



January 2022

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,

Well, our collective reality since March 2020 obviously changed our plans as we came back to school, sort of, this week. This, combined with the snow, has sure made for an interesting start to 2022.

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season. As January unfolds, it is a perfect opportunity to re-establish routines and regular habits to support your child(ren's) school life. Here are six ways to assist you in this regard:



1. Regular bedtimes with time for brushing teeth, bathing and quiet reading time helps to calm active children and enable them to sleep well each night.
2. Consistent wakeup times, healthy breakfasts and sufficient time to dress and gather schoolbooks enables children to begin the school day on time and in a calm way.
3. Regular daily homework time (with parental support as needed) is essential to help children feel competent and confident in class.
4. Ensure there is a balance between active play and television or computer time. Time with friends and family is essential to developing positive social skills and a sense of belonging.
5. Computers should be in a highly visible area of the house. A child's computer time must be monitored and should follow specific safety guidelines regarding site and program access.
6. Share a caring conversation and a smile with your child each day.

As per the email that was sent out on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and again on January 5<sup>th</sup>, we are also at that time of the year when the district is accepting registration for new, in catchment, students for September **including new kindergarten students**. If you know of a family with a child who should be entering Kindergarten in September in our neighborhood, please encourage the family to register their child immediately. **This process is done online. The link to registration <https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/registration-information/>.**

**SPECIAL NOTE:** If your child is at McGirr right now, and will be at McGirr in September, you do NOT need to re-register your child.

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

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

## 2022 CALENDAR

PAC (6:30 PM).....	Mon Jan 17
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
PAC (6:30 PM).....	Mon Feb 28
<b>Early dismissal (1:00 PM).....</b>	<b>Wed Mar 2</b>
Communication of Learning Conferences (1:15-3:15)...	Wed Mar 2
Communication of Learning Conferences (5:30-7:00)...	Wed Mar 2
<b>Early Dismissal (1:00 PM).....</b>	<b>Thurs Mar 3</b>
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter .....	Fri. Mar 11
First Day back.....	Mon Mar 28
PAC (6:30 PM).....	Mon Apr 11
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
PAC (6:30 PM).....	Mon May 16
Victoria Day (school closed) .....	Mon May 23
PAC (6:30 PM).....	Mon Jun 13
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/events above**

## BIKE SAFETY



In the same newsletter we will mention snow, we will discuss bike safety 😊. During the winter months there is less daylight. This increases the dangers on the roads with students cycling to school in very poor lighting conditions. It is very important that students wear brightly colored clothing or reflective tape so others can see you better. Ideally the importance of having proper lighting affixed to their bike is the best way to allow for others to see you clearly as a cyclist. Just a reminder, it's against the law to ride a bicycle without a red rear light and a white light on the front. In addition, please walk your bike across marked crosswalks when crossing the road and do not ride your bike on school property. Always wear your helmet --- "It's your last line of defense!"

Constable I. Staniforth RCMP School Liaison Officer

## PARENT QUIZ - ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

We all think we're good listeners, but studies show that most people can do a better job.

Have each member of your family take this quiz. See if you agree with each other!

Give yourself five points for things you think you do very well, zero for something you really need to work on – or any score in between.

- \_\_\_ 1. I do not interrupt family members when they are talking.
- \_\_\_ 2. Each person in my family can count on me for some uninterrupted listening time each day.
- \_\_\_ 3. I do not do other things while “listening” to people.
- \_\_\_ 4. I maintain eye contact with my family when they speak.
- \_\_\_ 5. My family would consider me a good listener.

### 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.

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

### APPROPRIATE CLOTHING FOR WEATHER CONDITIONS



The cool wet weather will arrive 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. 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.

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

- Email student absences to [info.mg@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:info.mg@sd68.bc.ca) is the preferred communication for general student absences.



(please include your child's first and last name, teacher

name 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.