



October 2022

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
VICE PRINCIPAL: Mr. Bob Brooks
SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Paula Gould

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

These past 5 weeks or so 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 38 Kindergarten students and (now) about 60 new 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 19 and 20 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, (even with our sunscreen weather) 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)

2022-2023 CALENDAR

Thanksgiving (school closed) Mon. Oct 10
PAC, 7 PM (Note time) Mon Oct 17
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Oct 19
Introduction to Learning Conferences (1:15-3:15 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 (most likely morning) Thurs Nov 3
Remembrance Day (school closed) Fri Nov 11

Winter Concert (more info coming) Wed Dec 7
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 (1:15-3:15).... 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

INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING

We are excited to say the same format we used last will be used this year for (face to face) communication of learning with parents.

Our first session takes place in October and the second session in April.

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 April).

There will be an online tool used for you to sign up for a session and teachers plan to send this information out on Friday October 7th (and possibly early the following week if the technology does not agree with us ☹️)

We are excited about this practice here at McGirr

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) THURSDAY NOVEMBER 3

- For ordering purposes, proofs for all students photographed in September 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 Monday October 31st 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).