MARIE SHARPE ELEMENTARY
OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

Principal: Heather McKinnon
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October 1, 2025

Partners in Attendance

Parents play an important role in the education of their children. Their involvement and encouragement can help a child excel. Other family members and friends also play a key role in making sure students understand why they need to attend school to succeed. A success in school starts with regular attendance from the early years right through high school completion. Did you know that even as early as Kindergarten, chronic absenteeism makes it more difficult to learn? Parents and schools can work together to find solutions that support children's success in learning. Please contact your teacher or the school if looking for attendance support.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:
- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and practice good hygiene (e.g. handwashing)
- Be in regular communication with your child's teachers.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor, or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-urgent related medical appointments and extended trips when school is not in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers and school, and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If your child must stay home due to illness, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Please support your child as a Marie Sharpe attendance **HERO**: **H**ere at school, **E**veryday, **R**eady to learn, **O**n time

Home - Marie Sharpe Elementary
Calendar - Marie Sharpe Elementary
SD27 Communication Protocol

PAC News

Next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, October 15th at 5:30 in the library.

We are starting Hot Lunches and are working towards using a website for ordering. Until that gets set up, please send $2 for each meal you would like to have. Orders are due the Monday before the meal is served. Hot lunch will be as follows:

October 8th: Chicken Caesar Salad
October 15th: Pizza Bun
October 22nd: Chili
October 29th: Chicken Noodle Soup **NO CHARGE** Pac sponsored

Please follow us on Facebook: Marie Sharpe PAC

School Food Program

Our school prepares a simple breakfast each day before school in the PAC kitchen/Gym Hallway from 8:30 am – 9:00 am for those students who may need a little extra nutritional support in the morning. Lunch food is also available every day for students who need a lunch, have forgotten a lunch or need a healthy top-up.

If your family needs support with lunches, please contact the office: heather.mckinnon@sd27.bc.ca or marina.campsall@sd27.bc.ca
This confidenitally ensures that all students have access to this lunch program.

Please check in with your child if they are bringing enough lunch each day. If students are not finished eating in the 15-minute eating block, they are welcome to take their unwrapped food outside to finish. We are strongly encouraging "naked snacks": Let's keep our playground litter free!

Sept 12: **Mrs. Fichtner nominated Ciara**
Sept 19: **Mrs. McKinnon nominated Keelan**
Sept 26: **Teness nominated Merrick**

Cross Country Run

Marie Sharpe Students have been training with Meagan B and will be travelling to Boitanio Park on October 10th for the CCSD meet. This is a walking field trip with more detailed information coming to the team members.

Early Dismissal Days

October 21st & 22nd are early dismissal days and students will be dismissed **one hour early at 1:54pm**. School busses will adjust to run regular routes an hour earlier. Regular parent communication is often critical to partnering for student success. Your student's teacher should be reaching out about setting up a meeting but if you would like to meet with or speak to your child's teacher privately about their learning progress at this, *or at any time of the year,* please contact the teacher directly to set up an appointment.

Take Me Outside For Learning

October 20th-24th is Outdoor Learning Week. All classes will be outside for learning that week BUT please be ready to be outdoors everyday. Place-based learning outdoors is part of our regular program at Marie Sharpe and all classes will be doing learning outdoors including regular outings to Scout Island!

Drop off and pick up

Please visit Students and Families - Marie Sharpe Elementary for important reminders that Mrs. McKinnon emailed out at the end of September.

Strong Start :

Parents interested in attending Strong Start are invited to register at the office (please bring your child's birth certificate and care card). We offer Strong Start 5 days a week from 9:00 am – noon. Strong Start programs provide a rich learning environment designed for early learning development-language, physical, cognitive, social, and emotional. Apryl leads learning activities where children find opportunities to make friends and interact with others of similar ages.

Participate with your young child (aged birth to five) in play-based learning activities – including stories, music, and art. At no cost to families, this early learning drop-in program helps prepare children for success in kindergarten.

Picture Day

Student photos will be taken on **Monday, October 6th** in the morning. Bring you best smile!

Starfish Backpack program

Starfish backpack program is sponsored by the Daybreak Rotary Club of Williams Lake with the support of many community donors and volunteers. This program provides support to families in need with food over the weekend. Each student is provided with a backpack with sufficient food for the weekend. If you or anyone you know could benefit from this program, please contact the office. A huge thank you to the Williams Lake Rotary Club for this support.

Upcoming Field Trips

October 7th	Mrs. Hird – Fire Hall
October 8th	Mrs. Merth – Fire Hall
October 8th	Ms. Brown – Fire Hall
October 10th	Mrs. Goertz/Fichtner – Fire Hall
October 10th	Cross Country Run Team Event