



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) & səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Welcome back MacCorkindale community!

Can you believe it's already September? Summer seemed to fly by, and here we are kicking off another exciting school year! On Wednesday, we started strong with our first assembly, bringing together staff and students to prepare for the year ahead.



A special warm welcome goes out to our new students and staff- we're so glad you're here and can't wait to get to know you. We know everyone is eager to move into their new classes. We have been given the green light from the district, to move to our new classes next week. Students will **RETURN TO THEIR CURRENT CLASSES** on Monday and we will move to new classes after morning attendance has been taken. At the end of the day all students, Grades 1-7, will be dismissed from the Basketball Court, [please meet your child at this location](#).

As we begin this new school year, I encourage you to stay actively engaged in your child's learning journey. Strong communication between school and home makes a world of difference. Together, we can build a caring, supportive, and inspiring environment for every student.

Here's to a fantastic year ahead full of learning, growth and community spirit!

Staffing Update

We have a few changes in our MacCorkindale community to share with you:

- We say goodbye to **Ms. Katz**, who has moved on from our school—we wish her all the best.
- A warm welcome to **Ms. Kowa**, our new Kindergarten teacher!
- We are also excited to welcome **Ms. Angelica**, **Ms. Jamie**, and **Ms. Kathrine** as new Student Support Workers (SSAs).
- Our new Area Counsellor is **Mr. Tommy Paley**.
- **Ms. Takher** and **Ms. Yeung** have returned from maternity leave—welcome back!
- After many years of care and dedication, our supervision aide **Ms. Karen** has retired. While we wait to fill the position, **Ms. Janet** and **Ms. Vy** will be sharing the role.
- **Ms. Prince** and **Ms. Dubois** will continue to cover for **Ms. Yan** during her maternity leave.
- We are also thrilled that **Ms. Tsai** is returning as a permanent member of our MacCorkindale community.

We are so grateful for the contributions of all staff—past, present, and new—and look forward to another great year together.

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



Class Placements

At MacCorkindale, our staff takes great care in organizing classes each year, working together to create balanced learning communities that support every child. This process is thoughtful and thorough, with the goal of enhancing learning for all students.



Placement in a combined class is not a reflection of academic ability. Students in the lower grade will not receive an advanced program, and students in the upper grade will not receive a reduced program. All students cover the curriculum for their grade level, and no child is academically disadvantaged by being in a combined class. Our teachers are committed to ensuring every placement supports student success.

2025-26 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 2025-2026 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 district uses online forms. Students will be bringing home a smaller package of forms in the next couple of weeks. Parents/Guardians are asked to complete the following forms during the first 2 weeks of the school year.

1. Reunification Form (Distributed to students)
2. Personal Information Verification Form (Distributed to students);
3. Log on to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> to complete the following forms:
 - a. VSB Internal Media Consent
 - b. Student AUP- Acceptable Use Policy
 - c. External Use Media Consent
 - d. CASL- Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation
 - e. Neighbourhood Walk



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.

Safe Arrival

Reporting Student Absences:

Student safety is a top priority, and we all share in that responsibility. If your child will be late or absent, please call the school office at 604-713-4775 as early as possible — messages can be left anytime, and are checked each morning. Consistent reporting helps us ensure a smooth and safe morning routine. Students arriving late must check in at 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. Office staff will let the teacher know to send your child to the office once you have arrived.

Student Agenda/Planner

Most students at MacCorkindale will be using an agenda/planner this year. Agendas help children develop organization and time-management skills, while also serving as a useful communication tool between home and school. Thanks to the PAC, the cost of agendas has been fully covered—thank you, PAC!



Recess and Lunch Time

Students across all grades will be outside for 2 x 20 minutes 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



This year we are piloting “Play First, Eat After,” where students play outside before eating lunch in their classrooms. The first week has been a great success—students are lining up well, washing hands, and eating calmly at their desks. Please remember to send utensils and a water bottle. If your child forgets their lunch, drop it off at the office table **labeled with their name**; we’ll call them or deliver it at lunchtime.

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.



Health Protocols



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.

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 45th 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 on Friday, September 26. More information will be provided in the coming weeks.



Optional Insurance Coverage

Ahead of the upcoming school year, we would like to share that the VSB is once again offering parents the ability to purchase voluntary student accident insurance plans if they choose. These plans offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The two companies offering this coverage are Insuremykids and Industrial Alliance (The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan). These plans are ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Families can find more information and register online to purchase and participate in any of these insurance plans by using the URL provided here:

<https://insuremykids.com/schoolresources/>
<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com>

Important Dates

Friday, September 19	Professional Day (Staff Only- No school for students)
Tuesday, September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (School closed)
Tuesday, September 23	PAC meeting
Friday, September 26	Terry Fox Run
Friday, October 3	Be Your Best Assembly



Planning Ahead

Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving Day Statutory Holiday
Wednesday, October 15	Individual Photo Day
Wednesday, October 15	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 16	Early Dismissal at 1:58 p.m. for Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thursday, October 16	Great Shakeout
Friday, October 24	Professional Development Day (Staff Only- No school for students)
Wednesday, October 29	Grade 6 Immunizations
Friday, October 31	Be Your Best Assembly



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 23, from 6:30-7:30 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. 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