

McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



May 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Spring is here, and May is already shaping up to be a busy and exciting month at McGowan. With only a couple of months left in the school year, students are enjoying many opportunities to learn, explore, and celebrate their growth. This month includes special events, field trips, outdoor learning, athletics, and celebrations of student creativity and achievement. These experiences help bring learning to life and create lasting memories for our students. Thank you to our families for your continued support and partnership. Your involvement helps make McGowan a caring, active, and welcoming school community where students can learn, grow, and shine.

As we approach the end of the school year, we also recognize that this is a time of transition. We will soon be saying goodbye to some of our students and staff, while also preparing to welcome new faces into the McGowan community. Change can sometimes feel uncertain, especially when it involves the unknown, but it also brings new opportunities, growth, and fresh beginnings. We look forward embracing the energy and possibilities that the changes will bring to our school.

Mrs. J. Latta

Mrs. Latta (Proud Principal)



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS:

Congratulations to our three teams who participated in the Battle of the Book competition this year!

Grade 3/4: Jackson Brunt, Makena Kahianyu, Finnley Smith (Zones)

Grade 5: Mia Kabelik, Melinda Yen, Annabel Chijioke (Zones)

Grade 6/7: Cai McLean, Ellie Bingham, Alice Ruberg (Zones & Districts)



These dedicated students have shown exceptional commitment, teamwork, and a love for reading throughout their journey. They represented our school well and made us very proud. A special shout out to our grade 6/7 team who came in second place at the Districts!



CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

As classes begin planning field trips, just a reminder that ALL PARENTS/GRANDPARENTS/ADULTS that are going on ANY trip with your child's class, are driving as volunteers or are coming to support with class special events *must* have a CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK. This is of no cost to the adult and is site specific for our school. Most CRC's last three years and remain on file in the office. A reminder, no siblings can attend our field trips. Please contact the office if you are unsure if your Criminal Record Check has expired. We can easily check this for you.

PARENT DRIVERS - please be aware that if you are driving someone else's child in your car, permission slips only give permission for a parent to drive their child to and from the location. Parents do not have legal permission to stop at fast food restaurants, corner stores, etc. for treats. Thank you for understanding this legality. We need to ensure our students are safe and are required to know where they are at all times.

STUDENT TRANSFERS FOR 2026/2027

If you are planning on moving your child for the Fall of 2026, please let the McGowan office know ASAP so that we can make the appropriate arrangements for the student's file. Requests for student transfers that will commence in September will be accepted starting now and ending at 12:00 noon on September 8th, 2026. All submissions must be made in writing and forwarded to the receiving school's principal. All decisions regarding student transfers will be in accordance with AP 305 School Boundaries and Student Transfer Requests.

MAY is MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

"Mental health is wealth", especially during Mental Health Awareness Month, which is celebrated in May. The stigma around mental health and treatment has long existed. Although this has started to change, people still hesitate to seek help or even talk about it with their loved ones for fear of being judged and facing unnecessary backlash. The theme of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026 is 'action'. The theme emphasizes moving beyond awareness to taking concrete steps for better mental health at individual, organizational, and societal levels.



DIVERSITY AND CULTURE CALENDAR MAY

- Apr 29 – May 6 Golden Week in Japan
- May 1–31 Asian Heritage Month
- 1–31 Canadian Jewish Heritage
- 5 Dutch Heritage Day
- 5 Cinco de Mayo
- 5 Red Dress day
- 1–31 World Autism Awareness Month
- 17 International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia
- 19 Victoria Day

GAUSS MATH CONTEST



GAUSS

On May 12th the following McGowan students will represent our school at the Gauss Math Test! **Congratulations to Adalee Royce, Kassandra Blais, Zoe Valera and Cate Lester.** The Gauss Contests introduces students in Grades 7 and 8 to a broader perspective of mathematics in a fun, accessible way. Intriguing problems and a multiple-choice format make the Gauss Contests a wonderful opportunity for all students in these grades to grow their interest in and get curious about the power of math. We are so proud of our students who love mathematics.

McGowan Swim Club

Wednesday, April 15th, McGowan students participated in the annual SD73 Swim Meet at the Canada Games Pool. Special thanks Mrs. Dagg-Hall and Mr. Tomalty for sponsoring our students. Congratulations goes out to Mackenzie Roos for bringing a bronze medal home.



Parloff Season

This season, our Grade 4–7 students took on the exciting challenge of the Parloff relay. They practiced important skills like baton passing, pacing, and—most importantly—teamwork. Their hard work paid off at two events, one at TCC and the other at Dallas Elementary, where they proudly represented McGowan. We're thrilled to share that their efforts earned them some well-deserved ribbons. Special thanks to Ms. Kossey for organizing everyone behind the scenes!! Thank you for cheering them on!

Flag Football

Season is upon us!!
Games are Wednesdays!
Special thanks Mrs. Straker
and Mr. Blower for
coaching our grade 6/7s.
Please reach
out to them for more
information.



**Congrats
to all of
our Parloff
runners!**



PARENT INPUT FOR STUDENT PLACEMENTS FOR 2026-2027

Each May and June teaching staff meet to organize classes with considerations given to learning needs, teaching styles, social dynamics, academic groupings, class size limits, gender balance, and where possible, parental requests. Tentative class lists are made through staff conversations first before parental requests are looked at. For those families who have significant concerns about their child's educational placement, you must **email the school principal** (alatta@sd73.bc.ca) by **Friday, May 15th at NOON** indicating the educational reasons for your request. While this gives parents/guardians a chance to advocate for their child and their educational needs, it by no means guarantees that your request will be honoured so please keep this in mind. Ultimately, the SCHOOL ACT, gives the principal the final say on any child's placement in their school.



TICK SEASON ALERT

We have found ticks on our students from the grass. Please remind your child to be tick aware, it is that time of year!

Please refer to the link for more information. We have had children in the office with ticks already. Please check your children regularly.
<https://ticktalkcanada.com/tick-facts/>



Pangea Arts -The Trollsons

On April 24th McGowan welcomed Pangea Arts to our school and we all enjoyed their presentation of "The Trollsons." The Trollsons are a magical and comedic family of Trolls from the Canadian forest. The Trollsons have been entertaining at festivals and special events around Canada since 1995, as well as touring to Singapore, China, and Japan. This time, students were welcomed deep into the forests of Scandinavia as four masked characters and a musician brought to life the folklore of trolls. It was Grandpa Trollson's 200th birthday party, but he refused to come out of his tree stump to celebrate! With the help of some audience participants onstage, Grandpa could not resist the power of storytelling.



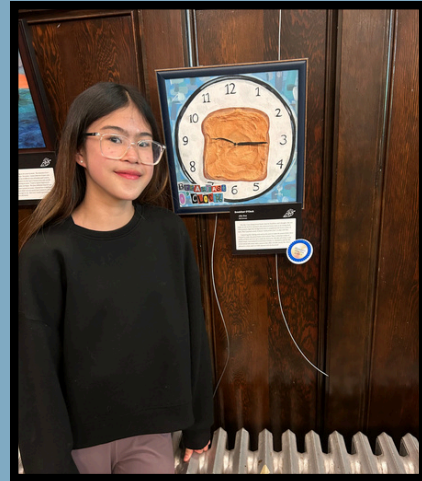
McGowan Spring Production 2026- "Nifty Fifties"

This year's Spring Production was a hit as our gym was full of family and friends here supporting the cast and crew of this year's musical comedy. Both nights were a success and we were very proud of all our students involved in making this year's production a success. Special thanks Ms. Baerg and all of the teachers leading their students in their music and drama.



Young Artists Conference 2026

Our young artists are shining! On April 29, SD73 proudly celebrated the Grand Opening of the Young Artists Gallery with a wonderful reception for families and friends, showcasing the incredible creativity and talent of students across the district. The excitement continues on May 6, when over 125 SD73 students will attend the Young Artists Conference, where they'll have the unique opportunity to learn and create alongside professional artists from our community. We are especially proud of our McGowan students selected to attend this year's conference: Dahlia K, Allie D, Maya S, and Jackson B. A very special congratulations goes to Allie D, whose artwork has been chosen to be professionally framed and displayed at the School Board Office for the upcoming school year—an outstanding achievement!



Grade 1 & 2 Career Carasousel

On April 20, students in Mrs. McCaugherty, Mrs. Carrigan, and Mrs. Pawliuk's classes participated in a Career Carousel as part of the British Columbia Social Studies curriculum. A Career Carousel, also known as a gallery walk or station rotation, allows students to move between stations to explore different occupations through displays, tools, and guest speakers.

Connected to "The Local Community" strand, this experience helped students identify the services and characteristics of their neighbourhood and learn how workers such as doctors, firefighters, and farmers help meet people's basic needs, including food, safety, and health.

A special thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time to share their knowledge and experiences with our students!



PLANNING AHEAD

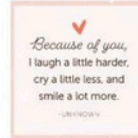
- May 1 Young Authors Conference
Class Photo Day
Blower @ Apex
- May 4 Arts Performance- Professor Wow
- May 6 Fire Drill
Young Artists Conference
Straker- Flag Football @ Westmount
- May 7 Grade 6 Immunization Make-Up
- May 8 Summer Reading Forms due
Lock down Practice
- May 12 Gauss Math- 8:30-12pm
Football Rally @ McGowan vs Summit- 1pm
- May 13 Zone 1 Track- 1000/1200m
Straker -FlagFootball School @ OLPH
Indigineous Drumming Protocol Teaching
- May 14 Gr.7 Career Day @ TRU
- May 15 District Inservice Day
- May 18 Victoria Day Long Weekend
- May 21 Zone Track Meet- TRU
- May 26 District 1000/1200m
New Kindergartens- Oreintation 3:30-5:15pm
- May 28 District Track Meet
Gr.7 Indigineous Connections @ Sahali Sec
- June 1 Gr.6/7 McGowan Market
- June 2 Gr.7 @ Sahali Secondary Tour
- June 3 Flag Football Jamboree @ MacPark
- June 8 Milburn @ Robbins Range
- June 9 Gliege @ McQueen Lake
- June 10 McCaugherty/Woods @ McQueen Lake
- June 8-10 Baerg/Blower @ Eagle Bay
- June 11 Gr.5 @ Powwow Grounds
- June 15 Kossey, Isakson, Cova @ O'Keefe Ranch
- June 16 Parent Appreciation Mug n' Muffin- 8am
- June 17 Gr.1-7 @ KSA Lion King - Sagebrush Theatre
- June 18 Arts Performance - Axe Capoeira-1pm
- June 19 Kossey, Cova, Milburn @ Summit Powwow
- June 22 Isakson/Gliege to McGowan Waterpark
- June 23 McGowan Primary Fun Day
- June 24 Milburn @ Isobel Lake-9am
- June 25 Last Day of School
- June 26 Admin day- Last day for teaching staff
- June 29 School Closed for summer

COUNSELLING CORNER

Spring is the season of new beginnings... animals awaken, baby animals are born, plants and trees begin to grow and bloom, more sun and warmer weather. The earth seems to come to life again.



There are times our children and youth need new beginnings, a fresh start, new growth in a different direction. Unconditional love, support and gentle guidance, forgiveness and encouragement provide the stability and nourishment they need to flourish and grow as individuals and in their relationships.



It's our job to help them.



Spring Activity Calendar

DAY 1 Create a journal with your child or use the last one to record each days activity. They can decorate the front page.	DAY 2 Make pine cone flowers. https://www.born-to-be-adventurous.com/2020/04/12/pine-cone-flower-craft/	DAY 3 Go outside and draw something outdoors. Examples including drawing the trees, your house, or a flower you find!	DAY 4 Make five cards. Send them to five different people to let them know your thinking of them.	DAY 5 Have a picnic in your backyard, park, or on your living room floor.	DAY 6 Build a fort.	DAY 7 Bring the books outside and read outdoors on a blanket.
DAY 8 Build your own seek and find page.	DAY 9 Bake something with your kids that you have never before baked.	DAY 10 Go for a hike. If your stuck indoors then stay active with Cosmic Kids Yoga, Kidz Bop, or the Learning Station	DAY 11 Go on a bug hunt. Collect leaves into a jar. Find some bugs and put them in a jar to observe. After, set them free.	DAY 12 Make a treasure map.	DAY 13 Make Animal Rocks. Paint rocks to look like animals or glue on small rock ears, stick tails and paint eyes and a nose!	DAY 14 Pick flowers, leaves, and sticks. Then paint with them.
DAY 15 Set up a sprinkler, paddling pool, or water table!	DAY 16 Play with Bubbles.	DAY 17 Go on a walk or a longer hike!	DAY 18 Be creative and build a craft out of your recycling.	DAY 19 Play hide in seek.	DAY 20 Make a collage using old magazines.	DAY 21 Make a giant snakes and ladders game out of chalk.
DAY 22 Decorate your bike or your parents bike!	DAY 23 Collect flowers and leaves. Put them in a book and press them for 24 hours. Take them out on Day 24 for the craft!	DAY 24 Make bookmarks using the pressed flowers and leaves.	DAY 25 Wash the car!	DAY 26 Make nature designs and pictures with leaves, rocks, flowers, and sticks.	DAY 27 Collect flowers and leaves outdoors. Then, put them in a large book. Close the book and let them dry for tomorrow's craft!	DAY 28 Paint outside like the famous painter Monet!