



October 2021

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
 VICE PRINCIPAL: Ms. Jennifer Robinson
 SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Teresa McGorman

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

These past 5 or 6 weeks have been busy getting school started but we are settled in thanks to the hard work of staff at the school, as well as our students, district staff, parents/caregivers etc...

I am impressed by the hard work of staff with respect to the transition of our 47 plus Kindergarten students and about 50 new (or returning) Grade 1-7 students. Many thanks to the staff working with these students as well as to our parents/caregivers in transitioning these students to school.

We have had many practice drills. These drills are very important both for the students and for the adults. Please feel free to prepare your children for these much-needed practice drills.

A reminder dismissal on Wednesday and Thursday October 20 and 21 is at 1 PM. This is for the purposes of our Introduction to Learning Sessions. There will be an online tool used to book these in person sessions.

On a different note, the wet (and possibly cold) weather will be arriving soon (with wind as well) ☹️. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes (including socks, etc...) in their backpacks. This saves having to bother parents/guardians at home or work during the school day.

Working together reaps the most rewards for your child, it truly does take a village to raise a child. All of us want the best for your child. Home and school, working together is key in achieving the greatest results.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

2021-2022 CALENDAR

Thanksgiving (school closed) Mon. Oct 11
 PAC (6:30 PM) Mon Oct 18
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Oct 20
 Introduction to Learning Conferences (1:15-3:15 PM) . Wed Oct 20
 Introduction to Learning Conferences (5:30-7:00 PM) . Wed Oct 20
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM).....Thurs Oct 21
 Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend)..... Fri. Oct 22
 Pro-D (school based) (students do not attend)..... Mon Oct 25
 Photo Retakes Wed Oct 27

Remembrance Day (school closed) Thurs Nov 11
 PAC (6:30 PM) TBD Mon Nov 22

Last Day before Holidays Fri. Dec 17

First Day back **Tues** Jan 4

Pro-D Day (students do not attend) Mon Feb 7
 Pro-D Day (students do not attend) Tues Feb 8
 Progress Reports Issued Fri Feb 11
 BC Family Day (school closed) Mon Feb 21

Early dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Mar 2
 Communication of Learning Conferences (1:15-3:15)... Wed Mar 2
 Communication of Learning Conferences (5:30-7:00)... Wed Mar 2
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Thurs Mar 3
 Last Day before Spring Break/Easter Fri. Mar 11
 First Day back Mon Mar 28

Class Photos Tues Apr 12
 Good Friday Fri Apr 15
 Easter Monday Mon Apr 18

Curriculum Implementation (students do not attend).... Thurs May 5
 Pro-D (students do not attend) Fri May 6
 Victoria Day (school closed) Mon May 23

Formative Report Issued Wed Jun 29
 Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10) Wed Jun 29
 Administration Day Thurs Jun 30
****NOTE COVID could change some of the dates above***

INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING

We are excited to announce a new "Pilot Project" this year that will be used in formal (face to face) communication of learning with parents.

Our first session takes place in October and the second session in March. With COVID measures it is not quite what we had envisioned, but we hope we will be able to pull it off.

Our October session is an "Introduction to Learning," and our March session will be "Ongoing Communication of Learning."

All of the dates are listed in the calendar dates and please note the four early dismissals (two in October and two in March).

There will be an online tool used for you to sign up for a session and teachers plan to send this information out by Friday October 8th (and possibly early the following week if the technology does not agree with us ☹️)

We are excited about this change in practice for this year.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS+ NEIGHBOURHOOD FIELD TRIP FORM

Please look for these important forms that ended up being sent home as hard copy on paper.

We ask that you review all the pages and return them to school as quickly as possible so that we have the necessary safety contacts and medical information on file for your child. It is very important that we have alternate phone numbers to call in case your child is sick, or there is an emergency.

VOLUNTEER AND CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

We hope (soon) parents will be able to volunteer in classrooms. In fact, with some outdoor fieldtrips this has already started.

When volunteering to help support a class or function or activity school related, you must complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC)

- Criminal Record Check (CRC) is completed every 5 years.

In terms of the CRC, we suggest completing it when your child is in Kindergarten (or when your child starts McGirr) and in Grade 4. That will cover all of your years at McGirr. Your CRC must be done on-line:

- <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
- Access Code: UQ4T7XXBHE



The process above can take up to 3 weeks to finalize. Actually doing it on line will take about 5-10 minutes for most adults and you are encouraged to do this when your child starts Kindergarten (or their first year here) and again at the start of Grade 4 (the check is good for 5 years). This will ensure you are covered for all 8 years at McGirr.

PHOTO DAY (RETAKE DAY) WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 27

- For ordering purposes, proofs for all students photographed on September 29th will be provided to each child/family before the retake date.
- The photographer asks: parents who want a retake (time will be announced closer to the date), to return their original proofs to the photographer. **Please do not return the proof envelope to the school.** The photographer would like the students to physically hand their original proofs directly to them.
- If a student was absent on the original photo day, then they would have their picture taken on the retake day.



YOU CAN HELP THE OFFICE BE MORE EFFICIENT BY CONTINUING TO:

- Email student absences to info.mg@sd68.bc.ca is the preferred communication for general student absences. (please include your child's first and last name, teacher name/division and reason if needed).



- call the school in advance (preferably before 8 AM) and leaving a message on the answering machine that is on 24 hours a day if you know your child will not be attending school on that day.

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Our theme day on Friday October 29th is wear Orange and Black to school.



For those families who decide to send their child in a costume, here are a few words about Halloween costumes:

Since we are a school, and a school that has children as young as 4 years old, we ask that parents and students keep this in mind when preparing costumes to be worn at school. Costumes should not have guns, swords (weapons of any kind) nor excessive gore.

Our school dress code still applies even on Halloween. This is one of those things that we ask for parents and students to use good judgment and to pick costumes that respect the viewer and the wearer.

Additionally, students have two recess breaks and many transitions and up and down at carpet times and use of the washroom during the day. There is a good chance the costume your child came in will not be in the same condition your child will leave in at the end of the day (and this can cause a lot of "upsetness" with the younger kids).