



January 2026

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
VICE PRINCIPAL: Mrs. Glenda Robinson
SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Breonna Senini

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

FROM THE OFFICE

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season.



As January (back to school) is now a week or so in, it is a perfect opportunity to re-establish routines and regular habits to support your child(ren's) school life. Here are six ways to assist

you in this regard:

1. Regular bedtimes with time for brushing teeth, bathing and quiet reading time helps to calm active children and enable them to sleep well each night.
2. Consistent wakeup times, healthy breakfasts and sufficient time to dress and gather schoolbooks enables children to begin the school day on time and in a calm way.
3. Regular daily homework time (with parental support as needed) is essential to help children feel competent and confident in class.
4. Ensure there is a balance between active play and television or computer time. Time with friends and family is essential to developing positive social skills and a sense of belonging.
5. Computers/technology should be in a highly visible area of the house. A child's computer/technology time must be monitored and should follow specific safety guidelines regarding site and program access.
6. Share a caring conversation and a smile with your child each day.

It is also at that time of the year when the district is accepting registration for new, in catchment, students for September including new kindergarten students. If you know of a family with a child who should be entering Kindergarten in September in our neighborhood, please encourage the family to register their child immediately. This process is done online. The link to registration

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

SPECIAL NOTE: If your child is at McGirr right now, and will be at McGirr in September, you do NOT need to re-register your child.

As always, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

2026 CALENDAR

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 picture)..... 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

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,
- 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, 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.

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.

BIKE SAFETY



In the same newsletter we mention snow, we will discuss bike safety 😊.

During the winter months there is less daylight. This increases the dangers on the roads with students cycling to school in very poor lighting conditions. It is very important that students wear brightly colored clothing or reflective tape so others can see you better. Ideally the importance of having proper lighting affixed to their bike is the best way to allow for others to see you clearly as a cyclist.

Just a reminder, it’s against the law to ride a bicycle without a red rear light and a white light on the front. In addition, please walk your bike across marked crosswalks when crossing the road and do not ride your bike on school property.

Always wear your helmet --- "It's your last line of defense!"

ADULT QUIZ – ARE YOU A GOOD LISTENER?

We all think we’re good listeners, but studies show that most people can do a better job.

Have each member of your family take this quiz. See if you agree with each other!

Give yourself five points for things you think you do very well, zero for something you really need to work on – or any score in between.

- ____1. I do not interrupt family members when they are talking.
- ____2. Each person in my family can count on me for some uninterrupted listening time each day.
- ____3. I do not do other things while “listening” to people.
- ____4. I maintain eye contact with my family when they speak.
- ____5. My family would consider me a good listener.

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 as well.



- 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 (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.**