



# Little Mountain Elementary School Newsletter



Chilliwack  
School District

**September 2017**

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## Little Mountain Elementary Staff 2017-18

A new school year brings change and renewal both in students and in staff. Our school community had to say good - bye to several key members of our family and we wish them well in their new endeavors. At the same time, we are enriched with returning staff and new staff and are looking forward to their ideas, enthusiasm and unique perspective throughout the year. Please feel free to introduce yourselves to our new staff and welcome them back when you are at the school. Please note that dependent on student numbers this first week, our staff assignments may change including the possible welcoming of new staff.

Our staff breakdown at this time is as follows:

Principal – Mrs. N. Driscoll  
Vice-Principal – Mr. K. Chater  
Administrative Assistant – Ms. K. Heemsker  
Kindergarten – Mrs. S. Dirven (Th) & TBA (M,Tu,W,F)  
Kindergarten - Ms. S. Kornelius  
Kindergarten - Mrs. L. Price  
Grade 1 – Mrs. C. Guscott / Mrs. L. Guthrie  
Grade 1 – Ms. P. Dalton  
Grade 1/2 – Miss J. Atkinson  
Grade 2 – Mrs. S. Janz & Mrs. K. Mills (Th)  
Grade 2 – Mrs. C. Hartman  
Grade 3 – Mrs. C. Haagensen (Fri) & TBA (M-Th)  
Grade 3 – Ms. B. Puttaert  
Grade 3/4 – Mrs. K. Saunders  
Grade 4 - Mrs. J. Price  
Grade 4 – Mrs. J. Huitema  
Grade 5 – Mrs. J. McGowan  
Grade 5 – Mrs. J. Franz  
Grade 5/6 – Mr. G. Schwarzfeld  
Grade 6 – Mr. J. Allen  
Teacher Librarian/Prep – TBA  
Prep – Mr. K. Chater / Mrs. K. Standeven  
Learning Assistance Teacher – Ms. K. Arnish  
School Based Counselor – TBA  
Resource Teacher – Ms. T. Taylor (Tu, W, F)  
Education Assistants – Mrs. T. Ambers / Mrs. W. Curiston / Ms. K. Gibb / TBA  
Aboriginal Support Worker – Mrs. Doell  
Child and Youth Care Worker – Mrs. K. Reid  
Speech and Language - Mrs. E. Neufeld  
ELL/ESD – Ms. S. Liptak  
StrongStart Facilitator – Ms. E. Anderson  
Wind and Tide Staff – Mrs. E. Enns / Ms. S. Bourget  
YMCA – Mrs. R. Squires  
Custodian – Mr. M. Albeluhn / Mr. M. Beutler  
Supervision Assistants – Mrs. R. Squires / Mrs. R. Legros / Mrs. T. Ambers / TBA

## New Bell Schedule

### LME Bell Schedule

Supervision Begins	8:05
Warning Bell	8:20
Classes in Session	8:25
Recess	10:05
Classes in Session	10:20
Lunch	12:00
Classes in Session	12:40
Dismissal	2:10

## School Supplies

In an effort to make the transition back to school a seamless one for students, parents and staff alike, this school year, all students, Kindergarten through Grade 6 will be receiving their school supplies from their classroom teacher once students have been placed in their classes. Indicated below is the cost of these supplies for each grade level. Supplies provided cover the entire year, eliminating the ongoing issue for parents where they are continuously sending pens, pencils, paper, etc. to school.

Costs for School Supplies are as follows:

- Kindergarten - \$ 35.00
- Grades 1, 2, 3 - \$ 40.00
- Grades 4, 5, 6 - \$ 45.00

Each classroom teacher this year, as in previous years, may ask students to purchase additional items that are not part of the basic supplies list looked after by the school. Items of this nature may include:

- Box of Kleenex
- INDOOR Gym shoes (MANDATORY for ALL students)
- Change of clothes for Physical Education (Grades 3 - 6)

Individual classes may have additional costs for unique programs (cooking, etc.)

Payment for school supplies will be accepted after students are placed into classes and their teachers have sent home to payment information. Forms of payment accepted will be cash or cheque (payable to Little Mountain Elementary School) Please contact the office directly if your family requires a payment plan to be established to cover these costs.

## Little Mountain is a NUT FREE School

This year we have several children who have life-threatening nut allergies. Reaction to contact (touch, ingestion, etc.) with nuts can be life-threatening to these children. Therefore, we have found it necessary to ask children to be very selective with what they bring for lunch and for snack time. We would like to have a safe environment for all of our students and therefore we are asking that you carefully monitor what your child will be eating at school each day. The rule to follow is "If in doubt, DON'T pack it" PLEASE. We are aware that for some people it may create some difficulties with preparing what your child brings each day but making a mistake for these children with allergies could result in drastic consequences. Thank you for your assistance and understanding with this matter.

## PAC News and Executive:

Our PAC Executive is a small, energetic, active, fun and wonderfully supportive group. As a parent at Little Mountain, you are automatically a member of the PAC. Meetings are normally held the third Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. The PAC meeting is an opportunity for parents to put forth their ideas and suggestions as we work together to ensure our students, your children, experience another successful school year. For those parents who have younger children, babysitting will be provided.

Our PAC executive this year consists of:

- Chairperson – Tracy Lundeberg Virk
- Vice-Chairperson – Stephanie Pemble
- Treasurer – Andrea Bleasdale
- Secretary – Shannon D’Amato
- Hot Lunch Coordinator and Member at Large – Lindsey Day
- DPAC Representative – Roop Virk
- Member at Large – Lisa Welsh

Our first PAC meeting will be **Monday, September 18th at 6: 30 pm**. This first meeting will be an opportunity to meet new families, discuss our goals for this year and look at ways that together we can help our children be successful students. Stay connected with the PAC and find out what’s happening at the school by joining the “Little Mountain Elementary PAC news” Facebook Page.

## PAC Hot Lunch Program

We will soon be starting our hot lunch program online, with the first lunch being Subway on September 15th. Our online program gives you the opportunity to order/pay ahead for the entire year, or in increments at your own pace. Please note you are also able to change/cancel an order as long as it is done by the ordering deadline. You will be able to register your child as soon as you know who his/her teacher will be for the year.

To register your child please complete the following process:

- go to [lme.hotlunches.net](http://lme.hotlunches.net)
- click on "click here to register"
- enter access code: Imepac
- complete the rest of the registration form - please include an email address to ensure you receive reminders of hot lunch order deadlines as well as your child's order for upcoming lunches.
- click the "register now" button at the bottom of the page.
- follow the instructions to add each child in your family who attends LME.
- once your child(ren) are registered click on "orders" and proceed to place your orders.

Please note that the order will not be completed until payment is made. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Lindsey Day, our Hot Lunch Coordinator at the school or at [lindseyday182@gmail.com](mailto:lindseyday182@gmail.com).

## Parking Lot Challenges

Please help us by adhering to the following:

- a) If you are stopping to come into the building, please park in a designated stall only, even if you are just, “...coming inside for a minute.” Please remember that the stalls designated for persons with a disability are to be used only by those vehicles that are displaying a sign in their vehicle.
- b) Students will continue to be directed to use the crosswalk at all times when crossing the parking lot. When dropping off your child in the parking lot please direct them to walk along the proper walkways to get to the nearest crosswalk. We do not want our students walking between vehicles in the parking lot or behind a parked vehicle because they do not know when that vehicle may move forward or back up without warning. As role

models for your children/our students, please help us by using the same process when leaving your vehicle and coming into the school or leaving the school and returning to your vehicle.”

- c) Please be patient and understanding with each other and with our staff in the parking lot. We are aware that time is a valuable commodity for all parents and that once students are dismissed everyone wants to get on with their day. Please keep in mind that our first priority is the safe arrival and dismissal of all of our students. At times the situation in the parking lot may mean that you are delayed even if you are ready to leave. We will make every effort to have you in and out of the parking lot as quickly as possible.

## School News and Updates

For updated information on weekly school and class events please visit the school website at <http://littlemountain.sd33.bc.ca/www.sd33.bc.ca>. We will also send out an “Upcoming Weekly Events” email every Friday to inform parents of important events for the upcoming week.

## Student Absences

Please be sure to contact the school at (604)792-0681 if your child will be late or absent. We have an answering machine in the office for early morning and afternoon/evening calls. If your child is NOT in attendance and we haven't heard from you, we will call. Your child's safety is our primary concern.

## Custody / Health Concerns

Please notify the school office and your child's teacher if there are any custody or health issues of which we should be aware. If a child has a serious health concern, it is imperative that we put a safety plan in place to ensure that the child's needs are met. Please be aware that it is our policy to contact you, the parent if your child experiences a head injury, regardless of the severity. For this reason, it is imperative that the forth-coming Student Verification forms are returned as quickly as possible to your child's classroom teacher. Please know that we will always err on the side of caution to ensure that your child is well cared for at school.

## Wear a Helmet

This is just a reminder that it is mandatory for all of our students to wear a helmet when riding their bicycle to and from school. Having a bike lock is also a necessity. We have had problems with bicycles going missing in past years and with the increased traffic around our school, it would be unfortunate if your child's bike was taken because it wasn't locked up. In addition, it is expected that students will walk their bikes once they are on the school grounds. With the large number of vehicles in the morning and after-school, it is important that children walk their bikes once they reach the schoolyard.. Please be aware that the same rules apply to those students riding their skateboards, scooters or roller blades to school. Students are expected to walk their scooters and carry their skateboards once they are on school property. If students arrive at school without a helmet, their mode of transportation will be kept at the school until the child returns with the proper helmet. Your child's safety is important to us.

## Dress for Success

We work hard at Little Mountain to create an atmosphere of learning, and what students wear to school helps to establish that focused tone. We have a dress code at our school, which we expect all of our students to adhere to. To put it simply, if it's meant for the beach, it's not right for the classroom. Please refrain from wearing spaghetti strap tops, short shorts, midriff baring t-shirts and inappropriate slogans on clothing. Think of Little Mountain Elementary School being a place of “business” – the business of education – and it will help with the decision making about proper attire.

## Parent Volunteers

Parent volunteers are welcomed and cherished by the staff at our school. Having another person(s) to work with children on specific activities was an invaluable resource that many of our staff took advantage of last year. For those parents who

are interested in volunteering in our school (classroom, library, field trips, etc.), please check with Ms. Heemskerk at the office to see if your “Police Information Check” is up to date or if you need one done. We will be hosting a “Volunteer Information Session” on October 3rd. Please stay tuned for more information.

## **Please Sign In**

This is just a quick reminder that ALL adult visitors to our school need to check in at the office before going to their destination in the building. In this way we have an opportunity to keep track of who is in the building in case of an emergency and it also gives Ms. Heemskerk an opportunity to meet and touch base with the parents of the students in our school. In addition, please keep in mind that teaching/learning time is critical for all of our staff and students. If it is imperative that you speak with your child’s teacher, please keep in mind that the best time to do this is in the morning, prior to 8: 20 a.m. and/or after 2: 10 p.m. If this is not possible, please notify the office of the pressing situation and we will make every effort possible to ensure that you have the opportunity to talk to the staff member in question. Thank you for your cooperation with this procedure.

## **Students Hard at Work**

Encouraging and continuing to support an “open door policy” builds understanding, support and creates open lines of communication between parents and staff. It also reinforces in our students the fact that the school and the home are “on the same page” with regards to student success academically, behaviorally and socially. As important as it is to “open the doors” to you the parents and have the school be a place to meet, share ideas, experiences and formulate plans, it is critical that our student’s work-space is protected. Our request is that between 8: 25 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. we ask all parents, who are not volunteering at that time, to honor our request to please not use the Hall Areas as a “meeting/waiting place”. In addition to these areas being vital work spaces, we at times are dealing with confidential/sensitive issues in these areas and privacy is critical. In the next couple weeks, we will be creating a parent room which parents are welcome to use as a place to wait for your children, discuss ideas, etc. Thank you for respecting this request as we try to meet the educational needs of all of our students.

## **Cell Phones**

We understand the importance of parents wanting to ensure that their children are safe when they are not at home, however, it is also important that as a staff we know who our students are talking to when they are at school. Therefore, if your child needs to make a phone call they need to let the adults that work with them know they would like to make a phone call and then once given permission, use the SCHOOL OFFICE TELEPHONE. In addition, if you need to contact your child, please call the school number and we will pass on the information. If a child brings a cell-phone to school, they are to leave it at the office for the school day and then pick it up at the end of the day. In addition, students will be advised that “Play-Dates” are to be organized BEFORE a student arrives at school for the day. Students will not be given permission to use the telephone to ask permission to go to a friend’s house. Our belief is that parents will be making this decision before a child leaves for school in the morning. Thank you for your cooperation with these requests.

## **Please look for the following Items to arrive home with your child in the next 2 weeks:**

- Student Information and Verification Form – To be returned to the classroom teacher
- Code of Conduct Form – will be emailed (please review with your child)
- Community Field-trip Experience Form – To be returned to the classroom teacher
- Home Reading Program information
- PAC Fund-raising Information – Coupon Book Sale, etc
- After-school Student Programs

## IMPORTANT DATES

### September

- 6 First full day of school for Gr. 1-6
- 14 5:30 – 7:30 Welcome Back BBQ – hot dogs will be served!
- 17-29 Cancer Awareness Weeks start
- 18 6:30 PM PAC Meeting at LME Library – all parents welcome to attend
- 21 Professional Development Day – no school
- 25-29 Terry Fox & Cops for Cancer Coin Drive (M: nickels, Tu: dimes, W: quarters, Th: \$1, F: \$2)
- 25 Cops for Cancer school visit - tentative
- 27 Terry Fox Run
- 29 Orange Shirt Day
- 29 Monthly Assembly 1:00-1:45