

October 2019- Newsletter #1

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to all returning families and a special welcome to those who are new to Albert McMahon Elementary. Albert McMahon is a busy and vibrant learning environment, offering a well-rounded educational program to all our students. This year our school is enrolling approximately 409 students from kindergarten to grade 6.

As students have settled into their new classes in September, this is a good time to encourage good study and organizational skills in our intermediate students. Reviewing classwork daily at home and being prepared for the next day helps reduce anxiety and reinforces new skills. It takes 15-30 minutes each day and provides the opportunity to speak to your children about their learning. For all of our students, especially primary students, reading daily and exploring topics of personal interest will keep them engaged as they are expanding reading and comprehension skills and learning new vocabulary. Ask questions and try to predict what will happen next in the story. Their imaginations will surprise you! Also, don't forget about participating in our Home Readers Club.

On Friday, September 20th, our staff met in PLC teams to determine our school goals for this year. The PLC teams set out their particular plans for improving student achievement in the areas of literacy, numeracy and/or student readiness for learning. Our staff is dedicated to implementing teaching strategies that will best support our students.

Last year we implemented a successful **West Coast Recess** program. This involves students spending time

outdoors at recess and lunch, even in the rain! We ask that students have an umbrella and wear appropriate clothing, such as a rain jacket with a hood, boots, rain pants and to bring a change of clothing to school, just in case. The goal is for students to get some fresh air and have outdoor play time with peers. We are basically guaranteed rainy days from October to April, and we don't want our students to avoid the outdoors due to rain. On days with hard, driving rain, high winds, cold temperatures and/or icy conditions, we would have the students stay indoors. Student health and safety is still paramount.

We are also encouraging student activity, such as biking to school, and are installing more bike racks that were purchased by PAC. A big thank you to our parents that helped fundraise for these bike racks. To help with safety concerns in the parking lot and bus lane, we are moving the bike rack from the front of the school to the back of the school. Our sports program has begun with cross country and is being led by Cheryl Blondin. There are two meets coming up and students are encouraged to participate. We are also organizing a biking club. Stay tuned for more information as Ms. Kara Ross is helping with this group.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,



Hardeep Grewal
Principal



Cyndie Anderson
Vice Principal



PARKING LOT

Our school parking lot can be very busy at the beginning and end of each school day. For the safety of all, we ask all drivers to follow these guidelines:

- Drive slowly - 15 kph or slower
- Avoid using the bus lane
- Use handicapped parking spaces only if you have a handicap parking tag
- **Do not leave your vehicle unless it is in a designated parking spot**
- Drop off children at the flag pole crosswalk
- Be courteous: you are setting an example for elementary school students.

CROSS COUNTRY & BASKETBALL

Cross country for our intermediate students (grades 4-6) and mixed grade 5/6 basketball have both started up and information has been sent home if your child(ren) expressed an interest to participate.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Oct. 3rd - Student picture day!
- Oct. 10th - PAC meeting - 7:00 pm
- Oct. 14th - Thanksgiving - **NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 25th - ProD Day - **NO SCHOOL**
- Oct. 29th - Grade 6 immunizations
- Nov. 3rd - Clocks move back one hour
- Nov. 7th - Picture re-take day

STUDENT LATES AND ABSENCES

If your child will be absent from school or late to school please contact the school's office before 9:00 a.m. at 604-826-0274, 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. Thank you.



INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of problematic weather arriving and causing school closure decisions, district-wide or partial, please check the district website at:

http://www.mpsd.ca/districtinformation/closures_via_w.aspx which is updated daily with any unscheduled school closures, or listen to the radio for unscheduled closures.

- CBC Radio One
- CKNW - 980 AM
- Country - 107.1 FM
- CKWX (News 1130) 1130AM
- STAR FM - 98.3 FM



PAC NEWS

Popcorn cards are here and available online! <https://mcmahon.hotlunches.net> Get your Popcorn Punch Cards now so you can be ready for when we start popping on Friday, October 4th!! Cards are good for 10 or 20 bags of popcorn. .75c/bag without a card. Don't forget to use up your popcorn cards from last year if you have one! **The hot lunch order form is available online as well and orders are due by Friday, October 4th.**

Note to Parents:

The kindergarten teachers will keep your child's card in a safe place in the classroom. For most other classrooms, the student is responsible for safekeeping their own card. For the primary divisions we will be taking popcorn orders in the morning and will deliver to the classroom at morning recess. Intermediate divisions will line up at the kitchen at morning recess.



WEST COAST RECESS

Living in this area offers many diverse weather conditions including the rainy days in fall, winter and spring. It makes sense therefore, we are well prepared to be **outside in the rain**. It is important for children to get outside throughout the day for fresh air and exercise. Research has proven the impact that physical activity has on learning. For this reason, many local schools and districts are adopting a **West Coast Recess**.

Being prepared for the weather

We know that if kids are well prepared to be outside in the rain, they actually enjoy it. As long as they stay dry and warm there is a great deal of fun to be had in all kinds of weather. To be prepared to be outside in the rain it is important for your child to have appropriate clothing such as:

- A rain jacket
- Rubber boots so they can enjoy the puddles
- Rain pants
- An umbrella
- A rain hat or coat with a hood
- A change of clothes just in case. (sweatpants, sock, underwear, t-shirt)

COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

I am worried that my child will get sick being out in the rain.

It is not cold that makes us sick but rather viruses. People get sick more often in the winter because they are exposed to each other more in the winter than in the summer. When it is cold outside, people tend to stay inside and are more likely to spread germs to one another. Getting outdoors is more likely to protect our kids from illnesses than keeping them indoors. (Does Cold Weather Cause the Cold or Flu?).

My child has been sick but is now returning to school. Can he stay inside today?

We are quite reluctant to allow this for a couple of reasons. First, if your child is still not quite better, it would be better to keep them at home until they are 100% ready to function fully at school. If he is too sick to go outside he is also probably too sick to get through the day's work successfully - give him another day of rest. Secondly, your child needs to be supervised and there is very limited supervision inside during recess and lunch. We do make exceptions to this based on special circumstances, so if you want to chat about your child's specific health conditions please phone me and we can talk about your concerns.

Are the children ever allowed to stay inside due to the weather?

We occasionally have weather conditions where it is unreasonable to expect students to play outside. These days include hard, driving rain with extreme cold or wind and icy conditions. In these situations, we intend to declare it an inside day however we don't expect to have more than 2 or 3 of them a year. Again, it is weather dependent, and the last couple of winters have been stormy.



FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Each year North America wide, Fire Services

proclaims the second week of October to be to be "Fire Prevention Week." Fire Prevention Week this year is October 6th to October 12th, 2019. Make sure you check out the Fire Life Safety Fair on Sunday, October 6th from 1-4 pm at the fire station!

FRASER VALLEY REGIONAL LIBRARY

LEGO CLUB - Every Tuesday from 3:00 to 4:15 pm.
We provide the LEGO, you bring your imagination!
Come play, create and experiment.

BETWEEN THE PAGES BOOK CLUB - Registration is required. Ages 9 to 12. Second Wednesday of the month from 3:30 pm to 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. First and third Wednesday of the month from 3:30 to 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.

HERE COMES HALLOWEEN PUPPET SHOW -
Wednesday, October 30th from 6:45 pm to 7:30 pm.
Join us for some monstrously fun stories, songs and a puppet show.



NO DOGS ON PLAYGROUND

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!

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website contains helpful information about our school, including upcoming events, newsletters, PAC information and more. Go to:

<http://albertmcmahon.mpsd.ca/>

BABYSITTING / CHILDCARE

Parents needing help for before and afterschool care, please call Karm at 604-615-0711. She lives right beside Albert McMahon!

STUDENT 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.



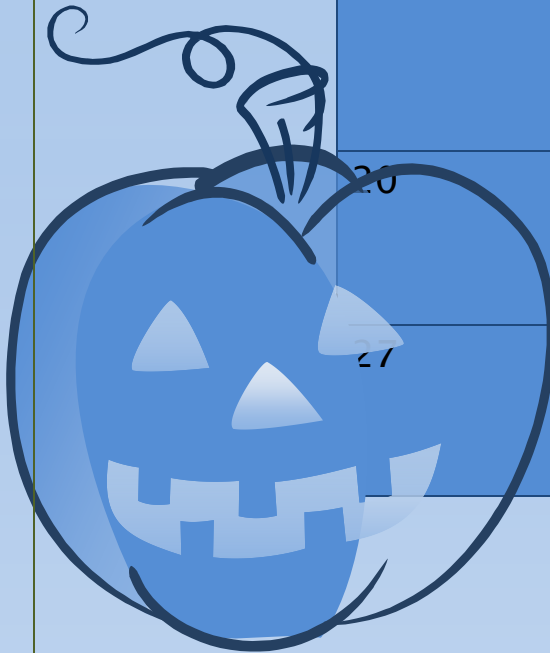
CLIPBOARDS AND PLANNERS

We want to thank our PAC for generously purchasing this year's planners and clipboards so there is no charge to our families. **THANK YOU!!**



October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 STUDENT PHOTO DAY	4	5
6	7	8	9 Hot Lunch Subway	10 PAC Meeting 7:00 pm	11	12
13	14 Thanksgiving Holiday NO SCHOOL	15	16 Hot Lunch Eleni's Ready Set Learn 5-6pm in the gym	17 Shake Out BC 10:17 am	18	19
20	21	22	23 Hot Lunch Hot Dogs	24	25 Pro D Day NO SCHOOL	26
27	28	29 Grade 6 immunizations	30 Hot Lunch Soup & Bun	30		



Mission Fire Rescue Service

FIRE LIFE SAFETY FAIR

October 6th, 2019 1-4pm

Fire Station No. 1, 33330 7th Avenue

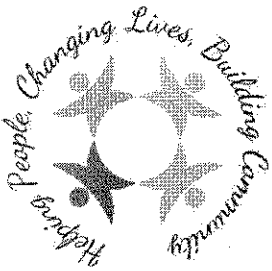


FORTIS BC™



St. John Ambulance





**MISSION
COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

33179, 2nd Ave, Mission, BC, V2V 1J9
P: 604-826-3634 F: 604-820-0634
E: info@missioncommunityservices.com
www.missioncommunityservices.com

**FREE
Group
Program**

Connect Parent Group

Are you a parent or caregiver of an
11-16 year old?
Is everything a battle?



Come out and learn about **CONNECT©**
An Attachment-Based Perspective on Parenting

Where: Mission Community Services 33179 2nd Ave.

When:

- Tuesdays from 6:30pm-8:00pm (dinner at 6pm),
- September 24 – November 26, 2019
 - **Dinner Provided**
 - **Childcare Provided**

Goals:

- To understand your teen's development and behaviour from an attachment perspective
- To develop awareness of relationship issues and patterns
- To learn new skills that strengthen your relationship with your teen and consider new options in parenting

**Limited
Seating**

To pre-register for Connect Parenting, please contact

Mission Community Services, 604 826-3634



Train with us & test yourself

See what you can achieve!

Mission STRONG is a youth fitness challenge that aims to get youth active! With a STRONG training pass and an obstacle course to train for, the motivation couldn't be greater!

Sep 30-Oct 25: Training Challenge
Oct 26: Obstacle Course

Ages 9-12 & 13-16yrs
Facility access, classes for training, t-shirt, prizes & more!

\$30 Registration Fee
(with \$1.00 going to Mission KidSport)

Register at Leisure Centre reception by Sep 30, limited space!
www.mission.ca/mission-strong





Mission Hospice Society
when time matters most

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS



Children's Grief and Loss Support Group

Mission Hospice Society is pleased to offer an eight week grief and loss support group for **children ages 6-12** who have experienced the loss of a family member or friend through death. This program offers a safe, caring environment for children to gather in discussion and expressive play and art activities.

Our next group begins **Thursday, September 26th, 2019**
at Mission Hospice Society, 32180 Hillcrest Ave.
and runs **every Thursday from 3:30pm-5pm**
(Sept. 26th - Nov. 14th)

To refer a child to this group or for more information
please call: Ian Kunitski 604-826-2235
or email childandyouth@missionhospice.bc.ca

Dear Families,

Albert McMahan Elementary School PAC welcomes you to a new school year!

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our new families joining us here at Albert McMahan and to the many families returning from last year. We look forward to meeting old acquaintances and making new friends.

Schools are an essential part of our community. With a strong emphasis on character education and family values, Albert McMahan is well positioned to set the tone for a strong and vibrant neighbourhood. Along with our dedicated education team here at the school, we, the PAC, strive to meet the needs of our school families. We raise funds and provide school programs that help to enhance the experience of students and parents.

Some of our most popular programs provided by PAC volunteers are: the Home Reading Club with monthly prizes, a pizza lunch and pancake breakfast: Popcorn Fridays: and our Hot Lunch Program, offering lunches generally once a week.

We also run a few fundraisers throughout the school year to generate extra funds for computers, smart boards and projects such as the community garden, Stream of Dreams, and outdoor learning space etc.

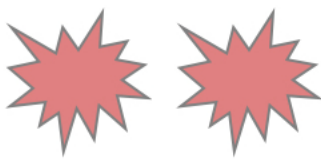
The PAC has a website for Albert McMahan families. We use this website for communication with families, quick and easy hot lunch orders and some fundraisers. Even if you don't plan to order anything, please register an account so we can provide you with PAC updates. (To protect your privacy, accounts expire at the end of the school year, so if you signed up last year, please register again.)

To register go to www.mcmahan.hotlunches.net and click REGISTER.

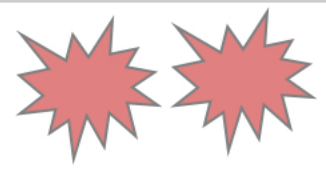
Under the DOCUMENTS tab you will also find simple instructions to register an account.

The PAC meets once a month (schedule will be posted on website). We look forward to meeting you.

Your Albert McMahan PAC team



CAN I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE...



Hello Parents of AME students,

Whether you are new to our school or have been around for years, I hope this note finds you both helping your children settle into their new classes and comfortable with the outlook for the new year ahead.

My name is Alicia Goodkey, the newly appointed PAC chair for this year, and I am writing this note to introduce myself and talk about what the PAC at AME does in our school.

My daughter just started grade one at AME and through our first year of school, I found myself confused on what the general "flow" of the year looked like. I was given information in the classroom of course, but as a new parent to elementary school, I always felt like I was one step behind what was happening. I began looking for ways to get more information about the school and found an absolutely amazing group of people on the PAC. I began looking for ways help out at the school that was giving my child such an incredible first experience with education. That is how I got here!

My main goal is to help all new parents (and even the old hats) never feel overwhelmed or unsure of what is going on at the school. We are all here for the best experience for our kids, we want the experience to be awesome so let's work together to do that! I also want to hear what you have to say- what challenges are you experiencing? What would you like to see at the school?

Fresh ideas and people looking at the current system help us all to be better. I also want your help!! Although we have a great team currently, we have many people on PAC whose children will be graduating on at the end of the year and so we need more great people to help fill the team. There is no time better than this year to learn from a supportive and knowledgeable PAC so that we can keep up the amazing work that the PAC does to help support our kids and their parents the whole year through. Please consider joining us at a meeting or chatting with any of the PAC to get more information on how you can help out. There are lots of opportunities that are only once in a while/when you can type opportunities. There are also long-term commitment positions with a dedicated group to support you. Anything you can give, we can use your help!

Feel free to contact me anytime at albertmcmahonpac@gmail.com

Thanks so much for your consideration and all the best for the year ahead.

Sincerely,

Alicia Goodkey

*Next PAC meeting: October 10th, 2019 @7pm in the school Library

*UPCOMING EVENTS LIST: (subject to change) Keep posted to the PAC Facebook page for more information!!

- September: Terry Fox Run, Open House, Orange Shirt Day
- October: Halloween Parade (primary students), Picture Day (individual students), Teacher Appreciation Lunch, Thanksgiving
- November: Neufeld farms fundraiser, Home Reading Pizza lunch, WE day, Remembrance Day
- December: Poinsetta and wreath fundraiser, AME 30th Anniversary Celebration, Parent/Teacher Meetings, PAC Book Fair, Christmas Concert, Winter Break
- March: Spring Break
- April: Easter, Home Reading Pancake Breakfast
- May: Volunteer thank you tea, Track and Field Meet (2 days), Teacher Appreciation Lunch
- June: Sports Day, End of Year Celebrations
 - ONGOING: School Spirit Club events and days, Popcorn Fridays, Hot Lunch Wednesdays, Assemblies and sporting events throughout the entire year