

# McLeod Elementary

## October 2024



### Coach Mentor and Truth and Reconciliation

As the Coach Mentor for McLeod students identifying as Indigenous, I am dedicated to supporting these students through grade and graduation coaching, goal-setting, and cultural teachings throughout their school journey. This year, 20 of our 69 students identify as Indigenous, making up a significant proportion of our school population.

It's essential to acknowledge the impact of the residential school system on our Indigenous community. As a reminder, "Every single one of your Indigenous friends is either a residential school survivor, a survivor's child, a survivor's grandchild, or all three. Every. Single. One."

To honor this, we recognized Orange Shirt Day as a whole school. We listened to "When I Was Eight" by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton: [Watch Here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9xpzsdDGiqo)

We also heard from Phyllis Webstad about the inspiration and significance behind Orange Shirt Day: [Watch Here.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E3vUqr01kAk)

After these reflections, we gathered at the medicine wheel garden to form a circle. We took a moment for thoughtful reflection before embarking on a collective walk, fostering a sense of unity and awareness within our community.



### Important Dates

Thursday, October 3 – Shell Open House -PAC Fundraiser

Friday, October 11 - Whole school Thanksgiving lunch & afternoon Thanksgiving activities

Monday, October 14 - Thanksgiving, No School

Tuesday October 15 – Leadership Root Beer Float sale, \$0.50 each

Thursday, October 17 - Great Shake Out (Earthquake Drill)

Thursday October 24 – Whole school pumpkin carving in the afternoon

Friday, October 25 - Non-Instructional Day

Thursday, October 31- Hallowe'en (regular school day with afternoon activities)

Monday, November 11 - Remembrance Day, No school

Monday November 18 - Friday November 22 – Book Fair

Wednesday, November 20 – 1 hour Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Interviews (1:40pm)

Thursday, November 21- 1 hour Early Dismissal for Parent/Teacher Interviews (1:40pm)

**Shell Open House Thursday October 3<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00pm – 8:00pm.**

**Bring your family for a free meal, the PAC is paid to cook the meal. Each plate used goes towards the PAC. Money raised from this open house will go towards hot lunch and our playground.**

All members of our school and our community are invited to this event, free meal included.

**Volunteers are needed!** If you are able to help with meal prep or dishes, please contact Chantel 250-219-1823.

### **Thank You PAC and Hot Lunch Parents!**

Last year, \$0 was charged to parents for Friday Hot Lunches. Due to great thriftiness, donations, and volunteer labour over 2,220 meals were served to our students last year. Wow!

30 Friday Hot Lunches

+2,220 Meals Served

\$0 Charged to Parents

♥ = Tremendous Happiness, Full Tummies, Full Hearts and Ready Learners ♥

♥ Thank Our Parent Volunteers! ♥

## **McLeod Parent Advisory Committee – Next PAC Meeting Tuesday, November 5 at 2:45pm**

The McLeod Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets once a month, bringing together an energetic and thoughtful group of parents and guardians. We greatly appreciate your wonderful perspectives and ideas—your input is invaluable to our community!

If you're unable to attend in person, PAC meetings are available via Zoom, making it easy for everyone to participate. We hope to see you there!

## **Safety Drills and Bus Evacuation Training**

We have successfully completed our first fire drill of the school year. Next, we will participate in a province-wide Earthquake Drill called The Great Shake Out on Thursday, October 17th, at 10:17 AM. This important exercise will help us prepare for emergencies.

In addition to the earthquake drill, we will also practice a Secure and Hold drill and a Lockdown drill. We'll discuss the timing and details of these drills during the Monday Morning Assembly that week, ensuring students feel knowledgeable, confident, and safe throughout the process.

Furthermore, this week we are covering bus evacuation information, and we will hold a bus evacuation practice next week. This comprehensive approach to safety helps ensure that our students are well-prepared for various situations.

## **Understanding the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) is an important tool used in British Columbia to evaluate the literacy and numeracy skills of students in grades 4 and 7. Implemented by the Ministry of Education, the FSA aims to provide valuable insights into students' learning progress and the effectiveness of educational programs.

### **Background of the FSA**

The FSA was introduced to help identify both student strengths and areas where additional support may be needed. It aligns with the province's commitment to ensuring that all students achieve a solid foundation in essential skills. The assessment is designed to reflect the curriculum and is administered in a way that minimizes stress for students.

### **Purpose of the FSA**

The primary purpose of the FSA is to assess and report on student performance in key areas of reading, writing, and mathematics. The results help teachers tailor instruction to meet the needs of their students and provide parents with insights into their child's progress. Additionally, aggregated data from the FSA allows schools and districts to identify trends and improve educational practices.

Overall, the FSA serves as a vital resource for fostering student growth and ensuring that all learners are equipped with the foundational skills necessary for future academic success.

## **Halloween**

Tuesday, October 31 is Halloween this year. We will be having a low-key celebration. We ask that costumes come to school with students, and we will put them on for the afternoon. After lunch we will have a costume parade into the gym, families are welcome to come and watch. Mrs. Dueck can assist with any extra help students who might need. Please let her know if your child requires extra help. Teachers will be letting you know about classroom plans for the day and how each class will be handling snacks at school. Look forward to announcements from the classrooms soon. Please save intricate face painting make up to the evening activities.

## **Parent Volunteers**

We can begin to have parent volunteers for a variety of activities. We are beginning slowly and want to properly have all our requirements in order. In order to accompany the class on field trips and work with small groups, parents must have their RCMP information check in order. We have updated forms. Please, let us know and we will send it home for you. It is the parent's responsibility to drop it off at the RCMP station and pick it up when it is completed. It then can be delivered to the School District Office or to the school. There is no charge for completing these school volunteer forms. It can take up to a couple of weeks so it is good to get them in ahead of field trips and sports activities.

## **Playdates, School Sports, and After School Arrangements**

Please, ensure that your afterschool arrangements for your children are made before the school day is in progress. With the start of our school sports season, we have a number of last-minute plan changes which are disruptive to our bus drivers, teachers, and coaches. It would ease our afterschool transition tremendously if parents and caregivers talk with children about their plans before the start of the school day.

As well, it is parents' responsibility to notify the bus garage when there are changes to the schedule. Additionally, if your child will be away, a courtesy call to the bus garage is appreciated and does save time on the schedule.

## Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you to everyone who has supported the apple fundraiser. We have sold over 500 cases of apples! Once extra apples are sold, we will raise just over \$7300 for the new playground!

Tentative pick-up days will be October 17<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>. Times are TBD once trucking pick up is confirmed. We have some extra boxes of apples coming, so if you missed our or need more contact Mrs. Doornbos at [kdoornbos@sd59.bc.ca](mailto:kdoornbos@sd59.bc.ca)

## Volleyball - GO WILDCATS!!

Thanks to Ms. Evans, Amanda Thola, and Jessica Smith for coaching our team. Thank you to parents and caregivers for supporting our students through the season.

The district volleyball league is starting up now and we had our first game October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The games are on Wednesdays at 3:15. Starting October 8<sup>th</sup> practices are now on Tuesdays from 2:45pm – 4:00pm.

We will be looking for parents to support the after-school home and away games. We will need drivers, warm-up helpers, and spectators.

For drivers, we will be looking for a driver's abstract, winter, or all-season tires, and \$2 million liability for insurance to transport children other than your own.

How to get your driver's abstract:

All driver's abstracts are provided free of charge.

1. Visit any ICBC driver licensing office.
2. Bring your driver's licence and one other piece of required ID.
3. By phone: 1-800-663-3051.
4. Please have your driver's licence number ready when you call.
5. Get your driver's record online:
6. <https://www.icbc.com/driver-licensing/getting-licensed/Pages/Your-driving-record.aspx>

As well, if you wish to supervise and help, we will need the RCMP volunteer check forms filed beforehand.

Just a friendly reminder for parents to please pack cutlery and dishes for student lunches, as we do not have enough for everyone! Please have your child bring a water bottle to school. Thank you for your support!

Leadership will be selling Root Beer floats on October 15<sup>th</sup> at lunch time. Each float will be \$0.50 each.

Students are expected to **wear indoor shoes at all times**. Should we need to evacuate for an emergency, students must be prepared. Movement in the gymnasium and hallways is safer with shoes on. **Non-marking soles are best**.

**As the days are starting to get colder, please make sure your child(ren) are dressed appropriately. Recess will remain outside until -20.**

Mrs. Doornbos and students have been working hard finishing up harvesting our school garden. Thank you to Mrs. Doornbos and everyone who has helped make our school garden a success.

