



November 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,

October is now in our rear-view mirror and we have roared into November. November is a time for reflection, to appreciate the sacrifices of previous generations in preserving our cherished freedoms and way of life.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly took place this morning. We had six, Grade 7 students lead us through the assembly: Isaac B, Sienna, Logan, Kei, Lena, and Ellie. Our special guest was Warrant Officer (Retired) Matt McCann.

In addition, Ms. Wright's and Ms. Jones' classes sang "Peace In My Fingers," helped out by Mr. Meadus. Our Senior and Junior choir, led by Mr. Bamford, performed four heartfelt songs for Remembrance Day.

Many thanks to Ms. Jones, Ms. Wright, Mr. Bamford, Mr. Meadus, Mr. Brooks and Mr. Friend (tech and sound set up) and others who also helped with the assembly. In addition, the wreaths our classes prepared were simply amazing.

With this time of year comes cold and/or wet weather. Please don't let your child(ren) leave home in the morning without proper clothes for the weather. We encourage students to play outdoors during our recess breaks in proper waterproof attire, including gloves and boots.

Many thanks for all that you do, as it really does take a village to raise a child.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon
(Principal)

2024-2025 CALENDAR

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 (email)..... Wed Nov 27

Curriculum Implementation Day (students don't attend)...Fri Dec 6
PAC (7 PM) Mon Dec 16
Winter Concert (more details to come)..... Wed Dec 18
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

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.

Everyday Anxiety Strategies for Educators (EASE) – share with staff and with community.

EASE is a collection of evidence-informed anxiety prevention and resilience-building resources for use with students in grades K-7. The resources use cognitive behavioural strategies to address the thoughts, feelings and behaviours associated with anxiety. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EASE classroom activities were adapted for use at home by parents and caregivers to support children's mental health and continuous learning.

These fun and practical strategies help guide parents and caregivers in managing their children's anxiety and worries in the comfort of their home.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/mental-health-substance-use/child-teen-mental-health/ease>

SCHOOL CLOSURES



It is that time of year again, when the school district would like to remind parents about school closure procedures. The most common reasons that schools might be closed are dangerous road conditions due to a heavy snowfall

or ice. If you are wondering if schools are open on a particular day, for the most current updates listen to local radio stations (WAVE 102.3 FM and WOLF 106.9 FM) in the mornings.

We also attempt to put an announcement of any school closure on the school district website, www.sd68.bc.ca, and on Twitter and Facebook, but our ability to do so could be affected by such things as power outages and technical issues. If there is no announcement on the website or social media, please be sure to listen to local radio stations.

We would like to remind parents that it is their right to make the final decision as to whether it is safe for their children to travel to school on any given day. While the district strives to make the best decision possible for students across the district, there may be circumstances in your neighbourhood that lead you to decide to keep your children home, even though schools are open.

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.**