

McGowan Park Elementary School

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Principal's Newsletter to Parents and Care-givers

November 1, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Remembrance Day Activities

On Friday, November 9th we will have a short school-based assembly to mark Remembrance Day. It will start at 9:45 a.m., and include some primary singing.

Monday, November 12th is a **School Holiday** and families are encouraged to attend the ceremonies at Riverside Park and the cenotaph on Sunday.

Poppies will be available starting tomorrow at the school office for a cash donation which will be collected on behalf of veterans.



Ring Those Bells!

We have scheduled our Christmas Assembly for 1:15 on Thursday, December 20th. We plan to have some primary classes making beautiful music

for us, and a few other festive presentations. Parents are invited to attend this celebration with us.

School will dismiss for the winter break at regular dismissal time on Friday, Dec. 21st.



Bus Turn Around: No Parking!!!

Now that we have regular bus traffic in our turn around it is more important than ever not to block the drive. If you are picking up or dropping off your child you must stay in the vehicle and be prepared to move if asked.

Hot Lunch Orders

Thanks go out to the PAC who are now alternating with Ms. O's class in providing extra lunch options every few weeks. Please get your forms in on time and remember to consider allergies when ordering.

Volleyball Season is Upon Us

We have four teams playing in zone leagues this year. So far they have all gotten off to a great start. Ms. Oryschak is coaching Tier 1 Boys, Mrs. Cavani is coaching Tier 3 Boys, Mrs. Isakson is coaching Tier 1 girls and Ms. Weber and Mrs. Thomson are coaching Tier 3 girls. The skill level of our students is very impressive. Thanks to the parents who drive students to the away games and cheer them on at home and away. Special thanks to Mr. Heshka, Shalayna and Mrs. Abraham who provide extra help with coaching or reffing.

Spirit Wear

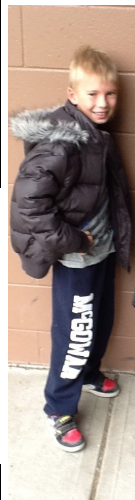
It is great to see students around the school proudly wearing their Spirit Wear. We do have some samples that are still for sale at the original prices.

Hoodies: Sky Blue: Youth S, M, XL and Adult S

Sweat Pants: Navy: Youth M, Adult XL
Royal: Adult M, L

Tech. T-Shirt: Royal: Youth S, and Adult M, XL

Cotton T: Royal: Youth XL, Adult S
Sky Blue: Youth M, and Adult S, M, L, XL



Start thinking about who on your Christmas list would fit one of these. Call Mrs. Recchi at the office if you have any questions.

Thanks, PAC

At the October PAC meeting many decisions were made to support school programs and plan for the year. You can find minutes of the meetings under the PAC heading on the school website. The next meeting is planned for Thursday, December 11th at 1:00 p.m. The Halloween Family Dance was a big hit, and all the help was appreciated.



Engaging in Constructive Conversation

Some people have a gift for speaking and listening, and others have to work at it. Our “Working It Out” focus for this month involves identifying what makes a good conversation – one in which both sides actively listen and share ideas.



Here is a list of guidelines:

When you are listening:

- Look at the speaker.
- Don't interrupt.
- Ask questions to find out more. For example: “How did you feel then?” “What happened next?”
- Repeat important things the person says to make sure you heard correctly.
- Nod or make a comment to show you understand.

When you are speaking:

- Look at the listener.
- Speak clearly – not too loudly, or softly.
- Stay on topic.
- Give the listener a chance to share his or her ideas.



We try to follow these guidelines in our conversations at school. When you see your child making a special effort to listen and share ideas at home, point out the ways you noticed he/she is being a good communicator.

Here are some suggestions of ways parents can promote positive conversations with their children:

- Set aside time to talk, such as while riding in the car together, at meal time, or before bed. Children love responding to “What if” questions like, “What if you could visit anywhere in the world, where would you go?”
- Focus on what your child is saying so you avoid interrupting and taking over the conversation.
- Make sure you understand your child correctly by occasionally rephrasing what you think you have heard: “It sounds like you are worried about what to do.”

Happy Conversating!

From the Board Meeting of: OCTOBER 29, 2012

1. The Board enjoyed a presentation from the kindergarten students from Logan Lake Elementary. The students were accompanied by their teacher Trudi Nielsen and Principal Vessy Mochikas.
2. Students from the We Team at Logan Lake Secondary performed a skit to demonstrate their “Hallowe’en for Hunger” initiative which is designed to collect food items for the Food Bank.
3. RCMP Corporal Thain provided an overview of the program “We Got GAME”, (Girls Acquiring Methods of Empowerment), for female students in grades 10-12.
4. Logan Lake PAC Chair Nicole Montgomery reported on the initiatives undertaken by the Council for both schools. Highlights included Athletics, Respectful Relationships, the Annual Fun Fair and the playground for the elementary school.
5. Assistant Superintendent deBruijn provided the Board with the Class Size report for the 2012/2013 school year.
6. The Board approved the Sun Peaks Elementary Parent Advisory Council application in accordance with Policy 527.1.
7. The Board adopted changes to the following policies:

Policy 201.1 Board Committees
Policy 205.1 Trustee Equipment
Policy 206.1 Policy Setting Procedure
8. Notice of Motion was provided to consider and adopt revised Policy 200.3 Board Meetings: Rules of Order at the regular Board Meeting of November 5, 2012.
 9. The next regular public Board Meeting will occur on Monday, November 5, 2012, at 7:00 PM at the School Board Office.
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Math Expo

Math Expo is a project based initiative for intermediate students. There is a link to more information about it on the MATHBUSTERS website. <http://numeracy.sd73.bc.ca/> It is a cool website to look up for help with any math issue. The projects are done at home, but we will judge entries at school on November 15th to see if any students qualify to go on to the district event.