



June 26, 2025

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 2024-2025. 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 2025-2026

Final written reports will be distributed (**emailed**) on the last day of school June 26th) (by 5 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

SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM BAMFORD FAMILY

The Bamford family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the staff, parents and students of McGirr Elementary for all your amazing love and support since Mr. B's passing in mid January.

We have really appreciated the many messages, cards, drawings, food, flowers, songs & music, photos etc. which have been shared with our family.

The special book "All About Mr. B" made by all the students, the choir recordings, the special assembly in the gym

including the presentation of the framed McGirr song, the tribute at the Annie Junior Musical, the fantastic display in school entrance were some of the fantastic ways to honour Mr. B's memory. Our family so appreciated being invited and included in so many touching moments at the school and know how much he is missed.

Thanks to the generosity of so many people the first memorial scholarship was recently awarded to Catriona Hicks at the Port Theater. She is a Dover Bay graduate and former McGirr student who worked very closely with Mr. B. over the years. She is such a deserving candidate who plans to pursue a Fine Arts degree.

It is hoped we can continue to honour Mr. B's legacy in the future by providing further scholarships to graduating McGirr students who were influenced by Mr. B. and continuing their interest in fine arts. Donations can be made online and the website is www.nlsf.ca and there's an option to donate directly to Don's memorial fund. Tax receipts will also be given.

The family has also started assembling a digital celebration of life for Don and welcome any favorite memories, photos, comments that could be shared online. Send to jfbamford@icloud.com

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open until Friday July 4 and reopens on Monday August 25th. Our office hours are as follows:

****Monday June 30.....closed**
****Tuesday July 1closed**
****Wednesday July 2 8 AM to 2 PM**
****Thursday July 3 8 AM to 2 PM**
****Friday July 4 8 AM to 12 PM**

2025-2026 (Dates are updated during the year)*

First day of class, Gr 1-7 (11 AM-12 PM) Tues Sep 2
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Sep 15
Photo Day (individual photo) Thurs Sep 25
Truth and Reconciliation (school closed) Tues Sep 30
Thanksgiving (school closed) Mon. Oct 13
Scholastic Book Fair..... Mon Oct 20-Thurs Oct 23
PAC (6:15 PM) Mon Oct 20
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Mon Oct 20
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Tues Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Oct 22
Formative Assessment Sessions (1:30-4:00 PM) Wed Oct 22
Formative Assessment Sessions (5:30-6:45 PM) Wed Oct 22
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM).....Thurs Oct 23
Pro-D [province wide] (students do not attend)..... Fri. Oct 24
PAC Monster Mash (Dance) 6 PM..... Wed Oct 29
Photo Retakes Mon Nov 3
Pro-D Day..... Mon Nov 10
Remembrance Day (school closed) Tues Nov 11
PAC (6:15 PM) Mon Nov 24
Progress Report Term #1 issued Wed Nov 26
Curriculum Implementation Day (students don't attend) .. Fri Dec 5
Last Day before Holiday.....Fri. Dec 19
First Day back Mon Jan 5
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Jan 19
Pro-D (students do not attend)..... Mon Feb 9

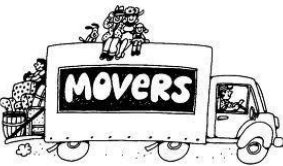
BC Family Day (school closed)	Mon Feb 16
PAC (6:15 PM)	Mon Feb 23
Progress Report Term #2 issued.....	Wed Mar 11
Last Day before Spring Break.....	Fri. Mar 13
First Day back	Mon Mar 30
Good Friday	Fri Apr 3
Easter Monday	Mon Apr 6
PAC (6:15 PM)	Mon Apr 13
Class photos (all divisions, plus Gr 7/staff pic)...	Mon Apr 20
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Fri Apr 24
Pro-D (students do not attend)	Mon Apr 27
PAC (6:165 PM)	Mon May 11
Victoria Day (school closed).....	Mon May 18
PAC Fun Fair (5-8 pm)	Fri Jun 5
PAC (6:15 PM)	Mon Jun 15
Summative Reports	Thurs Jun 25
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:13)..	Thurs Jun 25
Administration Day	Fri Jun 26
if dates change these are communicated through the office	

BELL SCHEDULE 2025-2026

Below is a summary of our bell schedule for the upcoming school year **(no 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

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/>

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:

Teri Atherton	Serena Barratt	Bob Brooks
Lorraine Carlson	Dawn Harrison	Sarah Hatfield
Paris Johnson	Jacqueline MacLellan	Maddie McDonald
Maddy Priest		

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 2025



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 \$55.00** 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

We anticipate the cost of the planner to be \$10 for September. 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.

