



Meetings: Tuesday 12 Noon

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SEPTEMBER IS BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY MONTH

Happy Birthday	Happy Anniversary
Sep. 23: Mark Vosper	

UPCOMING SPEAKERS:

Sep. 19: Lynda Lawrence My trip to Greece	Sep. 26: Duck Race Cheque Presentations	Oct. 3: Darlene Slevin & Russ Brummer Maple Ridge Community Festivals
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LAST WEEK'S MEETING

Laurie Anderson presided.

Guests: Lynda Debruyne and Jim Michaels

Program: **Maple Ridge Christian School;**
12140 204b St, Maple Ridge



Speakers:

Quentin Flokstra – Lead Principal - Quentin has been the principal since 2018. He began at the school teaching high school humanities courses in 2008.

Chantelle Ollson-Chang – is the new Director of Donor Relations

About the School:



Quentin advised that the School's "focused core" is to have "a family-centred education rooted in a Christian worldview... but a worldview that is holistic and understood to have an impact beyond the walls of the classroom, and to impact the world with sciences, math, politics, trades, business and so on." On its website, it states, "Our kindergarten to grade 12 classes are

exciting and enriching places where academics, athletics, and the arts are experienced every day".

The school started in 1956 with 28 students and was known as Haney-Pitt Meadows Christian School. It changed to its current name in 2004. Initially it was a Kindergarten to Grade 7 (K-7) primary school, and then began a high school program in the late 1990s with its first graduating class in 2002.

It has been a "single-track school", meaning one class in each of the K-12 grade levels, but is now converting to a double-track school to better meet the increasing demand. This began in September 2021 with its second kindergarten class. With a single-track system, families would not be able to attend the school as classes were full, but sometimes new spots would open up if the family moved. Currently the school has approximately 40 students waiting for spots in various classes.

The school has experienced substantial interest and ongoing growth, particularly since 2017/18 when the school grew by 6%, and then the following year by 9% with continued growth since that time. It currently has 380 students. For the last two or three years the school has made plans for a new building which will allow the school to double their enrolment capacity to around 700 students as well as finally get a much-needed high school gym. (Currently the school has rented various facilities for their basketball team, but despite not having a high school gym of their own they have very competitive and successful sports teams.) Quentin said that the growth of the school "can be attributed to families looking for a school system that deeply values parent-partnership, and education rooted in a known set of common, shared values rooted in its biblical worldview.... We work hard to meet each student's needs..... Our teachers are deeply invested in the lives of our students. We have a core staff that have been part of this community for a long time, but they are open to learning and growing as we continue to be rooted but also innovative."

The school is working on imbuing the students with a "worldview that has real world applications". For example, each year a group of about 30 high school students go to a remote camp on Vancouver Island to do service work in helping that camp prepare for the year – painting cabins, chopping a years worth of firewood, cleaning debris, etc., in order that the camp can serve the indigenous communities on the West Coast of the Island in the summer. Also, for example, each year its Grade 4 class learns about lifecycles and caring for the world by raising salmon which

they release, in partnership with the Department of Fisheries; they also learn how to grow potatoes, and engage with the city parks to spend a workday weeding out invasive species. Says Quentin, from kindergarten to grade 12 our hope is to have students who are actively engaged in their community, understanding that their various gifts and talents can be used for the betterment of the community both locally and globally”.

Happy and Sad Dollars included:

Matt noted that our club introduced the Four-Way Test to grade 4 students in the Maple Ridge Christian school.

Mark Forster reported he and Eric attended the Oktoberfest of the Rotary Club of Golden Ears Sunrise that was held on September 9 at the Cheese Crafters facility, and that it was a “great event” (and more importantly, that “neither me nor Eric were arrested”).

Sharon said that hubby Ron is busy auditioning to be Santa Claus in a commercial (and because Ron not only is a “jolly old soul” but also has a real white beard, we are all hopeful that he will have a leg up on the competition).

Ineke gave congrats to the club on a fun camping weekend, with special kudos to **Clint and Cheryl’s** pancake breakfast and **Sharon’s** buns (cinnamon buns, that is).

Libby is looking forward to her cruise to Alaska, and **Jim Michaels** will be back to visit us again in the middle of October.

Club News and Announcements (and see the list of upcoming events at the end of this newsletter)

Dancing in the Ridge Competition November 23, 2023 at the ACT – all brave club members, including but hopefully not just limited to Eric, Clint, Alex and Mark, are asked to attend the dance practice Friday, September 15 at 6:30 to 7:30 PM at the Centre Stage dance studio at 20121 – 115A Avenue, in Maple Ridge, for what our president Brenda says “will be hilarious and show the Community that our Club has a great sense of humour, we do good in the community, and we are not afraid of having fun”.

Now that the morning Rotary Club has concluded its Oktoberfest, Ineke asked our club to **support the OktoberFest of the Ridge Meadows Hospice Society** which will be held on October 20 at the Albion community Centre. Also, at the Oktoberfest there will be a silent auction; so anyone with items they can donate to the silent auction please contact Ineke.

The **next Club executive meeting** will be held by Zoom on Tuesday, September 19 at 5:30 PM.

The **Food Bank is having a food drive**, so anyone who can donate nonperishable food items are asked to bring them to the Rotary Club meeting next Tuesday, and we will deliver them to the Food Bank.

Quote for the Day



Submitted by Laurie Anderson

CLUB CALENDAR:

Sept 16th Saturday - **Charity Cricket Game** (per Chili) at Selvey Park, 27000 106 Ave. in Whonnock

Sept 23 6pm - Gala Event at Albion Community Centre, to Donate Cricket Game proceeds to MR Rotary

Sept 24 at 4pm **Frisbee Golf** at Rempel’s – BBQ and potluck

Oct 11 - Door open 6pm; starts 7pm - **Hometown Heroes**
Maple Ridge Secondary School
Tickets \$60, \$25 for students.

Oct 20 - **Oktoberfest Hospice**

Oct 24 - **End Polio Day**

Oct 31 - **David Lukov - District Governor's Visit**

Nov 18 - **Foundation Dinner** - Bellingham Golf & Country Club

Nov 23 - **Dancing in the Ridge competition**

Dec 2 - **Pre-PETS** - Silver Reef Casino Resort

Jan 27, 2024 - **Grants Management Seminar**
Rotary Fieldhouse, South Surrey

Mar 2, 2024 - **Grants Management Seminar**
Silver Reef Casino Resort

Apr 13, 2024 - **District Assembly** - Kwantlen Polytechnic
Langley Campus - new location!