



# McGowan Park Elementary School

2080 Tremerton Drive Kamloops, BC V2E 2S2 Phone: (250) 374-4545

Fax: (250) 374-6272

Website: <http://mcgowan.sd73.bc.ca/>

## Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians

October 4, 2013

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Happy October, everyone! How quickly September flew by and we are now firmly entrenched in our busy school routines! Many thanks to our staff, students and parents for a wonderful and relatively calm start up to the 2013-2014 school year at our fabulous school! September was a busy month that included the Welcome Back BBQ, (thanks PAC!), as well as the Terry Fox Run, OLPH Run, Billy Goat Run, Picture Day, and parent/teacher interviews. Big congratulations to all of our 'run' participants! Whew! October proves to be another busy month so make sure you keep checking the calendar for upcoming school events taking place!

### McGowan Park Magic!!

It's about time to splash our 'Magic' logo around once and for all! Just in time for our sports season to begin. 'McGowan Park Magic' will be displayed on all of our team shirts and other school items to show that, yes, we have the magic!! A big kick-off assembly will be held soon! Stay tuned!

### Schoolwide Behavior

September was the month for establishing routines and good practises that make our school a desirable place for students to learn. Teachers work hard with their students in this area of emotional and social responsibility. We expect all of our school citizens to act respectfully and kindly. All students have the right to learn and to be safe at school. Students will be supported and guided by staff in choosing appropriate behaviour. Parents will be contacted to meet if further intervention is deemed necessary.

Parents are important partners in this area so please connect with your child's teacher or me if you have any questions or concerns in this area.

### It's ALL About Safety!

All schools in the district must participate in safety practices which include fire drills and lock down procedure practices throughout the school year. We have had three drills take place this September! Parents should be aware that these drills will be practiced throughout the year so that all staff and students are prepared in the unlikely event of an emergency. Teachers work to establish a calm and structured routine so that students, especially the younger ones, are not anxious about these practices. Please take the time to discuss, with your child(ren), the important need for safety drills at school.

Here's a link to the School District policy:

<https://bcsd73.civicweb.net/Documents/DocumentList.aspx?ID=1732>

### Photo Retakes – Say Cheese Again!

The date for photo retakes, should you need them, is the morning of Wednesday, October 30.

### Theatre Performances

October is a wonderfully cultural month with three performances for our students to enjoy! Parents and younger siblings are always welcome to attend our school based shows! Teddy Anderson, Hoop Dancer, was at our school on October 2 and the performance was enjoyed by all. October 24 is a trip to the Sagebrush Theatre to see Jack and the Beanstalk for all of our primary students. Axis Theatre will be performing at our school on October 31.

## IMPORTANT PAC MEETING!

Our first PAC meeting of the year will be held on October 8 @ 6:30 in the school library. Come one, come all and join in this very important first PAC meeting and show your support!

## Your Parent Advisory Council

The following are the executive for 2013- 2014:

Chairperson: Nadine Hamilton  
Vice Chairperson: Gitte Nessman  
Treasurer: Julie Ford  
Co-Secretary: Joanne Etherington  
Co-Secretary: Joanne Vorphal  
D.P.A.C. Rep: Wil Lonquist  
S.P.C. (School Planning Council) Terri Lynn Day, Julie Ford & Joanne Etherington

## It's Costume Time!

We know you've been planning your family costume ideas so get ready to join in the fun at the PAC's Halloween Dance on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The dance will begin at 6:00pm! More details to follow!!

## Dress for the Weather Too!

We encourage our students to go outside for exercise and fresh air at both recess and lunch.

Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather at all times! It looks like the warm weather is now behind us so warm coats, hats and mitts are a must!

## Goodbye Paper Newsletters!

Please note that the printed form of this newsletter is now phased out! Unfortunately, we had only a few email responses from parents! We encourage parents to 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!

## Important October Dates

Pizza Day..... Friday, October 4  
PAC meeting.....Tuesday, October 8  
Thanksgiving Holiday.....Monday, October 14  
Hot Dog Day.....Friday, October 18  
Jack and the Beanstalk.....  
at Sagebrush Theatre.....Thursday, October 24  
Axis Theatre Presentation.....  
at school .....Thursday, October 31

*Thanks! Cori Wickes*

---

## From the Board Meeting of: SEPTEMBER 9, 2013

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation on the North Shore Literacy Program from teachers Deanna Steptoe, Lorraine Brooks, Diane Dean and Patricia Persad. District Principal Art Blackwell was also in attendance.
2. Superintendent Sullivan provided the Board with an update on the Long Term Plan 2008-2013.
3. The Board approved that the name of the R.L. Clemitson Cross Country Run be changed to the Cliff Weathermon Cross Country Run. Mr. Weathermon initiated the first cross country run 25 years ago.
4. The Board received *Notice of Motion* on Policy 918.2 Standards of Conduct: District Administration.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, September 23, 2013, at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.