



# McGowan Park Elementary School

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

## Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Guardians

## September 22, 2014

### MISSION STATEMENT

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,  
Welcome to the start of a brand new year!! I'm looking forward to an exciting new year with fresh possibilities! A warm welcome to families new to McGowan Park. You surely won't be disappointed! As always, I welcome your feedback, comments and concerns at any time.

### Welcome to new staff!

Please welcome our new staff members Heather Scollon, Stacy Lowrenoff, Dennis Staginnus, Julie Rymer, Sue Mauro, Horst Lowen, Monica Arduini, Hollie Farkas, & Brandy Wood.

### Oh, that paperwork!!

During the month of September, you will be receiving several important documents from the school. Several of these need to be completed, signed and returned to the school ASAP. We appreciate your prompt response! Please call the office if you have any questions or concerns.

### Class Placements

Students returned to their last year's classes today, September 22. They will be returning to these classes again tomorrow. It is planned that students will be starting in their new classrooms as soon as possible. Teachers will be attending a collaboration meeting today. Parents are reminded that there may be restructuring of classes over the next few days. Please be patient and wait until the second week of school to make an appointment with me to discuss any placement concerns.

Parents of K students have received phone calls indicating an interview time and small group sessions. K students will begin full time attendance on **Thursday, September 25.**

### Staffing 2014 - 2015

GRADE	STAFF MEMBER
K	Holly Borden
K	Lisa McCarthy
K/1	Joanne Reilly
1	Dianne Weddell
1/2	Val Cone
2	Liz McCaugherty
2	Karla Pawliuk
3	Elaine Isakson
3 /4	Leslie Kossey
4/5	Miriam Cavani
4/5	Stacey Abraham
5/6	Stacy Lowrenoff
6/7	Sharmane Baerg
6/7	Sherri Oryschak
IAC	Pamela Thomson
Library	Dennis Staginnus
Prep Teacher	Judy MacParland
Prep Teacher	Julie Rymer
CEA's	Suzette Pietramala Sue Mauro Ann Peterson Dannalyn Higgs Monica Arduini Hollie Farkas Brandy Wood
Library Assistant	Melanie Burkholder
Secretary in Charge	Heather Scollon
Custodians	Steve Carnovale Horst Lowen
Principal	Cori Wickes

## Safe Arrival Program

Please 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 Books

If any library books were discovered over the summer, please return to the library, no questions asked!! We appreciate your help in keeping our collection together!

## Lost & Found

Please check out of huge lost and found acquisition. Many items left at school in June now need to be claimed!

## New Bell Schedule

This year, in order to accommodate the two week Spring Break, our school hours have changed slightly:

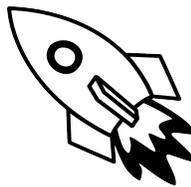
Morning Warning Bell	8:25
Start of classes	8:30
Recess	10:15 – 10:30
Lunch	12:00 – 12:15
Outside time	12:15 – 12:46
Afternoon classes start	12:51
School Ends	2:30

## 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.



## A Student Project Blasts Off!!

We are shooting for the stars this year! McGowan's student project, *Creating Crystals in Space*, was selected by NASA in June to represent School District 73 in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program which is facilitated by the Arthur C. Clarke Foundation. We are the only Canadian project in the Mission 6 flight. The project was designed by Jordan Brown, Hunter Galbraith, Kieren O'Neil and Ryan Watson, who will be starting grade 8 this year at Sa-hali Secondary School.

The focus of the project is to see the effect of microgravity on how crystals form in space. The mini-laboratory is a tube that

is only 17 cm long and 0.9 cm wide with two clamps separating it into 3 chambers. There are two chemical solutions in either end of the tube with water and 2 filters in the middle chamber. When the clamps are released, the solutions will mix and form crystals. We have many questions around where the crystals will form in the tube, their size and shape, as well as their appearance. Before returning to Earth, the clamps will be closed to stop any further crystal formation. We have three ground truths (mini-labs that are exactly the same as the one in space) at McGowan which will mirror the experiment done on the International Space Station so that we can compare what happens in gravity to the microgravity conditions.

We could not have done any of this without sponsorship from many community businesses as well as the SD 73 project coordinator Paul Hembling. There was also significant assistance from TRU through Dr. Sharon Brewer and Dr. Tom Dickinson who supplied mentorship, chemical resources, and, most critically, international shipping. TRU has also offered use of their facilities and tools to examine the results of our project once it returns to Earth. Currently our project is in Houston, Texas being prepared by NanoRacks for blast-off into space. It will likely be launched in Orb-3 on October 14th, but the launch date is very dependent on the earlier launch of SpaceX-4 which has been delayed twice already. It is expected to return to Earth in early January.

To see more information about our project or other Mission 6 projects, please go to <http://ssep.ncesse.org/communities/selected-experiments-on-ssep-mission-6-to-iss/>.

## Board of Education Notes

*From the Board Meeting of: SEPTEMBER 8, 2014*

1. The Board enjoyed the presentation from Principal Paul Hembling on the Student Spaceflight Experiment program.
2. Superintendent deBruijn provided the Board with an update on the BCTF Job Action.
3. Superintendent deBruijn provided the Board with an estimated update on new student registrations and enrollment.
4. The Board approved the Rotary Club of Kamloops' request to continue the Family Dinner Program at NorKam Secondary School throughout the 2014-2015 school year.

The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, September 22, 2014, at the School Board Office, 1383 – 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Kamloops, BC.