

September, 2019

Andrew Merry, Principal | Tel 604-826-1414 | andrew.merry@mpsd.ca |
Shauna Nero, Vice Principal | shauna.nero@mpsd.ca |



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians of Ecole 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, Mme. Caroline Destouches as our Grade 1 French Immersion teacher, Mme. Kaitlyn Cobleigh as our Grade 2/3 French Immersion teacher, Mme. Melissa Damboise as our Grade 3/4 French Immersion teacher, and Mme. Mylene Normandin as our French Immersion LST teacher, Ms. Desiree Richez as our Applied Design, Skills and Technology and Div 1 job share teacher, as well as Education Assistant Mrs. Barb Billesberger to our Mission Central staff team.

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.schoolcashonline.com>. We welcome families to explore the school's [new website](#) which we will use to share updated school information and exciting events and activities happening at Ecole Mission Central. You can also locate our school on the district's website 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.

The first few weeks 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. 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
Principal

Upcoming Events

Wednesday Sept 18	PAC Meeting – 8:45 am
Friday, Sept 20	Non-Instructional Day (Students not at school)
Wednesday, Sept 25	Spirit Activity - Crazy Hair Day
	PAC Welcome Back Barbeque – 5-7 pm
Friday, Sept 27	Cops for Cancer visit 10:30 am
Monday, Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day, Gr. 5/6 Reconciliation Walk
Friday, Oct 4	Newsletter Home
	Spirit Event – Wear Red/White/Canada
	Terry Fox Run
Thursday, Oct 10	Picture Day
Monday, Oct 14	Thanksgiving Day (Students not at school)
Tuesday, Oct 15	Kindergarten Screening
Thursday, Oct 17	Great BC Shake Out Earthquake Drill
Monday, Oct 21	Election
	Kindergarten Screening
Friday, Oct 25	Provincial Pro D Day (Students not at school)
Thurs, Oct 31	Halloween Parade – 1:00 pm

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
10:00	Recess bell
10:15	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.

STUDENT PLANNERS – Grades 1-6

Each Ecole Mission Central student in grades 1 – 6 will be receiving a student planner. Parents can expect students to write their homework and other important information in their planners, which can also be an important tool for home/school communication. Individual classroom teachers will share their routines with you as the year gets underway. The cost of each planner is \$6.00. If you haven't already done so, you can pay online at <https://mpsd.schoolcashionline.com>.

CENTRAL SPORTS

Cross Country – Cross Country running practices have begun for interested students in grade 4, 5, and 6. Practices will be at lunch time and the runs will take place afterschool (dates TBA). Please look for permission forms that will be coming home soon. Talk to your child as students still have the chance to join the team for next week's Monday practice.



Basketball – There will be a meeting for interested grade 5/6 students next week. Practices will begin at lunchtime in October, and at lunchtime and afterschool in November. Students can also come to the gym at 7:45am and practice during open gym in the mornings.



CENTRAL SPIRIT Activities



Come styled in your wackiest hairdo for Central's Wacky Hair Day on Wednesday, Sept 25. Oct 11 is Wear Red/White/Canada Day as we are running in the Terry Fox Run that day. Look for more Spirit activities in the upcoming newsletters.

ORANGE SHIRT DAY



Orange shirt day will be occurring on Sept 30. 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”. Our grades 5/6 classes will participate in Mission SD75's annual commemorative March for Reconciliation at Heritage Park Middle School. French Immersion students who ordered their T-shirts should be receiving them soon.

WATER BOTTLE FILLER

A reminder the school has a filtered Water Bottle Filler/ Drinking Fountain. Student 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 and they will be starting soon. Please stay tuned for further information.

STUDENT PHOTOS



Individual student photos will be taken on October 10th. Teachers will distribute photo packages. Please come with your best smile. Retake photo will be taken November 4th. Class photos will be taken on March 9th.

TERRY FOX RUN



Our annual Terry Fox Run will happen on Friday, October 4th. 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.

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 student 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.

VEHICLES AND STUDENT SAFETY



A reminder to 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. A reminder that the lower parking lot is for staff only.

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...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



The PAC of Ecole 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 first PAC meeting is September 18th at 8:45am. The PAC welcomes families to a Welcome Barbeque on Sept 25th from 5-7pm. Donations are appreciated but not required.

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.)

Ecole Mission Central IS PEANUT AND SCENT AWARE!



Ecole Mission Central now has students and staff who have a serious allergy to peanuts and fragrances, 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 para-medic help. He was just walking down the school hallway past a student who was eating a peanut butter sandwich. None of us want to see any of our students in this serious, life-threatening situation. As such, we are making Ecole Mission Central a “**Nut and Fragrance Free Zone**” starting in September 2011. 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.
Additionally,
4. individuals do not wear perfumes, fragrances, scents into the school. This can include: body spray, scented deodorant/antiperspirant, scented body lotion.

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 Ecole 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 Ecole 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 with a parent or designate.

Check out the latest library programs at <https://fvrl.bibliocommons.com/events/>



Mission Library Events:

Below are several Mission Library events for September and October

LEGO Club

Every Tuesday, 3 pm – 4:15 pm

BeTween the Pages Book Club

(Registration required, ages 9-12)

2nd Wednesday of the month, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Join a book club to discover new books, enjoy fun activities and make new friends!

Discovery Club (Please register online, ages 8-12)

1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month, 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm

Come and get excited about science, technology, engineering and mathematics in the library's STEM club. There will be tinkering, coding, creating, experimenting and designing.

Science lit week: Desktop Siege Engines (Please register online, ages 8-12)

Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 pm – 3:30 pm

Storm the castle & build mini catapults! Learn about simple machines and the basics of mechanical engineering. This program is facilitated by Fraser Valley Maker Space.

Culture Days; Play-doh Sculpt Challenge

Friday, Sept. 27, 3 pm - 4:30 pm

Come by the library and show off your sculpture skills! We have the play-doh, you bring your imagination.

Culture Days: 7 Word Stories

Sept. 27-29 - All day

Celebrate culture days with Mission Library by creating stories using just 7 words. Stories will be displayed on the library windows throughout culture days.

Culture Days: Drum Circle with Boris Sichon

Saturday, Sept. 28, 1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

Travel around the world, and explore different rhythms, and play different instruments with world musician Boris Sichon.

Here Comes Halloween Puppet Show

Wednesday, October 30, 6:45 pm – 7:30 pm

Join us for some monstrously fun stories, songs, and a puppet show.