



## November 2025

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,

October is now in our rear-view mirror and we have roared into November. November is a time for reflection, to appreciate the sacrifices of previous generations in preserving our cherished freedoms and way of life.

Our Remembrance Day Assembly took place this morning. Mrs. Robertson was the MC. We had six, Grade 7 students help us through the assembly: Zander, Violet, Aiko, Maggie, Katelyn, and Isabella. Our special guest was Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Doug Slowski.

In addition, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Mark, Mr. Meadus, and Mr. Friend had the Jr and Sr Choirs performing: "Sing for Peace," "Blowin' in the Wind," "Somewhere Only We Know" and "Imagine." All four songs were very well done and certainly brought a tear to the eyes of many adults in the gym.

The wreaths our classes prepared were simply amazing. Doug Slowski commented that he had not seen anything that nice before and was excited to take the wreaths to the Lantzville Legion.

Thank you to Dover students: Jaime S, Peter P, and Reesa C for performing "The Last Post."

With this time of year comes cold and/or wet weather. Please don't let your child(ren) leave home in the morning without proper clothes for the weather. We encourage students to play outdoors during our recess breaks in proper waterproof attire, including gloves and boots.

Many thanks for all that you do, as it really does take a village to raise a child.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

### **2025-2026 CALENDAR**

Pro-D Day (students don't attend) ..... 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\*

### **VOLUNTEER AND CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS**

Detailed information has been sent out many times and is routinely sent out on our listserve.

When volunteering to help support a class or function or activity school related, you must complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC)

- Criminal Record Check (CRC) is completed every 5 years.

In terms of the CRC, we suggest completing it when your child is in Kindergarten (or when your child starts McGirr) and in Grade 4. That will cover all of your years at McGirr. Your CRC must be done on-line:

- <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/criminalrecordcheck>
- Access Code: UQ4T7XXBHE

The process above can take up to 3 weeks to finalize. Actually doing it on line will take about 5-10 minutes for most adults and you are encouraged to do this when your child starts Kindergarten (or their first year here) and again at the start of Grade 4 (the check is good for 5 years). This will ensure you are covered for all 8 years at McGirr.

## **SCHOOL FOODS PROGRAM IN SD68**

Did you know that your children can access free food at school? Supported by the [Feeding Futures funding](#), a B.C. government initiative, school food programs are available in schools across SD68. By providing access to nutritious food, in ways that reduces stigma, school food programs can help children flourish in and out of school.

[Among their many benefits](#), school food programs can help children be more engaged and ready to learn, encourage them to try and eat new foods, and reduce financial and time pressures for parents and caregivers. Whether children forget their lunch bag in the car, do not have enough nutritious food at home or are just extra hungry due to a growth spurt, school food programs are here to support them.

In SD68, school food programs are coordinated by the [Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation](#) (NLSF), who prepares and distributes the food across all schools in the district. Like other SDs across the province, NLSF uses the new [B.C. School Food Toolkit](#) to help shape its school food programs. The Toolkit supports SDs in creating a supportive school food environment, guiding decisions such as what foods to offer.

From its central Woodlands location, NLSF provides secondary schools with groceries to support their food programs, while elementary schools can receive groceries and prepared breakfasts and lunches. School staff receive and re-distribute the food based on the needs identified by the school. Each school can tailor their food program to what works best for their school community.

At McGirr, each class has a snack basket, refilled weekly, for all students to access if they need to supplement their lunches. If breakfast or lunch is needed, students receive a pass from their classroom to allow them to come down to the office to choose something from our new food cart located outside of the office.

If you have information or questions you would like to share about school food programs at SD68, please email [dmcgonigle@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:dmcgonigle@sd68.bc.ca) or NLSF [food4schools@nlsf.ca](mailto:food4schools@nlsf.ca)

## **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.

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



## **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 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.**

## **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 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](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.**