



June 26, 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,

Thank you to all McGirr staff, students, families, and Pac for another successful and enjoyable school year in 2023-2024. 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 23 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 2024-2025

Final written reports will be distributed (**emailed**) on the last day of school June 26th (by 4 pm) for all K-7 students. 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 all of their support this year. The highlight was the fun fair for many students and families and the time put in by our PAC was immense. We are grateful to every parent/guardian who has supported our students this year. To avoid disappointment in volunteering next year (for field trips, in the classroom, sports teams, etc...) don't forget to complete those Criminal Record Checks.

A special mention of our Grade 7 students, for whom today marks their last day of elementary school. I hope you have enjoyed your eight years of elementary school and I hope you remember us here at McGirr as you move on to bigger things 😊. Best of luck in all your future endeavours.

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
 Bob Brooks
Vice Principal

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open until Friday July 5 and reopens on Monday August 26th. Our office hours are as follows:

- **Monday July 1closed
- **Tuesday July 28 AM to 2 PM
- **Wednesday July 38 AM to 2 PM
- **Thursday July 48 AM to 2 PM
- **Friday July 58 AM to 12 PM

2024-2025 (Dates are updated during the year)*

First day of class, Gr 1-7 (11 AM-12 PM)	Tues Sep 3
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Sep 16
Photo Day (individual photo)	Mon Sep 23
Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)	Mon Sep 30
Thanksgiving (school closed)	Mon. Oct 14
Scholastic Book Fair	Mon Oct 21-Thurs Oct 24
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)	Mon Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)	Tues Oct 22
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)	Wed Oct 23
Formative Assessment Sessions (1:15-3:15 PM)	Wed Oct 23
Formative Assessment Sessions (5:30-7:00 PM)	Wed Oct 23
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)	Thurs Oct 24
Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend).....	Fri. Oct 25
Photo Retakes	Mon Oct 28
Pro-D Day	Fri Nov 8
Remembrance Day (school closed)	Mon Nov 11
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Nov 18
Progress Report Term #1 issued	Wed Nov 27
Curriculum Implementation Day (students don't attend) ..	Fri Dec 6
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Dec 16
Last Day before Holiday	Fri. Dec 20
First Day back	Mon Jan 6
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Jan 20
Pro-D Day (students do not attend)	Mon Feb 3
Pro-D Day (students do not attend)	Tues Feb 4
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Feb 10
BC Family Day (school closed).....	Mon Feb 17
PAC (7 PM) (tentative).....	Mon Mar 10
Progress Report Term #2 issued	Wed Mar 12
Last Day before Spring Break/Easter	Fri. Mar 14
First Day back.....	Mon Mar 31
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Apr 14
Good Friday	Fri Apr 18
Easter Monday	Mon Apr 21
Class photos (all divisions, plus Gr 7/staff pic)	TBD
Pro-D (students do not attend).....	Mon May 5
PAC (7 PM).....	Mon May 12
Scholastic Book Fair.....	Tues May 13 to Fri May 16
Victoria Day (school closed)	Mon May 19
PAC (7 PM)	Mon Jun 16
Summative Reports	Thurs Jun 26
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:10).....	Thurs Jun 26
Administration Day	Fri Jun 27

if dates change these are communicated through the office

BELL SCHEDULE 2024-2025

Below is a summary of our bell schedule for the upcoming school year. **(note our new dismissal time for next school year...it is a minor change)**

Morning Session	8:30
Short Recess	10:00-10:15
Long Recess	11:45 – 12:20
Eat Lunch (most days/classes)	12:20
Dismissal	2:13 (as of September 2024)

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 cooperation 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/>

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:

Kirstin Sperling	Carla Nickel	Stephen Meadus
Teri Atherton	Dominique Fleury	Teresa Powell
Taylor Baker-Coldwell	Kellie Mitchell	

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.

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.

Summer Reading Club 2024



Summer vacation is almost here and your children are no doubt dreaming about fun times and adventures!

But in order to keep your children's reading skills sharp, it's also a smart idea to include reading as a part of their summer fun. Like all skills, a little practice goes a long way. Vancouver Island Regional Library invites kids aged 0 - 12 years to join Summer Reading Club.

Participants will embark on a reading adventure at the library with this year's theme: **World of Curiosities!**

Summer Reading Club encourages children to read a little every day by providing:

- Fun tools, such as colorful reading records, tattoos, and medals.
- Trading cards – get additional cards throughout the summer to trade with friends!
- Chances to win cool prizes — the more they read, the more chances to win.
- Amazing in branch library programs, performances, contests and activities.

Summer Reading Club officially begins July 2nd. You can register by picking up a special package at your local branch starting on June 18th! The package includes a reading record to track reading, stickers and other fun stuff.

For more information, call or visit your local branch of Vancouver Island Regional Library or visit www.virl.bc.ca/src.

In remote areas, the program is available through our Books by Mail service.

Please call 1-877-415-8475 for information.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES GR 1 to GR 7

Your cost to cover supplies for next school year will be **around \$53.00** plus the cost of the planner. **The final cost of school supplies will be determined over the summer.** 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 receive 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 PLANNERS

The cost for a day planner for Primary (and some Grade 4 kids) will be \$8.50 and for the remaining students \$7.00. Information about day planners will be communicated to students and families in September and please note Kindergarten families do not buy day planners as they use a back and forth folder.