child to the office once you have arrived.

Students with Medical Conditions

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform/update the school each year if your child has a medically diagnosed, life-threatening health condition. If your child requires medication, please bring it to the office as soon as possible and complete the necessary forms in the office. In addition, please complete and update the emergency contact/medical information forms which will be sent home later in September.



MacCorkindale Traffic Guidelines

Please be reminded that the safety of children is our primary concern. We ask that you please:

- Follow all the parking and stopping rules posted
 - o No parking allowed in front of the school as signs state, just drop-off
 - o Quick drop off and pick-up on the school side of the street ONLY
 - o Do not make illegal turns near the school
 - o Refrain from parking or stopping anywhere that is prohibited

- Use walkways; avoid walking through the parking lot for safety reasons.



We appreciate the efforts of drivers who follow these instructions for Battison Street and therefore working with the school to ensure a safe arrival and departure for each student every day. Thank you!

Terry Fox Run

This year marks the 44th Anniversary of the Marathon of Hope and MacCorkindale Elementary is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest Canadian heroes, Terry Fox. This year's event will take place at the end of September. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



Important Dates

Friday, September 20	Professional Day (Staff Only- No school for students)
Monday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School closed)
Tuesday, September 24	PAC meeting
Friday, September 27	Be Your Best Assembly



Planning Ahead

Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday
Wednesday, October 16	Individual Photo Day
Thursday, October 17	Great Shakeout
Wednesday, October 23	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 24	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Friday, October 25	Professional Development Day (Staff Only- No school for students)
Tuesday, October 29	Grade 6 Immunizations



PAC News

Dear Maccorkindale Elementary Community,

Welcome back from summer break! We hope you had a restful and enjoyable vacation. As we dive into a new school year, we want to remind you of the vital role our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) plays in supporting our students and enriching their educational experience.

We are currently in need of enthusiastic volunteers to help with the PAC. Your involvement is crucial for us to continue running effective programs and raising funds that benefit our children.

Please join us for our PAC Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday, September 24, from 7-8 PM in the school library. This meeting is essential as we will be electing a new PAC executive team, including positions for a Secretary, Treasurer, Chair/Co-Chairs, and Vice Chair. We are also looking for a Fundraising Lead. Your participation is important, and we encourage you to attend and contribute to these key decisions.

If you are interested in any of these roles or have any questions, please reach out to us at pac.maccorkindale@gmail.com. Your support and involvement make a significant difference in our school community.

Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you at the AGM!

The PAC Executive Team