



June 29, 2022

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
 VICE PRINCIPAL: Ms. Jennifer Robinson
 SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Paula Gould

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Caregivers,

Thank you to all McGirr staff, students, families, and Pac for another successful and enjoyable school year in 2021-2022 despite the tighter COVID protocols we have needed to follow for a good chunk of the school year. It was nice to finish the year more “normal.” We are an active and involved school community. As the Principal, I am grateful to have the privilege of leading and interacting with such a positive and vibrant group of staff, students, and caregivers. One of the many strengths at McGirr is our diverse and inclusive student population. There are over 28 languages spoken in the homes of our students. I am proud of the ways our staff have embraced our Board’s goal of reconciliation and learning and teaching the traditional ways of indigenous learning and knowing. The McGirr school community is a learning organization, and everyone shares the credit and responsibility for every student’s academic and social-emotional successes. I look forward to an even better school year in 2022-2023!

Final written reports will be distributed (**emailed**) today for all K-7 students. These reports are summative, meaning they describe each student’s performance for the school year in the Core Competencies within the BC curriculum. The competencies are Communication, Thinking, and Personal & Social. These abilities are essential in developing an “educated citizen” who can engage in deep and life-long learning. Please review your child’s summative report card, consider areas for future goals, and celebrate areas of success.

Thank you to our McGirr PAC for working behind the scenes this year as COVID protocols allowed. We are grateful to every parent/guardian and look forward to a more “normal” year next year where we will see more volunteers in the building helping in so many wonderful ways (don’t forget to complete those Criminal Record checks). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Eden Wood (PAC chair) for her tireless efforts at the school over the past MANY years. We are just as sad to see her leave (her youngest child goes to high school) as I know parents, staff and students will be as well. It has been an honour and a privilege to have worked with Eden (personally) for the past couple of years. It was difficult with COVID restrictions and such, but Eden made it all happen! Thank you, Eden and all the best at Dover Bay, where we know you are already a member of their PAC 😊

Finally, information about school supplies and planners is on page 3 of this newsletter.

We wish all of you a wonderful summer holiday, full of lots of play and family time.

Thank you

Robbie Dhillon
Principal
Jennifer Robinson
Vice Principal

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open until Friday July 8 and reopens on Monday August 29th. Our office hours are as follows:

- **Monday July 4 8 AM to 2PM
- **Tuesday July 5 8 AM to 2 PM
- **Wednesday July 6 8 AM to 2 PM
- **Thursday July 7 8 AM to 2 PM
- **Friday July 8 8 AM to 12 PM

2022-2023 (Dates are updated during the year)*

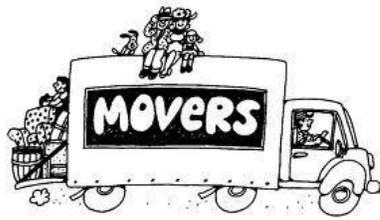
- First day of class, Grades 1-7 (11 AM to 12 PM)..... Tues Sept 6
 - PAC (6:30 PM).....Mon Sept 19
 - Photo Day Thurs Sept 22
 - Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)Fri Sep 30
 - Thanksgiving (school closed)..... Mon. Oct 10
 - Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Oct 19
 - Introduction to Learning Conferences (1:15-3:00 PM) . Wed Oct 19
 - Introduction to Learning Conferences (5:30-7:00 PM) . Wed Oct 19
 - Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)..... Thurs Oct 20
 - Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend)..... Fri. Oct 21
 - Pro-D (school based) (students do not attend)..... Mon Oct 24
 - Photo Retakes Thurs Nov 3
 - Remembrance Day (school closed)Fri Nov 11
 - Last Day before Holiday..... Fri. Dec 16
 - First Day back Tues Jan 3
 - Pro-D Day (students do not attend) Mon Feb 6
 - Pro-D Day (students do not attend) Tues Feb 7
 - Progress Reports Fri Feb 10
 - BC Family Day (school closed)..... Mon Feb 20
 - Last Day before Spring Break/Easter Fri. Mar 10
 - First Day back..... Mon Mar 27
 - Early dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Apr 5
 - Communication of Learning Conferences (1:15-3:00).... Wed Apr 5
 - Communication of Learning Conferences (5:30-7:00).... Wed Apr 5
 - Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Thurs Apr 6
 - Good Friday Fri Apr 7
 - Easter Monday.....Mon Apr 10
 - Class Photos..... Thurs Apr 20
 - Curriculum Implementation (students do not attend).... Thurs May 11
 - Pro-D (students do not attend)..... Fri May 12
 - Victoria Day (school closed)Mon May 22
 - Formative Report Issued.....Thurs Jun 29
 - Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10).....Thurs Jun 29
 - Administration Day Fri Jun 30
- *if dates change these are communicated through the office*

BELL SCHEDULE 2022-2023

Below is a summary of our bell schedule for the upcoming school year. (**no changes from this year**)

Morning Session	8:30
Short Recess	10:00-10:15
Long Recess	11:45 – 12:20
Eat Lunch *(most days)	12:20
Dismissal	2:10

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 2022-2023

Our teacher staffing is 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:

Paula Gould	Carla Nickel	Sandra Leblond
Jennica Quenville	Emily McCart	Tiana Praud
Megan Schlitz	Jennifer Robinson	Gabby Soja

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)—

There is a separate attachment being sent out with this newsletter that has information about CRC. Please complete these now, as it will ensure no issues for September.

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 favorite 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 favorite 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

Your cost to cover supplies for the 2022/2023 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