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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians February 2015

Principal: Cori Wickes

Secretary: Heather Scollon

MISSION STATEMENT

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

February is the month where we are shocked to reflect on the fact that we are now already half way through the year! Wow! I encourage you to appreciate your child's accomplishments and growth that has taken place! Please stop to admire some of the fabulous work proudly displayed around the school.

We have many activities taking place at McGowan this month including the PAC Winter Carnival, Jump Rope for Heart Kickoff, school Science Fair and Instructional Rounds! Please join us in making McGowan Park the best place to be! Check the website out regularly to join us in many of our upcoming activities!

Crystal Growth in Space Science Project!

McGowan's science project will be returning to Earth soon, perhaps as early as Feb. 10th or as late as Feb 18th. Once back on the ground, the project will return to Kamloops for our team of students to compare how microgravity affected crystal growth. TRU has been very supportive of our project and, with the guidance of Dr Sharon Brewer, will allow us to use their resources to compare the crystals. In addition, Dr Tony Fogarassy of HR MacMillan Space Centre in Vancouver put our team in touch with Dr Lee A. Groat of the UBC Mineralogical Research Group and Dr Jaymie Matthews with the UBC astronomy department to provide direction and guidance in our analysis of the crystals. The team looks forward to sharing it findings later in the spring.

Kindergarten Registration

Registration for kindergarten students in our school catchment area will take place during the week of March 2nd. Please bring a copy of your child's birth

certificate, care card and proof of residency to register. Children must be age 5 by December 31st.

Satisfaction Surveys

Parents of students in grades 4 and 7 are asked 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. Information will be provided to you by school mail.

Pink Shirt Day

We encourage our students to wear pink on February 25 to demonstrate an awareness of Anti-bullying day!

Spirit Wear!

Orders for our McGowan spirit wear are due February 13th. Samples are available in the front hall of the school to try on sizes, etc. Show your school spirit by wearing McGowan clothing and please get those orders in asap!

Heap the Honda

Thank you to all teachers, parents, and students who took part in Heap the Honda this year. Together, we collected nearly 900 new and gently used books for needy kids in Kamloops.

Art Club

Any student in grades 4/ 7 is permitted to apply at any time of the year to join Art Club. We will meet Tuesdays at lunch and other times will be announced. You must give your application and 3 samples of art work to Mrs. Abraham before coming to the club to do art work. Some of the projects will be completed as a group and remain at McGowan School; others will be individual and taken home. Thanks from Mrs. Abraham.

Science Fair

On Tuesday February 17, students will set up their science fair projects in the library at 8 am. Judging will take place from 8:30-12 to select projects to go on to the Regional Science Fair later in April. Parents are welcome to stop by in the afternoon to look over the projects (1-2:15). Classes will be welcome to view in this time as well. Projects will be taken down around 2:30.

Music Music Music!

Our new xylophones have arrived! Thanks very much to our wonderful PAC for purchasing 3 new instruments for the Music program. It will be very fun and exciting to have these beautiful instruments ready for students to use anytime, to create and practice their music. -Mrs. MacPherson

Jump Rope for Heart

Our campaign to raise awareness, money and to exercise student hearts starts Monday, February 23. We will wrap up our fundraising with a Jump Rope session on Friday March 6th. Last year, we raised over \$5000 for heart and stroke research! We were the top school in our area! This year, we hope to come close again. Thank you to all families who support this initiative on behalf of loved ones battling or lost to heart and stroke disease. Miss Baerg coordinates this event in memory of her grandfather who battled heart disease all of his life. Thank you, McGowan, for putting your heart into this event!

Fresh to You Fundraiser!

The school is selling Healthy Bundles of BC veggies at a great deal! Your child should have brought home an order form where you can choose from one of two delicious bundles of veggies. Order forms are also available at the office and on our website! The Fresh to You fundraiser is a great way to promote healthy food choices and the school gets a 40% profit to put towards school projects and activities! Feel free to sell to family, friends and neighbours too! Thanks for your support!

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: From the Board Meeting of: JANUARY 26, 2015

1. The Board recognized the leadership Development Program Graduates.
2. The Board received an update on the MyEducationBC Student Information System from District Principal Brar.
3. The Board approved an out-of-province Field Trip request from Valleyview Secondary for students to travel to Drumheller, Alberta.
4. The Board received *Notice of Motion* on Policy 900.1 Anti-Discrimination and Human Rights.
5. The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, February 2nd, 2015 at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.