



# 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

November 13, 2015  
Newsletter # 3

## ***PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE***

We are now in the middle of November already and it is evident to me that McGirr is an active, dynamic and positive place of learning and playing. The teaching and support staff are working hard to provide students with a quality educational program each day. I have been particularly impressed with the kindness, creativity, and pro-social behaviour of all of the students here at McGirr Elementary School. Finally, it has been rewarding to meet many of the PAC members and parents over the past two weeks as I begin my tenure as the new principal. I encourage parents to drop by the office or phone me or email me at your convenience to introduce yourselves and discuss any issues related to your child(ren) here at McGirr.

Report cards are less than four weeks away and will be distributed to students at the end of the day on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Now is an opportune time to communicate with your child's teacher(s) about their social-emotional and academic progress. Teachers are regularly assessing (gathering information) and evaluating (making judgments on products and activities) student progress and formal report cards are (summative) snapshots of lessons and units over a period of time. Report cards are formal communications of students' achievement in relation to curricular expectations and provincial learning outcomes. Regular and continued communication between the home and school is important in supporting student learning and achievement.

With numerous field trips, sports events and extra-curricular activities planned between now and the Winter Break, clear communication is vital. Staff will be sending informed consent/ permission forms home for all off-site classroom and school activities. As always, we are greatly appreciative of parent volunteers for driving and help supervising our students during these events.

We have a lot of lunches and items dropped off in the office to be delivered to classrooms on a regular basis and makes for a lot of disruptions in the classrooms and time for office staff to deliver. If possible can every attempt be made for students to have all their books, lunches brought with them in the morning.

Thank you,  
*Gregg Halfyard*

**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***

November 16	PAC Meeting 6:30p.m. (Child-minding available)
November 19	Fun Lunch- DQ/Subway
December 3	Christmas Concert- Afternoon 1pm and evening 7pm performances
December 9	Report Cards distributed
December 10	Grade 7 Sleepover Leadership Evening
December 18	Last day of classes prior to Winter Holidays
January 4	Schools Reopen
February 8	Family Day 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

### ***REMEMBRANCE Day Ceremony/ASSEMBLY - November 10***

Thank you to all parents and guardians for coming to our annual Remembrance Day assembly on November 10<sup>th</sup>. A special note of appreciation to each of our guests and also to *every* student performer, and the excellent grade 7 hosts for this important event. We would also like to recognize our teachers for their leadership and guidance with our students during the ceremony- Mr. Bamford, Ms. Francescutti, Ms. Lambert, and Ms. Peace for her overall organizing of the assembly.

### ***CHRISTMAS CONCERT- Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>***

Our annual Christmas concert will take place on Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Tickets will be available on November 18<sup>th</sup> with limits of two tickets per family until November 24<sup>th</sup>. Additional tickets will be available on a first-come first-served basis beginning Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. A letter outlining tickets and details for requests will be sent home soon.

### ***SCHOOL HOURS***

#### **Monday**

8:25	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Recess
11:45 - 12:20	Big Recess
1:22	Dismissal

#### **Tuesday - Friday**

8:25	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Recess
11:45 - 12:20	Big Recess
2:22	Dismissal

### ***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***

#### ***FOOTBALL SEASON***

Football season is now in the playoffs with the bantam boys having a successful season of play. Thank you to Ms. Peace for sponsoring the bantam boys.

#### ***CROSS COUNTRY Meets***

Our Cross country team performed very well at the zone and district Cross Country meets. Our thanks to Mrs. Dyce for coaching the student-athletes. We are proud of *all* runners from McGirr.

**Volleyball/Triple Ball** is the next team sport beginning on November 16<sup>th</sup>. There will be teams for girls and boys in the bantam and peewee leagues. Parents will be receiving permission slips and schedules next week. Thank you in advance if you are able to help drive students to away games! I am very pleased and thankful for our staff who have volunteered their valuable time and energy to coach volleyball/triple ball this season: Ms. Collins, Ms. Silvertown, Ms. McDonald, Ms. Dawson, Ms. Peace, and Ms. Mark.

### **Floor Hockey**

We will begin a fun grade 6 and 7 floor hockey league during short recess soon. Students will organize teams and Mr. Halfyard will sponsor and referee the games. Sportsmanship, combined with a fun, healthy activity during the recess time is the goal of the intramural floor hockey.

## **TRAFFIC REMINDERS**

- **The area in front of the school is clearly marked no parking and no stopping.** It is a drop off area only. This implies that you must stay in the driver's seat of your car.
- \*The Handicap Parking Zone must not be used by any vehicle other than those showing a handicap sign.
- A bus arriving at the school to/from a field trip, takes priority in the drop off zone. On those days, our volunteer Wendy, or our supervising staff will use cones to redirect traffic into the parking lot and out of the drop off zone. One suggestion is to have your child(ren) meet you at an agreed location on McGirr Road after school. This will avoid congestion and **keep kids safe.**

*Thank you in advance for your cooperation.*

## **CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS AND VOLUNTEERS**

All volunteers working in the schools and all volunteer drivers must complete a criminal record check in order to be permitted to work with students or drive students on field trips. *Thank you to all parents and guardians who have completed these!*

### **New Online Criminal Record Check Process for NLPS School Volunteers**

The Ministry of Justice, through their Criminal Records Review Program (CRRP) will conduct a vulnerable sector check **at no cost to you** through a streamlined online format. Vulnerable sector checks are used by prospective volunteers who are requesting clearance to work with children and/or vulnerable adults in the school district. This online process is to determine if you have any record suspensions (formerly known as pardons) for sexual offences. Once you are provided clearance through the CRRP, **the criminal record check clearance is good for a period of five (5) consecutive years** from the date of issue, unless a criminal offence should occur. We must inform you that if you happen to have the same combination of gender and date-of-birth as a known sex offender whose record has been suspended, you must then be fingerprinted to confirm your identity. This is a federal RCMP requirement that applies to all Canadians. Most people who are fingerprinted in a vulnerable sector check do not have a sexual offence record. However, fingerprinting is necessary to eliminate the possibility that an offender has changed their name in order to pass a criminal record check. Therefore, if you happen to have the same combination of gender and date-of-birth as a known sex offender, you will receive a letter from the CRRP informing you that your fingerprints are required. The letter will include forms and instructions on what to do. You will be required to visit your local police agency for fingerprinting. Your fingerprints will then be submitted to the RCMP's Canadian Criminal Real Time Identification Services to confirm whether or not they match those of a person with a record suspension for a sexual offence. The fee for this process will be your responsibility.

By completing the online application you agree to the terms and conditions for the CRRP Applicant Based Online Service to facilitate a criminal record check and to share the completed criminal record check information with the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public School district.

Please use the following web address to complete and submit the form for your criminal record check to become a school volunteer: <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm>. You will be prompted for the NLPS access code which is as follows: **Access Code: UQ4T7XXBHE** .

Once you have completed and submitted the form for the online criminal record check, **please provide your school principal with your full name and date of birth.** Your results, once approved will be added to the district's database of volunteers. The district will then inform the school principal of your approved criminal record check and he/she will inform you.

**Please note:** Additional information about the CRRP is available on their website at [www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecords-review/index.htm](http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecords-review/index.htm) or by contacting a client services representative at 1-855-587-0185.