



# McGirr Elementary



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

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

February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Newsletter #6

## **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

We are now mid-way through February and less than one month from second term report cards and the start of a two-week Spring Break. This is an important time of year for students to demonstrate their academic learning and their social-emotional development. Parent communication with teachers and the school is a significant factor in student success in school. Please continue to support your child(ren) directly by monitoring their planners and asking them about their daily learning experiences at school. Talking with children about their learning goals and providing them with strategies and skills for overcoming social and academic challenges helps them become resilient. When the school and home work closely together and communicate often, the result is improved student learning and satisfaction at school. Thank you for your ongoing support!

**Satisfaction surveys** for parents of students in grades 4 & 7 went home two weeks ago. Please take the time to complete this online survey using your unique logon number attached to the letter sent home. The results will help school staff on our School Plan and Goals moving forward as we will build on strengths and focus on areas in need of improvement.

Student lateness have improved over the recent weeks! Thank you to parents, guardians and students for making a concerted effort to be at school on time. Punctuality is a life skill and an important predictor of success at school. Please ensure that students arrive at least ten minutes before the welcome bell at 8:28. Supervision occurs 15 minutes before school starts, and 15 minutes after dismissal. Please make every effort to arrange for your child (ren) to be picked up by 2:40p.m. Tuesday to Friday, and 1:40p.m. Mondays. Thank you in advance!

We continue to still have lunches, etc. dropped off at the office - please remember to put their names and classroom teacher's name on before dropping off.

We are looking for a vcr/dvd player to use for instruction. (There are multiple science vcr cassettes at the school). If any families have an old unit they would be willing to donate to McGirr we would be very appreciative!

My office door is often open and I encourage all parents and guardians to visit the office and discuss any issues or concerns that you may have regarding your child's education. You may also wish to email me or contact Ms. Hiltz in the office to arrange an appointment. Thank you for your support.

*Gregg Halfyard*

## **Registration for September 2016**

**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. There are currently more out-of-catchment applications than in-catchment registrations. If you know anyone with kindergarten age children please remind them to register now in order to ensure a space for September!

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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

**Out-of-Catchment (OOC) Applications-** The application process starts Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016 and ends Thursday, March 31<sup>st</sup>, 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.



This is an important message from our grade 6 leaders!

Did you know that February 29<sup>th</sup> is **National Cupcake Day for the SPCA**? That's right and we here at McGirr are hoping that as a school we can help make a difference and support our local SPCA. The SPCA is a local non-profit organization with a specific goal of protecting and caring for unwanted animals in our community. To show our support we are going to join in the National SPCA Cupcake Day and be selling yummy cupcakes on **Monday February 29<sup>th</sup>** for just \$1.00.



We thank you in advance for supporting our fundraiser and buying our cupcakes!!

### PAC Updates

**PAC Meeting - Monday Feb 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30 - Free Child-minding**

**Book Fair - Monday to Friday at lunch and for ½ hour after school. Also open Monday evening 6pm-8pm**

**Fun Lunch - Friday Feb 19<sup>th</sup> - Whitespot/Subway/Sushi**

### Family Movie Night



Join us Thursday Feb 18<sup>th</sup> for Family Movie Night featuring The Good Dinosaur in pre-dvd release!! Admission is \$2 per person or family admission for \$5! Doors open at 6pm, and movie begins at 6:30. Concession will be open with pizza by the slice, popcorn and

### Spring Craft Fair

Spring is on the way and we are currently planning for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual McGirr Spring Craft Fair taking place on **Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>** in our gymnasium. This is a great way to showcase some of the amazing talents that our McGirr Families possess and we want you to be involved. The craft fair will operate from 10am-3pm with set-up starting at 8:30am. Concession will be open as well as a bake sale! A colouring station will also be set up to help entertain kids while parents shop!

Table rentals will be \$30 with complete payment being due one week prior to the event. If you would like to participate by renting a table or donating baked goods, please email Stacie at [cheers2spacie@hotmail.com](mailto:cheers2spacie@hotmail.com). Tables are limited so first come first serve! If you operate a direct sales based company and you want to participate, please email as soon as possible as only a certain percentage of tables will be held for those types of vendors.

**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](mailto:subscribe-mcgirrelementary-news@listsrv.sd68.bc.ca)

## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 12	Gr.4's at Port Theatre for "My Symphony" by the VIS
February 12	Valentines Dance- 1:00 PM
February 15	Dover Bay Band performs 1:05pm; PAC Meeting 6:30
February 18	Grade 7s to Science World
February 19	Fun Lunch
February 22, 23	District Pro D Days (Students do not attend)
February 24	Pink t-shirt Anti-Bullying Day- Assembly @ 9:00a.m.
March 4	Fun Lunch
March 9	Report Cards distributed
March 11	Last Day of Classes - Spring Break (*2 weeks)
March 29	School Back in
April 5, 12, 19	Grade 3's -Swim to Survive at the NAC
April 14	Jump Rope Assembly- PM
April 22	Jump Rope for Heart
May 2-6	Healthamongous at Beban Park
May 13	Pro D Day (Students do not attend)
May 16	Curriculum Implementation Day (Students do not attend)
May 23	Victoria Day
June 29	Last day of classes - Summer Holidays

## Sports

### Tennis for Kids at McGirr- The equipment has arrived!

McGirr has purchased a complete set of the specialized tennis equipment which will be used for P.E. classes as well as a junior tennis league. Ms. Fujiki will visit McGirr in the coming weeks to do a tennis demo for all intermediate classes. For details please contact her at: [nanaimotennis2015@gmail.com](mailto:nanaimotennis2015@gmail.com) We look forward to our students learning new skills and abilities as they learn to play tennis.



### School NETPEA Teams:

Basketball is the final team sport and is now underway from February 15 to April 1<sup>st</sup>. Games and practice times and days have been given to players. Thank you to our coaches for volunteering their time and energy with our student-athletes: **Ms. Collins, Ms. Peace, Ms. Blow** and **Ms. McWhinnie**, from Dover Bay. We always appreciate parents who volunteer to drive to away games. Please ensure that you complete a current driver's abstract and parent driver form. The district also requires volunteers to complete a criminal records check. Thank you in advance!



## Inclement Weather

Students and parents are reminded that winter weather brings frequent colder, wetter days and we expect students to be prepared for poor weather each day at school. While we have had an unusual number of "inside days" students will be outside for important exercise and fresh air unless there are high winds and heavy downpours. Please send your child to school in appropriate clothing for the weather in anticipation that they will be outside during play breaks.

