



McGowan Park Elementary School

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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians November 2014

Principal: Cori Wickes

Secretary: Heather Scollon

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Welcome to the month of November already! The days are shorter and chillier and fresh snow days are just around the corner.

November is a month where teachers are solidifying good work and study habits and students are heavily involved as learners in their respective educational programs. I encourage parents to ensure to establish a good routine at home so that agendas are being signed and students take responsibility for completing homework, and are creating good study habits and improving organizational skills. Don't hesitate to call and make an appointment with your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. The first report card will be issued in December.

McGowan Project Blasts Off & Explodes!

No doubt our parent community is aware of the excitement that a recent McGowan school project generated, making news headlines nationally! NASA's Mission 6 to the International Space Station was scheduled to take off on October 28 with a student project on board. Ours was the only Canadian project and was created last year by students in Ms Baerg's class: Jordan Brown, Hunter Galbraith, Kieren O'Neil and Ryan Watson, who are in grade 8 at Sa-hali this year. Their project – Creating Crystals in Space – blew up along with 18 other student projects from the US. Luckily it looks like a second launch with another prepared experiment by the team will be happening in December. The student team has been privileged to have support throughout this project not only from their parents of course, but through Dr. Sharon Brewer and Dr. Tom Dickinson at TRU. Following the explosion and the media attention to the project, they now have mentorship support from various scientists all around the world! Keep tuned in for news on our website about this incredible educational opportunity for all of our

students to share in.

Lice = Not Nice!

It's that time of year and lice are in the house! Just a reminder to parents to do weekly checks at home as SD#73 doesn't do head checking at school anymore. The Interior Health website has more information at: www.interiorhealth.ca

Safe Arrival Program!

Please put this number into your phone and call into the school at 250-374-4545 if your child will be absent or late. An answering machine will take your message any time before or after school hours.

McGowan Magic Vocal Group!! (aka Choir!)

Starting this month a lunch hour choir will be announced for intermediate students. Practices will take place at noon hour two days per week. Sessions to be announced very soon. We hope to have lots of interested students on board.

Chilly Children

Our McGowan students need to dress for the weather that is rapidly turning chilly. All students must go outside for fresh air breaks usually twice per day or more and need to ensure to bring appropriate outdoor clothing! Our young'ns need to be able to put on, zip up, tie up or snap things up so practice at home is helpful!

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.

Changes of Family Plans/ School Safety

It is important to us that we keep your children safe. If you have a change of plans and need to pick up your child or get a message to them, please call us well in advance, not at the last moment, so that we can deliver that message in a timely fashion. If you are picking up your child at any time during the school day, please sign your child out at the school office and sign him/her back in upon return. If you pop in to deliver forgotten lunches, PE strip, or other items to your child, you must stop by the office to be acknowledged first. If you are volunteering in a classroom, please sign in at the office. Thankyou!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR!

The Scholastic Book Fair is returning to the McGowan Park library from Wednesday to Friday, **November 12-14.**



Hours of operation during the Book Fair are as follows:

November 12 - 12:20-12:50, 2:30-3:30
November 13 - 12:20-12:50, 2:30-3:30
November 14 - 12:20-12:50, 2:30-3:30

There will be a **debit machine** available for your convenience.

Cheques should be made out to **McGowan Park Elementary.**

We are looking for **parent volunteers** to help at the checkout. Please contact **Mr. Staginnus @ dstaginnus@sd73.bc.ca** if you are interested.



From the Board Meeting of: NOVEMBER 3, 2014

- Principal Ken Rife introduced a student presentation on various student leadership activities undertaken at Barriere Secondary.
- The Board enjoyed a presentation from Stacey Gartner, Chair, and Sandra LeFeuvre, Vice-Chair, from the Barriere Secondary Parent Advisory Council.
- The Board received an updated 2014/2105 Enrollment Report.
- The Board approved an out-of-province Field Trip request from Sa-Hali Secondary for students in the Digital Game Design Tech Academy to travel to Redmond, Washington, to visit the Digi Pen headquarters.
- The Board approved the Interim Long Term Strategic Plan.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, November 17, 2014, at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.

Canadian RedCross Babysitter's Course:

November 22, 2014

Saturday - 8:30am-4:30pm

Cost \$55

Instructor: Rob French

Basic first aid and caregiving skills for youth 11-15 years old. Participants learn how to provide care to younger children in a variety of age groups, and how to prevent and respond to emergencies. Course also offers youth the training to promote themselves as a babysitter to prospective parents.

well as to secure your seat! For questions about this course please contact Christine LeClair at [250-828-5213](tel:250-828-5213).

To register for this course, you can pay with credit card by calling the Community

Engagement office at [250-371-5974](tel:250-371-5974) or email communityreg@tru.ca

This is an all-day course which takes place on campus at Thompson Rivers University, Kamloops BC. Please, bring a bag-lunch.

*****Please register at least 7 days in advance to allow time for the ordering of material as**