



McGowan Park Elementary School

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

Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians October 2014

Principal: Cori Wickes

Secretary: Heather Scollon

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Well, so quickly October is upon us; the leaves have turned and pumpkin-y snacks are appearing in lunches! Yum! Better get those snow tires on and that snow shovel ready...

It was a tumultuous first two weeks of school and I want to thank our parents and students for their patience and understanding as school start up surely hit with a bang!

Classes are now in full swing and our academic programming is under way. Parent-teacher interviews are next week and I encourage you to make a point of meeting with your child's teacher to familiarize yourself with your child's educational program this year.

I'd also like you to make a point of checking our school website on a regular basis as all upcoming events will be posted there. We look forward to having you join us at some of our exciting activities at McGowan!

Wishing you and yours a warm and wonderful Thanksgiving weekend!

Class Placements Finalized!

Class placements have now been finalized after staff carefully weighed the academic and social needs of individual students as well as class composition. Parent input was also considered but as you may well imagine, it is impossible to meet all requests. In my experience, and with support from home, 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. The majority of classes in our school are 'split' or 'multigrade' and it should be noted that there should be no difference in quality of education between 'single grade' and 'multigrade' classes. In many ways, every classroom is a 'multigrade' class. Every teacher works to meet the needs of every student and must plan to accommodate a wide diversity of learning styles, interests, abilities and achievements. Enrichment and independence are nurtured in both types of classes. Parents can support their child's learning by encouraging resilience and adaptability. I encourage parents to help their child be a respectful and responsible student in their role as learners at McGowan, no matter what class he/she is placed in.

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.

Library News!

Please note that our library has a new website! Find it under 'Library' on our main webpage – mcgowan.sd73.bc.ca

Newest Bell Schedule ** Please note that this is a change from last month's posting!!

This year, in order to accommodate the two week Spring Break and increased prep time for teaching staff, our school hours have changed slightly:

Morning Warning Bell	8:25
Start of classes	8:31
Recess	10:05 – 10:20
Lunch	12:00 – 12:15
Outside time	12:15 – 12:45
Afternoon classes start	12:50
School Ends	2:30

Brrr...it's starting to get chilly!

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.

Who Let the Dogs Out?!

The school has had a few complaints about dogs running loose on school property during school hours. Parents are reminded that, in the interests of student safety and security, all dogs must be kept off school property during school hours.

B-ball Coaches/Assistants/Helpers!

We are looking ahead to plan our McGowan teams for basketball even though volleyball has just begun. Please contact Ms Oryschak by phoning the school if you are able to help out in any fashion with basketball. Thanks!

Website News

Please check out our website:
<http://mcgowan.sd73.bc.ca/>
All important activities, dates and recent newsletters are posted there! Newsletters will be available only online.

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

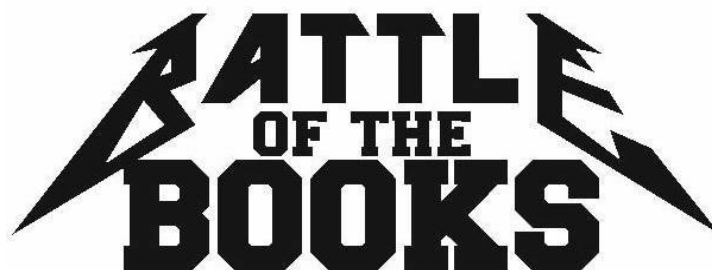
There will be a **debit machine** available for your convenience.

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.**

Battle of the Books

Battle of the Books meetings will be happening soon. We have many students in Grade 3/4, 5, and 6/7 signing out the Battle books. Please keep encouraging your child to read this year's awesome Battle Books.





***From the Board Meeting of:
OCTOBER 6, 2014***

- The Board enjoyed the presentation on the collaborative ventures that are occurring at Clearwater Secondary from Principal Darren Coates. In addition, the James Band performed a song written by the Texas Tornados. Teacher Steve James and Vice Principal Tracy Buck were in attendance at the meeting.
- Principal Sean McKenna and Vice Principal Bradstock from Raft River were present at the meeting.
- The Board enjoyed a presentation from the PAC Past-Chair of Clearwater Secondary Shelley Sim.
- The Board received an update on Student Enrollment in the District.
- The Board received an update on the Education Fund and

Support Staff Learning Improvement Fund process.

- The Board approved the School Calendar revision for the 2014-2015 school year.
- The Day of Suwentwecw will be held on Tuesday, April 7, 2015, in the District.
- The Board received *Notice of Motion* on Policy 912.2: Principals and Vice Principals: Process of Appointment.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, October 20, 2014, at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9th Avenue, Kamloops, BC.