

September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Albert McMahon Students:

I am happy to report that our first week back at school has gone quite smooth. Our students all seem to be very grateful for a new school year. They are starting to get comfortable with the routines of their new classrooms and are rekindling old friendships (or making new ones). We have many new families at AME this year and it's been great to see our students welcome them into our school family with open arms.

I'd like to take this opportunity to encourage parents to reach out to our school if you have any questions about the new school year. This can be through an email to the classroom teacher, or phone call to our office. Start-up is a very busy time and I know many of you have been waiting for the 'dust to settle' before asking any questions you may have. We thank you for your patience during start-up but want to remind you that we are here for you should you have any questions at all.

As you are all aware, we are no longer required to organize our school into cohorts. We are already seeing the positive outcomes of this on student mental health as they can connect with more peers outside and move more freely around our grounds. With that said, please remember we are still following most of the Covid-19 protocols we were last year, including washing hands frequently, staying home when sick, practicing personal hygiene and wearing masks when inside (students Gr. 4-6 and staff).

On a final note, I'd like to remind you all that I have an open-door policy (although Covid-Safe for now). Please don't ever hesitate to reach out by phone, email or scheduled appointment.

Sincerely,
Shane Sliziak

REMINDERS

Please note the following days off from school.

Friday, Sept. 17th - Welcome Back Virtual Assembly

Friday, Sept. 24th - Pro D Day, no school

Wed., Sept. 29th - Terry Fox Run

Thurs., Sept. 30th - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, no school

Monday, Oct. 11th - Thanksgiving, no school

Friday, Oct. 22nd - Pro D Day, no school

STUDENT SNACK/LUNCH REMINDERS

A reminder to parents that we are a 'pack-in-pack-out' school, meaning that any wrappers or garbage items from snacks and lunches will be put back into lunch kits to go home for disposal and recycling. We would also like to remind families that we do not have the ability to heat food or water for your children's lunches. If your child prefers food items that need to be heated, we recommend purchasing a thermos to facilitate this. Our water fountains are still not functioning due to Covid-19, but we do have excellent filtered water bottle filling stations so please do not forget to pack a water bottle for your child. Finally, we encourage parents to pack healthy snacks and lunches to help feed their busy brains and bodies with the right kind of fuel they will need for a long day at school.

MORNING HEALTH CHECK APP

We would like to continue to remind parents that they are required to keep their child home when sick. Please use the following link to assess your son or daughter's health and to determine next steps if they are sick. <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/> We would like to thank parents for their promptness in picking up their children when they fall ill at school.

PARKING LOT REMINDERS

As you all know our parking lot is very busy in the morning and afternoon. We encourage families to walk



to school if possible. For families that are not within walking distance, please do not park in our staff parking areas. We have a large staff and need every space that we have. When dropping off or picking up, please mind the sign in our parking lot that outlines which lane is for pick-up/drop-off and which lane is for passing through. For new families, the lane closest to the school is for busses only. Please do not park, drop off or pass through via this lane.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Some of you may have noticed that we have increased our morning supervision around the building. A reminder to parents that morning supervision begins at 8:15am. If your son or daughter arrives at school independently before 8:15am, please be aware that there won't be supervision at that time.

AFTERNOON PICK-UP

For parents that come to AME to pick up their children in the afternoon, please be mindful that we usually have a few classes outside doing PE, DPA or free time. Please do not intermingle with our classes, even if it's your son or daughter's class. Kindly wait near the classroom door for dismissal time. When parents intermingle with students during instructional time outside, it is very difficult for teachers and staff to know who is who, limiting their ability to maintain school safety for our kiddos.

WEST COAST RECESS

AME is a 'West Coast Recess' school meaning we go outside at break times, rain or shine. This means it's extremely important that our students dress for the weather. Boots and rain jackets are needed when it's wet, warm jackets when it's cold, and the ability to take off layers when it's hot. This can be tough to manage in September with frequently changing weather patterns but keeping an eye on the weather forecast will help with this. Please note we do have the odd 'inside day' when there is extreme weather or a wild animal in the area.

ALBERT MCMAHON SCHOOL TWITTER ACCOUNT

We would like to remind parents to join our school Twitter account as it is a great way to see some of the amazing things that are happening around the school. Please follow us at [@AlbertMcMahonE1](https://twitter.com/AlbertMcMahonE1).

TERRY FOX RUN FUNDRAISER

Our Terry Fox Run will be held on September 29th this year. We are in the middle of planning out the event so more information will be sent out to families early next week. Stay tuned!

ALBERT MCMAHON HOUSE TEAMS

We have organized our school into House Teams this year: Buffalo, Eagle, Sabe and Bear. Our students will remain in these house teams for the entire time they attend AME (K-6). On Thursday, Sept. 9th, staff organized a schoolwide event where students learned about their House Team, practiced their cheer, and got to know each other. We will use House Teams throughout the year to build school culture and participate in a little healthy competition. More to come on this as it evolves throughout the year!

ASSEMBLIES

At this time, we will still be holding our assemblies virtually for our students. Although we can technically fill our gym at half capacity, we are going to continue to hold them virtually for September and likely October to give us time to 'feel out' how the pandemic progresses. If we start to move in the right direction in BC with regards to transmission, we will consider starting in-person assemblies once again.

FIELD TRIPS

Many classrooms are excited to be able to attend field trips this year. Please be aware that we will have Covid-Safety protocols in place for field trips. While we can use volunteers once again, there are additional safety precautions that we need to follow. If your son or daughter has a field trip planned, safety precautions will be communicated well in advance of the trip.

MASKS (Grade 4-6)

Parents, please remember to pack a mask for your child if they are Grade 4-6. While we have extras for those that forget, we do not have enough to supply those that forget every day. Also, please note there are exemptions for those that do not tolerate masks for various reasons. Please email the principal if you'd like to discuss this.