



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

January 14th, 2016
Newsletter #5

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Happy 2016! Welcome back to all of our returning and new students and families to McGirr for an exciting second half to the 2015-16 school year. Our staff is working hard to provide a quality educational experience for every student. A New Year begins and a new provincial curriculum unfolds. On Friday January 29th educators from across our district will be learning together at Dover Bay for the first of two curriculum development days. The curriculum model is made up of three elements: Content (*What students are expected to **KNOW***), Curricular Competencies (*What students are expected to **DO***), and Big Ideas (*What students are expected to **UNDERSTAND***). Teachers will combine the three elements in ways they see fit to personalize learning in their classrooms. Please visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/> for details on our new curriculum.

Foundation Skills Assessments for all grade 4 and 7 students in the province. These are annual assessments in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy sponsored by the ministry of education in schools across the province. Students in grade 4 and 7 at McGirr will be completing both online and booklet FSA components from **January 11- February 19th**. Results do not impact student report cards and will be sent home by April 30th. The ministry is currently developing a new form of provincial student assessment in these core subjects which will be piloted next year.

Ministry of education Satisfaction Surveys are now open and will continue until April 30th. These surveys are for students in grade 4,7,10, and 12, their parents and staff. A parent may complete a survey for each child in the targeted grades. Responses are anonymous and are important to help us to focus on improvements, to build on strengths, and to develop clear and sustainable school goals for the future. Next week we will send all parents of grade 4 and 7 students a letter with the link, and a unique logon number attached which will enable you to complete the online survey in 5-10 minutes. The logon number cannot be linked to any individual. I am hoping that 50-60% of parents will complete the survey!

The Sexual Health Education lessons presented by **Kerri Isham** are concluding this Friday. Ms. Isham taught each of our classes from K-7 over the past two weeks. As mentioned in the December newsletter this information is a part of the provincial curriculum and Ms. Isham is an experienced and qualified teacher. I participated in the parent evening on December 10th and also sat in on many of the intermediate sessions. Please feel free to contact me or Kerri if you have any questions or concerns regarding the lessons and/or any of the subject matter of the sessions.

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

Student Registration for September 2016

Started 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.

PAC Updates

PAC Meeting Jan 18th 6:30pm Library, Free Child-minding Available

White spot/Subway/Sushi Fun Lunch - Jan 22nd (order deadline Monday Jan 18)

First Funfair Meeting- Brainstorming ideas Jan 31st Chapters Starbucks 6:30pm

Boston Pizza Fun Lunch - Feb 5th (order deadline Monday Feb 1st)

PAC Meeting Feb 15th

White spot/Subway/Sushi Fun Lunch (order deadline Monday Feb 15th)

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

January 4 2016	Schools Reopen; Kindergarten Registration Begins
January 18	PAC meeting 6:30 in library
January 22	Vancouver Island Symphony-visiting musician-gr.4's 1pm; Div. 9, 10 NAC-swimming @ 11:20; PAC Fun Lunch
January 29	Curriculum Implementation Day (Students do not attend)
February 5	Fun Lunch
February 8	Family Day Stat Holiday
February 10	Div. 6, 7 NAC-swimming 9:00
February 12	Gr.4's at Port Theatre for "My Symphony" by the VIS
February 12	Valentines Dance
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 25	Pink t-shirt Anti-Bullying Day
February 26	Jump Rope for Heart
March 4	Fun Lunch
March 9	Report Cards distributed
March 11	Last Day of Classes - Spring Break (*2 weeks)
March 29	School Back in
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

Library News

This year is definitely flying by - Happy New year to all parents and Caregivers!

I wanted to remind parents/guardians that the library is also available for your use. Did you know, you can borrow books for your home use? We encourage you to come in and browse the selection. We have books here for you to read to your preschoolers, as well as books for your own reading pleasure. (Check out the teen section, which is exclusively for the grade sevens and older clientele). There are some very interesting fiction reads. Please come in before or after school to arrange this with me.

I am sending out an urgent request! Come and Volunteer in the library. We need volunteers each week to discharge and shelve books, interact with lively inquisitive patrons, help them in their search for the right books. See me to set up this experience.



Thank you PAC for all books donated to the library. The latest processed books are on display! I am looking forward to connecting with you.

Donna McDaniel
Teacher-Librarian
McGirr Elementary School

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.

Sports

Tennis for Kids at McGirr

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 are able to play tennis all year around without having tennis courts. **Kazue Fujiki** is a certified tennis instructor and also a leader of community tennis in Nanaimo. McGirr is purchasing 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



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. Each of our McGirr's volleyball teams has performed well and improved their skills during the season. Most importantly, the players have demonstrated good sportsmanship and positive team spirit. League play wraps up the week of January 22nd, with playoffs for the bantam boys and girls running from January 25 - February 5th.

The next NETPEA team sport is basketball with league play from February 15 - April 1st. We hope to have a good turnout for our girls and boys peewee and bantam teams.

Grade 6 and 7 students are enjoying playing in the NHL (*Nanaimo Floor Hockey League*) at small recess. Teams are now playing in a fun tournament with final games being played during the last week of January.

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. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Tardiness: We have noticed a high number of students arriving at school late since the winter break. Please make every effort to be at school **before 8:25** each morning. Routines are important and starting the day on time is a vital to successful learning.