October 29, 2020

Dear McGowan families,

I hope you are feeling well and safe as our school year progresses. Snow! Can you believe we have snow on the ground in October? I don’t remember such an early snowfall. It is a reminder to us all to remember to send indoor shoes to school because we take off wet shoes/boots at our doors. Our floors get slippery when wet. Please ensure your children are dressed for the weather whatever that may bring. Our children play outside at recess and lunch. Here are some dates and updates to keep you in the loop.

Thanks to our families for sending Aboriginal Consent letters. It is important for our school and our district to know which children have aboriginal ancestry. Welcome to our new Aboriginal Education Worker, Jennifer Dean. She will be working with classes and helping teachers infuse aboriginal culture into classrooms.

Photo Retake Day- Thursday, November 5th is the school’s photo retake day. If your child was absent on the original photo day or is new to the school please let your child’s teacher know.

PAC Meeting - mark you calendars! The second PAC meeting for the year will take place via Zoom on Monday, November 2nd starting at 7 pm. Here is the link:
https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/68835841070?pwd=azRzWXVscThqSnNGYnpnUVvycGZWZz09
(Meeting ID: 688 3584 1070 Passcode: 9cKmHT@). They look forward to seeing you then! If you are a new parent to the school or just starting with your first child in Kindergarten, we highly recommend you become actively engaged with PAC as this provides you an opportunity to guide future directions of the school from a parent perspective.

Thank you so much to the PAC for sponsoring the Come Read with Me program. This is a good parent participation workshop for grade one parents to help you learn some strategies to make at-home reading more fun and educational. All grade one parents are encouraged to attend the Zoom workshop Wednesday, November 4th from 6-7pm
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82720814289?pwd=YzVkZitVZHiPN1hQRHNdFzU1U3Zz09 A notice went home to sign up by the 3rd for the package that accompanies the workshop.

Emergency Drill Practices - So far this year, we have had three Fire Drills, a Lockdown Drill and an Earthquake drill in October too. We need to have 6 fire drills, 2 lockdown drills and 1 earthquake drill each year. The students and staff have done really well in these drills, they were able to knock a full minute off the last fire drill.

Remembrance Day Assembly - We are having to be creative this year and have enlisted the help of staff and students. Our assembly will not be the usual gathering in the gym. Instead we will be Zooming as a school. We will take time to honour those who have defended our country and
enabled us to live freely in Canada. Fingers crossed our wifi can handle this. COVID has us all learning new strategies.

This month the grade 3’s and the grade 6’s will complete our District Numeracy Assessment.

**Student Advisory Council** - This group of grade 4-7 students have been meeting with Mrs. Hill and Ms. Baerg to plan spirit days and to advise us on Virtues to highlight, also to let us know what they are seeing around the school that we can address. Our first spirit day is October 30th. It’s a crazy clothes day! Students can wear a wacky combination of clothes. Find the craziest colours and patterns in the closet. This is just clothes as toys, weapons or other extraneous items should stay at home. The SAC will be selling personalized masks to raise money for their council as well as to celebrate school spirit. All masks will cost $12 and order forms are due by November 13th. We hope to get these by Christmas. Why not order one for yourself and wear it around town as a proud member of our community?

**Volleyball** - Intramural volleyball has started and is running 5 days per week for all interested students in Grades 5, 6, 7. Thank you to **Mr. Blower & Mrs. Hindle** (T/Th - Grade 7); **Mrs. Underwood** (M/W - Grade 6); and **Mrs. Kossey & Mrs. Ruberg** (F - Grade 5) for sponsoring and supervising this fun opportunity for our students.

**Facebook** - We have launched a new Facebook page - McGowan Park Elementary. Feel free to like us if you are interested. We will try to post things from around the school so you can feel like you have visited us. We are choosing not to photograph children’s faces at this time to protect privacy.

Thank you for screening your children daily for symptoms as per the **Student Health Assessment Agreement** that was emailed to you as a reference. If you need to sign your child out for any reason please call into the school and we have a binder we will document the in and out times in as they arrive or depart.

Please remember that a FEVER requires you to call 811 and have the Health Screening completed. Also, please know that there is a new form of testing for COVID-19 with children which requires them to gargle rather than a swab in their nasal cavity. If your child’s other symptoms (cold, cough, runny nose for example) are gone after a 24 hour period they are welcome to return to class.

Yours truly,

Sally Zryd  Jo McKenna
Principal   Vice-Principal