



# 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

October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Newsletter #2

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### New Ways of Teaching /Learning and Assessing/Evaluating

#### K-7 at McGirr 2016-2017

The BC Education Plan is moving toward educational choice and flexibility with less focus on facts and more on concepts and competencies. At McGirr, Teachers will be guiding and empowering learners who will engage in discovery, creativity and problem-solving. While exemplary instructional and assessment practice has been happening and will continue, we will move towards a more personalized, flexible teaching and learning method that reflects a 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

Teachers will continue to reshape their instructional practices and identify more effective ways of student assessment and evaluation. We are shifting from a model of reporting to parents at three formal times each year, to one of ongoing communication with parents throughout the year. This involves fluid processes and changes in how teachers assess, and also how we communicate student learning to both students and parents.

Below is a list of teaching delivery methods. It incorporates the redesigned curriculum, how students access and understand the new curriculum, and how teachers communicate student learning.

<b>Current/future:</b>
<b>Learning occurring in all environments at all times.</b>
<b>Learners collaborating and sharing their understandings with others.</b>
<b>Student-centered: teacher is the 'guide on the side' while facilitating, coaching and being the lead learner.</b>
<b>Multiple opportunities for students to express and pursue interests and make learning choices.</b>
<b>Assessments provide accurate information about the student's learning and proficiency levels. Evaluation is forward-looking.</b>
<b>Ongoing self, peer, and teacher formative assessments that are authentic and communicated with parents; a minimum of 2+ communications of student learning in core subjects for 2016-17.</b>
<b>Teachers, students and parents are partners in providing timely and responsive ongoing descriptive feedback of student learning during the year.</b>
<b>Curriculum is connected to student's passions, curiosity, interests, experiences and talents and the real world.</b>
<b>Two written Reports: (end of January "snapshot" and Summative in June for 2016-2017).</b>

We will be hosting a parent informational night in our library on **Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** with the intent of providing parents and guardians the most current assessment and curriculum information from the ministry and the district. Please come out and learn about the changes in public education in our province and our district.

New Staff Members: Please welcome our newest staff members at McGirr: **Ms. Bernadette French** is our new Child, Youth and Family Care Worker, and **Mrs. Katie Mitchell** is teaching in Mrs. Jones' grade 1/2 class on Fridays, and Mrs. Cyr's grade 2 class on Wednesday mornings.

We had an emotional assembly on Monday morning with the *Cops for Cancer* visiting our school while on their Tour de Rock ride southward on the island. The highlights of the event were when grade three student **Keenan Tait** presented a cheque of \$500.00 from birthday donations to her father, **Donavan Tait**, who is an RCMP rider on the Tour. Another wonderful moment was when a kindergarten student from Aspengrove, Chelsea, came to the front of the assembly and Mrs. Peace introduced her as a leukemia survivor.

The school community also did a great job in raising over \$1100.00 for our Terry Fox Run! Congratulations to Mrs. Paziuk's and Mrs. Wright's classes for earning a pizza lunch for raising the most funds for primary and intermediate classes.

*Gregg Halfyard*

Thank you,

**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**

October 10- Monday: Thanksgiving Holiday (Schools are closed)  
October 13- Thursday: Parent Presentation of the Redesigned BC Curriculum, 6:30p.m.  
October 14- Friday: Photo Retakes\* (see note below)  
October 17- Monday: 1:22 Dismissal  
October 17- Monday: PAC Meeting @ 6:30 (Child-minding available)  
October 20- Thursday: Great Canadian 'Shake Out' earthquake drill-a.m.  
October 18-20 Tuesday-Thursday: 1:02 Dismissal for parent-teacher conferences  
October 21- Friday: Provincial Pro-D Day (Students do not attend)  
October 27- Thursday: Pac Sponsored *Monster Mash* in gym; 6:30 p.m.  
October 27- Thursday: North Zone Cross Country Track Meet a.m.  
October 28- Friday: Halloween stations in the gym a.m.; 6/7 Dance  
October 31- Monday: Halloween parade in gym at 9:00

**SCHOOL HOURS-** Please ensure your child(ren) arrive at school at least 5 minutes before the welcome bell at 8:28 a.m. \*Supervision begins at 8:15 each school day.

#### **Monday**

8:28 Welcome Bell  
8:30 School starts  
10 - 10:15 Recess  
11:45 - 12:20 Big Recess  
1:22 Dismissal

#### **Tuesday - Friday**

8:28 Welcome Bell  
8:30 School starts  
10 - 10:15 Recess  
11:45 - 12:20 Big Recess  
2:22 Dismissal

**Parent-Teacher Conferences - October 17-20:** Students will be dismissed at the regular 1:22 on Monday, October 17 and at 1:02 on each of Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday Oct.18-20 to provide time for teachers to meet with parents about communicating their child's learning.

Please contact your child's teacher(s) to book a day and time for your conference later in October. Each teacher has arranged to communicate with parents in order to set up the schedule and shape of the conference/interview. Some teachers will hold student-led conferences using portfolios, while others will have a more traditional meeting as they provide formative feedback on student work samples since September.

**Photo Retakes October 14<sup>th</sup>-** Retakes are for:

1. Anyone who was absent on the original photo day
2. Students unsatisfied with their original proofs and wish to have their photo retaken. **Students must return their original photo proofs to the photographer on photo retake day.**

Lifetouch would like your feedback on Picture Day. Please follow this link to a short (2-minute) online survey- <http://www.surveys.lifetouch.ca/host>

## Sports Updates

Touch football is underway with McGirr fielding a bantam boys and bantam girls team and a peewee boys team. All teams have had fun while developing knowledge of the game and learning both individual and team skills. The girls won an exciting game last week against Coal Tye. Bantam boys defeated Mountain View 17-7 on Wednesday, and our peewee boys tied Frank J. Ney 7-7 on Tuesday. Most importantly, all teams have displayed strong sportsmanship and represented their school with pride! Special thanks to Mrs. Peace and Mrs. Whiting for volunteering to coach our girls team.



**Cross country** is also a current school activity with several students from grade 3-7 participating in noon hour practices with Mrs. Paziuk and Mrs. Dyce. The North Zone Large Schools meet takes place on Thursday October 27<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips will be sent home soon for participating students. We will travel by SD68 bus to & from the meet this year.



## Floor Hockey

We will begin a fun grade 6 and 7 floor hockey league during short recess once football season ends. 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.

**PAC News:** Thank you to Pac parent Eden Woods for contacting the **2chefs**. They are offering a 4 week rotating list of menu options for a fun dinner program. The cost is only \$25 for a dinner for 4! Orders are placed each Friday and delivery day is on the following Tuesday.

**NS3 LEGO Robotics** permission forms have also gone home for opportunities for children to explore their special creativity. The 6- week session begins **Wednesday October 19<sup>th</sup>** with **K-3** from 2:45-3:45 and grades **4-7** from 4:00-5:00 p.m. LEGO robotics will take place in room 140.



**Criminal Record Checks (CRCs)** Thankyou to all parents who have completed the CRC process and submitted the completed forms to the district. These are now valid for five (5) years from the date of confirmation. District policy requires all volunteer parents who are in direct contact with children in public schools must first complete the CRC form. This includes activities such as field trip supervision, coaching sports and volunteer driving of students. You can find details on the NLPS website.

**SHAPEDOWN BC** - This free program is an age-based 10-week program, with 2 sessions per week for children/teens (6-17 years old) and their families with the goal of achieving a healthier lifestyle. The program helps families target changes in nutrition and activity and focuses on those factors that contribute to a child's or teen's unhealthy lifestyle. Here is how it works:

1. **A physician referral is required.**
2. **You will be booked for two appointments with the Shapedown Team.**
3. **The child/teen enters the next age appropriate group program.**

Please call 250-755-7955 or visit: [http://www.viha.ca/children/CI\\_healthy\\_lifestyles](http://www.viha.ca/children/CI_healthy_lifestyles) for more information.

## Notes from the Office:

- Thank you for returning the Student Verification forms so quickly, so we can start working on updating info. The school is still needing a few more so please send these forms in as soon as you can; if you need another copy please contact us.
- We have noticed far fewer lunches being dropped off for students which is really great to see. Please make sure to provide forks and spoons in their lunches as well.
- A friendly reminder to phone in student absences. We have the office answering machine on at all times to leave a message, or send an email to your child's teacher.

Happy Thanksgiving and have an excellent weekend with your family and friends! See you on Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup>.

