



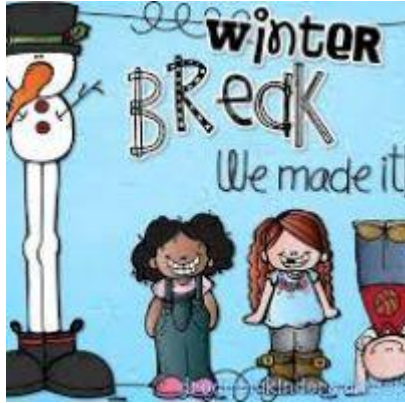
## December 2020

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
VICE PRINCIPAL: Ms. Jennifer Robinson  
SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Karen Corrigan

<https://mg.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,



I can't believe we are nearing our break. Where has the time gone? Thank you to our staff for their hard work and dedication to our students and your children over the past few months. Thank you to our caregivers for all the great work that has

been done to ensure the students are ready to learn. This is a busy school requiring many caring and dedicated adults to make the school day a success for all. We have been fortunate to have such a caring staff and parent/guardian community.

As always, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
Principal

### VICE-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you to all the families for a warm welcome to McGirr Elementary. I feel very fortunate to be working McGirr. I would like to echo Mr. Dhillon's comments about McGirr being a kind and caring school community. Over the past several months, I have enjoyed meeting the students and their families. Please say 'hello' when you see me outside before or after school.

I hope you all have a safe and restful winter break this year.

Mrs. Jennifer Robinson  
Vice-Principal

### SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020-2021

Virtual Winter Concert (youtube link).....Thurs Dec 17  
Last Day before Holiday ..... Fri. Dec 18  
First Day back ..... Mon Jan 4  
PAC (6:30 PM) ..... Mon Jan 18  
PAC (6:30 PM) ..... Mon Feb 8  
Progress Report Issued..... Wed Feb 10  
Non-Instructional Day (students do not attend).. Thurs Feb 11  
Non-Instructional Day (students do not attend).....Fri Feb 12  
BC Family Day (students do not attend) ..... Mon Feb 15  
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter.....Fri. Mar 12

First Day back ..... Mon Mar 29  
Good Friday (students do not attend).....Fri Apr 2  
Easter Monday (students do not attend).....Mon Apr 5  
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Apr 19  
Non Instructional Day (students do not attend)..... Fri May 7  
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon May 17  
Victoria Day (students do not attend) ..... Mon May 24  
PAC (6:30 PM)..... Mon Jun 21  
Formative Report Issued ..... Tues Jun 29  
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10).... Tues Jun 29  
Administration Day..... Wed Jun 30

### VIRTUAL WINTER CONCERT

This year we will be doing our winter concert online. Mr. Friend and Ms. Eathorne as well as classroom teachers have been working with students on a fine arts performance for families. This year it will be posted on YouTube for families to watch from home. We hope you enjoy the presentations!

### RULES FOR PLAYING IN THE SNOW

As we approach that time of year when Nanaimo can get snow, we'd like to remind families of the "snow" rules at McGirr. The following rules are enforced for the safety of students:



- There is "no snowball throwing" on the grounds
- Students are not to participate in activities that may injure other students – face washing with snow, kicking chunks of snow/ice, etc.
- No crazy carpets, sleds, slides brought to school

It is important that our students understand the rules and our concern that snowballs can cause serious injury. Within these rules there are many opportunities for students to enjoy their time outside in the snow at recess.

### MENTAL WELLNESS DURING COVID-19

These are uncertain times. Every week, almost every hour, we are changing and adapting our new reality. Below are some ideas about how to stay well in the face of constant change:

- Daily structure – set up a routine in your house that provides predictable events. Everyone does better when they know what to expect next.
- Family meals – whenever possible, eat together & connect over food.
- Limited media – set up times to hear the news, then disconnect from it.

- Exercise – take a class off YouTube, try something new, return to what used to bring you joy.
- Reach out – stay connected to family & friends while maintaining social distancing.
- Go Outside – breathe the air & appreciate the environment.
- Practice good sleep hygiene – keep to a regular sleep/wake schedule, limit screens before bed and take a relaxing shower or bath prior to sleep time.
- Read books together.
- Keep future focused and positive – this is our reality for now, but it will not be forever!

### APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS



The cool wet weather has arrived and there will be many days students will ask the question “Is it an inside day?” The answer on most days is no. Students will be going outside to play at recess and lunch unless it is raining heavily. We thank you for

ensuring your child comes to school with appropriate rain and cool weather clothing, including warm gloves. At McGirr Elementary we believe in the importance of fresh air and outside play for all students and appreciate your assistance in this regard. **It is also advisable students have a change of clothes in their school bags, including socks.** This extra clothing may be needed, especially if your child like active recess games.

### SCHOOL CLOSURES



It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy

snowfall or ice. If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, [www.sd68.bc.ca](http://www.sd68.bc.ca), and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

**We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances**

**in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.**

### ERASE BULLYING RESOURCE

The B.C. Ministry of Education in collaboration with school districts across the province have developed and implemented an online student and parent resource about bullying incidents, and a reporting tool for such incidents. Please visit [www.erasebullying.ca](http://www.erasebullying.ca) for more information.



### COMMUNICATION OF LEARNING

During the year, families can expect communication about their child’s learning. It will include a sample of your child’s learning, the specific learning expectations for that task, your child’s reflection about that piece of work as well as descriptive feedback from the teacher. These communications of learning in the core areas of Language Arts, Math, Social Studies and Science may be paper copies sent home with the student or shared on Freshgrade.

We hope families take these communications of learning to speak with their child about their learning such as: What are they proud of? What do they want their parents to notice? How they would like to move their learning forward? If you have any questions, please contact your child’s teacher.

Parents will receive their child’s Progress Report February 10, 2021. The progress report is a written report of the student’s progress mid-year. It will include a Summary of Learning, a record of ongoing communication of student learning.

### HAPPY NEW YEAR



We hope families enjoy the winter vacation. This is the last newsletter before 2021 so we would like to take this opportunity to wish families a **Happy New Year!**