

Maple Green Community Newsletter #8

February 2025



Important Dates

Monday, February 17
Friday, February 21
Tuesday, February 25

Wednesday, February 26
Friday, February 28
Thursday, March 6

Family Day Stat Holiday - No School

Pro-D Day - No School

Ready Set Learn 1-2 pm (for children born 2020 & 2021)
PAC Meeting 6:30 pm

Pink Shirt Day

Hot Lunch - Fuel Catering (order by 11:59 pm Feb. 20)

Class Photo Day

Maple Green Logo and Mural

We are excited to share some important news with you regarding our school mascot/logo. After thoughtful consideration and collaboration with school and district staff, the PAC, and local Indigenous leaders, we have decided that after 40 years it is time for the "Gator" to retire and to change to a mascot that better reflects the rich cultural heritage and meaningful traditions of the Indigenous peoples in our community. Additionally, we want a mascot which symbolizes the characteristics Maple Green students aspire to. This change is part of our ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and respectful environment for all students. We believe that this new mascot will not only honour the history and contributions of Indigenous cultures but will also serve as a powerful symbol of unity and pride for our school.



We understand that change can be challenging, and we want to ensure that this transition is smooth and positive for everyone. In fact, our students and the community will be part of the process of determining our new path forward.

Our school has arranged for Katzie artist Rain Pierre to present to students about his life as an artist and he will be leading the school in an art contest to gather input from students to incorporate into an amazing mural that will be in created in our gym. Our intent is for the mural to acknowledge Maple Green's history and to take the next steps into our future.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing more information about the new mascot and the significance behind it. We will also be organizing activities to help our students learn about and appreciate the cultural importance of this change. Your support and involvement are crucial as we embark on this meaningful journey together. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation as we make this important step forward.

Lunch Information - No Drop Offs

Please send lunch with your child(ren) each morning when they come to school. This allows us to minimize ins and outs of visitors to our school which in turn helps lessen disruptions and possible exposure of highly allergenic foods. By doing so, it helps us work together to promote good organizational skills in our children along with healthy food habits. As a family, taking the time to prepare lunch and snacks the night before or in the morning, and discuss healthy foods that support learning, builds skills that they will draw on later in life. We recognize your child(ren) may occasionally "forget" their lunch, of which we are prepared to support them here at school. You are welcome to order from the PAC hot lunch days for your child to receive that once in a while "special treat", but **we ask that you do not bring lunches to the office for staff to distribute.** Thank you for your support.



Black History Month

February

During Black History Month, people in Canada honour the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada a culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous country.

The theme for Black History Month 2025 is "Black Legacy and Leadership: Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting Future Generations."

Did You Know?

Mathieu Da Costa was a navigator and interpreter whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

Some Loyalists who came to Canada after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were people of African descent.

Many soldiers of African descent made many sacrifices in wartime as far back as the War of 1812.



In Surrey Schools:

From the early 1900s to the late 1960s, the East Side neighborhood of Strathcona (Hogan's Alley) was home to Vancouver's first and only black community.

Many active Black Student Associations (BSA) are focused on advocacy and awareness.

Racial Equity Department

Black Strathcona



Order Your Hot Lunch!

Fuel Catering on **Friday Feb 28th**



- Wraps
- Salads
- Sushi
- Doritos
- Chips
- Cookies
- Juice

Order & payment deadline 11:59pm Thursday Feb 20th

www.munchalunch.com/schools/maplegreen

or find the quick link at www.surreyschools.ca/maplegreen

REMINDERS:

- 1. Late orders cannot be accommodated as the vendor needs the order a week in advance.**
- 2. Refunds will not be given for student absences.** If your child is not at school, contact us and we can put the order aside for you to pick up around 11:40am or consider it a donation to a student in need.
- 3. If you cannot order or pay online, contact us for a paper order form and payment instructions.** maplegreenpac@gmail.com or ask your child's teacher.

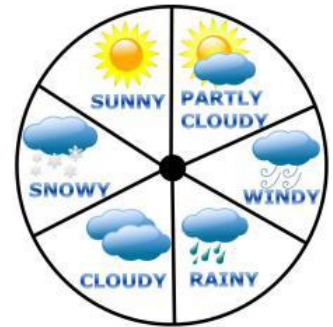
Please make sure you order and pay, before the deadline, so your kids don't miss out!

If you have any questions or problems regarding ordering, please feel free to contact us at: maplegreenpac@gmail.com

Dress for the Weather at Recess & Lunch

Unless there is a severe weather warning, students will continue to go outside for recess and lunch. Free play, fresh air and social interactions outside are a valuable part of students' learning each day. Please make sure that your child is dressed for the weather (including proper footwear, change of socks /clothes, warm waterproof outerwear and maybe an umbrella). Students will not be calling home during the day to have dry clothing brought to school, so please prepare in advance.

HOW'S THE WEATHER TODAY?



With the current cold weather, please ensure your child has gloves/mittens.

Ready, Set, Learn - Feb. 25, 2025

Do you have a child born in 2020 or 2021? If so, please join us for our Early Years Sports Day. Children and their parent/caregiver will enjoy this opportunity to come to get to know the school and to receive a gift to take home. Please call us to let us know you will be coming at 604-594-8838.



Pink Shirt Day Feb. 26, 2025

The Pink Shirt Day campaign recognizes the importance of unity, inclusivity, and diversity of all people. The Pink Shirt Campaign asks us to join in celebrating our diversity while raising funds to support inclusive anti-bullying programs for kids in our communities. Show your support by having your child wear something pink on this date.

PAC Meeting - Tuesday, February 25 6:30 pm

Join us on **Tuesday February 25th at 6:30pm** in the library for an update and discussion of our current PAC initiatives at the school. All caregivers are welcome!



Ready, Set, Learn

EARLY YEARS SPORTS DAY

YOU ARE INVITED!

- **WHO:** CHILDREN BORN IN 2020 AND 2021, ALONG WITH THEIR PARENTS/CAREGIVERS
- **WHEN:** TUESDAY, FEB. 25, 2025 1:00 – 2:00
- **WHERE:** MAPLE GREEN ELEMENTARY (GYM)
14898 SPENSER DRIVE, SURREY
PHONE: 604-594-8838



You're invited to visit our school for a Ready, Set, Learn event. Please let us know if you can attend by calling the school at 604-594-8838 before February 20, 2025.

This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to get to know your future school, meet the principal, staff, and students, and begin the journey of transitioning into kindergarten.

Please scan the QR code to access the BC Ministry of Education website for resources to help your preschooler get ready for school. You can also visit the website here (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/early-learning/support/programs/ready-set-learn>)



Kindly share this information with anyone you know who has a three or four-year-old child.



SURREY SCHOOLS IS HIRING



Great opportunities exist in your own community.

Surrey Schools is currently seeking people within your local neighbourhood to work as:

Lunch Hour Supervision Aides

What is every child's favourite time of the day? Lunch! This job is an ideal part-time opportunity for retirees, post-secondary students studying from home and adults who relate well to children and youth, that are free during lunch hour to head outside and spend time with kids at schools. Be part of their favorite time of day!

Supervision Aides work 1 hour per day.

The rate of pay is \$26.00/hour.

Follow this QR Code to view job posting!



For more information about working with Surrey Schools
visit: www.surreyschools.ca/careers


February – Sexual health

Healthy childhood and youth development includes sexual health.

Learning about your body and its changes, health conditions, personal hygiene, healthy relationships, consent and sexuality are all part of growing up.

How do I teach my child about sex and sexuality?

It's best to start openly discussing the basics of sex, sexuality and reproduction with your child from an early age, using age-appropriate language and levels of detail. You want to establish an open and trusting relationship with your child, so they know they can come to you for advice and accurate answers to their questions about sex and sexuality.



**Find information
on sexual health:
An important part
of child and youth
development.**



Check out these books that can help you open up a dialogue with your child and further their sexual education at any age: [Sexual education for children – Fraser Health Authority](#)

Sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI) are some of the aspects of a person's sexuality. The **Parents' Guide to SOGI in Schools** was created in collaboration with educators and parents to address some of the most common questions being asked about SOGI-inclusive education. Download the parent guide here: [Parents' Guide to SOGI in Schools / SOGI 1 2 3 \(sogieducation.org\)](#)

Youth clinics

Let your teen know about our youth clinics. These clinics are located across the Fraser Health region and provide free, confidential information and education regarding sexuality and health to youth under 21 to 24 (age varies by site). Learn more about the services available at youth clinics: [Youth clinics - Fraser Health Authority](#)