



McGowan Park Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CARE-GIVERS

May 3,

MISSION STATEMENT

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

McGowan Parloff Success!

Congratulations to all – Wednesday's Parloff, hosted by McGowan Park was a great event. The weather cooperated and our students ran very well, coming in first or second in every official category, and even our mixed team of spare runners came an acceptable fifth. Thanks to the PAC for purchasing the ribbons, to Ms. Oryschak for coaching and organizing the event and to all others who helped to make the day a success.



Spring Production DVDs

We expect to have the DVDs from the spring production available within a week. Both performances were spectacular. Congratulations to Ms. Oryschak and the production team for all the extra work that went into the

project. Our students certainly did a great job of singing, acting and even dancing. The audiences were also amazing and even from the back of the gym I could hear every word.

Working It Out

May's Working it Out focus is Recognizing Bias and Respecting Diversity. For children to function in today's world, they must be able to get along and work with people who are different from themselves. To help your child be comfortable with and respectful of people's differences, such as physical appearance, age, language, abilities, gender, culture and beliefs, here are some suggestions to consider:

- Talk about the harm and unfairness of prejudice-judging people without really knowing them-and how this is different from simply not liking someone because of the things he or she says or does.

- Reinforce your child's natural kindness and concern for others by encouraging such things as reading to a younger child, helping an elderly neighbour, or befriending someone who is being treated unfairly by peers.
- Provide opportunities for your child to experience the positive benefits of living in a diverse world by attending special festivals, concerts, trying out new foods, and getting to know people from other cultures and traditions.

Prejudice creates an "us" versus "them" way of thinking and can cause harmful conflict at school. When unfair prejudice exists, anyone can become the next victim. With your support, we can work to build a school environment where everyone is treated fairly and respectfully. Please let me know if you have any comments or questions about the topic.

Extra Long Long Weekend in May

Friday, May 17th is a District Wide Pro-D Day, and there will be no school. Monday the 20th is the Victoria Day Holiday, which means a 4 day weekend for our students. These are the last non-instructional days for the year.

PAC NEWS

The Annual General Meeting of the Parent Advisory Council of McGowan Park Elementary School will be on Wednesday, May 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. The election of a co-chair for the 2013-2014 school year will take place.

Kindergarten Orientation

Kindergarten Orientation will take place on June 7th between recess and lunch. Invitations will be sent out next week.

Thanks, Gloria Hall



Board Notes

From the Board Meeting of: APRIL 8, 2013

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from Principal Ian McGoldrick of Chase Secondary. Accompanying Principal McGoldrick was teacher Telisa Johnston and two students from the alternate education program.
2. The Board recognized Haldane teacher Brenda Melnychuk for her Environmental Leadership.
3. The Board enjoyed a presentation from the Chase Parent Advisory Council from Shelley Amies.
4. The Board received a discussion paper from Superintendent Sullivan on the Transportation Review Committee report. The Board considered nine recommendations contained in the report.
5. The Board received the Graduation Schedule for 2013.
6. The next regular public Board meeting will occur on Monday, April 29, 2013, at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office.

From the Board Meeting of: APRIL 29, 2013

1. Carrie Leonard and Cliff Loucks of Sun Ridge Equipment Ltd., were recognized by the Board and the First Nations Education Council for a \$20,000 contribution to the Howling Coyote Education Fund.
2. Mr. Christopher Seguin of the Rotary Club of Kamloops (Downtown) presented an update on the family meal program which the club has successfully offered at NorKam Secondary.
3. Teachers from the KTTA Social Justice Committee presented a proposal for a discrete anti-homophobic harassment policy.
4. An update on the planning and design process for the NorKam Trades Centre of Excellence was presented to the Board.
5. The Board passed the Annual Budget Bylaw for the 2013-2014 year and the Capital Project Bylaw for the Annual Facilities Grant.