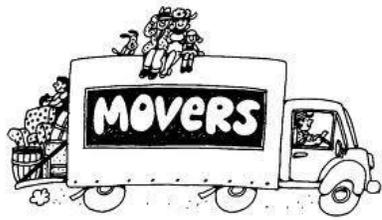




## **ARE YOU MOVING IN OR OUT OF THE AREA?**



If you are moving (and your 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 register:

<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/registration-information/>

## **TENTATIVE STAFFING FOR 2021-2022**

Our teacher staffing for 2021-2022 is still ongoing. Most of our division teachers remain the same.

## **STAFF FAREWELLS**



We wish our leaving staff members the best of success in their future endeavors and hope that soon they will return to McGirr. They have all left a mark on our school and will not be easily replaced. All the best to:

- Ms. Jennifer Cyr (Student Support Teacher)
- Mr. Paul Mitchell (Classroom Teacher)
- Ms. Karen Corrigan (Secretary 3 days a week)
- Ms. Rachael Swatez (Classroom teacher)
- Ms. Emily McCart (Student Support Teacher)
- Mr. Kurt Norum (daytime custodian)
- Ms. Madi Elander (EA)

The posting and staffing process is still underway so there is a chance that some of the staff listed above might be back with us in September.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES/PLANNERS**

Look on page 3 of this newsletter for that information.

## **CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS (CRC)—EMAIL JUNE 18**

There is a separate attachment being sent out with this newsletter that has information about school supplies. An important email went out on June 18<sup>th</sup> that contained all the information for CRC. We need all volunteers to please tend to this email now (as the school year ends) as opposed to waiting until September, which could slow things down. We are hopeful, of course, that things are back to “normal” next year: <https://mg.schools.sd68.bc.ca/> and under recent announcements (bottom right hand corner).

## **CARING & SHARING**

Wow, this school year is almost over, and already children (and even some parents/caregivers) are looking forward to the freedom that comes with summer. It's great for children to have some unstructured time to rest up over the holidays, but two months without any schoolwork can have a downside. In May's newsletter we talked about how some experts estimate that during the summer holidays, children can lose up to 20% of what they learned in school. In this month's column there are some additional ideas to help reduce learning loss and give your child a head start for next September.

Yes, hiring a tutor or enrolling your child(ren) in 'summer school' are good options for retaining academic success, but this is not always an option for many families, so here are some creative alternatives. It is always good to review the concepts learned in school, but **the key is to keep exercising the same parts of the brain**. Some people

compare it to a physical exercise program, where we must “use it or lose it”. For example, athletes who work hard all year would not stop training for two months and expect to go back into competition at the same level; however, they might switch up their training while still maintaining their fitness level. In fact, cross-training can actually help an athlete improve their performance, so it certainly can't hurt for students to do a little **cross-brain-training** over summer.

**Children learn to store memories more efficiently through practice.** So, from local daytrips to long holidays, help your child(ren) relive the events; exercise memory storage systems by asking specific questions about the day's experience. For instance, at the end of a trip or event, we often ask things like “Did you have fun?” Children don't have to think for more than a second before giving a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ answer. Use open-ended questions starting with **How, What, Why, Who, When, and Where**, like “*What was your favourite part?*” This encourages your child(ren) to think back, remember the sequence of events and make comparisons. It also gives you an opportunity to talk about an experience you shared together. You can continue the conversation and help your child(ren) to remember more by talking about your favourite parts, too. Do further exploration or research on interesting points or facts which come up. Bring in hands-on activities whenever possible as children are even more engaged when using more of their senses; it will also reinforce learning/memory in a different way.

### ***Some ideas for daytrips:***

\* Visit a museum or local historical site. You can research it online, use *MapQuest* or *Google Maps* to plan your route, and even have your child hold the map to practice math, map, and communication skills as he or she becomes **Navigator-for-a-day**.

\* Lots of stores have educational workbooks and travel games that children can use on car trips. (It's good to have some electronic-free car time anyway). Feeling even more creative? Together, make up a poem, song or rap.

\* While you have the electronics off, you can play memory games in the car- remember games like the trip game? (“I'm going on a trip, and I'm taking apples, books, hat, sunscreen, candy.....” which each person repeats and then adds a word). The internet and library offer many more options of games.

\* Speaking of the library, have your child(ren) sign up for the **Library Reading Club**, and make regular trips there. Kids can choose books that interest them, keep track of their reading, and earn prizes along the way – *and it is all free!* It's cool inside and there are several locations in Nanaimo, including one downtown next to the waterfront (where the seawall and ice cream are close by...hint, hint).

\* Check the local newspapers for events - things like dog shows can be a rich source of information and a lot of laughs for everyone, and they are often held locally. Nanaimo Parks, Recreation & Culture and other agencies offer a wide variety of events (many of which are free). Don't forget, **even social interacting with others offers valuable learning opportunity**.

\* Finally, why not have your child make a trip memory book or journal? It helps them remember things in sequence, helps them practice skills like writing and art, and gives them something to help remember their experiences, and to share with others. Keep in mind many back-to-school assignments include “**What I did this summer...**” We hope these ideas help you get off to a wonderful summer, both full of fun and continued learning.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES**

### **Grade 1 to Grade 7**

This year school supplies were bought online, for the most part, by families (through Brooks Landing Staples). In order to ensure all students, have the same supplies as the ones requested by the teachers, the **teachers will be purchasing school supplies** (through Brooks Landing Staples) for September 2021 start up.

Please be assured they will get the best prices and quality. This will save families the hassle of going out and will help reduce the price (many of the prices we get are below what is advertised in their sale flyers).

**Your cost to cover supplies for the 2021/2022 school year will be around \$50.00 plus the cost of the planner (\$5).** There may be a few items that need to be replenished through the year at your cost. A cheque payable to SD 68 (preferred method of payment), or cash, can be passed along to your child's teacher at the start of the year. **Please do not send any money until you see an email from the school inviting families to pay for school supplies/planners.**

**Note Kindergarten families:** You will also have information on school supplies, please follow the information provided by our Kindergarten staff.

#### **NOTES FOR ALL**

- You will need to purchase and label a pair of running shoes for your child that will be left at school for gym use and as indoor shoes. Please provide Velcro shoes if your child cannot tie shoelaces on his or her own.
- One regular size backpack big enough to hold library books and lunch. (zippers, not buckles). Please label the backpack.
- Labelled extra clothing to keep at school, including underwear and socks.
- 2 boxes of tissues

#### **DAY PLANNER**

**The cost for a day planner for students will be \$5.00, in addition to the cost of school supplies**