



McGowan Park Elementary School

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

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER TO PARENTS AND CARE-GIVERS

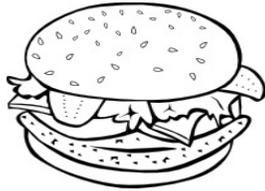
September 4, 2012

MISSION STATEMENT

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

Welcome to the 2012 - 2013 school year!

Every new school year is an exciting adventure for the whole school community. Plan to come to the PAC **Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 13th.**



Back To School Boot Camp

Today following our opening assembly students were placed in groups which they will stay in for the first week. They will do many learning activities and get back into the groove of coming to school. In the meantime I will be working on a possible reconfiguring of our classroom organization. Once our numbers have been confirmed and our staffing allocation approved students and parents will be informed of the classroom placements for the rest of the year.

Changes will be made, and input about placement will be accepted after September 15th. As this process takes a lot of time and brain power, please do not request a meeting before that time.

That being said, all staff members and I, as principal, take care to use the information we do have to ensure safe, caring and orderly groups of students for all learning activities.

Please encourage your children to develop a positive point of view about their placement for the first week and focus on the learning. The great back to school social fun can happen at recess and noon hour.



The Envelope, Please!

We are sending home a package of forms and information with students right on the first day.

In this envelope you should find:

- A **verification form** with all of our database information about your child printed out. Please update and/or correct this information. **Then please sign and date it and return it to school in the envelope.** Please feel free to attach a note with any other information that you feel the school should have regarding your child's health and safety.
- A blue Elementary School Supplies Form with a neighbourhood walk tick box. We have already purchased all the supplies for our students so we count on your cooperation in buying them from the school. The cultural amount of \$15.00 is to cover the cost of having professional groups come to the school to do presentations. Each student is getting a copy of this form. If you send one cheque for a family, please indicate on each form which student's envelope has the cheque!
- A consent form for technology and a media permission form. This is a double sided white form which will be placed in student files.
- A Volunteer Driver form which you will need to complete if you are going to help out by driving on field trips.
- A white Threat Assessment letter from Superintendent Terry Sullivan.
- Information about school photo day, which will be on Friday, September 21, 2012
- Information about the BC Fruit and Vegetable Program if your student is new to our school.
- A Green Welcome Back BBQ form
- "Kids Plus" Accident Insurance Info

Tentative Rm	Tentative Teaching Staff	Tentative (Again)
Office	Mrs. Gloria Hall	Principal
Resource Rm. 108	Mrs. Bernita Carrigan	LART
Rm. 109	Ms. Sherri Oryschak	Grade 7
Rm. 108	Miss Sharmane Baerg	Grade 6/7
Rm. 301	Ms. Kerilyn Scott	Grade 5/6
Rm. 301	Ms. Stacey Abraham	Grade 5
Rm. 300	Mrs. Miriam Cavani	Grade 4
Rm. 305	Mrs. Karla Pawliuk	Grade 3/4
Rm. 303	Mrs. Elaine Isakson	Grade 3
Rm. 106	Mrs. Lorraine Fredin	Grade 2
Rm. 303	Mrs. Val Cone	Grade 1/2
Rm. 304	Mrs. Dianne Weddell	Grade 1
Rm 103	Ms. Teresa Weber	K/1 Tentative!
Rm. 102	Mrs. Lisa McCarthy	Kindergarten
Rm 101	Mrs. Holly Borden	Kindergarten
Rm. 104	Mrs. Pamela Thomson	I.A. Class
Rm. 109	Ms. Judy MacPherson	Primary Prep

DAILY SCHEDULE

8:15 Doors Open for Students
 8:25 Warning Bell – go to class!
 8:30 Morning classes begin
 10:15 15 minute recess begins
 12:00 Lunch eating time
 12:15 Noon recess begins
 12:55 Warning Bell – go to class!
 1:00 Afternoon classes begin
 2:30 School ends

Peanut Sensitive, Scent Considerate

Please assist us in keeping our students and staff safe and healthy. McGowan Park has staff and/or students whose health is endangered by exposure to certain allergens, including nuts and perfume or other scents. Please be considerate of those working and learning in our building. We support a clean environment and ask students to NOT SHARE FOOD. The BC Fruit and Vegetable program is free to all students. Please let Mrs. Recchi know if you would like your child to not take part.



The Bus! The Bus!

This year we will have a bus dropping off Pineview Valley students as well as our special needs bus. Please do not park in or block the bus turn around area. We will have supervision for bus students between 8:00 and 8:15 a.m. The same bus turnaround rules apply at the end of the School day.

Working It Out

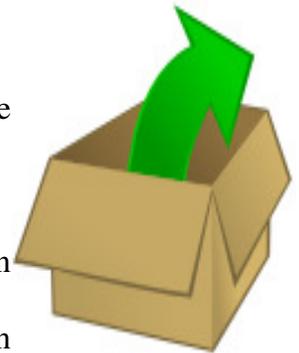
Preparing children for today's world involves teaching them a broad range of skills. In addition to academic skills, they must also learn the skills for working well with others and settling their differences peacefully. To help them acquire these skills we will be using a program called “Working It Out”, a conflict management program in which children learn to:

- Communicate and work well with others.
- Express feelings in constructive ways.
- Treat others fairly.
- Resolve disagreements peacefully.

Our September theme looks at ways people can have different ideas and opinions about the same thing. These experiences prepare them for listening to one another's point of view during a conflict. By understanding differing views of the problem, children are better able to find a solution that is fair to both sides.

Here are some suggestions of home-based activities which will reinforce what students will be learning about at school:

- Point out different ways family members may see a situation or talk about people's differing opinions about things such as food, clothing, or ways to solve a puzzle or a problem. Your child is learning that when people listen and share ideas – even if they disagree – there is much they can learn from one another.
- To help your child consider the other person's point of view during a disagreement, ask questions such as, “How would you explain your sister's side of the story?”



I welcome your feedback about the *Working It Out* program and your child's reaction to discussions and activities.

Thanks, Gloria Hall