



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

December 8th, 2015
Newsletter #4

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are now into the second week of December and report cards will be distributed on Wednesday December 9th. Parents are encouraged to review their child's report card with their child and to set learning goals for the next three months. If you have any questions regarding your child's report cards please communicate with his/her teacher before the Winter Break.

Thank you to all of the parents and guardians for completing the online Criminal Records Checks for volunteering at McGirr. The majority have gone well, although a few have taken longer than expected. Please inform the office if you are experiencing delays in the processing of your CRC application.

It has been less than six weeks since I have had the privilege of being the principal here at McGirr Elementary. I have been impressed with the positive and welcoming attitude of all of the students and parents, the professionalism of the staff, and the overall learning community at McGirr. Please visit me at the office or contact me if you have any questions or issues that you would like me to assist you with. Enjoy a safe and happy holiday season with your family and friends and we will see you all on January 4th 2016.

Thank you,
Gregg Halfyard

Student Registration for September 2016

Starts Monday, January 4th, 2016

New Registrations- If this is the first time you have registered your child in a Nanaimo-Ladysmith School, you must bring the following documents with you:

- Your child's birth certificate
- Proof of your address. This can be a credit card statement, utility bill, mortgage statement, municipal tax bill, or rental agreement with your name and address, or a notary-authorized letter.

Kindergarten Students- Children who will be five years of age before January 1, 2017, may enter school in September 2016. You may defer your child's enrolment until September 2017.

Parents are encouraged to register their children at their neighborhood (catchment) school as soon as you can. Please bring your child's birth certificate and proof of address. To obtain an assured space in your child's catchment area school you must register by June 15th, 2016.

Out-of-Catchment (OOC) Applications- The application process starts Monday, January 4th, 2016 and ends Thursday, March 31st, 2016. Parents complete an application form for the school they wish their child to attend. Opportunities for OOC placements are limited. Priority is given to those who have a sibling already registered at the requested school. All other requests will be considered in the order in which they are received, and acceptance is subject to available spaces and facilities and staffing.

PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP FOR OUR LISTSERVE TO BE ABLE TO RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL! To subscribe to newsletters, please send an email to:
subscribe-mcgirrelementary-news@listsrv.sd68.bc.ca

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 9 Report Cards distributed; Grade 7 Sleepover Leadership Evening
December 10 Earthquake Drill 1:00p.m. Parent Session-Sexual Health Education with Kerri Isham
6:30pm in the library
December 11 Port Theatre: Grade 1-2's; Grade 6/7 Dance 1:15
December 18 Last day of classes prior to Winter Holidays

January 4 2016	Schools Reopen; Kindergarten Registration Begins
February 8	Family Day Stat Holiday
February 22, 23	District Pro D Day
March 9	Report Cards distributed
March 11	Last Day of Classes - Spring Break (*2 weeks)
March 29	School Back in
May 13	Pro D Day
May 23	Victoria Day
June 29	Last day of classes - Summer Holidays

Christmas Concert - December 3^d

Thank you to all parents and guardians for coming to our annual Christmas Concert on December 3. We would also like to express a special note of appreciation to all of our parents, guardians and family members for being such a great audience. Also, congratulations to *every* student performer, and the excellent grade 7 hosts for this highly entertaining concert. We would also like to recognize our teachers for their leadership and guidance with our students leading up to and including the Christmas concert- **Mr. Bamford, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Raines and Ms. Mark**, as well as all teachers.



We would like to thank parents for your patience in terms to be strict with allowing people in the gym for the evening in the end.

McGirr staff and the VIU student

of the tickets. For safety, we had performance, and it all worked out

EARLY DETECTION - PHONING IN ABSENCES

The early detection system is for the safety of all students at McGirr. The answering machine is turned on each evening so parents can call before 8 am to report students who will be absent or late. This program is for the safety of your child. **All absences and lates should be called in.** When leaving a message please state your child's name, division and if they are ill, at an appointment, or on vacation.

Strong Start News

The last day of **Strong Start** for the year is **Thursday, December 17th**. On Friday December 18th, we are looking for parent volunteers (sorry no children) to help clean for the new year. If you are interested, please let Ms. Stacey know. Tea, coffee, and snacks will be provided. We will reopen **Monday, January 4th**.

Sports

Here are some *community* sports opportunities for our students and families:

- **Nanaimo Girls Basketball Club (NGBC)** - Come out for some fun, fitness and skill development with the NGBC! Coaches are Mike Lundine and Rachel Kirk.

Where: Coal Tyee School Gymnasium

Who: Grade 5-7 Girls

When: January 11-March 7, 2016 **Mondays** -7 sessions (Cost is \$50.00 and includes a T-Shirt and Ball)



Grade 5 & 6 Girls: 6-7 p.m.; Grade 7 Girls: 7-8 p.m. For more information or to register contact ngbcreg@gmail.com

- **Junior Tennis League**

Have you played tennis before? Tennis Canada is introducing a game of tennis in a much easier way to learn! By using small rackets, less pressured balls, portable tennis net, we could play tennis all year around without having tennis courts, and get started right away in the school gym at school. Kazue Fujiki is a certified tennis instructor and also a leader of community tennis in Nanaimo. We would like to start offering some tennis activities to McGirr students and start offering tennis league as a team sport next year.

Please stay tuned with more tennis information. There are some opportunities at school and also in the community. If you would like to have your name on the tennis information email list, please send an email to nanaimotennis2015@gmail.com



- **Nanaimo Hornets Mini Rugby**

Nanaimo Hornets would like to invite all future Rugby players, ages 5 - 13, to our Minis Rugby program. Our program runs September to December and January to April. We have ongoing registration throughout the year. We offer a fun and comprehensive rugby program for players of all ages and levels. Contact is limited, U8 (5-8 yrs old) and U10 (9-10years old) use flags, and U12, U14 involve contact play. Contact and tackling is taught in progressions and with a large emphasis on player safety. We look forward to hearing from you! Contact Hannah Perry at hornetsminiandyouthrugby@gmail.com for more information and with any questions you may have.



School NETPEA Teams:

Volleyball/Triple Ball is the current team sport and will run until February 2016. Many thanks to our teacher-coaches and each parent for driving our student-athletes to/from their games. Good luck to all of our McGirr volleyball teams!

Sexual Health Education Parent Information Night- Thursday, Dec.10th @6:30p.m.

The PAC at **McGirr** has secured the services of Kerri Isham (Power Up Workshops) to deliver the Sexual Health Curriculum this year. The learning outcomes from the Health and Career Education Curriculum, mandated by the Ministry of Education, will be taught as follows:

Kindergarten/Grade 1 (2-45 minute lessons)

- Safe, unsafe and secret touching
- Private Body Parts

Grade 2/3 (2-45 minute lessons)

- Distinction between the digestive and reproductive system*
- All families are different*

Grade 4 (2-60 minute lessons)

- physical changes that happen during puberty

Grade 5 (2-60 minute lessons)

- physical, emotional, and social changes of puberty
- hygiene

Grade 6 (2 - 90 minute lessons)

- Human reproductive system
- Developmental rate during puberty
- Sexting
- Dangers of homophobic language

Grade 7 (3-90 minute lessons)

- Puberty, hygiene and conception
- HIV/AIDS/Basic information on sexually transmitted infections
- Healthy versus unhealthy relationships

*The grade 2/3 curriculum has been chosen by the sexual health care provider upon consultation with Meg Hickling's book " *The New Speaking of Sex*".

An anonymous question and answer period will take place during the last ten minutes of each grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 class. All age-appropriate questions will be answered. Professional judgment is assured.

Please note that all classes are co-ed.

The purpose of sexual health education is to:

1. Provide students the **knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes** they will need to make and act upon **decisions** that promote sexual health throughout their lives.
2. Provide **age-appropriate** information to promote healthy behavior.
3. Reduce the negative impact media has on our young people (explicit, unrealistic and often undignified sexual images and messages).
4. Allow students to **talk openly and honestly** about sexuality.
5. Positively **impact the health and well-being** of the community.

Sexual health education is a joint effort between the sexual health provider, the school, the parents and the community. On Thursday, Dec.10th at 6:30 p.m. in the library, we will be hosting a **Parent Information Night** that will include a short Power Point presentation, as well as a variety of sample lessons, led by

Kerri. This will give parents the opportunity to ask questions, to take part in the lessons that their children will be receiving and to receive support material such as a book list and recommended websites. In 2004, the Ipsos Reid Survey determined that parents want more input into the sexual health education of their child(ren). This is **your opportunity**.

"When parents talk openly with their children and teenagers about sexuality it leads to less risky behaviour, less conformity to what they think others are doing, and helps them to view their parents as good sources of information". This is what we want for all of our children. (Teachingsexualhealth.ca)

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact:

Gregg Halfyard (Principal) 250-758-8946 **Kerri Isham** (Sexual Health Provider) 250-585-1605

Emergency School Closure Procures

Occasionally schools are closed due to dangerous conditions such as heavy snowfalls, ice or power outages. The superintendent, in consultation with the transportation supervisor and municipal and provincial officials, determines if and when to close schools for reasons of student safety. Please check the district website: www.sd68.bc.ca and also listen to local radio stations WAVE 102.3 and WOLF 106.9 FM for information on individual schools and our district.

Safety Drills

We regularly practice fire (6 per year) and earthquake drills (3 per year) and procedures each year. We have had two fire drills and one earthquake drill this year. Our next earthquake drill is Dec. 10th at 1:00p.m. It is announced on the P.A. system and a simulated recording of earthquake sounds is played. Students do the drop, cover and hold technique in which they get under desks or tables and count to 60. Once the sound stops they again count to 60 for possible aftershocks and falling objects. Next, teachers lead their students in a calm, orderly line outside the building to meet on the field for attendance.

It is equally important for families to have emergency evacuation plans and established meeting places at home as well. Best practice is to draw a map and share it with all family members in case of any emergency. Purchasing a survival emergency kit with 72 hours of water, food and safety supplies is a minimal requirement, according to provincial emergency planners.

