

September, 2018

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

**Dear Parents and Guardians of École Mission Central Elementary students:**

This week we welcome back our former students and those students, parents, and staff new to École Mission Central Elementary School. École Mission Central Elementary is an incredibly diverse community school. I am very excited to have the opportunity to work with the families, students and staff.

This year, we welcome to our teaching staff, Mme. Anais St. Laurent as our Grade 3/4 French Immersion teacher, Ms. Ashley Robinson as our Grade 4/5 teacher, and Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton as our Learning Support Teacher.

This year, we are encouraging parents to use School Cash Online to pay for school activity fees and planners. You can sign up at <https://mpsd.schoolcashionline.com>. We welcome families to explore the school's [new website](#) where we will be sharing updated school information and exciting events and activities happening at École Mission Central. You can locate our school on the district's website [www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca).

In order for us to contact you in case of an emergency, we would like to make sure that we have your families' updated contact information. Therefore, if you have changed your email or phone number, please contact the office at 604-826-1414 so that Mrs. Godley can update your child's information. This week, students will be bringing home six permission forms. Please read them carefully, sign them, and return them to the school. These permission forms will remain valid while your child attends École Mission Central.

The first week or two are always extremely busy, but I want to invite all parents to drop in for a chat when you have the time. When wishing to speak to me, it is best to phone ahead to arrange an appointment time. There may be other times I will be too busy in a variety of things to meet with you right away, therefore, the next best way to reach me is via email, and I encourage you to email me anytime at [andrew.merry@mpsd.ca](mailto:andrew.merry@mpsd.ca). Do not hesitate to say hello! As a staff, we are looking forward to the many new experiences and adventures we will pursue with your children this year.

Mr. Andrew Merry

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## Upcoming School Events

Tuesday, Sept. 4	School opens: Dismissal at 11:00 a.m.
Thursday, Sept. 6	Newsletter home
Friday, Sept 14	Cops for Cancer Tour Stop Assembly - 1:30 pm
Thursday, Sept 20	Spirit Assembly and Wacky Hair Day
	PAC Welcome Back Barbeque – 5-7 pm
Friday, Sept 21	Non-Instructional Day (Students not at school)
Thursday, Sept. 27	Individual Student Photos
Friday, Sept 28	End of Month Assembly – 8:45 am
	Orange Shirt Day
	Culture Day celebration 1-2pm
Thursday, Oct 4	Newsletter Home
Friday, Oct 5	Non-Instructional Day (Students not at school)
Monday, Oct 8	Thanksgiving (Students not at school)

## Ecole Mission Central Elementary Bell Schedule

<u>Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>
08:25	Warning bell – Students line up outside classroom doors
08:30	Second bell – Start of instructional day
10:05	Recess bell
10:20	End of Recess
11:55	Start of Lunch
12:20	Warning bell – All students must go outside (on outside days)
12:35	Warning bell – Students line up outside classroom doors
12:40	Second bell – Classroom instruction resumes
2:23	Final bell – End of the school day

## CALENDAR

Families can find the [school calendar on the school's website](#) for information about non instructional days, spirit days, parent teacher conferences, assemblies, and other events happen in the school. The calendar will be updated as needed throughout the school year.



## CENTRAL SPIRIT



Come styled in your wackiest hairdo for Central's **Wacky Hair Day on Thursday, Sept 20**. Look for more Spirit activities in the upcoming newsletters.



## ORANGE SHIRT DAY



Orange shirt day will be occurring on Sept 28. Please wear an orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day recognizes that “Every Child Matters” and honors those children and families effected by residential schools. “Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for First Nations, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come”. Please check out the Orange Shirt [website](#) for more information.

## WATER BOTTLE FILLER



Over the summer a filtered Water Bottle Filler/ Drinking Fountain was installed at École Mission Central. Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottles, with their name on it to school, to stay hydrated.

## HOT LUNCH

Our PAC hosts hot lunches twice a month and they will be starting soon. Please stay tuned for further information.

## VEHICLES AND STUDENT SAFETY

This is a reminder for drivers to slow down and watch for students as they make their way to and from their homes before and after school. Consider maintaining a lower speed even after leaving the school zones. Please do not park in the bus loop or block the exit.



## STUDENT PHOTOS



Individual student photos will be taken on Sept 27<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will distribute photo packages. Please come with your best smile. Class photos will not be taken until March 13.

## STUDENT ABSENCES AND LATES

If your child will be absent from school or late to school please contact the school’s office before **8:45 a.m. at 604-826-1414**, so their attendance can be recorded. A phone call home will be made if your child has an unexcused absence. If your child is late, please have them check in at the office before they go to their classroom so that we can welcome them. Thank you.

## OFFICE PHONE



Just a reminder for parents and students that the students phone in the office is to be used by students for emergencies or sickness only. During and after school, students are not allowed to use the phone to make after school play time arrangements with their friends.

## NO DOGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS

Parents are reminded that School District Policy prohibits dogs from being on school grounds at any time. (Even well-behaved, leashed & muzzled dogs!) This policy is in place for health and safety reasons. Some children are allergic to dogs – others are dog-phobic. And even the best-behaved dog can panic when surrounded by dozens of enthusiastic children. We appreciate those parents who are walking “Rover” to and from school but are respecting our policy by waiting off school grounds for your children. Your cooperation and citizenship is greatly appreciated – thank you!



## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL – PAC



The PAC of École Mission Central makes a tremendous commitment to our students and staff each year. Exciting fund-raising projects and initiatives, which add to the great spirit of our school, are being planned as you read this. Everyone is welcome to attend PAC meetings. **The PAC welcomes families to a Welcome Barbeque on Sept 20<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm.** Donations are appreciated but not required. Check out the PAC bulletin board for more information or join the private Facebook group.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parents, there are many ways you can volunteer at school, including Breakfast Club, reading to students, assisting teachers with Literacy and Numeracy centers, preparation of materials, driving and supervising on field trips, helping out in our PAC concession, to name just a few.



If you want to help to make a difference at our school, check with your child’s teacher, or contact a PAC executive member to find out about the variety of ways in which you can help. If you are also planning on transporting any students, other than your own, to sporting events, please complete the Volunteer Driver Form. Please check at the office and complete the district parent volunteer form/driver form and criminal record check. The criminal record check is free. (Parent volunteers are not required to complete criminal records checks every year. If in doubt, check at the office to see if your name is already on our data-base.

## TERRY FOX RUN



Our annual Terry Fox Run will happen on **Friday, October 12**. Donations to the Terry Fox Foundation are gratefully accepted. Last year we challenged our students to bring a minimum Toonie donation; with this year's enrollment we hoping to be able to achieve our goal of \$500 to this worthy cause. We are also looking for parent volunteers to help supervise the run. Please stay tuned for more information.

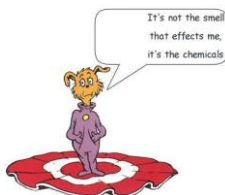
## ÉCOLE MISSION CENTRAL IS PEANUT AWARE!



École Mission Central has students who have a serious allergy to peanuts, known as Anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a serious allergic reaction that can be **life-threatening**. Food is the most common cause of anaphylaxis, but insect stings, medicine, latex, or exercise can also cause a reaction. It has been estimated that more than 600,000 or 1% to 2% of Canadians are at risk of anaphylaxis (from food and insect allergy). A few years ago, a student in our school district had a very serious reaction requiring both the use of his Epi-pen and paramedic help. He was just walking down the school hallway past a student who was eating a peanut butter sandwich. None of us wants to see any of our students in this serious, life-threatening situation. As such, École Mission Central is a **“Peanut Aware Zone”**. Please help us keep our school safe for all students by following these simple rules:

1. do not send or bring any peanuts or peanut products into the school
2. if you or your child eats peanut butter before coming to school please make sure hands and face are washed and teeth are brushed.
3. do not share any food at school.

## ÉCOLE MISSION CENTRAL IS SCENT AWARE!



École Mission Central has several students and staff who have serious allergies to scents. For most people, perfumed, scented or fragrant products are enjoyed, but for those who have asthma, allergies or environmental sensitivities, exposure can result in illness, absence from work and even hospitalisation. The chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. Today's scented products are made up of a complex mixture of chemicals, which can contribute to indoor air quality problems and cause health problems. Please be aware that scents coming into the school can affect some of our students and staff.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS OF ECOLE MISSION CENTRAL**

### Student Injury/Illness

The British Columbia School Act assigns teachers the same responsibility as that of judicious parents. Appropriate First Aid will be administered for minor bumps, cuts, and bruises. If there is any question as to the seriousness of the injury or illness, we will err on the side of caution and make contact with the guardian or designated emergency contact. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that contact information is up-to-date in the office each year. In obvious emergency situations, for example, head or back injuries, breathing problems, broken bones, or other serious injuries, we will not hesitate to call 911 and then attempt to contact you or your designate.

### Guests/Visitors to the School

**All guests, visitors and parent volunteers are required to report to the office and sign in.** Please recognize that this is imperative in ensuring that all students of École Mission Central are safe. This is particularly important at lunch, as our Noon Hour Supervisors are unfamiliar with many parents.

### Students on School Grounds

Students are not permitted to leave the school grounds unless they are going home for lunch and have signed permission to do so. Parents are responsible for completing the consent form

### Dispensing Medicines

Medicines are not to be sent to the classroom or kept in student's knapsacks at school. For those students who need to take medicine during the school day, we will require a signed form by you for any dispensing of medicine as well as the prescription bottle indicating the drug and the dosage. This includes over-the-counter drugs as well. Please stop by the office and fill in the required information sheet so that your child's care can be maintained.

### Emergency Preparedness

Emergency plans for internal and external crises are in place at École Mission Central Elementary and are regularly reviewed with the staff.

Practice fire, earthquake, and lock down drills are conducted several times throughout the year. Students are taught to how to duck and cover, count in anticipation of aftershocks and evacuate the building in an efficient and orderly manner, gathering in a designated place a safe distance from the building. Students are prepared for lock down procedures first through practice and discussion in the classroom and then through an actual drill.

In the event of any emergency, all students are expected to remain at school until contact is established.

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION

### FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY (<http://fvrl.com>)

#### **LEGO Club**

**Tuesdays, Sept. 4 – Dec. 18, 3pm -4:15pm**

Love LEGO? We provide the LEGO, you bring your imagination! Come play, create, and experiment.

#### **BeTween the Pages**

**Wednesdays, Sept. 12, Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

Join a book club to discover new books, enjoy fun activities and make new friends! Registration required. For ages 9-12.

#### **Science Literacy week: Recycling Workshop**

**Wednesday, Sept. 19, 3-4pm**

Join Mallory Palliyaguru, Education Coordinator with the Abbotsford Mission Recycling Program, as she teaches us all about waste! Learn about the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and make a cool craft out of recycled materials. For ages 6-12.

#### **Science Literacy week: Stargazing with the Experts**

**Thursday, Sept. 20, 7:30-8:30 pm**

Learn more about the night sky with the Fraser Valley Astronomy Club! Telescopes provided. Meet at the Heritage Park parking lot.

#### **Science Literacy week: Playground Play Time**

**Friday, Sept. 21, 1-3 pm**

Have fun discovering the Library's collection of Keva Planks, Spheros, Makey-Makeys, Telescopes and Green Screens. We'll have our playground collection set-up for you to explore.

#### **Culture days: Preschool Beat**

**Friday, Sept. 28, 10:15-10:45 am**

Make music with drums, shakers and other percussion instruments! For ages 2-6. Registration required.

#### **Creative Ukulele Circle**

**Tuesdays, Oct 2-23, 7 pm – 8 pm**

Join ukulele expert Don Olds as we make music together! We'll be learning new songs every week! Beginners welcome. Bring your own ukulele or have one provided. Registration required.

#### **Happy Halloween! Puppet show**

**Tuesday October 30, 6:45-7:30 pm**

Come celebrate Halloween with a not-too-spooky storytime and a fun puppet show! Costumes welcome!