# McGowan Park Elementary
# MAGIC MONTHLY

**OCTOBER 2026**

## PRINCIPALS REPORT

As we welcome the month of October, it is wonderful to see our school community settling into the rhythm of a new school year. Classrooms are busy with learning, friendships are growing, and students are becoming increasingly comfortable with their routines and expectations. It has been a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, curiosity, and positive energy throughout our school.

I am especially enjoying getting to know our new students and families this year. Each student brings their own unique strengths, interests, and personality to our school community, and I look forward to getting to know them better throughout the year. A warm welcome to all of our new families—we are so glad you are part of our school community! I would also like to take a moment to thank all of our families for the support and positive energy you have shown so far this school year. Your encouragement at home, communication with the school, and support of your children's learning make such a meaningful difference. Strong partnerships between home and school help create the best possible environment for our students to learn, grow, and thrive.

As we move further into the school year, we will continue to focus on building positive relationships, developing good learning habits, and creating a safe, caring, and inclusive school community where every student feels valued and supported. The routines we establish now will help set the foundation for a successful year ahead.

Thank you for helping us make such a positive start to the school year. I am looking forward to all that October will bring and to another month of learning, connection, and growth together.
Wishing everyone a wonderful October!

Proud Principal
*Mrs. Latta*

## MCGOWAN BELL SCHEDULE 2026-27

| | |
|---|---|
| Morning Warning Bell | 8:25 |
| Start of classes | 8:30 |
| Recess | 10:30-10:45 |
| Lunch | 12:05-1:00 |
| Afternoon warning bell | 12:55 |
| Afternoon classes start | 1:00 |
| School Ends | 2:34 |

## FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT

Garde 4& 7 will be completing the Foundation Skills Assessment in the next few weeks. This is an annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students' academic skills. More information about the FSA can be found here.

https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/sites/curriculum.gov.bc.ca/files/pdf/assessment/fsa/en-foundation-skills-assessment-for-parents-and-caregivers.pdf

# TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL




Drop-off and pick-up are busy times around our school and we appreciate everyone's helps and support to keep our students and neighbourhood safe. We kindly ask families to be mindful of our neighbours by keeping driveways clear, staying off lawns, and leaving staff parking areas accessible.
This year we do still have one school bus and several daycare vans using the roundabout each morning and afternoon. We also do have a handicap parking spot that is used in this round about. The pylons are there to help keep this area clear for them, so please avoid stopping or parking in the roundabout during drop-off and pick-up times. Thank you for helping us make arrival and dismissal safe, respectful, and positive for everyone!

## LEARNING ABOUT TERRY FOX

During the week of September 15, students in Grades 2–7 had the opportunity to learn about Terry Fox through an engaging presentation by Andrew Abley, who works with the Terry Fox Foundation.
As an above-knee amputee himself, Andrew brought a meaningful personal perspective. He shared real prosthetic limbs, explained how they work, and helped students better understand some of the challenges Terry may have experienced during his journey.
Students were highly engaged, listening attentively and showing genuine curiosity throughout the presentation. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with Terry's story and learn more about his courage, perseverance, and incredible journey.
A special thank you to Andrew for helping to keep Terry's dream alive and for supporting this cause.











## ORANGE SHIRT DAY 2026

McGowan Park Elementary participated in Orange Shirt Day on September 29, 2026. Teachers reminded us of the importance of Orange Shirt Day through classroom teachings and picture book stories. Many classes participated in activities and learning related to Orange Shirt day and truth and reconciliation.

## MCGOWAN TERRY FOX RUN 2026







On Friday, September 25th McGowan Park Elementary participated in the annual Terry Fox run. The event began with our TRU Student Teachers leading the school in a warm up and Mrs. Milburn's class sharing a reader's theatre piece about Terry Fox. Students participated in the run either running through the McGowan neighborhood or around our school field. This year we raised $962. $470 online and $492 in the school. This is fantastic!! Way to go McGowan!







## CELL PHONE POLICY



As of July 2024, the Kamloops Thompson School District revised the district's student code of conduct (Administrative Procedure 350) to include the following language as required by Ministerial Order M89:

- Comply with restrictions on personal digital device (cell phones, smartwatches, etc.) use at school to promote online safety and focused learning environments by demonstrating:
  - Use of personal digital devices to support equitable access to learning outcomes.
  - Use of personal digital devices for instructional purposes and literacy development.
  - Use of personal digital devices that is appropriate to a student's age and developmental stage.
  - Use of personal digital devices for accessibility and accommodation needs, including medical and health needs.



McGowan Park Elementary School's personal digital devices guidelines & expectations are guided by the above language and have been developed in collaboration with staff and parents/caregivers to promote online safety and focused learning environments for all students. Please refer to our school website for McGowan's policy and expectations around digital devices in our school McGowanDigitalDevicePolicy

Students who come to school with cellular phones are reminded that these are to be kept in their lockers. If you need to get a hold of your child(ren), please call the office and we will be able to get a message to your student. If your child's teacher needs to speak to your child about their phone use more than once, the phone will be housed at the office during the school day. Parents may be called to collect the phone from the school after multiple occasions.

## MYEDBC PARENT PORTAL

Term 1 report cards will be published to the portal on December 11th. Parents will NOT be receiving a paper copy so this is very important. Instructions to access the MyEd BC Parent Portal are below:
Each parent or guardian or household will have their own separate account.



To Access the MyEducation BC System
1. Visit www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/aspen
2. Make sure popups are enabled for your browser.
3. Your user name (LOGIN ID) will be: (the email you gave the school)
4. Your temporary password would have been sent to you via email. Should you not remember your password, click on the "I forgot my password" link and follow the instructions) including a capital letter, a symbol and a number.)
5. Enter your user name (LOGIN ID) and password then click "Log On" to access the system. You may be prompted to change your password and fill out some information so that in the future you can click "I forgot my password" to receive a new password if you haven't already.
Should you have any questions or problems, please contact the school office



## CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

The district is requiring Criminal Record checks for all adults who will be working with/volunteering with SD#73 Students. The letters of clearance are sent to the Administration. Criminal Record Checks can now only be done through the BCID Service Card App.
https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.htm.
CODE:6L2FVNZHXU .
This is specific to McGowan

## SCHOOL DRESS CODE

Our school is considered a 'place of work' for students. It is expected that our students will respectfully represent McGowan both in and outside of school. At school, and at all school functions, students are expected to dress in a manner and style appropriate for school. We ask that students refrain from wearing hats and/or inappropriate language on clothing. Please refer to **District Administrative Procedure 350.2** for more on specific district expectations on safe and inclusive wear.






## INDOOR SHOES

As the weather changes, it is important to note that students are required to wear indoor footwear for health and safety purposes. Please have your son or daughter bring and leave a pair of inside shoes at school. The weather will be getting wetter and outside shoes track in a lot of mud and water. Thanks for your help with this!



## FRUIT & VEGGIE PROGRAM

McGowan will again be participating in the Fruit and Vegetable program. If you would like more information about the program, please check out https://www.bcaitc.ca/. Please note: If you do not want your child receiving fruit and vegetables and you have *not already* sent in the yellow form that was sent home in September, please call the office.




## HALLOWEEN

Halloween is one of our favourite days! Your child is welcome to wear a costume to school with the following expectations: it's not too scary or violent, has no props and weapons, is able to be worn without affecting the ability of your child to sit down in class and their face is not covered. Please check with your child's teacher around specific plans for the classroom. Our PAC has planned for their special Family Halloween dance in the evening of Oct. 29th with full costumes!



## SAFE ARRIVAL

All parents are asked to please report student absences **before 8:20 am** on the day of the absence (you can also report absences in advance, if they are known).
To report an absence you may choose to:

- call the toll free # 1-844-350-2647 or

access the following website:
https://go.schoolmessenger.ca or
download app from Google Play or Apple's App Store
Please choose the reason for your child's absence from school: sick, parent excused or family vacation. Don't forget to wait for confirmation # to ensure your child's absence has been recorded. A registration email will be sent to parents in advance. These emails are not spam and will contain specific parent login information for the system, as well as instructions on how to log in as a parent to report your child's absences. If you do not connect with the system by **8:20 am** on the day of your child's absence from school and the school is not notified, you will receive a phone call that alerts you to your child's absence in our system.

Parents should no longer leave a message on their school's answering machine/Safe Arrival line. Our new system handles the majority of parent contact (including phone calls) when a student absence is unexpected. This also allows parents to interact directly with the system in the following ways:
by phone when the system calls you or when you want to initiate a call to notify that your child will be absent
by internet through a login controlled web page interface
SchoolMessenger offers text message for parents. Activate this free service by sending the message 'Y' or 'Yes' to the District's short code number: 978338.



## VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball season plans have started up at McGowan and this year we will have 4 volleyball teams from grades 5-7 playing. League plays begins October 20th and will finished December 3rd.. Special thanks to our volunteer parent and teacher coaches and as well as our own Mr. Blower & Mr. Woods for all your time and energy supporting our kids to get volleyball organized this year!

## FRISBEE ROB

On September 29, we were excited to welcome Rob McLeod, also known as Frisbee Rob, to McGowan! Based in Calgary, Rob is a motivational speaker, frisbee ambassador, and 13-time Guinness World Records holder who travels to schools inspiring students through movement, play, and perseverance.  Students were captivated by Rob's incredible frisbee skills and energetic demonstrations. His positive message of turning "I can't do this" into "watch me try" encouraged students to embrace challenges, learn from mistakes, and give new things a try. Thank you to Frisbee Rob for bringing his energy, humour, and inspiration to our school!







BACK TO SCHOOL

## Annual Welcome Back BBQ

Special thanks to our PAC for putting on such a wonderful back to school event. It was great to see so many families attend this evening. We especially enjoyed meeting new families and celebrating the new school year!  PAC is looking forward to welcoming new members and are already working hard to plan special activities to support our McGowan students.

# CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING - Grades 3-7

Congratulations to all our Elementary Cross-Country runners for their participation in our first run of the season at McArthur Island. This year we have over 31 McGowan runners representing our school. Our next run is on October 7 at the Eagle Point Golf Course and then we will finish the season at Westsyde Centennial Park on October 14th. Thanks to our parent drivers and staff sponsors for their leadership in this event. Way to represent McGowan!







## OCTOBER INCLUSION CALENDAR

*1: International Seniors Day*
*Octoberfest Week-Germany*
*4: World Animal Day*
*Kanelbullens dag-Sweden holiday*
*5: World Teacher Day*
*6: World Habitat Day*
*10: World Mental Health Day*
*Pchum Ben- South Korean Holiday*
*12: Thanksgiving*
*6-12: National Family Week*
*11: International Day of the Girl Child*
*15: Global Handwashing Day*
*16: World Food Day*
*17: International Day for the Education of Poverty*
*18: Person's Day*
*24: World Day of Climate Action*
*31: Samhain Gaelic Festival*

## OCTOBER PAC NEWS

**Join us for our PAC's Annual General Meeting on Tuesday, October 6 at 6:00 PM in the school library! Our AGM is a great opportunity to:**

- **Vote in this year's PAC executive roles**
- **Discuss and set our PAC budget and fundraising goals for the upcoming school year.**
- **Meet other parents and guardians and learn more about our PAC**
- **Get involved in your school community and find out how you can be part of making a difference.**

**You don't need to be interested in an executive position to attend! Whether you're a returning McGowan family or new to the school, everyone is welcome.**

**Come meet us, share your ideas, and see what being part of the PAC is all about.**

# OCTOBER CALENDAR 2026




1 Gr. 4& 7 FSAs Begin
Fire Drill

6 PAC AGM Meeting- 6:00 Library

7 Kindergarten School Bus Training
Cross Country Run @Eagle Point 3:15pm

12 Thanksgiving - No School

13 WildSafe Presentation

14 Assitant Superintendent Visit
Cross County Run- Westsyde-3:15pm

19 Pawliuk/Carrigan @ Horstings 9-1:30pm

20 Lockdown Drill #1

21 Photo Retakes Day

23 Provincial Prod Day- No School

26 Milburn/Cova @ Stoney Flats-9:20-12pm

28 Grade 3 Vision Screening

29 PAC Halloween Dance

30 McGowan Halloween Celebrations

## LOOKING AHEAD:

Nov 5- Ruberg's class hosts Bake Sale
Nov 11- Remembrance Day No School
Nov 12- Fire Drill #3
NOv 13- PAC Hot Dog Day
Nov 18- Spaced Out Arts Performance
Nov 19- Hold & Secure Practive
Nov 30- Prod Day No School

Dec 9- McGowan Christmas Concert- K-7
Dec 11 PAC Pancake Breakfast
Dec 18- Last Day of School before holidays

