



McGowan Park Elementary School

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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Care-givers

January 3, 2013

MISSION STATEMENT

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



Happy New Year!

The number **2013** has only 3 factors, besides itself and one, namely 3, 11 and 61. That math fact has been brought to you in recognition that it is once again time for our grade 4 and 7 students to start

practicing for the Foundation Skills Assessment exercises. Welcome back to school after the winter break. I am taking an additional 3 week break to work on my doctorate and visit with my family, so I would like to introduce you to Mr. Joe Small, who will be the principal at McGowan Park Elementary until January 25th. He has previously been the principal at Pac Way, Summit and Arthur Stevenson and I am pleased that he was available for this short stint here before he retires from the district. Please make him feel welcome – I know he will enjoy the staff, students and parents of our McGowan Park School community.

District Basketball League

Team rosters have been posted on the bulletin board outside the library. Please talk to our athletic director, Ms. Sherri Oryschak if you have any questions about the season or wish to volunteer to help referee.



PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 29th. If you would like to take part in planning for the Winter Carnival on February 14th please leave a note for Nadine Hamilton at the school office.

Working It Out Focus for January

Our school is participating in Working It Out, a program that is designed to help children develop skills for getting along and settling their disagreements fairly. During January we are focusing on ways to deal with angry situations with peers in ways that solve the problem instead of making things worse.

To help them solve their conflicts in positive ways, the children will be learning an approach for expressing anger that does not blame or insult the other person. The children will discuss ways to respond when someone is angry at them. These responses include:

- keeping calm
- asking questions to find out what is wrong
- listening to understand the other person's point of view
- apologizing if a mistake has been made, or
- asking an adult for help if the situation seems threatening and unsafe.

We Love to Eat!

Keep your eyes out for a school sponsored "Hot Dog & Milk Day" notices for January 18th and a PAC sponsored hot lunch day on January 30th. Just follow the instructions on the forms and get your orders in on time!

Foundation Skills Assessment

Our grade 4 and 7 students will be taking part in the FSA project starting on January 21st and continuing until they are done. This is a Ministry initiative and we ask that our students be well rested and in a state of mind to do their best on the assessment. The same groups, plus parents will take part in Ministry Satisfaction Surveys later in the winter. Practice online tests are accessible from our school website.

Early Dismissal

On February 4th we will dismiss at 12:30 for Parent Teacher Interviews. Please make an appointment if you want one.

Thanks, Jorja 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

- 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.
- 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.
- The Board received confirmation that Clearwater Secondary was granted a Community Connections Grant for improvements to their gymnasium and equipment.
- 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.
- The Board received the Energy Consumption Levels Report from Director McDonald for 2011-2012.
- The Board received the 2012 Summer Projects Report from Director McDonald.
- **The next regular public Board meeting will occur on Monday, December 17, 2012, at the School Board Office.**