



April 2024

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
VICE PRINCIPAL: Mr. Bob Brooks  
SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Breonna Senini

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

### FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Caregivers,

It was nice to see all the happy little faces returning from our Spring Break. Spring has sprung and the nice weather was sure great to see (at times) ☺. Just a reminder to ensure your child does have proper clothing at school as the rain (and yikes even snow), I am sure, we will see at some point. A change of clothes, including socks is also advisable.

There has been a lot going on at McGirr the past little while. I would like to thank our teachers, educational assistants, and other support staff for their excellent work this school year. In addition, the work that our PAC does is making a difference at the school.

There is important information about next year's school organization as well as Track and Field in this newsletter as well

Thanks, as always, to members of our PAC for their continued contributions to the school. The staff and students at the school appreciate your help and assistance

### 2024 CALENDAR

PAC (7 PM)..... Mon Apr 15  
Grade 3 to 7 Track Meet at Rotary Bowl ..... Tues Apr 23  
Pro-D (students do not attend)..... Mon April 29

PAC (7 PM) ..... Mon May 13  
Victoria Day (school closed) ..... Mon May 20  
Zone Track Meet @ Rotary Bowl (Gr 3 to 7) ..... Tues May 28

District Track Meet @ Rotary Bowl (Gr 3 to 7) ...Thurs Jun 13  
PAC (7 PM)..... Mon Jun 17  
Progress Report #3 (final)..... Wed Jun 26  
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10).... Wed Jun 26  
Curriculum Implementation Day .....Thurs Jun 27  
Administration Day..... Fri Jun 28  
\*if dates change these are communicated through the office\*

### 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.

### TRACK AND FIELD (GRADES 3-7) @ ROTARY BOWL AT NDSS

Similar to previous years, Grades 3-7 students will be practicing their events at the school. Students will receive

practice, guidance and support in various track and field events as part of their program at school. For some of the events we may set up our heats based on results at the school. This will help to ensure our track meet ends on time.

Most of our Grade 3-7 students will sign up to go to our **school based track meet (Tuesday April 23rd)**. Any students not going will be at the school this day. We have sent permission slips home with all Grade 3 to 7 students, so please return those ASAP, even if your child ends up not going (easier to have it on file than asking for it before the meets).

Based on the results from our school meet, we will determine who our **zone qualifiers** are in various events. **On Tuesday May 28th** these students will go to the Rotary Bowl for the zone meet

From there any students who qualify for the districts will compete in the **district meet on Thursday June 13<sup>th</sup>**.

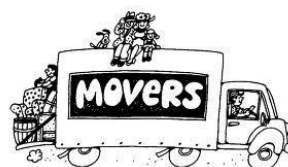
We will still need adult volunteers for all 3 meets. Adults, please ensure you complete your Criminal Record Check now, if not already done. We will put out a separate call out for adult helpers for the school based track meet, which is coming up very quickly

### PARENTAL/GUARDIAN REQUESTS FOR STUDENT PLACEMENT 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

We will soon be in the process of planning the next academic year. It is important you trust the teachers, support staff, and administration to build classes, which suit the students' both academic and social needs. We take a lot of care in doing classroom composition for each grade. We make up each class list in a way that maximizes the quality of teaching and learning conditions for all students. The decision for placement is based on many factors, such as: balancing academic ability, levels of independence, learning styles, social/emotional maturity, previous placement, and maximizing the positive learning environment for the whole class. The classroom composition for each grade has to reflect the acceptance of all individuals within an inclusive school as we attempt to provide appropriate educational programming to all children. If you have specific educational reasons/concerns, you would like us to consider about your child, **please contact Mr. Dhillon (in writing) as soon as possible, but no later than May 16<sup>th</sup>**.

**Please include your child's first and last name as well as current Grade level and teacher.** We do consider these requests along with all other pertinent information provided by classroom teachers and support staff. Please note your request will be considered but we do not guarantee it can be honored. It does become an important part of our planning process. As teachers may change schools and grade groupings are dependent on our enrolment numbers and balancing learning needs, **please describe optimal learning environments without referring to specific teachers. We are not able to take requests for individual teachers.**

### 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 ASAP. Registration in our district is done online:

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

### **Expect Respect and Safe Education (ERASE)**

The Ministry of Education has a guide developed to assist parents regarding bullying behaviour and other safety issues with the E.R.A.S.E. program. The guide can be found at [www.erasebullying.ca/](http://www.erasebullying.ca/)

The following link <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase> provides families with resources and information on a variety of topics

This link will provide parents with information about upcoming family sessions

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-session>

The QR code below can be used to report:



### **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 communication for general student absences. **(please include your child's first and last name, teacher name** and reason if needed. CC this email to your child's teacher.



- Or call the school in advance **(preferably before 8AM)** and leaving a message on the answering machine if you know your child will not be in

attendance

- **Non Emergency Early pick up:** email [info.mg@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:info.mg@sd68.bc.ca) (also copied to your child's teacher) as early as possible (on the day of) so we can ensure your child's teacher is aware. (include your child's first/last name and time of pick up).
- **Non-Emergency Pick up at end of day (1:50--2:10).** We are a large school, with a busy parking lot, and students are not always in their assigned classrooms towards the end of the day. From gym, to library, to outside PE, buddies, music, band, support rooms, the list goes on, so this email is a crucial part in allowing us to have the time to have your child ready as quickly as possible. If you are showing up without this notice, there will be a longer wait. **If requesting non-emergency early dismissal close to the end of the day bell (ie 1:50-2:10) please ensure you have given the office good lead time.. In an ideal day, students would not need to leave early during that last part of the day.**

### **ROOTS OF EMPATHY LIVES HERE**

This year, Ms. Kraft's grade twos are participating in Roots of Empathy, an evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression - including bullying - among primary and elementary school students while raising social-emotional competence and increasing empathy.

At the heart of the program are a neighbourhood infant and parent who visit the classroom nine times throughout the year.

This year we have been fortunate to have Baby Everett and his moms, Jess and Britt visit monthly since October and they will continue to do so until June. As the instructor, I coach the students to observe Everett's development and to label Everett's feelings and intentions. The baby is the "teacher" and a lever I use to help the students to identify and reflect on their own feelings and feelings of others.

Family visit days bring much excitement to Ms. Kraft's class! We've been witness to Everett's growth and development, celebrating with his family as he reaches each milestone - most recently crawling and high-fives - and taking in all he has to teach us.

While we still have a few months left in the 2023/24 school year, I'm thinking ahead to our next tiny "teacher" and family. If you are pregnant and due at the end of May through mid August, and would like to learn more about the participating in Roots of Empathy, please contact Brea Forell at [bforell@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:bforell@sd68.bc.ca)

-Brea Forell, CYFSW McGirr and Roots of Empathy Instructor

