



McLeod
Elementary
School



PO Box 157
Groundbirch, BC V0C 1T0
(250) 843-7374

www.sd59.bc.ca/schools/mcleod-elementary

Principal: Joanne Dueck

Dear McLeod Elementary School Families,

As we prepare to kick off a new school year, I am filled with excitement and optimism for the journey ahead. Here at McLeod Elementary, home of the Wildcats, we have an array of thrilling activities and events lined up that promise to foster meaningful relationships and create lasting memories for our students. We are committed to making this year enriching and enjoyable for everyone involved. If you have any questions or need further information, don't hesitate to reach out via phone or email. I look forward to meeting with you soon.

Warm regards,
Joanne Dueck
Principal, McLeod Elementary School

Meet Our Staff for the 2024-2025 School Year

We are excited to introduce our dedicated team of educators and staff for this school year:

- **Mrs. Joanne Dueck:** Principal (24/7) & 2/3/4 Teacher (Monday, Tuesday, Friday)
- **Mrs. Jamie Jans:** School Secretary
- **Mrs. Barbie Dunbar:** Education Assistant
- **Mrs. Kristy Doornbos:** K/1/2 Teacher
- **Ms. Julia Evans:** Prep Teacher (Tuesday) & 2/3/4 Teacher (Wednesday, Thursday)
- **Mr. Theodore Leroux:** 4/5/6/7 Teacher
- **Mrs. Alyson Mooring:** Learning Assistance Teacher, Librarian, and Classroom Teacher

Please Note: Mrs. Alyson Mooring will be completing a practicum for her teaching qualification from September to December. She will return to our school in early December.

We look forward to a fantastic year with our exceptional team!

Bell Schedule 2024/2025

8:57 Warning Bell
9:00 Bell (Instruction Begins)
10:30 Bell (Recess Starts)
10:45 Bell (Recess Ends)
12:10 Bell (Lunch Break Starts – Outside Play)
12:25 Bell (Students Come Inside to Eat)
12:40 Bell (Lunch Ends)
2:40 Bell (Instruction Ends)

Important Dates

Friday, October 20 – Terry Fox Run
Friday, October 27th – Reflection Walk for Truth and Reconciliation
Monday, September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, No School
Monday, October 14 – Thanksgiving, No School
Friday, October 25 – Non-Instructional Day, No school for students

Monday Morning Assembly

Each Monday (or Tuesday, if there's a long weekend), we gather as a whole school for our Monday Morning Assembly. During these meetings, we sing "O Canada," share updates about special events, learning initiatives, and celebrate achievements. These assemblies are a great way for us to connect and see ourselves as an integral part of our larger school community.

Permission Forms

You will find attached our yearly permission forms to be read and signed by parents and guardians. Please, read, sign, and return as soon as possible.

Code of Conduct

Please read McLeod Elementary School's Code of Conduct. It includes conduct expectations, our new digital device policy, and dress code. Please, review the expectations with your child. The code of Conduct will be available to review on our website as well.



McLeod Garden Boxes



A community with a passion for learning, cultivated by understanding and consistent achievement



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PAC Message

Welcome to the new school year!

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered and supported our school over the past year and beyond. Your contributions have been vital to the success of programs like our hot lunch service, fundraising events, and various class activities. Our children's experiences and participation in school life are greatly enriched because of your dedication.

We encourage you to attend PAC meetings to stay informed and share your ideas.

Your voice matters, and we'd love to hear from you!

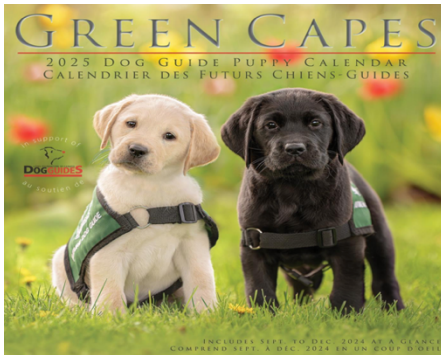
Our first PAC meeting will be Monday, September 16th at 2:50pm.

On behalf of our children and parents,

Chantel Odden (PAC President)

Apple Fundraising

Look forward to information about the Davison Orchards Fundraiser will be coming home to families very soon. All funds raised from the apple fundraiser will be going towards new equipment for the playground.



Green Capes Puppy Calendar Fundraiser

This year, we are partnering with Green Capes to present McLeod Elementary's puppy calendar project. The video shows all the images that are in the calendar and includes a voice over track that gives an audio description of the images. The link to the video

is: https://youtu.be/OzoZp4wfk8?si=sf7Ar4u_WS11b5C5

Green Capes is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping provide service dogs for individuals with disabilities. Through innovative fundraising initiatives such as the puppy calendar, McLeod Elementary actively contributes to this noble cause. By supporting the training of these remarkable dogs, the school community not only aids individuals with disabilities but also instills values of empathy and social responsibility in its students. Each calendar is \$20 and helps individuals lead independent lives. Here is the portal for our school's fundraiser: superpupcalendar.ca/mcleod

Important Information About Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Procedures

At School District #59, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, staff, and school community. In alignment with this commitment, we want to provide clarity on how we handle threats and ensure a safe learning environment for all.

What Parents and Students Need to Know:

- **Report All Threats:** Any threat, regardless of its nature, must be reported to the school principal immediately.
- **Investigation Process:** The investigation of a threat may involve the student services counsellor, police, or other community agencies. It could include locker or property searches and interviews with the person of concern and others who might have relevant information.
- **Notification:** Parents of students directly involved in the threat will be notified.
- **Disciplinary Action:** Threatening behavior may lead to disciplinary actions.
- **Intervention Plans:** An intervention plan will be created for the student making the threat, and a support plan will be developed for individuals targeted by the threats.

Understanding Threats:

A threat is an expression of intent to cause harm or act violently. This can be communicated verbally, in writing, through drawings, online, or by gesture.

Duty to Report:

To maintain a safe and caring school environment, it is crucial that staff, parents/guardians, students, and community members report all threat-related behaviours to the school principal.

Purpose of a Student Threat Assessment:

The goal of a student threat assessment is to:

- Ensure the emotional and physical safety of all individuals involved.
- Understand the context and factors contributing to the threatening behaviour.



Collection Notice:

In compliance with personal information privacy laws, our school district will collect only the information necessary to address any risk or threat. Information collected may be shared with law enforcement authorities when appropriate.

We are dedicated to ensuring a safe and supportive environment for everyone. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns regarding our threat assessment procedures.

Exciting News: Introducing Mathletics & Reading Eggs to Our Students

At McLeod Elementary, we are thrilled to announce that we will be signing up our students for Mathletics/Reading Eggs, an innovative online math resource designed to make learning math both enjoyable and effective. Our decision to incorporate Mathletics/Reading Eggs into our curriculum is driven by its proven ability to enhance student motivation, enjoyment, and confidence.

Why Mathletics/Reading Eggs?

Mathletics/Reading Eggs offers a range of engaging activities, games, and motivating rewards that are proven tools for improving math & reading scores. By participating, students will be empowered to strive for progress and see their confidence and abilities soar. The platform provides personalized lessons and activities that help students move beyond memorizing formulas and procedures, encouraging them to truly understand math & reading concepts and principles.

How Mathletics/Reading Eggs Supports Learning

1. **Engagement and Enjoyment:** Mathletics/Reading Eggs is designed to make math and reading fun through interactive games and rewards. This gamified approach keeps students motivated and actively involved in their learning journey.
2. **Personalized Learning:** The platform adjusts to each student's level, providing personalized feedback and challenges that help them understand and master concepts at their own pace.
3. **Effective Classroom Use:** Mathletics/Reading Eggs is particularly beneficial in a classroom setting where teachers run "stations." While one group engages in meaningful skills practice or revision, the teacher can focus on working with other groups.
4. **Supporting Learning at Home:** For parents looking to support their child's learning, Mathletics/Reading Eggs provides clear insights into progress and areas for improvement. Encouraging your child to use Mathletics & Reading Eggs can be a great way to reinforce their understanding.

Safety and Security

We want to reassure parents that the Live Gaming area within Mathletics & Reading Eggs, like all parts of the platform, is completely safe and secure. Students are matched with others from around the world, but there is no direct communication, and all student details remain anonymous. Mathletics/ Reading Eggs employs robust security measures, including encryption, passwords, and regular software updates. Additionally, non-identifiable data is stored on secure Microsoft Azure Servers with encryption both in transit and at rest.

In Summary

We are excited about the benefits that Mathletics & Reading Eggs will bring to our students and are confident it will be a valuable addition to our math program. We encourage you to discuss Mathletics & Reading Eggs with your child and support them in using this tool to enhance their learning experience.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to your child's education. If you have any questions about Mathletics & Reading Eggs or how you can get involved, please feel free to reach out.

Happy Learning!



McLeod Garden



Illness Best Practices: Keeping Our School Community Healthy

As we head into the new school year, it's important to maintain a healthy and safe environment for everyone in our school community. Here are some best practices to follow if you or your child is feeling unwell:

Stay Home When Ill

To prevent the spread of illness, staff, students, and other individuals in our school community who are showing symptoms of illness, such as COVID-19 or gastrointestinal issues, should stay home until they are well enough to participate in regular activities. Additionally, individuals should remain at home until they have been fever-free or have not vomited for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever-reducing medications, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen.

Promote Good Hygiene Practices

We encourage everyone to adhere to the following hygiene practices to help reduce the spread of illness:

- **Regular Handwashing:** Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially before eating and after using the restroom.
- **Proper Respiratory Etiquette:** Cough or sneeze into a tissue or the elbow to prevent the spread of germs. Dispose of tissues properly and wash hands immediately.
- **Avoid Touching Face:** Refrain from touching your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands to minimize the risk of spreading germs.

By following these guidelines, we can work together to keep our school community healthy and safe. Your cooperation is vital in helping us maintain a positive and productive learning environment for all.

If you have any questions or need further information about our health and safety practices, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support and attention to these important health practices.

Winter Wellness Initiative: Donate Your Skates and Support Our Winter Activities!

We are excited to build on the success of our Winter Wellness Initiative from last year! Thanks to a generous grant, we were able to purchase cross-country ski equipment, helmets, and brooms for curling, which have greatly enriched our winter programs and provided our students with fantastic opportunities for outdoor activity.

This year, we are looking to expand our winter activities even further, and we need your help! We are seeking donations of figure skates and hockey skates in a range of sizes, particularly adult sizes 7 through 9. If you have skates that you are no longer using and would like to donate them to support our winter programs, we would greatly appreciate your contribution.

Your donated skates will help us:

- **Enhance Student Engagement:** Provide more students with the opportunity to participate in figure skating and hockey, fostering their skills and love for winter sports.
- **Promote Physical Activity:** Encourage active, healthy lifestyles during the winter months.
- **Support Our Community:** Ensure that all students have access to the necessary equipment to enjoy and benefit from our winter activities.

If you have skates to donate or need more information, please get in touch with us. Your generosity will make a significant difference in our students' winter wellness experiences.

Thank you for supporting our Winter Wellness Initiative and helping our students stay active and engaged during the winter season!

Garden Project

This summer our garden has grown incredibly well. Over the next several weeks we will be harvesting the fall crops. Students are starting to enjoy fresh cherry tomatoes this week from the garden. This summer some of our garden products entered in the Kiskatinaw Fall Fair and earned \$19! There will be some changes ahead for the 2024-2025 garden. Stay tuned for details. Thank you to all the families who volunteered their time this summer to help the garden thrive!

