



McGirr Elementary



Phone: 250-758-8946

Website: <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/mcge>

Email: info.mg@sd68.bc.ca

Principal: Mr. Robbie Dhillon

Vice-Principal: Mrs. Glenda Robertson

Secretaries: Ms. Sandra Fox (Head Secretary) and Ms. Breonna Senini (3 days)

September 2, 2025

Startup & Opening Day

Tuesday September 2nd from 11 AM to 12 PM students in Grades 1-7 attend school. Students will go to “last year’s” classes. All new Grade 1 to 7 students will go to the gym. Students do not to bring anything with them for the hour (money for supplies, backpacks, food etc... is not needed for the hour). There is more information about school supplies at the end of this newsletter. Kindergarten students have a gradual entry into their classes and follow the schedule they were provided in June.

Welcome Back to School ☺

On behalf of the entire McGirr School Staff, welcome back to all of our returning families and a big welcome to McGirr to our new families (around 85 new students including Kindergarten). As a staff, we are delighted to be back in session and are looking forward to getting things underway. This newsletter is to provide families with some information about the first week. Our September newsletter will be sent out in the coming weeks with more details of the year.

My name is Robbie Dhillon and I am starting my 6th year as Principal to your children here at McGirr. This year we have a new Vice Principal, Glenda Robertson, who brings with her many years of experience (classroom teacher, Vice Principal and Principal) from the lower mainland. The school phone number is 250-758-8946. Welcome to all- Our hope/mission is that your child has a wonderful educational experience here. I continue to be amazed at the number of languages spoken at McGirr. Did you know that there are 24 different languages spoken in the homes of McGirr families? Wow!

START UP & OPENING DAY

Students will NOT be placed into their permanent classes until we receive approval from the Board Office to set our classes. On **Tuesday**, students will stay in “last year’s” classes and classrooms. On opening day (**Tuesday**) new students will go to the gym from 11-12. There, many staff will greet students and families and new students will be told where they go the following day.

On **Wednesday** and moving forward we will be in last year’s classes. Here are the exceptions:

- Exception: Ms. Priest’s class, in the same classroom will have Ms. Nickel as their teacher.
- Exception: Mrs. Carlson’s class, starting on Wednesday will be with Ms. Oslie (Exterior Door L—the classroom in between Mrs. Peace’s and Mrs. Mark’s rooms). On Tuesday this class will be in the same portable as last year for the hour.
- Exception: Mrs. Jones’ class will go to same door, but there will be a different teacher starting on Wednesday (Mrs. Jones will be there on Tuesday)
- Exception: Mrs. Wright’s class will be in a different location, with a different teacher, starting Wednesday and we will let families know via email, once we have confirmed the exact door. On Tuesday this class will go to Mrs. Wright’s room and she will be there. Our hope is to let the class know during this hour which room (and outside door) to report to starting Wednesday.

Teachers will be teaching “last year’s” students until the Superintendent’s/Board approval is given for McGirr to organize students into their classes. Parents will pick up their child in the same location daily at 2:13.

When we get the go ahead to organize, teachers will send an email to families in their class. Until then, we ask for your patience and understanding. We know everyone wants to know who their teacher is, but until we get approval, we have to wait.

We welcome everyone back to School. We look forward to having another Great Year!

This next message is only for families moving elementary schools who are receiving this McGirr newsletter:

- If you have already made contact with your new school/district then there is no need to contact us as the new school will contact us directly. **(no need to read further)**
- If your child is moving (**elementary**) schools from McGirr Elementary to a different elementary school (in district, out of district, out of province, out of country etc.) and you have **not** notified us please do so immediately by contacting our school office, at info.mg@sd68.bc.ca or at 250-758-8946 (we have a 24 hour voice mail, please leave a message if you get our voicemail). Please leave your child's first and last name as well as Grade level now, and your first and last name. (email is preferred for this contact, if at all possible (info.mg@sd68.bc.ca))

Other information regarding changing schools:

- If your child is moving to another elementary school in our district please ensure you follow the process for the move (for in district moves you would do this online, through central registration at:

<https://www.sd68.bc.ca/students-parents/registration-information/>

- If you are moving outside of our district, please ensure you have already made contact with the new school/district and follow their registration process. Do not wait until next Tuesday, please do this ASAP.

Thank you,
Robbie Dhillon

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have been tentatively confirmed for 20 divisions for classes in the upcoming school year (The number may change). The placement of students is determined by the school team of sending teachers, administration and professional staff and is based on the best educational fit for the student, the class and for the school. Our teachers work together with the Principal and Vice Principal, student support teachers and the counselor to put classes together using the above criteria. While not perfect, we appreciate parents for trusting staff and the integrity of the process used to create divisions at McGirr while accommodating new students at the same time. **Parents must recognize that their letters of student placement request from back in May are considered but may not be granted.** Thank you to all McGirr families, staff and students for what we anticipate will be another positive and smooth start up this school year. Welcome back to another year of growing and learning. Here are some factors that are considered when we put classes together:

- Instructional groupings that are best suited to the learning needs of all students.
- NLPS Inclusion Policies and Procedures
- Provincial and local Collective Agreement language re: class size and composition
- Social and cultural issues including student independence, interactions with other students, leadership opportunities.
- Social-emotional and behavioral considerations.
- Groupings from previous years (e.g., frequency of blended classes over time).
- Dominant grade composition.
- Physical and social maturation.
- Learning strengths & needs balanced with teaching strategies and styles.
- Social groupings.

We will be regularly communicating on curriculum, assessment and student progress through our reporting and ongoing communication of student learning. This continues to be an exciting time of change in education and we will communicate these changes frequently to our students and our parents as we progress through the fall. I am confident that our staff have fully embraced and implemented the provincial curriculum and local reporting guidelines. I encourage parents to visit the ministry website often to gain an understanding of the redesigned curriculum and reporting structures at <http://www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca> .

Sincerely,
Robbie Dhillon

STAFFING UPDATES

We would like to welcome all of our returning staff members and welcome the following people to our school. We are pleased to welcome each new staff member. We welcome our newest members of our McGirr educational team (*teaching assignments are subject to change*):

- (new) Ms. Tanya Oslie Intermediate teacher
- (new) Mrs. Glenda Robertson (VP) and teaching an intermediate class (Monday and Friday)
- (new) Ms. Lana Gregson Primary (working with Ms. Heese and Ms. Lovstad)
- (new) Ms. Shabeena Rehan (Educational Assistant)
- (returning) Ms. Carla Nickel (Classroom Teacher/Primary)
- (returning) Mr. Stephen Meadus (Classroom Teacher, three days a week and 1 day a week prep)

2025-2026 DATES TO REMEMBER

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)..... (updated) Fri Sep 26	
Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)	Tues Sep 30
Thanksgiving (school closed)	Mon. Oct 13
Scholastic Book Fair	Mon Oct 20-Thurs Oct 23
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Oct 20
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 Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Nov 17
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
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Dec 15
Last Day before Holiday	Fri. Dec 19
First Day back	Mon Jan 5
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Jan 12
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 Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Feb 23
PAC (6:15 PM)	Mon Feb 23
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Mar 9
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 Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Apr 13
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
School track meet (Gr 3 to 7) @ Rotary	Fri May 1
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon May 11
PAC (6:15 PM)	Mon May 11
Victoria Day (school closed)	Mon May 18
Zone Track meet @ Rotary Bowl	Tues May 26
PAC Fun Fair (5-8 pm)	Fri Jun 5
PAC Fun/Hot Lunch	Mon Jun 8
District Track Meet	Thurs Jun 11
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

McGirr Hours for Students

Monday - Friday

8:28	Welcome Bell
8:30	School starts
10 - 10:15	Short Recess
11:45 - 12:20	Long Recess
2:13	Dismissal

Important Student Information Consent and Emergency Release Forms

Parents and guardians will be receiving **important forms** to sign (by email) in the first two weeks of school. These are the same emails as the past few years. **Three forms (will be online again this year)** provides informed consent for a number of items regarding your child(ren) including media releases, volunteering (driving), technology & internet use, Google suite for education and communications from the school. Please sign this form in the appropriate areas, on line. **You will receive 3 separate emails for these forms (each form has a different permission). We will let families know when these emails have gone out (via list serve) as sometimes these emails end up in JUNK or SPAM folders**

The final form (hard copy, paper) involves parents completing an emergency release consent form (1701 Student Verification Form). This lists trusted relatives and friends that parents/guardians permit to pick up their child (ren) from McGirr in the case of an emergency or evacuation. **It is very important the 1701 form is signed on the back (at the bottom) and returned, the day after it is received.**

SCHOOL BELL SCHEDULE

This year our bell schedule is as follows: **8:30-2:13 Monday to Friday**. We also encourage students to leave the school through their classroom door **not the front door**, leaving that area open and available for special needs students, parents and visiting adults. **A friendly reminder supervision begins 15 minutes before each morning bell, and ends 15 minutes after the dismissal bells daily**, for the purposes of dismissal (walk, ride back, pick up etc..). Students should **not be left unsupervised** by a parent or guardian outside of these times. Students should **not** arrive at school before the official supervision begins for safety reasons unless they have a practice or rehearsal in the morning. **Note: We do have 4, early dismissal days (1:00 PM) and those days will be listed in our newsletters. These early dismissal days are in with our important dates.**

EARLY DETECTION - PHONING IN ABSENCES

The early detection system is for the safety of all students at McGirr. A convenient way for parents to report an absence is through email: info.mg@sd68.bc.ca (with an email copy to your child's teacher as well). Please indicate your child's first and last name and their classroom teacher (if not copied in the email). The email to the info email address is crucial as it will be sent to whoever is working in the office in case Ms. Fox or Ms. Senini are away. We also have a 24-hr voice mail in case you are calling. This program is for the safety of your child. **All absences and lates should be emailed or called in to the office.** When leaving a message please state your child's first and last name, teacher name, division and if they are ill, at an appointment, or on vacation.

VALUABLE ITEMS

Please leave any valuable possessions at home. If we notice items that do not have an educational purpose during school hours, they will be held in the office for safekeeping until such a time that a parent can attend the school to claim the item(s). Parents are encouraged to **label** all clothing and personal items for their child (ren) before the start of the school year.

CELL (SMART) PHONES/CAMERAS, ELECTRONICS

Handheld video game units (such as a Nintendo Switch), electronic items etc... are not part of an educational program. As such, they are not to be present at McGirr. This includes housing an electronic item in a backpack during the school day. These devices are prohibited, unless a teacher has expressly asked that they be brought to school for a learning activity. If electronic items are on the school site, they may be confiscated. Items will be returned when parents or guardians and the student make an

appointment and meet with a school administrator. The school cannot be held responsible for lost or damaged items.

As a school staff, we understand the importance of phone communication between parents and students before and after school. We have a "bell-to-bell" policy for cell phones. Cell phones brought to school must be turned off and stored in a backpack, prior to entering the school property. Cell phones must be stored in backpacks and are not permitted to be brought out at any point during the school day-unless specifically asked to by their teacher for educational purposes. This is the responsibility of the student possessing the phone. After school, phones may be turned on and used outside of the school property. Cell phones are not to be removed from backpacks or used in hallways, at recess times, classrooms, foyers or anywhere within the school building.

We understand there may be times when parents need to immediately contact their children. At McGirr, it is always possible for parents to communicate with their children in an emergency, via the main office or through the info.mg@sd68.bc.ca, which is monitored during the work day (always include child's first and last name and teacher name).

VISITING A CLASSROOM OR MEETING WITH TEACHERS

At McGirr, we want to assure that classrooms function to their capacity as a learning environment. We also must ensure the safety of students at school during school hours. We also like to make sure we have good communication with all of our parents. If you have a message to give your child or are dropping off items such as homework or lunches, please check in at the office first or send an email to info.mg@sd68.bc.ca. Please do not disturb classes while classes are in session (unless you are expected by the teacher as a volunteer etc..). We will make sure that your child receives the items/message.

If you need to talk to your child's teacher please call/email ahead, write in the planner, and arrange to make an appointment. Teachers are busy and instruction begins when the bell goes. If you make an appointment you can be assured that you and the teacher will have time to have a meaningful discussion.

If you are visiting/volunteering in a class, please follow this routine:

1. Check in at the office, always - **sign the sign-in sheet** and be sure to include all information.
2. If you are staying to assist in a class, you will be given a **Visitors** nametag (wearing this quickly identifies you as someone who belongs in our school).
3. When your visit is complete, please return your tag, and sign out on the sign-in sheet.
4. *All volunteers in schools must complete a **Criminal Record Check**. This information is routinely sent out on our email listserve.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REMINDER - McGirr IS A FRAGRANCE FREE SCHOOL!

At McGirr, we welcome many new people to our staff and to our community. We need to remind our community that we will continue to implement a **Fragrance - Free** environment here at McGirr. Scented products can aggravate extreme allergic reactions and health problems for people with asthma, allergies and other medical conditions. It can become impossible for a person with extreme allergies to breathe if even one child in the room is wearing clothes that have been laundered with scented fabric sheets or soap. We are asking our staff, students and parents to avoid the use of scent in products such as cologne, perfume, hair spray, shampoo, laundry soap and fabric softener sheets as well as many other products.

We all **share** the same air, so please take **care** what you wear. ☺

Please refrain from using any perfume or fragranced products of any kind. Of real concern are scented laundry products such as dryer sheets and detergents that contain many harmful chemicals. Thank - you for your cooperation ☺

****PLEASE DO NOT PARK IN THE DROP OFF/PICK UP ZONE****

Please remember that there is **no unattended parking in front of the school**. If you are leaving your vehicle to come to the school to pick up your child or if you are waiting for an adult you **must park in the parking lot**.

TRAFFIC REMINDERS



We are reminding all parents of our parking lot traffic patterns designed to help keep our students (your kids) safe as they come to and leave our school grounds. **The area in front of the school is clearly marked no parking and no stopping. It is a drop off/pick up area only.** This implies you must stay in the driver's seat of your car. If you choose to leave your car or go into the school, for any reason, you **must move your car to a designated parking spot.** We are also reminding everyone to please slow down as we enter and exit the school zone! School District vehicles, Emergency vehicles and School Buses take priority in the drop off zone in front of the school at all times. We need to remind parents and drivers if we have a bus arriving at the school for or from a field trip, the bus takes priority in the drop off/pick up zone. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping the front area of the school safe for our students. Please respect the handicapped parking spots and do not use them unless you or your child is handicapped.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES AND PLANNERS GR 1 to GR 7

Your cost to cover school supplies will be \$55 plus the cost of the planner (\$10). 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 to Kindergarten families: You will also have 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

INFO.MG@SD68.BC.CA EMAIL ("INFO" LINE)

We are a large school and to allow us to be more efficient we ask families use the "info" line as much as possible. Routine things like attendance, messages that need to be passed during the day etc... are great uses for the "info line." This "line" is monitored during the day (when school is open). The email goes directly to our office staff, including any on call staff (replacements) working in the office. **We ask you include your child's first and last name and teacher name (grade level until classes are formed) with all emails you send to this "line". Please copy your child's teacher in the email.** If your request is urgent, please do call the school.

LISTSERVE

If you are **not** receiving school emails please check your junk or spam filter and mark our email address as safe. If you find the emails are not there, please contact the office so our secretary can confirm the email address we have on file for you. (info.mg@sd68.bc.ca). Include your child's first and last name so we can update our records.

We will see you on Tuesday.



back to
School

