



# McGirr Elementary



Phone: 250-758-8946

Website: <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/mcge>

**Principal:** Mr. G. Halfyard  
**Vice-Principal:** Mrs. T. Collins  
**Secretaries:** Mrs. V. Hiltz and Mrs. M. Lockhart

April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Newsletter #8

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



### Principal's Comments:

#### Ministry Satisfaction Survey Deadline Approaching:

The ministry satisfaction (gr. 4 & 7) parent survey is open until **April 30<sup>th</sup>**. The results will provide important perceptions on how McGirr Elementary is doing in terms of student achievement and learning, safety and social responsibility, environmental education and health and fitness at school. Parents of grade **4** and **7** students may complete a survey for each child in each grade. Parent Logon numbers were given out in February. Alternatively, Please go to [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey/access.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm) and click on: **direct access to parent satisfaction survey** and select the district: **068** and school: **McGirr** to complete the online survey in less than 10 minutes. *Thank you in advance for completing this survey!*

#### Student Registration 2016-2017

**Moving?** Please inform the office and your child's teacher *now* if you are moving and not returning to McGirr in September. This information is vital for us to accurately plan and staff the school for September 2016.

**Kindergarten Registration-** Our current in-catchment student numbers are lower than projected at 24 students. Please ensure that your child is registered at McGirr if this is his/her catchment area school. Also, please share this information with other parents and community members of children born in 2011 to register now (until June 15, 2016) if they wish to be included in our fall school organization. All out-of-catchment (OOC) students, including kindergarten, **must register at their home/in-catchment school – even though they have an OOC application on file at another school. This is important in order to guarantee a secured space for your child in the in-catchment school if there is no room available at the OOC school.**

#### School Organization 2016-2017 Parent Letters

McGirr is currently staffed for 16 divisions for September 2016. If parents wish, they may write a letter to the principal to have the school based team consider parents' placement requests for the fall. Here are the criteria for all parent letters regarding student placement requests for the 2016-2017 school year. Letters must be addressed to Mr. Halfyard, Principal; not mention teacher names; be based on student learning strengths, needs and style and the learning environment; social-emotional considerations; history of blended classes; class composition and male-to-female ratio. All parent letters must be submitted to Mr. Halfyard by **May 31<sup>st</sup>** for consideration for September 2016. While we will consider parent letters it is important to recognize that we cannot honour all requests and the principal, in consultation with staff, is responsible for student placements.

On Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m., there will be a public meeting to gather input to aid in the development of a revised transportation policy for the 2017-18 school year. The intent of the meeting is to create guidelines the district should use to support students getting to school.

The meeting will take place in Chandler Hall at John Barsby Community School. No discussion of transportation for the 2016-17 year will take place.

*Gregg Halfyard*



#### Justin Smith Coin Drive- April 11-15

Justin Smith was a wonderful student who was a member of the McGirr school community, and brother to Tyler Smith in Grade 7. In 1998 Justin was a grade 3 student at McGirr who tragically died of cancer. Each year we do a coin drive to raise money to help remember Justin and also to donate towards the *Justin Smith Memorial Scholarship Fund!* We request that students consider how they can help out around their houses to earn a coin or two, and then to bring these coins to the school to donate to the fund. Each morning during the week of April 11-15 student leaders will collect coins from classes. All donations are greatly appreciated and go directly to this important cause. Thank you so much for demonstrating your McGirr spirit!



## Sports Updates:

### Basketball Season:

We entered two bantam boys teams in the NETPEA playoffs and our boys played with great spirit and sportsmanship, representing their team and school with pride. Although both teams lost their second round games they can be proud of their skill development and their improved play during the season! Our bantam girls played hard and improved also, losing their playoff game against Quarterway. Special thank you to Ms. Dawson for coaching several bantam boys games, and to our grade 6/7 student helpers for their excellent work score and timekeeping. Appreciation also goes out to Ms. Peace for coaching the bantam girls team and to Ms. McWhinnie for coaching the peewee girls and to Ms. Blow for coaching the peewee boys team. Gratitude as well goes to Ms. Collins for helping organize refs, scorekeepers, rides and games.



### Track & Field:

Our yearly school track and field meet takes place at the NDSS Rotary Bowl on **May 19<sup>th</sup>**. McGirr student athletes will compete from grades 3-7. The top four finishers in each event qualify for the zone track and field meet which takes place at the Rotary Bowl (behind NDSS) on **Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**. Qualifying athletes will then compete in the district track and field meet on **Thursday June 9<sup>th</sup>**. Students will be given permission slips for the school (and zone and district) meet(s) and parents must sign the form and have students return it to their teacher if they wish to participate.

Students will travel to and from the Rotary Bowl by bus and all classroom teachers and education assistants from McGirr will be supervising them during the school meet.

Parent volunteers are required for timing of track events and we will need as many parents as possible. Please sign the bottom of the permission slip (*coming in May*) to indicate that you are able to help with timing, officiating or judging events. Thank you very much in advance to all staff and parents who will help to make the McGirr school track meet a success.

### Jump Rope for Heart:

Thank you to **Ms. Kraft** for helping to organize this year's Jump Rope for Heart event, which raises funds for the *Heart & Stroke Foundation*. Our school jump rope event will occur on Friday April 22<sup>nd</sup> in the gym. We will hold an informational assembly at 2:05 on April 14<sup>th</sup>. Thank you to all parents, guardians and community members for considering to generously donate to the Heart and Stroke Foundation!

### Field Trips:

April, May and June are months of warmer weather and frequent class off-site, co-curricular fieldtrips. Students are encouraged to inform parents and bring home permission slips well in advance of any trips off the school campus. Teachers occasionally request support from parents and guardians for assistance with supervising students on some fieldtrips. We always appreciate your assistance. Please ensure that you have submitted a completed Criminal Records Check to the office as per district policy when volunteering.

### Spot Vision Screener:

This is a no cost program designed to assist in identifying children with vision problems. It is co-sponsored by Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools and the Nanaimo Lions' Club. The screening takes place on Friday, **April 19<sup>th</sup>** after lunch in the library.

Informational parent letters will be attached to the newsletter for grade 4 and 7 students. Parents requesting their child (ren) **not participate** in this screening are asked to sign and return the form.

## PAC News

### McGirr PAC Important Dates

Fun Fair Planning Meeting – **Sunday April 17<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm** at Starbucks Chapters location.

This Meeting is extremely important as we need to get tasks divided and get going on many things! Big equipment/rides have been ordered and are reserved for us! Topics of the meeting are as follows: Posters/signs needed, prize organization and collection, individual game inspection and set-up/repair, auction, volunteers needed to run event, bake sale, raffle tickets etc.

Next PAC Meeting – **Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm** in the library. Free Childminding.

Upcoming fun lunches – Friday **April 15<sup>th</sup>**, **May 20<sup>th</sup>** and **June 17<sup>th</sup>**. If you are available to help for any of those fun lunch days, please email Maquinna at [mmarriott2@hotmail.ca](mailto:mmarriott2@hotmail.ca). Additionally, if you are interested in volunteering for the position of fun lunch coordinator, let me know!

*Thank you in advance*

## **Calendar:**

### **APRIL**

April 5, 12, 19-Grade 3's –Swim to Survive at the NAC

April 11-15- Justin Smith Coin Drive

April 14- Jump Rope Assembly PM

April 18- Pac Meeting at 6:30p.m.

April 22- Jump Rope for Heart event in the gym

April 28- Talent Show- 6:30p.m.

### **MAY**

May 5- Young Entrepreneur Fair (Div. 6 & 7)

May 5 & 6- Author Visits (Primary-5<sup>th</sup>; Intermediate-6<sup>th</sup>)

May 2-6- Healthamongous at Beban Park (K-4)

May 12- Ready-Set-Learn 12:30-1:30p.m.

May 13- Professional Development Day

May 16- Curriculum Implementation Day

May 19- School Track & Field Meet at Rotary Bowl

May 23- Victoria Day Holiday

May 25- Welcome to Kindergarten 12:30-1:30p.m.

May 31- Zone Track Meet at Rotary Bowl

### **JUNE**

June 3- Fun Fair

June 9- District Track Meet at Rotary Bowl

June 20-22 Grade 7s to Camp Capenwray

June 29- Last day of classes- Assembly, Final Report Cards

**Safety Notice in Parking Lot: We have noticed an increasing amount of parents using their cell phones while driving and parking in the school lots. Distracted driving is a real safety concern for other drivers and most importantly, our students. Please consider others' safety when you are driving and parking- we are all busy; please do not use your phones while operating a motor vehicle. Thank you!**

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