



June 25, 2026

PRINCIPAL: Mr. Robbie Dhillon
VICE PRINCIPAL: Ms. Janet Nelson
SECRETARIES: Ms. Sandra Fox and Ms. Breonna Senini

<https://mcgirr.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 2025-2026. 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 24 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 2026-2027.

Final written reports will be distributed (**emailed**) on the last day of school (June 25th) (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 Janet Nelson
Principal Vice Principal

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Our school office is open **until Wednesday July 1st** and reopens on Monday August 31st. We are open on Canada Day this year, Our office hours are as follows:

**Monday June 29..... 8 AM to 2 PM
**Tuesday June 30 8 AM to 2 PM
**Wednesday July 1..... 8 AM to 1 PM
**Thursday July 2.....closed
**Friday July 3.....closed

2026-2027 (Dates are updated during the year)*

First day of class, Gr 1-7 (11 AM-12 PM)Tues Sep 8
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Sep 21
Photo Day (individual photo)Fri Sep 25
Truth and Reconciliation (school closed) Wed Sep 30
Thanksgiving (school closed) Mon. Oct 12
Scholastic Book Fair..... Mon Oct 19-Thurs Oct 22
PAC (6:15 PM) Mon Oct 19
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Mon Oct 19
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Tues Oct 20
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM) Wed Oct 21
Formative Assessment Sessions (1:30-4 PM)..... Wed Oct 21
Formative Assessment Sessions (5:30-6:45 PM) Wed Oct 21
Early Dismissal (1:00 PM)..... Thurs Oct 22
Pro-D [provincial] (students do not attend) Fri. Oct 23
Pro-D (school based) Mon Oct 26
PAC Monster Mash—Dance (6 PM)..... Thurs Oct 29
Photo Retakes Mon Nov 2
Remembrance Day (school closed) Wed Nov 11
PAC (6:15 PM) Mon Nov 23
Progress Report Term #1 issued Wed Nov 25
Pro-D (school closed) Mon Nov 30
Last Day before Holiday..... Fri. Dec 18
First Day back Mon Jan 4
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Jan 18
Pro-D (students do not attend)Fri Feb 12
BC Family Day (school closed).....Mon Feb 15
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Feb 22
Progress Report Term #2 issued Wed Mar 10
Last Day before Spring Break Fri. Mar 12
Good Friday..... Fri Mar 26
Easter Monday Mon Mar 29
First Day back..... Tues Mar 30
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon Apr 12
Class photos (all divisions, plus Gr 7/staff pic) Mon Apr 19
Pro-D (students do not attend) Mon Apr 26
PAC (6:15 PM)..... Mon May 10
Curriculum Implementation Day (School closed) Fri May 21
Victoria Day (school closed) Mon May 24
PAC Fun Fair (5-8 PM) Fri Jun 4
PAC (6:15 pm) Mon Jun 14
Summative Reports Tues Jun 29
Last Day of School (school dismissed at 2:13)..... Tues Jun 29
Administration Day Wed Jun 30
if dates change these are communicated through the office

CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS (CRC)

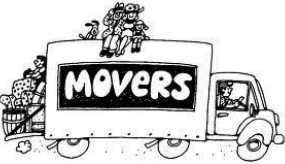
There is a separate attachment being sent out with this newsletter that has information about CRC. Please complete these now, as it will ensure no issues for September.

BELL SCHEDULE 2026-2027

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:

Ms Lovstad (retiring)	Ms. Sheehan (retiring)	Ms. Kuffler
Ms. McQuarrie	Ms. Gregson	Mr. McMullen
Ms. Rehan	Ms. Membrey	Ms. Frenette
Ms. Ross	Ms.Nelson	Ms. Prechel
Ms.Crosby		

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.

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 2026

Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) is once again offering Summer Reading Club for children ages 0-12 years.

Each summer, Vancouver Island Regional Library (VIRL) offers a **FREE** Summer Reading Club to help children stay on top of the important skill of reading while they are out of school. We invite students at your school to participate in this year's **BC Summer Reading Club: Under the Sea**.

Summer Reading Club officially starts on **July 2**. Families can register by picking up a special package at their local library starting on **June 16th**. The package includes a reading record, stickers, and other fun items. Please encourage families to check out the VIRL website (www.virl.bc.ca/src) or contact us if they have questions.

We have created a six-minute SRC promotional video that you are welcome to share with students of all ages:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nrStAPIk3RU> . Attached is a letter for teachers and librarians about SRC. There is also a parent/guardian newsletter that can be inserted into report cards and/or put in a newsletter. We appreciate all your efforts in helping us promote Summer Reading Club in your school. For more information, please feel free to contact your local library branch, or visit our website at www.virl.bc.ca/src

Have a whale of a time with us “Under the Sea” for the 2026 Summer Reading Club!

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.