



McGowan Park Elementary School

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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians April 2015

Principal: Cori Wickes

Secretary: Heather Scollon

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

Kindergarten Registration

Are there any K's out there not registered?

We still have space available! If you know of anyone who still needs to register a kindergarten aged child, tell them to come and see us at the school office!

School Planning Begins!

School configuration planning for the 2015-2016 year now begins! Staff will begin collaboration meetings in June to create classes that will be in the best interests of our students .

Parental input – the power of 'positive parent talk' cannot be over emphasized! Be encouraging and supportive in front of your child. Experience demonstrates that the majority of placements determined by the school staff work out extremely well. Worries that seem enormous during the first few days of school disappear once classroom programs and relationships are established. Staff take into consideration many factors including academic and social/emotional needs when recommending classroom placements. 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, especially with positive parental support.

Run Run Run!!

Track & Field dates are posted on our website calendar as well as on the bulletin board in the front hall. Please check this out! Ms. O needs help with our Parloff on the 29th so please contact her if you can help in any way!

Spring Production!

McGowan's Spring Production this year, *Follow That Rabbit*, will be held on the evenings of Wednesday, April 22 and Thursday, April 23 at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30. Students will be participating in two dress rehearsals (9:00 am on Wednesday and 12:45 pm on Thursday) during the school day. Parents are asked to attend only one evening performance so that we can accommodate everyone and to bring preschoolers to a dress rehearsal instead of an evening performance. The lunch hour on April 23 will be scheduled from 11:30 – 12:20 to accommodate the afternoon dress rehearsal. DVD's of the evening performances will be available for purchase at a later date.

Satisfaction Surveys – Please complete!

Parents of students in grades 4 and 7 are reminded to complete the 2014/2015 electronic survey provided to us by the Ministry of Education. The survey is a tool for performance analysis and decision making for schools, districts and the Ministry. We hope to have high participation by parents in this online survey for data collection purposes!

Bikes, Scooters & Skateboards!

Yay – it's that time of year! However, bikes, scooters and skateboards are not permitted to be ridden on school property during school hours for safety reasons. They must be placed on the racks provided and locked, if necessary. Students should be bike, scooter and skateboard aware and wear helmets – now's the time for

training!

Dress Code

With the warm weather approaching, students are reminded that clothing must be appropriate for participating in a clean, safe environment and not detract from the teaching/learning environment. McGowan Park Elementary follows the Dress Code outlines by School District Policy 612.1.

The Battle Begins...

We have 3 teams competing in the zones for Battle of the Books at Juniper next Thursday the 16th. If any of them come top 2 in the zones they move onto the districts at the Henry Grube the following Thursday the 23rd. Fingers crossed!

Talented Artists and Authors!

Winners of the Young Artists Contest from our school: Nadine Arkell, Grace Heise, Risa Murdoch and Grayson Kelly.

Winners of Young Authors Contest: Sarah Kwak, Faith Van Meer, Colton Day and Ben Facchinelli.

Congratulations to all of these students who will be attending upcoming District Conferences in May.

Art Club News!

Mrs. Abraham still meets with Art Club members twice per week at lunch, but the club is taking a hiatus while Spring Production practices are on for the next 2 weeks. If any students would still like to join Art Club, please see Mrs. Abraham.

Lost & Found Items

There are several pairs of prescription glasses and many house keys in the 'small item' lost and found drawer at the office. Please see Mrs. Scollon to claim these items. As well, please stop in any time to have a look through the lost and found bins in our front foyer!

PAC UPDATE

Hope everyone enjoyed their pies over the Easter Weekend-\$900 was raised! With track and field season approaching these funds will help with the purchase of additional jerseys and ribbons for various events. As you all know the Winter Carnival was a huge success this year, bringing in almost \$6000!! Mr. Staginnus & Ms. Wickes are working together to best determine how

this money will be used to benefit the library. Chrome Books are being purchased as well as updating the non-fiction titles available to the students. We also hope to acquire some new furniture to improve the comfort factor of reading areas.

The next PAC meeting is Monday April 27th at 6:30 pm in the library - all parents are welcome! There will be some planning for the last few PAC events of the year - The DeVry Spring Plant Sale and helping the staff out with the Year End Fun Day. As always PAC Meeting Minutes are posted on the school webpage, just follow the link. Thanks again for all the support the McGowan Community continuously provides.

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

Please check out our website on a regular basis@<http://mcgowan.sd73.bc.ca/> or you can scan the following QR Code with your wireless devices for quick access to McGowan Park's digital newsletters.



From the Board Meeting of: MARCH 30, 2015

- .The Board enjoyed a presentation by the District Strings Ensemble directed by teacher Stephen Weisgerber.
- .The Board accepted a report on the Advanced Coronary Treatment (ACT) Foundation of Canada CPR Program and the Highschool Automated External Defibrillator (AED) in Secondary Schools.
- .The Board accepted a report on the School Improvement Plan process for this school year.
- .The Board passed Policy 204.1 Trustee Seminars.

.The Board passed Policy 600.1 Code of Conduct.

.The Board received Notice of Motion on Policy 1121.1 Corporate Sponsorships and Donations.

.The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, April 13, 2015 at Barriere Elementary School.