



October 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 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... It truly takes a small village to get things up and running.

I am impressed by the hard work of staff with respect to the transition of our 46 Kindergarten students and over 35 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 McGirr.

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. The Great BC Shakeout (earthquake drill) is coming up this month as well.

A reminder early dismissal week (1 PM) is coming up (Mon Oct 21-Thurs Oct 24). Please ensure caregivers/daycare/pick up people are informed. Pick up every day that week will be 1 PM (note no school on Friday October 25th due to a Provincial Professional Development Day).

The early dismissals are tied in with our Introduction to Learning Sessions that will take place on Wednesday October 23rd. There will be an online tool used to book these in person sessions. Teachers (if technology cooperates with us) will email out the links on Wednesday October 16th (later in the day, most likely by 5 pm)

On a different note, (even with our sunny weather many mornings) 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 caregivers 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)

2024-2025 CALENDAR

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
Cross Country (Zone)	Tues Oct 29
Monster Mash (PAC) 6-7:30 PM	Tues Oct 29
Cross Country (District)	Wed Nov 6
Pro-D Day (students do not attend)	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 (school closed).....	Fri Apr 18
Easter Monday (school closed).....	Mon Apr 21
Gr 3-7 Track Meet (@ Rotary Bowl)	Thurs Apr 24
Class Photo Day (all 20 divisions) "Tentative" ...	Mon Apr 28
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
Zone Track Meet (Rotary Bowl)	Thurs May 22
District Track Meet (Rotary Bowl).....	Thurs Jun 12
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

INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING

Our October session is an "Introduction to Learning," and an email link should come out on Wednesday October 16th (or 17th) to sign up for a slot. When this link comes out, please sign up

with your child's initials (ie John Smith: just enter JS). Fingers crossed the technology agrees with us that afternoon.

We are excited about this practice here at McGirr

VOLUNTEER AND CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Detailed information has been sent out many times and is routinely sent out on our listserve.

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.

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

- Email student absences to 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 (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.**

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Our theme day on 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 families and students keep this in mind when preparing costumes to be worn at school.

Costumes should not include:

- Masks that obscure the students face (This is for safety reasons when traveling around the school—and stairs outside--and for identification purposes)
- 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).

PHOTO DAY (RETAKE DAY) MONDAY OCT 28

- 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 (exact 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.



SCHOOL BASED TEAM

The **School Based Team** is the school committee that works to determine the supports and interventions for individual students. **If you have a concern, begin with a conversation with your child's teacher.**

