



October 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,

These past 5 weeks or so have been busy getting school started but we are settled in thanks to the hard work of staff at the school, as well as our students, district staff, parents/caregivers etc... It truly takes a small village to get things up and running.

I am impressed by the hard work of staff with respect to the transition of our 38 Kindergarten students and over 45 new Grade 1-7 students. Many thanks to the staff working with these students as well as to our parents/caregivers in transitioning these students to McGirr.

We have had many practice drills. These drills are very important both for the students and for the adults. Please feel free to prepare your children for these much-needed practice drills. The Great BC Shakeout (earthquake drill) is coming up this month as well.

A reminder early dismissal week (1 PM) is coming up (Mon Oct 20-Thurs Oct 23). Please ensure caregivers/daycare/pick up people are informed. Pick up every day that week will be 1 PM (note no school on Friday October 24th due to a Provincial Professional Development Day).

The early dismissals are tied in with our Introduction to Learning Sessions that will take place on Wednesday October 22nd. There will be an online tool used to book these in person sessions. Teachers (if technology cooperates with us) will email out the links on Wednesday October 15th (later in the day, most likely by 6 pm). **There will also be a scholastic book fair in the learning lab that week (October 20-23), with more information to be emailed out soon.**

On a different note, (even with our sunny weather many mornings) the wet (and possibly cold) weather will be arriving soon (with wind as well) ☺. Please ensure your child has a change of clothes (including socks, etc...) in their backpacks. This saves having to bother caregivers at home or work during the school day.

Working together reaps the most rewards for your child, it truly does take a village to raise a child. All of us want the best for your child. Home and school, working together is key in achieving the greatest results.

Yours truly,

Mr. Robbie Dhillon (Principal)

2025-2026 CALENDAR

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

INTRODUCTION TO LEARNING

Our October session is an “Introduction to Learning,” and an email link should come out on Wednesday October 15th (or 16th) to sign up for a slot. When this link comes out, please sign up with your child’s initials (ie John Smith: just enter JS). Fingers crossed the technology agrees with us that afternoon.

We are excited about this practice here at McGirr

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.

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.**

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITIES

Our theme day on October 31st is wear Orange and Black to school.



For those families who decide to send their child in a costume, here are a few words about Halloween costumes:

Since we are a school, and a school that has children as young as 4 years old, we ask families and students keep this in mind when preparing costumes to be worn at school.

Costumes should not include:

- Masks that obscure the students face (This is for safety reasons when traveling around the school—and stairs outside--and for identification purposes)
- guns, swords (weapons of any kind) nor excessive gore.

Our school dress code still applies even on Halloween. This is one of those things that we ask for parents and students to use good judgment and to pick costumes that respect the viewer and the wearer.

Additionally, students have two recess breaks and many transitions and up and down at carpet times and use of the washroom during the day. There is a good chance the costume your child came in will not be in the same condition your child will leave in at the end of the day (and this can cause a lot of “upsetness” with the younger kids).

PHOTO DAY (RETAKE DAY) MONDAY NOV 3

- For ordering purposes, proofs for all students photographed in September will be provided to each child/family before the retake date.
- The photographer asks: parents who want a retake (exact time will be announced closer to the date), to return their original proofs to the photographer. **Please do not return the proof envelope to the school.** The photographer would like the students to physically hand their original proofs directly to them.
- If a student was absent on the original photo day, then they would have their picture taken on the retake day.



SCHOOL BASED TEAM

The **School Based Team** is the school committee that works to determine the supports and interventions for individual students. **If you have a concern, begin with a conversation with your child’s teacher.**

