



April 2021

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

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Caregivers,

It was nice to see all the happy little faces returning from our Spring Break and then Easter Break. Spring has sprung and the nice weather was sure nice to see ☺ Just a reminder to ensure your child does have proper clothing at school as the rain, I am sure, we will see at some point. A change of clothes, including socks is also advisable.

There has been a lot going on at McGirr the past little while. I would like to thank our teachers, educational assistants, and other support staff for their excellent work this school year. In addition, the work that our PAC does (behind the scenes this year) is making a difference at the school.

There is important information about next year's school organization in this newsletter as well.

Thanks, as always, to members of our PAC for their continued contributions to the school. The staff and students at the school appreciate your help and assistance

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon
Principal

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

I hope families were able to enjoy the long weekend. It really feels like spring with the sunny weather. I hope families have opportunities to participate in their favourite outdoor activities. Included in the newsletter is information about reading with some helpful tips for families. Reading together and talking about books as a family helps strengthen children's understanding and enjoyment of books.

Kind Regards,

Mrs. Jennifer Robinson
Vice-Principal

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2021

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

APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS

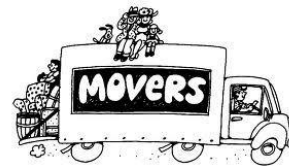


The cool, wet weather can appear any time on the "wet" coast. There may be days students will ask the question "Is it an inside day?" The answer on most days is no. Students will be going outside to play at recess and lunch unless it is raining heavily. We

thank you for ensuring your child comes to school with appropriate rain and cool weather clothing. At McGirr 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.** Warm gloves are always a good idea as well.

ARE YOU MOVING IN OR OUT OF THE AREA?

If you are moving (and you child is changing schools) please advise the office as soon as possible. Your co-operation greatly assists us in determining our numbers and school organization for the upcoming school year. Please also ensure you have registered your child at your new catchment area school as well. If you know of a family moving into our school community (or has already moved in), encourage them to come in to register before June 15 as this is the district deadline for guaranteed placement in our school. After that date, we can still accept students from within our community providing we have room for them, but we may not be able to confirm this until September.



SPRING PICTURE DAY—THURSDAY APRIL 15

A photographer from Lifetouch Studios is scheduled to be here to take class photographs, in a COVID friendly way (masks for staff and Grade 4-7 students). We are hoping to take these photos on the field near the hill. Each student receives a class photo (no charge). If you have any questions, please call: (250) 738-0983 ext. 2.



PARENTAL/GUARDIAN REQUESTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

We will soon be in the process of planning the next academic year. It is important you trust the teachers, support staff, and administration to build classes, which suit the students' both academic and social needs. We take a lot of care in doing classroom composition for each grade. We make up each class list in a way that maximizes the quality of teaching and learning conditions for all students. The decision for

placement is based on many factors, such as: balancing academic ability, levels of independence, learning styles, social/emotional maturity, previous placement, and maximizing the positive learning environment for the whole class. The classroom composition for each grade has to reflect the acceptance of all individuals within an inclusive school as we attempt to provide appropriate educational programming to all children. If you have specific educational reasons/concerns, you would like us to consider about your child, **please contact Mr. Dhillon (in writing) as soon as possible, but no later than May 19th. Please include your child's first and last name as well as current Grade level and teacher.** We do consider these requests along with all other pertinent information provided by classroom teachers and support staff. Please note your request will be considered but we do not guarantee it can be honored. It does become an important part of our planning process. As teachers may change schools and grade groupings are dependent on our enrolment numbers and balancing learning needs, **please describe optimal learning environments without referring to specific teachers. We are not able to take requests for individual teachers.**

SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

Registration of course started in the new year. The following information will help determine if this process will apply to you.

Take a moment and ask yourself the following questions:

1. Is my child new to Nanaimo-Ladysmith Public Schools?
2. Do I have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 31, 2021 that will be entering Kindergarten? **Applications must be received by June 15, 2021 to ensure a placement in your child's catchment-area school.**
3. Do I want to apply for a school transfer request (out-of-catchment)? **Applications were due March 31, 2021**

If you answered yes to any of the questions above please go to: <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/registration-information/> to register your child. For more information please visit, www.sd68.bc.ca or email ereg@sd68.bc.ca

LITERACY

Did you know that more than half of Canadians (55%) do not have the minimum skills necessary to meet the information demands of today's world? Literacy levels affect family income, health and quality of life. Canadians with lower levels of literacy are more likely to earn less and use computers less frequently. Conversely, higher literacy skills correlate to greater involvement in community groups and volunteer activities. Working in partnership with the school to enhance your child's ability to access information is the best way to enable them to *achieve their goals and reach their potential in life*. Research tells us there is a predictable reading **slump** occurring around **Grade 4**. One might assume by then that kids can read well enough on their own, but this is precisely the time when reading material becomes more challenging. We often say: In the primary grades, children learn to read and in the intermediate years, they read to learn.

Tips:

1. Don't stop reading aloud to them once they can read independently—instead, simply take turns being the narrator.
2. Set a monthly goal in terms of reading minutes. Chart the progress and then reward your child with a new book, sticker or bookmark.
3. Encourage your child to develop an interest in different literary genres, such as adventure, mystery, fantasy and poetry.
4. Develop the habit of giving books or magazine subscriptions as gifts for birthdays or other special occasions.