



McGirr Elementary



Phone: 250-758-8946

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

Principal: Mr. G. Halfyard

Vice-Principal: Ms. Lisa Thom

Secretaries: Mrs. Beverly Lundine and Mrs. M. Lockhart

November 4, 2019

Newsletter # 2

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



Our students and staff experienced a powerful performance by **Daniel Duggan** on Friday as he played his many drums (and many students did too!) and had us all tapping, clapping, chanting and drumming to "**Release the Rhythm!**" Ask your child (ren) about how they felt about this exciting live performance in our gym. Special appreciation to **Ms. Thom** for choosing Daniel from the Art Starts Showcase, and to our PAC for their continued financial support to bring these wonderful live performance experiences to the students in our school.

The Monster Mash and Halloween parade were well-attended and very safe and enjoyable events for our students last week. Thank you to staff and to Eden Wood and the PAC parents for their energy in setting up and sponsoring the Monster Mash! Please remember to enjoy your Halloween candy and treats at home and bring only healthy food and snacks to school.

Formative Assessment Conferences and Individual Education Plan (IEP) Meetings

In the past few weeks, we have been focused on communicating student progress with parents and guardians at McGirr. The formative assessment conferences are great opportunities to discuss your child's learning goals and progress with the teacher(s). These meetings are also set up by some staff to have student-lead conferences, in which students share their projects, notebooks, tests and assignments with parents through the lens of core competencies and communicating their own personal growth and learning. IEP meetings are required Ministry of Education and NLPS discussions regarding designated student's social-emotional, academic and communicative progress in terms of their specific learning goals and objectives relative to their development.

We know that children learn in multiple ways, at different rates, and that learning is a personal and social process. Thank you to teachers, staff and parents for your time and efforts during these weeks of in-person meetings about students' learning. The **first written progress report** goes home in early February 2020. Regular ongoing communications of student learning (digital or hard copy) are sent home to parents during the school year to inform them of how their child is progressing in core subject areas. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about their education.

MCGIRR CLAN CHALLENGES

Spook away Hunger

McGirr students and families worked together in our Clans to spook away hunger! Well done McGirr Clans- you all contributed to your clan and the school community by bring food to school for those in need during the week of October 28th to Halloween Oct. 31st

Thank you for bringing in nonperishable food items and placing them in your clan box in the hallway outside the gym. The final tally for the winning clan will be announced this week.

Reduce Waste and Reuse Containers- Clan Challenge

McGirr staff and students value a clean and waste-free school and environment. This year the NLPS Board has approved four new Goals: 1. Continuous improvement of instruction and assessment 2. Safe, caring and healthy learning and working environment that is inclusive of the diversity of our entire learning community 3. To be a leader in environmental stewardship and sustainability 4. Truth and reconciliation. All of these district goals are important in supporting our students, and we have focused on the **environmental stewardship** goal as a target for this year. Our next Clan Challenge will be to reduce/eliminate wrapping and packaging of food/drinking items in lunches throughout McGirr. Details to follow soon!

Inclement Weather

Since we live on the west coast, we expect wet, cool weather during the fall and winter. Students are expected to go outside to play and be active during short and lunch recess. Please check the forecast each morning and send your child (ren) to school dressed in the appropriate clothing and accessories for the weather. The only exceptions for outside days are if there is lightning and/or a major storm with high winds. Thank you for supporting your child at school.

Sincerely,



Gregg Halfyard

STAFFING UPDATES

We would like to welcome **Ms. Amanda Wheeler** to McGirr. Ms. Wheeler is teaching the new grade 5/6 class in division 6 in the portable. Students and parents have also welcomed two temporary teachers at McGirr- **Mrs. Teresa Malbon** has been filling in for **Mrs. McDaniel** in our library since September, and **Mrs. Barb Propp** has been teaching **Mr. Bamford's** kindergarten/grade one class for the past month. We thank both teachers for their great work with our students, and hope to see Mrs. McDaniel return to McGirr soon. Mr. Bamford has begun a gradual return to the classroom in the afternoons! Other new staff at McGirr this year are:

Mrs. Beverly Lundine- secretary

Mr. Kurt Feschuck- Grade 6/7

Ms. Emily Rowbotham- Grade 2- Fridays and Fine Arts- Thursdays

Mrs. Andrea Doak- Student Support & English Language Learner teacher

Ms. Paula Kuffler- counsellor

Mr. Oliver Bild-Speech & Language Pathologist

Mrs. Cathy Aniceto- Education Assistant

Mrs. Reagan Brown- Educational Assistant

Ms. Tara Cleveland- Educational Assistant

Ms. Stephanie Jory- Educational Assistant

SPORTS UPDATES

North Zone Cross Country Meet October 30th

Congratulations to all of our student-athletes who trained hard and participated in the north zone cross-country meet on Thursday October 30. The top 25 finishers and the top three teams qualify for the district meet at the Beban fields on Tuesday November 5.

In team results, McGirr finished as follows:

Tyke Girls- 3rd, Tyke Boys- 2nd, Peewee Girls- 3rd, Peewee Boys- 1st.

Individual results for the **25** district qualifiers include, Bantam girls- Lucy Merrill, Bantam boys-Shahnoor Virani

Peewee Girls-Kenna Tait, Charlotte Shepherd, Katelyn Cunningham, Jessica Slater,

Peewee Boys- Tye Vanden-Elsen, Kyle Williamson, Christian Myint, Matthew Kirk, Ethan Lunny, Tyler McWhinnie, Brett Bower, Mattias Stahuliak, and Hugo Fraser

Tyke Girls- Julie Luo, Mia Stahuliak, Ally Forell, Julia Nixon, Justine Beaudoin

Tyke Boys- Gavin Kirk, Westley Corrigan, Joseph Wiegand, Nathan Kungel and Ben Ryan.

Congratulations to all other McGirr runners who ran in the zone meet: Peewee Girls - Anastasia G., Amy H. Peewee Boys- Andrew K., Raleigh B., Phineas C.

Tyke Girls- Aarna Prajapait, Toni D., Aallyai A., Madilyn H., Oriana S., Zahra K., Megan W.

Tyke Boys- Easton J., James C., Jack D., Evan S., Linden I., Olunati C., Paras S., Daniel C., Logan C., Carter B., Andy J., Chase G., Shahir H., Patrick L., and Karn S.

Special thanks to coaches **Mrs. Galloway** and **Mrs. Paziuk** and sponsor teacher **Mrs. Heese** for their time and energy in supporting McGirr students! (Permission forms were given to all qualifying students Friday afternoon). A huge thank you to all volunteer parents at the zone meet and for all of you for driving our students to/from the district meet on Tuesday. We greatly appreciate your time and energy!

A successful touch football season is now over. We had two boys' teams in the NETPEA large school league this season. Our peewee team improved as the season progressed and finished with a 4-1 record. The bantams also displayed strong skill development and excellent team defense, going 3-2-1 during the season before losing a close playoff game to Hammond Bay last week. It was a pleasure coaching our students this season. The next district team sport is **triple ball** for peewees and **volleyball** for bantams. Students will sign up for these McGirr teams soon. Practice and game schedules for each team will be distributed in the coming week.

2019 DATES TO REMEMBER

November 1	Photo Retake Day; Fine Arts Performance: "Release the Rhythm"
November 4	Mrs. Dawson's class to the Nanaimo Fish Hatchery 8:30-11:45
November 5	District Cross Country Meet (am) at the Beban Fields (Qualifying Students)
November 6	Nanaimo Buccaneers Visit grades 5-7 classes in P.M. re <i>Dangers of Vaping and Tobacco Products</i> ; second visit on November 13 th
November 8	Remembrance Assembly - 10:30 am; Last day for grade 4 & 7 FSA.
November 11	Remembrance Day Observed-Schools are closed
November 13	Grade 7s to Victoria Museum all day
November 14	Family Paint Night in gym 6:00-8:00 p.m.
November 18	Yr-3 VIU Students visit A.M.; PAC 6:30; Family Movie Night- "Queen's Corgi"
November 18	NETPEA Triple ball games begin for Peewees and Bantams
November 21	Family Paint Night in gym 6:00-8:00 p.m.
November 22	Nutcracker at the Port Theatre- Divisions 11, 12, 13 at 11:00; Fun Swim at NAC- Divisions 8,9,10 @ 11:15-1:55
November 28	Kindergarten Screening by Island Health at 9:00 a.m.
December 2	Strong Start Closed
December 6	Fine Arts Performance: Blues Berries-10:55 a.m.
December 12	Bake Sale, 11:45 sponsored by the Social Justice Club; Family Movie Night-"Arthur's Christmas"
December 13	Fun Swim at NAC- Divisions 8,9,10 @ 11:15-1:55
December 16	PAC 6:30
December 19	Winter Concert (afternoon & evening performances)
December 20	Last day of classes before - Winter Holidays, Strong Start closed
January 6 2020	School back in

McGirr SCHOOL HOURS

Monday

8:28	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Recess
11:45 - 12:21	Big Recess
1:22	Dismissal (20 Professional Learning Community session during the year)

Tuesday - Friday

8:28	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Recess
11:45 - 12:21	Big Recess
2:22	Dismissal

McGirr Code of Conduct We teach the **Code of Conduct** frequently when working with our students at McGirr. When students make negative choices and/or become involved in conflicts, staff often resolve issues with students as they occur. Occasionally, the principal or vice-principal will problem

solve with students in an effort to teach students positive moral and ethical decision-making, associated with the child's level of understanding and development. We believe that teaching children appropriate behaviours and ways to solve problems peacefully should be educative, preventative and restorative. Please review the snapshot page of our school Code of Conduct, which applies to all students, staff and parents in our school community.



McGirr Elementary School Code of Conduct 2019-2020

McGirr Elementary School strives to develop a safe, caring, inclusive, and welcoming school environment that promotes the rights and responsibilities of all who learn and work here.

Our Code of Conduct reflects;

- the values of the *Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools 2.10 Inclusion Policy* that is based on the principles of respect, acceptance, safety and equity. It further affirms that “a learning environment that reflects diversity, inclusivity and equity is essential in supporting the highest level of individual growth and achievement.”
- the expectation that “that all students, staff, and members of our school communities will adhere to a code of conduct that is **educative, preventative** and **restorative** in practice and response”
- the purposes and intention of the *BC Human Rights Code(8.1b) 2017*

McGirr Elementary School’s Code of Conduct expects that students will demonstrate socially responsible behaviours that reflect respect and safety at school and while attending a school function at any location at any time of day or day of week.

Acceptable conduct: refers to behaviour that help to make the school a safe, caring and inclusive environment. The school community works with students to help them with learning responsible choices, safe behaviour, problem solving, conflict resolution, respecting and restorative practices.

Unacceptable conduct: refers to behaviour that interferes with the personal safety of others and the safe and orderly environment of the school, either person-to-person basis or through social media. Unacceptable conduct can take the form of bullying, harassment, intimidation, discrimination or illegal acts.

Consequences: to be equitable, consequences may vary from student to student where the misconduct appears to be similar. Intervention must be appropriate to the student’s age, maturity, needs, exceptionalities, extenuating circumstances and the nature of previous intervention, taking in consideration of the needs of the school.

Restorative Practices: focus on creating conditions for students to learn self-discipline, fix mistakes through addressing the needs of those who have been harmed and returning to the group/class/school strengthened. Students are encouraged, as often as possible, to participate in the development of meaningful interventions through discussion or mediation.

**Your beliefs become your thoughts & your thoughts become your words
Your words become your actions & your actions become your destiny
Mahatma Gandhi**

An unabridged version of our school’s code of conduct is available on our website and at the school office.



Immunization consent packages for grade 6 students were sent home early in September. Students in grade 6 will be offered routine vaccines for Hepatitis B, Varicella and Human Papilloma in school-based clinics with the consent of a parent(s) or a representative. Please ensure you sign and return these informed consents. Kindergarten students will receive vision, dental and hearing screenings in November. **Screening is not diagnostic but rather a tool to identify children requiring further testing or follow up.** Please contact the local Health Unit at 250-755-3388 and ask to speak with a Public Health Nurse if you have any questions, or visit www.immunizebc.ca . Screening dates at McGirr are Kindergarten: **Thursday, November 28, 2019 9:00 a.m.** and Grade 6 Immunization: **Monday November 25, 2019 9:00 a.m.**

Public Health Activities 2019-2020 from Dr. Paul Hasselback (Medical Health Officer)

Vaccine Status Reporting Regulation of the *Public Health Act*
http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/146_2019 .

PAC Sponsored After School Activities- Thank you!

Mcgirr is an active school community and PAC works hard to both fundraise and support extracurricular learning/activities for our students and families. The following messages on these after school opportunities is from our Pac president Eden Wood.

**FAMILY PAINT NIGHT
 NOVEMBER 14 OR NOVEMBER 21
 6:00PM-8:00PM IN THE GYM**

Create your own masterpiece with *Island Rustic Creations* guiding you step-by-step along the way. \$65 includes your 12"x18" wooden pallet, supplies & light refreshments. Choose between **November 14** or **November 21**. Make your own creation or work with a child or friend and create one together. Each evening can have a maximum of 40 participants. Registration is first come first served. Please wear paint appropriate clothes or an apron. Money raised goes towards the grade 7 fundraising efforts. Payment can be made by cash or cheque (made out to McGirr PAC)

MCGIRR DAY AT SUPERIOR FARMS

(This is not a fundraiser) JOIN US ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 AT 11AM TO MAKE A TABLE CENTERPIECE AT **SUPERIOR FARMS** IN LANTZVILLE (At the top of Superior Road 7995 Superior Rd) \$45 PER CENTERPIECE
 REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DEADLINE IS **NOVEMBER 18**
 (Please email eden.w@hotmail.ca with any questions)



REGISTRATION FORM
 MAKE A CENTERPIECE WITH MCGIRR PAC & SUPERIOR FARMS ON SATURDAY DECEMBER 14 @ 11AM

STUDENT NAME: _____ TEACHER: _____
 FAMILY NAME: _____
 HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING: _____
 HOW MANY CENTERPIECES ARE YOU MAKING: _____ X \$45 = _____

There are a maximum of 30 centerpieces available. Registration is first come first served. Cash or cheque (please make cheques out to McGirr PAC)

VISITING A CLASSROOM or Talking to Teachers

At McGirr, we want to assure that classrooms function to their capacity as a learning environment. We also must ensure the safety of students at school during school hours. We also like to make sure that we have good communication with all of our parents. If you have a message to give your child or are dropping off items such as homework or lunches, please check in at the office. We will make sure that your child receives the items. Please give messages/lunches to our secretary rather than disturb the classrooms. It is also a safety protocol not to enter the school without signing in.

If you are visiting/volunteering in a class, please follow this routine:

1. Check in at the office, always - **sign the sign-in sheet** and be sure to include all information.
2. If you are staying to assist in a class, you will be given a **Visitors** nametag (wearing this quickly identifies you as someone who belongs in our school).
3. When your visit is complete, please return your tag, and sign out on the sign-in sheet.
4. *All volunteers in schools must complete a **Criminal Record Check**. **CRC** forms are available at the district's website under www.sd68.bc.ca. They are valid for 5 years.

TRAFFIC & SAFETY REMINDERS



We are again reminding all parents of our parking lot concerns re: *driver behaviour* to help keep our students safe as they enter and leave our McGirr school grounds. **Please do not park in either of the two (2) Handicapped Parking Zone spaces at any time.** These marked parking spots are solely for our parents of mobility challenged students who require this space to exit and enter their vehicle safely. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Students are reminded to dismount their scooters, skateboards and bicycles when on school district property. Students must walk their vehicles on the school grounds, and wear a helmet whenever operating these wheeled forms of transportation.

Please remember that there is **no parking in front of the school**. If you are leaving your vehicle to come to the school to pick up your child or if you are waiting for someone you **must park in the parking lot. The Drop off area is a designated area for the School Bus, Emergency Vehicles and School District vehicles only.** We are very grateful to our traffic volunteer, **Wendy Grubac**, who keeps traffic moving smoothly and safely for our children. Thank you for being considerate and respectful with Wendy while keeping our students safe.

SIGN UP FOR OUR LISTSERVE - to be able to receive regular updates and school newsletters via email.

Listserve updates and digital newsletters are the main mode of communication with parents. To subscribe to newsletters, please send an email to subscribe-mcgirrelementary-news@listsrv.sd68.bc.ca

Because there is often fundraising information posted, people accessing the listserve must agree to the conditions according to FOIPPA requirements prior to receiving posts.

