



McGowan Park Elementary School

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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians December 2014

Principal: Cori Wickes

Secretary: Heather Scollon

MISSION STATEMENT

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



December brings us a time for reflection of the months long past and hopes and wishes for the new year ahead. Classrooms are a hub of activity and educational pursuits and routines and structures are now firmly in place. At McGowan Park in December there is music in the air! I truly LOVE being your child's principal at this fabulous school. My very best wishes for a wonderful holiday with your families.

Christmas Around the World!

You are invited to join an evening musical performance by our primary students at 6:30 pm on Thursday, December 11th. A rehearsal will take place in our school gym on Thursday afternoon for our McGowan student body only. This is to ensure that our gym can house both groups safely! See you all on December 11th!

Blast Off! Take Two!

Even though the Antares rocket carrying our original experiment exploded last month, the Student Spaceflight Experimental Program agreed to another flight for all the student projects in Mission 6. McGowan's student project focuses on the differences between crystals formed on Earth from those formed in the microgravity of space. Our experiment is due for a relaunch on Tuesday, December 16th at 11:30 am. Fingers crossed that this launch is a success and our piece of McGowan spends the holiday season in space.

Sliding Fun!

Our students are allowed to bring soft sleds from home for recess and lunch time sledding fun. We encourage students to share and ride responsibly. Unfortunately, sleds may not be transported on the Pineview bus as

per SD #73 bus policy. Sleds left at school are the responsibility of the owners.

Community Service

Every year the students at McGowan Park generously support community service groups as the holiday season approaches. In the past we have donated a substantial amount of food and hygiene products to agencies such as The Kamloops Food Bank. During the week of December 8 – 12, we will be conducting a food drive. Each morning, students in Ms. Oryschak's class will go around to each room to collect any non-perishable food items that are brought in. At the end of the week everything will be packed up and donated to those who are in need. Thank you in advance for any support you may be able to provide!

Volleyball Season Ends!

Congratulations to the Tier 1 boys and girls volleyball players! Both teams worked very hard throughout the season, making tremendous progress in their level of play and team work. A special congratulation to the girls team who made it to the Final Four and finished in second place!

Indoor/Outdoor Shoes!

Parents are reminded that it is important that all of our McGowan students have a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they come in at their entrance door. Boots or outside shoes need to be put neatly on the racks. We strive to keep the hall floors dry to ensure the safety of our students.

School Safety – Please!

The school parking lot spaces at either side of the school are **reserved** for School District #73 staff during school hours. Staff need to be able to access parking spaces at varying times throughout the day. Parents who utilize these spots and who drop off and pick up children in the staff parking areas are increasing safety risks to children and staff. We have a school turn

around that should be utilized for pick up and drop off. As well, there is a turn around in the cul de sac at the end of Tremerton. More conveniently, why not arrange to pick up your child in the church parking lot at the end of Tremerton Drive or better yet, walk together to school (unless you live in Pineview!)

Dogs Dogs Dogs

Also in the interests of student safety, parents should be aware that dogs, even on leash, are not permitted on school property during school hours. Some children and adults are extremely fearful of dogs and the need to have a dog free school environment should be respected. Many thanks.

Hot Dog Lunch Program

Starting in the new year we will be getting our ALL BEEF hot dogs from a new supplier. They are going to be a little bigger and a little more expensive so we will have to increase our price to \$2.00 per dog. Thank you in advance for your continued support. Funds raised go to support a variety of school activities including District event costs, Gr. 7 year end, and sports equipment among many other things!

Basketball Begins!

In January, the district basketball season will begin. As always, volunteers are required for all extra-curricular activities. In the past McGowan Park has entered 4 teams into the various leagues. Coaches and referees are needed for the upcoming season. If you are available to help out, please contact Ms. Oryschak. Thanks!

Science Fair

For curious minds everywhere, McGowan will once again offer the opportunity to explore new ideas for students in grades 4-7. Miss Baerg will be coordinating science fair for our school. If your child is interested in developing a science fair project, there is an information letter at the office. At the bottom, there is a slip to be returned to Miss Baerg to indicate your child's

interest. The holidays are a great time to begin investigating questions and developing the bones of a project. The school science fair will be on Tuesday, February 17th. "The whole of science is nothing more than the refinement of everyday thinking." ~ Albert Einstein. What doors will your child's ideas open?

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: NOVEMBER 17, 2014

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation on Physical Literacy from teachers Tammy Kawa and Anne Marie Watts.
2. The Board received the Superintendent's Report on Class Size for 2014-2015.
3. The Board approved the out-of-province Field Trip request from Valleyview Secondary for Biology 11 students to travel to Honolulu, Hawaii, on February 22 to March 1, 2015.
4. The Board received an addendum providing additional information on an approved out-of-province Field Trip for Sa-Hali Secondary DigiPen students.

The Inaugural Board Meeting will occur on Monday, December 1, 2014, at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, December 15, 2014, at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.