

Mary Rowlandson Elementary School

Update

August 22, 2018

<http://rowlandson.nrsd.net/> (Mary Rowlandson website)

Twitter [@MREschool](https://twitter.com/MREschool)

Welcome Back!

It's that time of year again! School is only about a week away. The first day for students will be Wednesday, August 29th and we could not be more excited! Summer is a great time for everyone to recharge their batteries and to experience a difference daily pace. The pace has started to pick up here at school with teachers returning to get their rooms ready. They are excited and look forward to the new opportunities that await. A new year brings new hopes and new chances to learn, make friends, have novel experiences and grow as an individual. We at MRE are eager to work in partnership to foster that learning with you.

Innovative Learners

During the summer, teachers take the opportunity to reflect and learn. This summer many Nashoba staff members read the book, [The Innovator's Mindset](https://georgecouros.ca/blog/he-innovators-mindset-book) by George Couros. <https://georgecouros.ca/blog/he-innovators-mindset-book> The central theme of this book is to unleash and empower teachers and learner to be creators. Couros defines innovation as a way of thinking that creates something better and new. We will be working as a school this year to support teachers and students to be innovative. Each month, the MRE Update will provide examples of how students are developing their content knowledge as well as growing their independence so they become innovative learners.

School Safety

As the school year ended last year, the district reviewed its safety practices and made plans to update our protocols and crisis plans. As the new school year starts the staff will undergo extensive training so they can continue to keep the schools safe. During the two days prior to school starting, the staff will participate in training led by the District

Nurse Leader and Lancaster Police Department. On Wednesday, September 26th at 6:00 a school safety forum for parents will be held in the MRE auditorium. This forum will provide parents with updates and information about the revised safety and crisis plans. More information will be sent out by once school starts about the updates to our practices and the parent forum.

Parent Teacher Organization

The PTO is a wonderful organization that does a tremendous amount to support the student of the Mary Rowlandson and Luther Burbank schools. The PTO supports the school in big and little ways. They help fund part of the field trips for each grade level. They also sponsor frequent Cultural Enrichment programs such as the Whale Mobile, Birds of Prey and Puppeteers. Without their support, the students would not have as many opportunities as they currently do.

PTO Update

The Lancaster PTO welcomes you to attend the first meeting of the 2018-2019 School year on September 19th at 6:30 PM in the MRE Library.

We are very excited to be volunteering this year and welcome any input or suggestions you have for us.

Megan Bates and Amie Caraballo (Lancaster PTO - Co Presidents)

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Back to School Paperwork

This year the district has made a move to reduce paperwork that needs to be filled out at the beginning of each year. Towards that end, all parents should have received an email this week requesting that you complete an online registration for your child. The information provided is the same as the old "blue" forms that used to be sent out each year. Now you can update your phone number, emergency contacts, and other key information quickly online. To identify the email, look for an email sent with a subject line of "Returning Student Registration" sent from Mary Rowlandson Elementary School. If you have any questions or do not see that email, please contact Jen Frommer at jfrommer@nrsd.net

Two pieces of paperwork that will be coming home with students on the first day of school are the Free and Reduced Lunch application and a Bus emergency form. Just a

reminder that the Free and Reduced lunch application needs to be filled out every year and does not carry over from year to year automatically.

Open House

The Annual Open House for parents will be held next Thursday, September 13th between 6 and 8. A specific notice will be sent out with the times that each grade level will be available for you to visit their rooms. This is a great opportunity not only to meet your child's teacher but to hear about what they will be learning throughout the year. Teachers will also cover topics such as homework expectations, the most effective way to communicate with them and classroom procedures.

Important Dates

August 29th – First day of school for all students in grades 1 to 5

August 29th and 30th – Staggered start of school for kindergarten 9:00 – 1:00

August 31st – First full day of school for kindergarten

September 3rd and 4th – No School, Labor Day and Primary Voting

September 14th Early release for professional development, 12:15 dismissal

September 13th – Open House 6:00 – 8:00 (parents only)

September 26th – School Council 4:00

September 17th to 21st- 5th grade to Nature's Classroom