



# McGowan Park Elementary School

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*Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Care-givers*

December 5, 2012

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

### Please Return Report Card Envelopes

I was very pleased to read the recent report cards for our students. They reflect on the learning activities from the past term and show that all of our students have really accomplished a lot. Congratulations to all the teachers for an excellent job of reporting out. Parents – please sign the envelope with any comments you have and return it to your child's teacher.

### Christmas Break

The winter vacation starts after a regular school day on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. We come back on Monday, January the 7th, 2013. Have fun!

### Christmas Assembly: Ring those Bells!

Students from Grades K to 3 plus the strings groups will be participating in an assembly on Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup> from 1:15 to 2:00 p.m.

The theme is *Ring Those Bells*, and parents are invited. Special thanks go out to Mrs. MacPherson and Mrs. Zahir who have worked brilliantly to get our students prepared.



### Volleyball and Basketball

All McGowan volleyball teams had a successful season. The students worked hard and represented the school well. Sign up sheets are now posted by the library for students interested in taking part in the 2013 basketball season. Teams will be decided by the end of the first week back as play begins the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. Any parent who would like to help out please contact our athletic director Ms. Oryschak.

### Predicting Consequences

This month students will be learning more about the social skill of predicting consequences. Here are some suggestions to help your child learn more about the cause and effect nature of his or her behaviour at home:

- look for regular opportunities to offer your child real but safe choices
- point out the positive decisions your child has already made and the positive consequences that have resulted
- explain expectations and consequences clearly

By helping children think through the consequences of various actions, we are preparing them for responsible behaviour when a trusted adult is not around.

### Families Helping Families:

Our food and toy drive was hugely successful thanks to our generous community. We collected 558 kg exceeding our goal of 500 kg. Included in that was 4 huge boxes of toys which were delivered to the Breakfast with Santa event this morning.

### Ministry of Education ERASE Strategy

ERASE Bullying (Expect Respect And a Safe Education) is a comprehensive strategy that will make British Columbia a leader in addressing bullying and harmful behaviours. The plan will begin in the 2012/13 school year and include:

- A training program for educators and community partners to help them proactively identify and address threats.
- New online tools for kids to report bullying anonymously. The website is

<http://www.erasebullying.ca/>

Please consider reporting in person to me if you are aware of bullying at school.

*Thanks, Gloria Hall*



## Board Notes

*From the Mid-Term Inaugural Board Meeting of:*  
DECEMBER 3, 2012

- Trustee Harper was elected by the Board as Chairperson.
- Trustee Karpuk was elected by the Board as Vice-Chairperson.
- Trustee Glover was elected by the Board to be the representative to the BC School Trustees Association Provincial Council.
- Trustee Watson was elected by the Board to be the representative to the BC Public School Employers Association.

*From the Regular Board Meeting of:*  
DECEMBER 3, 2012

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation on the Discover the World of Technology Conference (DWIT) from Manager Wayne Pinette. Manager Pinette was accompanied by 4 students who shared what they learned at the recent conference. This conference highlights the technology career opportunities with presentations from local companies, School District No. 73 and Thompson Rivers University.
2. Mr. Christopher Seguin from the Downtown Rotary Club of Kamloops made a presentation to the Board on the Hungry Children Initiative. This program is designed to address the hunger gap for school aged children.
3. The Board received confirmation that Clearwater Secondary was granted a Community Connections Grant for improvements to their gymnasium and equipment.
4. The Board approved the recommendations from Superintendent Sullivan for the Proposed School Calendar for 2013-2014. The Board received an interim school calendar for 2013-2014 School Calendar from Assistant Superintendent deBruijn.
5. The Board received the Energy Consumption Levels Report from Director McDonald for 2011-2012.
6. The Board received the 2012 Summer Projects Report from Director McDonald.
7. The next regular public Board meeting will occur on Monday, December 17, 2012, at the School Board Office.

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

December PAC Meeting will be on Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm in the library. Parent Advisory Council are looking for more One to One readers for our next session. Contact the school if you would like to volunteer.

## PARKING

We have had a blitz after school to improve the safety of our bus turn around. Thank you for respecting our request to not use the turn around between 2:15 and 2:45.

## COME READ WITH ME

Grade 1 parents be ready for an invitation to a two hour morning event on Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> for breakfast. This exciting event is sponsored by Literacy in Kamloops (Link).

# Happy Holidays!

