



Millwood Elementary School Newsletter September/October 2020

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Website: <https://mle.hrce.ca/>

Up Coming Dates:

- **September 30th: Curriculum Information shared**
- **September 25th: PD day: no students present**
- **September 30th: Orange Shirt Day**
- **October 12th: Thanksgiving Monday: no school**
- **TBD: Picture Day**
- **TBD: SAC meeting**

Thank You, Thank You and Welcome Back!

I need to start by welcoming everyone back and sending out a huge thank you to families and the community for your patience, flexibility and support during our opening weeks. It was a challenge like one we have never had to face but as I walk through the hallways and out on the schoolyard, I see many smiling faces, laughter and a feeling of togetherness even though we are not able to connect with one another, as we are accustomed. The students have all stepped up and have done a wonderful job following the new school and public health guidelines. I also would like to thank the teachers and staff for all that they have done to prepare and create a safe learning environment that allows the students to have a little bit of “normal” in our world of “new normals”.

School Communication

Newsletters will be sent out at the first of each month. Newsletters will be sent out via email only and posted on our website. If you would like to receive a paper copy of the upcoming newsletters, the office will keep a list of families who have requested this and will send out a copy at the first of the month. Please contact the office if you would like a paper copy. If you did not receive the newsletter electronically could you please contact the office so we can update your email address. Please check our website regularly for general information and upcoming events details. <https://mle.hrce.ca> .

Pizza Lunch and Milk Program

Due to public health restrictions, we are unable to offer pizza lunch or milk program at this point. We will review this option in January to determine how we will proceed for the remainder of the year. Pizza money was returned to families last June when families came to pick up their child's belongings. Mrs. Ritchie is currently preparing refund cheques for the remainder of the milk money owed to families in grades 1-5. These cheques will be sent out this week.

Before arriving at school/Daily Screening

We need families to monitor the health of their child(ren) each day before they come to school using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist (posted on our website). Students should remain home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild, and contact 811 for guidance. I have also attached information that can help you determine when your child may return to school if they had to remain home because they were ill.

Addressing Concerns and Questions

During the school year, you may have questions or concerns regarding your child and their progress. The first line of communication is with the classroom teacher. The teacher will respond to you within 48 hours. If you feel that the situation requires further consultation after speaking with the teacher, contact the principal via email or phone to address the situation further.

Essential Visitors Only

According to public health guidelines, only essential visitors are permitted in the building. They will review the COVID-19 Daily Checklist and confirm they have no symptoms. They will wear a mask in accordance to public health guidelines while in the building.

Curriculum Night / Curriculum Information

This year due to public health guidelines and restrictions, we are unable to host a traditional curriculum night at the school. In place of this, teachers will be reaching out to families individually to introduce themselves if they have not already done so. Grade levels will also be preparing an electronic overview of the curriculum and classroom expectations. Your child's teacher will communicate how this will be shared with you; it might be a website, electronic handout, google slide show etc. All communication regarding curriculum will be shared with families on September 30th.

Student Drop off times

Student arrival time is between 8:10-8:25. When students arrive, they will go directly to their classroom through their cohort door unless directed otherwise by their teacher.

Parking Lot

The driveway is now a bus loop and is closed to non-authorized vehicles between 8:00-8:30 AM and 2:20-3:00 PM. The parking lot is for authorized personal and vehicles with priority access designation only. Parents must park on the side streets drop their child off there or they may walk them to the playground and instruct them to go directly to their classroom through their cohort door.

I recognize that parking is a challenge in the area in the morning and many parents and residents in the area are concerned with obedience to HRM traffic signs, particularly on Sawyer Cres, Noria Cres, and Beaverbank Cross Rd. I have attached a map indicating the side streets parking options available.

Grab and Go Breakfast

Grab and Go breakfast will begin the week of October 5th. Breakfast Baskets will include individually packaged food items and whole fresh fruit. These baskets will be delivered to classrooms each morning. Students have access to a selection of items including, yoghurt, fresh fruit and cereal bars.

Millwood Elementary School Advisory Council

The Millwood Elementary School Advisory Council focuses on issues related to student achievement and wellbeing. Our meeting for the 2020-2021 school year will be held virtually and we will meet 5 times during the school year.

The School Advisory Council now has an email address: hrce-sac-mle@gnspec.ca. If you have any questions, issues or concerns related to SAC, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters

September 30th is Orange Shirt Day in Canada. A day in which we recognize the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being. On September 30th, students are invited to wear orange to school.

I am looking forward to another great year and working with the families and students at Millwood Elementary. Thank you again for all your support, flexibility and patience during our start up and through out the upcoming year. Please reach out and contact me if you have any questions now or throughout the year.

Michelle Andrews
Principal