

# Malaspina Elementary

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September 22, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Malaspina Students:

Thank you for all of your help and cooperation as we embark on the 2020-2021 school year.

We appreciate the effort students are putting in to following our new routines with staggered entry/exit zones. Learning groups are following a weekly rotation through the 3 zones on the school grounds at recess and lunch.

The following items are being sent home with today's newsletter:

- Daily Student Health Check
- VTRA Fair Notice for Parent Community
- Emergency Procedures information (orange sheet)

## Daily Student Health Check

Our district updated the Daily Student Health Check and it can be found on our website and on the SD 57 website. We are also sending home a copy with today's newsletter. Please complete the health check with your children daily before leaving for school.

Parents, please be sure to keep your children home if they are sick and the daily student health check is filled with valuable information for families.

## School Start-up Update

Thank you for your patience over the last two weeks as we move ahead to put classes, learning groups and safety protocols in place.

We will be continuing to re-work numbers and classes over the next week and we ask that you please be patient with us while we move through this process. New learning groups and class configurations may occur as we continually adjust student numbers. Safety protocols and student wellbeing will be kept at the forefront as we work through this. Our teachers and EA's are working with our students to keep them safe physically and socially.

## Thank you

A huge thank you to our custodial team, Mrs. Shortt, Mr. Farrell and Mr. Singh, who are working diligently to keep our classrooms and school clean.

## SCHOOL INFORMATION

### Allergies

Malaspina has students with life-threatening allergies to peanuts, nuts, tree-nuts. Please remind all children that they should not "trade" lunches or snacks with other students.

## Important Dates to Remember

Sept 22	PAC meeting @ 7:00 via Zoom
Sept 24	Grade 6 Immunization forms due
Sept 25	NID - students do not attend school
Sept 30	Orange Shirt Day
Oct 12	Thanksgiving
Oct 20, 21	Early Dismissal Days at 1:02pm/1:12pm
Oct 23	NID - students do not attend



## Safe Start Program

Malaspina has a **Safe Start Program** which means if your child is absent from school and you have not notified the school you will be called. We appreciate it when parents contact the school at 250-964-9874 when their child is absent. The office is staffed from 8:00am to 3:30pm.



## Late Arrivals

If a student arrives late, parents need to call the school phone number and a staff member will greet the child at the front door. This is a new process with our front doors remaining locked throughout the day.

## Grade 6 Immunization Forms

Grade 6 students received their immunization forms last week. Please return the forms by Thursday, Sept 24<sup>th</sup>.

## Emergency Procedures

Please review the orange sheet that outlines emergency procedures with your child. We will be reviewing the information at school as well.

It is time to practice our safety drills. In order to help keep our students safe at school, many procedures and routines are put in place to prepare for the unexpected. In the fall and again in the spring we practice safety drills. We will be having three fire drills. Teachers will review the expectations and reasons for these drills with their students.

In addition to fire drills, it is important that we prepare students for situations where we may need to secure the building and the people in it from dangers or threats.

In order to help reduce anxiety that can surround lockdown drill practices, students will be informed of the days these drills occur. Practicing such drills can cause some students anxiety.

Classroom teachers will prepare their students as best they can to limit any unnecessary stress. You can help by having your child share with you what the procedures are they have learned and reassuring them this is a safety precaution. Classroom teachers will be doing the same.

### **Physical Distancing for drop off/pick up**

Parents, when dropping off and picking up your children, please ensure you are physically distancing from students and adults who are on the school grounds.

### **Financial Hardship Policy 5101**

Fees will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities. Students will not be denied an opportunity to participate in a program due to financial hardship. Please contact the office if you have any questions.

### **Parking Lot Safety**

Our parking lot is extremely busy at the start and end of the day. Please follow the signs posted around the parking lot.

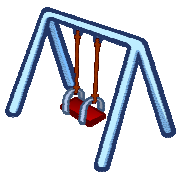
Thank you for the following:

- Keeping handicap spots available to those with handicap signs in their car
- Keeping the bus stop area clear of vehicles (along fence)
- Keeping the area clear along the sidewalk on the east side of the parking lot (there is a no parking sign)
- Parking on the street, clear of the crosswalk and parking lot entrance so children can cross the street safely and vehicles have room to drive by
- Parking on the street or in a parking spot
  - It is dangerous when unattended vehicles are left in the middle of the parking lot. As a result, vehicles in parking spots are blocked along with the flow of traffic.

We appreciate your help in keeping our students safe.

### **Animals at School**

With the start of another school year, it is important for us to review our guidelines and procedures that support safe learning environments. Please remember that under the School District 57's Administrative Procedures and Guidelines and Bylaw 2, animals in our school or on our property are not permitted without the pre-approved permission of the school Principal or designate and only for educational purposes. This approval does not supersede the regulations set under the city Bylaws. We appreciate your cooperation as we work together to support safe spaces at school.



### **Playground Supervision**

Supervision starts at 8:05am in the morning and ends at 2:27pm in the afternoon. Before and after school, students are asked to wait in their specific zones. Currently, the adventure playground is not a zone for students to wait for class to start before school or wait for pick up after school.

### **Verification Forms**

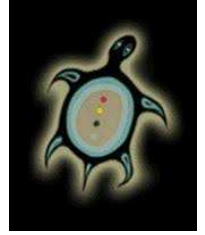
Verification forms will be sent home next week. Please ensure all your child's information and emergency contacts are updated on the form along with a parent signature. Please include a current email as we will continue to send newsletters via email.

### **Seven Teachings**

Our teaching for the month of September is truth. The animal that represents this teaching is the turtle.

In order to show truth, you must:

- Be true to yourself and to those around you
- Always speak truthfully



### **Orange Shirt Day**

A day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools. We can come together in the spirit of reconciliation, to honour residential school survivors and hope for generations of children to come. Please wear orange on Sept 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **Bicycle Safety/Scooters/Skateboards**

A bike helmet is required by law and must be worn when riding to/from school. Riding bikes, skateboards and scooters on the school grounds is not permitted.



### **Electronic Devices**

It is recommended that electronic devices including cell phones, electronic games, tablets, iPod/MP3 players, laptops and cameras not be brought to school. If families want their child to have a cell phone when walking to and from school, the device is not to be used or in view on the school grounds or in the school. If any of these items are brought to school, students are asked to turn off all devices and leave them with their teacher or at the office.

### **PAC**

The PAC is meeting on Sept 22 @ 7:00pm via zoom. Please contact PAC for info at [malaspinapac@gmail.com](mailto:malaspinapac@gmail.com)