



# McGowan Park Elementary School

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## Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians

April 2014

### MISSION STATEMENT

*McGowan Park School is committed to the development of the child as a unique individual.*

*Spring has now sprung and we are happy to see shoots of green starting to emerge on our fields! McGowan Park school is a busy place this last term of the year as students practice and prepare for track and field events, participate in the Spring Production, Jump Rope for Heart, and numerous other activities taking place at school along with their academic pursuits! Please ensure that you are reviewing the school calendar on our website on a regular basis. We look forward to having you join us at many of our upcoming events!*

C. Wickes

### Satisfaction Parent Surveys

Parents of children in grades 4 and 7 were earlier sent a login code to participate in the Ministry of Education's Satisfaction Survey online. Please log on folks, and complete this survey as the site closes on April 30<sup>th</sup>! We appreciate your participation!

### You Are Invited!

Feel free to join us on April 29<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 as we host 'Roger Dallaire', musician, storyteller, marionetist and folklorist. He will be performing 'The Little Shoemaker'.

### School Planning Begins!

School configuration planning for the 2014 - 2015 year begins this spring. Staff will begin collaboration meetings in June to create classes that will be in the best interests of our students. Placing students in the most appropriate class for an academic year is a complex process for the school and will be handled carefully and thoughtfully. Fortunately, experience proves that the vast majority of students quickly accept their new teacher, become involved in classroom routines and relationships and work towards creating a successful school year. Parents can

help by supporting the staff's expertise in making appropriate educationally based placements. Should parents feel it is necessary to review his/her child's placement, an appointment can be held with the principal during the first few weeks of September.

### Off to Space!

McGowan could be sending an experiment up to the International Space Station! Miss Baerg's class is competing with 7 other schools in our district in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program for NASA. The focus for Mission 6's projects is on the effects of microgravity on a physical, chemical, or biological system. Students are currently investigating microgravity and reading over successful projects from previous missions. McGowan's representing project must be ready for judging by April 28th.

### Scrap Metal Drive

Drop off of all scrap metal items (including major appliances, hot water tanks, lawn mowers, sinks, tools, car parts, etc.) is wanted! Help support the Kidney Foundation of Canada, BC Branch by dropping off items on Saturday, April 12 from 10 - 2 pm at D & G Tire, 423 Mount Paul Way! Our school can be the winning contributor!

\*\*\*\*\*

### Hot Lunch with the Principal Draw!!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*Please submit completed form to the office to win the April lunch!\*\**

\*\*\*\*\*

*(Happy lunch winners for March were Ayanna Gill and Kate Zulinick who enjoyed a scrumptious lunch supplied by Ms. Wickes.)*

## **Student Transfers for 2013/2014**

Requests for student transfers that will commence in September will be accepted starting on March 1, 2014, and ending at 12:00 noon on August 29, 2014. All submissions must be made in writing and forwarded to the receiving school's principal. All decisions regarding student transfers will be in accordance with Board Policy 300.1 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests.

## **Reminder: Change in Morning Routine!**

Now that the warm weather is upon us, the doors will be open for students to enter the school at the 8:25 warning bell. Classes begin at 8:30. Parents are asked to drop students off at school as closely to the bell as possible. Bus students from Pineview are supervised until school entrance.

## **Request For Host Families**

The School District 73 International Student Program is looking for good families to host international students attending our secondary schools. The families are asked to bring the student into their homes providing a private room, 3 meals plus snacks each day and a nurturing, English-speaking environment. These students attend short term programs, one semester or 1 year programs and sometimes stay until graduation.

We ask that the family include their student in family activities and look after their student as they would their own child. The compensation is \$720 per month.

Currently, we are receiving some special requests for horse families that can give the student an opportunity to look after a horse, help around the yard and ride occasionally. If you, or any other families you know, would like to fill this need and would like to have the International Experience, please let us know. Thank you.

## **Battle of the Books!**

We have 3 teams representing our school at the Zones at Pac Way on Wednesday, April 9th. The teams are:

Grade 3/4- Sarah Kwak; John Kwak; Risa Murdoch (alternate Abby Simpson)

Grade 5 - Devaki Raghavan; Allison Murdoch, Kendra Day

Grade 6/7- Grace Heise, Nadine Arkell, Hannah O'Neil

Way to go students!

## **The Nifty Fifties!**

Things for this year's spring production are in full swing. The casts have been chosen and the class songs distributed. Classroom teachers will let you know what items your child will need for his/her costume. Refer to the "Important Dates" below for performance details. Please note that on Thursday, April 24, that the lunch hour will be changed to 11:30 - 12:30 to ensure everyone is ready for the dress rehearsal at 1:00. If you have young children, please consider coming to one of the daytime dress rehearsals.

## **Track and Field!**

The season is now upon us! Although the various meets won't take place until the end of April and into May, things have already started in PE classes. Some activities will take place outside of class time, so students will need to listen to announcements to ensure they don't miss out! There is also a bulletin board outside the library where important information is posted.

**Science Fair** Five of our students attended the Cariboo Regional Science Fair this week. The students did very well with their presentations and all placed. Congratulations to Grace Heise, Kieren O'Neil, Rahman Tawhid, Rahma Tawhid, and Hannah O'Neil.

## **Rhythm Classes**

Some of our older primary students have been given the wonderful opportunity of taking rhythm classes with Drummer Dave.



## Viewing Newsletters

Check our school's website to view the newsletter or send an email to Ms. McParland at [bmcparland@sd73.bc.ca](mailto:bmcparland@sd73.bc.ca) to receive an emailed copy of the newsletter each month!

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Day of Secwentwecw honours the histories of the First Peoples within the boundaries of School District 73**

April 7, 2014 is a day of recognition in School District 73, an initiative that acknowledges the Secwepemc and Nlaka'Pamux Nations, their traditional territories and histories.

Initially, the idea came from a former student at South Kamloops Secondary School. The Social Justice Committee, part of the Kamloops/Thompson Teachers Association, brought the idea forward and it was supported by the First Nations Education Council Advisory Committee and the Board of Education.

It is the first in what is hoped to be an annual event and will be marked by the hosting of assemblies in all district schools. The assemblies will focus on recognizing the traditional territories of the Secwepemc and Nlaka'Pamux peoples.

"It's part of a bigger Aboriginal Education initiative that spans Kindergarten to Gr. 12 and includes the history of the Nations and their traditional practices," says Cheryl Sebastian, District Principal, Aboriginal Education. "The 'Day of Sucwentwecw' (suk-went-wa) is a day to celebrate and acknowledge one another."

Each school has the opportunity to invite an Elder or representative from the Secwepemc / Nlak'Pamuk community to be part of their assembly. South Kamloops Secondary and NorKam Secondary will also host Aboriginal hip-hop artist, journalist, host of the CBC 8th Fire series, and Director of Indigenous Inclusion at the University of Winnipeg Wab Kinew as a keynote speaker.

"The majority of schools in this district are on Secwepemc traditional territory," says Renee Spence, Administrator for the First Nations Education Council. "This day is intended to increase awareness and an appreciation for the traditional territory of the First Peoples in our area."

Schools in Logan Lake will recognize and acknowledge the traditional territories of the Nlaka'Pamux People.

All 42 schools in the district have received a Day of Sucwentwecw resource package, which includes the Secwepemc flag designed by local artist Travis Marr with 17 feathers representing the 17 Secwepemc communities, a Shuswap Nation Territory map, a special edition of the 'Secwepemcw News', and resources booklets with grade-appropriate lesson plans. The program has been developed to be flexible and fit within a variety of learning outcomes in the BC curriculum.

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