



## December 2024

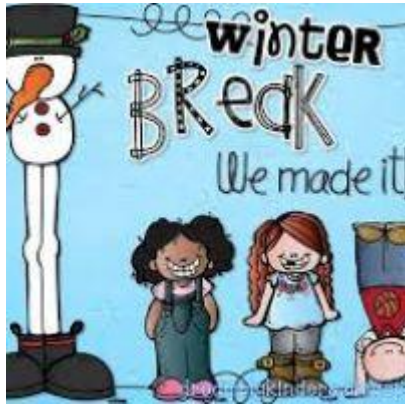
PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon  
 VICE PRINCIPAL: Mr. Bob Brooks  
 SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Breonna Senini

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

### FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Caregivers,

I can't believe we are fast approaching our break now (last day Friday December 20<sup>th</sup>). Where has the time gone? Thank you to our staff for their hard work and dedication to our students and your children over the past nearly four months. Thank you to our caregivers for all the great work that has been done to ensure the students are ready to learn. This is a busy school requiring many caring and



dedicated adults to make the school day a success for all. We have been fortunate to have such a caring staff and parent/guardian community.

Our Winter Concert takes place on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Friend, Mr. Meadus and Mr. Bamford (and others) are busy getting those details sorted. I am sure it will be an amazing afternoon and evening.

We hope your child has fun participating in theme week, the final week prior to the break, as well. 😊

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

|                                          |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| Winter Concert .....                     | 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   |
| Annie Jr Musical (More info to come) ..... | Thurs May 15 |
| Victoria Day (school closed) .....         | Mon May 19   |
| Zone Track Meet (Rotary Bowl) .....        | Thurs May 22 |

|                                                  |              |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| PAC (7 PM).....                                  | Fri Jun 6    |
| 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 2:13)... | Thurs Jun 26 |
| Administration Day .....                         | Fri Jun 27   |

**\*if dates change these are communicated through the office\***

### RULES FOR PLAYING IN THE SNOW

As we approach that time of year when Nanaimo can get snow, we'd like to remind families of the "snow" rules at McGirr. The following rules are enforced for the safety of students:



etc.

- There is "no snowball throwing" on the grounds
  - Students are not to participate in activities that may injure other students – face washing with snow, kicking chunks of snow/ice,
  - No crazy carpets, sleds, slides brought to school
- It is important that our students understand the rules and our concern that snowballs can cause serious injury. Within these rules there are many opportunities for students to enjoy their time outside in the snow at recess.

### 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](http://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 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.

### 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 during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

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

### ERASE BULLYING RESOURCE

The B.C. Ministry of Education in collaboration with school districts across the province have developed and implemented an online student and parent resource about bullying incidents, and a reporting tool for such incidents. Please visit [www.erasebullying.ca](http://www.erasebullying.ca) for more



information.

### 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 8 AM**) 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--2:13).** 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 1:50-2:13) 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.**