

Marie Sharpe Elementary

Newsletter

August 21, 2023



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Dates to Remember

Aug 31 – registration reopens.
Sept 5 – no students
Sept 7 – ½ day for students
Sept 22 – pro-d day
Sept 27 – Open House
PAC meeting
Sept 28 – Orange Shirt Day
Sept 29 – No School for STAT
Sept 30 - National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

First Day of School

That time of year is upon us again – teachers are eagerly returning to the school preparing for the return of students. The first day of school for students is Wednesday September 7th, and will be a half day for students. **Start time will be 9:00am, and dismissal will be 11:25am.** Buses will then run earlier as well. Kindergarten students will hear from teachers the last week of August about the gradual entry schedule for students.

We will have the same start time of 9:00am and end time of 3:00pm for students. While we recognize families are busy and things pop up, being at school on time and consistently makes a huge difference for students. Please let us know if we can support your family in anyway.

School Supplies

We are continuing the school supply program where families are able to purchase through the school for \$35. We are fortunate to be able to access great discounts so the prices is greatly reduced compared to purchasing on your own. If you would like to purchase on your own, please connect with me by email and I can send a list out to you.

We also ask that all students bring a pair of running shoes to leave at the school **(please make sure they are labelled with your child's name or initials)**. We also ask that a water bottle is sent to the school each day. We do have filtered water at the water fountains, but do not have extra water bottles for students.

Personal belongings: Toys and Technology

We will continue to ask caregivers to check and make sure their child is not bringing toys to school. Toys often create a distraction in classrooms and get lost on the playground creating understandable grief. This applies to technology as well. **If your child brings their phone to school, we ask that it is kept in their backpack for the entire day.** Please have this conversation with your child so that they understand that this will be the expectation here at school. If there is an emergency, students can use the phone in the office.

Staffing

We are very fortunate to be starting the school year with a full staff, with many returning teachers and support staff. Please feel free to drop in at the end of the school days to say hello to our new and returning staff members. We will also be connecting with all families in the first week of school to introduce ourselves. We are also working on plans for an Open House where we can spend time with families getting to know each other and showcasing our schools.

Class Lists

We do not have class lists ready at this time as registration is fluctuating every day. We will have temporary class lists posted on exit doors the first morning of school. These lists will likely change over the first couple of weeks as our student population changes, and we get to know our students and class dynamics better. While this does cause a bit of disruption, we try our best to place students for optimum success. Great care and time go into creating these groups.

Meals Program

We are looking for parents, caregivers, grandparents etc to come help support our meals program. We try to keep meals easy, but desperately need a few dedicated humans to help cook and clean after the meal. You do not have to commit to all of the meals, but we would like to offer one hot meal per week for our students (spaghetti, chilli, soup, grilled cheese, etc... simple is key). The school will provide funding and order all food needed to help make this easy for our volunteers.

If you would like to volunteer some time to come cook a meal for our students, please connect with me. This volunteer work could be partnered with our paid noon hour supervisor positions that are open. We would also appreciate feedback about our meals program and how to make it healthier and more accessible to our students in need.

PAC

PAC is an amazing way to connect with and to the school. We are actively seeking new members to join us as we grow our learning community. Being part of the PAC does not mean you have to attend all of the meetings or devote tons of time to our activities, but we need more people to help with some great ideas that are brewing.

The first PAC meeting will occur on the Open House night (September 27), where the AGM and voting for official positions will also happen. Popping by the PAC station is this night is a great way to learn about what we do as a PAC. Some of this includes fundraising and some includes planning and supporting amazing learning activities. PAC also plays a large role in bringing our community together in various ways like Family Movie Nights (more to come this year).