



# McGowan Park Elementary

December 2025

## Principal's Message

December has arrived, and with it comes one of the most exciting and joyful times of the year at our school. The fresh snowfall has brought a sense of wonder to our playground, and our students are embracing the season with energy and enthusiasm.

We're also thrilled to celebrate the end of a fantastic volleyball season. Both our competitive boys' and girls' teams brought home city championship titles! Their hard work, sportsmanship, and dedication have made our entire school community proud.

As we move further into the month, the halls are buzzing with anticipation for our upcoming Christmas Concert. Students and staff have been practicing diligently, and we can't wait to share their talent and holiday spirit with you. It is always a special time to come together as a community and celebrate the season.

Wishing each and every one of you a joyous and safe holiday season!

Regards, Mrs. J. Latta



## Winter Break

Winter Break this year runs from December 20 to January 4th. Classes resume January 5th, 2025. Enjoy this special time with your friends and family.

## LOST & FOUND

**Our Lost & Found is full and overflowing. Please take a moment to stop by or check out the slide of photos on our school facebook page. All classes will be looking through it and students are asked to take any items belonging to them home. At the winter break, all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.**



## REPORT CARDS/LEARNING UPDATES

Term 1 Learning Updates will be published to the MyEd BC Parent portal on December 12th. Report cards will once again be paperless.

To Access the MyEducation BC System

1. Visit [www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/asp](http://www.myeducation.gov.bc.ca/asp)
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.
5. Enter your user name (LOGIN ID) and password then click "Log On" to access the system.

Once inside the MyEducation BC system you can navigate around to view information for your student(s).

For a detailed explanation on how to login and navigate through the portal please click on this information page (Click on MyED73 Parent/Student Portal Information),

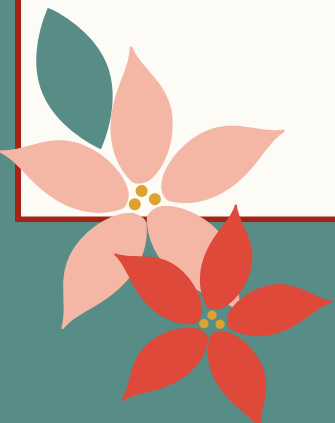
Should you have any questions or problems, please contact the school office. (250-374-4545)



## Volleyball 2025

Another exciting volleyball season has come to an end! Congratulations to all the volleyball teams this year. Your hard work and dedication and team spirit truly paid off. Whether on the court or off, you've all shown what it means to be a team. Keep up the great work and remember that each challenge is an opportunity to grow. We're so proud of each and everyone of you. - Way to go McGowan Magic!

Thank you again to all of the volunteer coaches for their leadership as there would be no sports teams without them - Erin Waters, Jamie Roos, Joanne Loader as well as our staff sponsors Ms. Oryschak, Mr. Woods, Ms. Baerg, Ms. Reilly and Mr. Blower.






## SNOW AND SLEDDING AT MCGOWAN

Each year we need to remind our students about the expectations when the snow accumulates. Please review the expectations below with your child and know that children that are not playing safe outside will need to review these expectations with the administration. I hope parents can appreciate we have 410 students to manage so we need to have these expectations in place.

Snow (and ice) stay on the ground- This includes throwing, kicking, etc in any form. This ALSO includes “putting” snow on anyone. Snow can be used for sliding and building. We build with our hands. If you build it on your own, you can break it. If you didn’t build it, leave it alone to show respect for others. If you helped build it, leave it alone to show respect for the group. Ask permission before you use or add to things you did not build. This also shows respect.

Students are allowed to bring sleds to school however we ask that they be left outside against the school building. Students must have snowpants and gloves/mittens to be allowed to slide on the hill.



## INSIDE SHOES

We kindly ask that you send your child with a pair of comfortable inside shoes. With the winter weather, all staff and students remove their outside footwear at the entrances. Children should not be in sock feet in our building. This poses a risk for slip and fall injuries and in the event of an emergency your child will not be prepared for a fire drill or evacuation to Summit Church.

## Basketball


Basketball season will start in the New Year. We will soon be starting to organize the teams. At the elementary level, there is one league game per week and usually 1-2 practices ( depending on gym availability and of course the time the coach can volunteer). More info will be coming soon!

## Christmas Concert 2025

Rehearsals are well underway and students and staff are beginning to get ready for Christmas. **This year’s concert is Thursday, December 11 at 1:15pm & 6:00pm.** The concert this year will include our K-6 students. (Intermediates are also planning a musical for the spring- stay tuned!)

## Christmas Food Hampers

**As a school community, we are collecting items for food hampers. Ms. Oryschak’s class will be collecting the items from each class from Dec 8-12th. There will be boxes by the office for students to put items in on the night of the Xmas concert.**



## Counselling Corner

When we give our time and attention to our children, they feel important and loved, they feel seen and heard.

Have a wonderful time together now and over the holidays.

Please control + click on the link below to watch a lovely little video.... Lily and the Snowman  
[Lily and the Snowman](#)



## Upcoming Events

- Christmas Concert Dec 11
- PAC Pancake Brkfast- Dec 12
- Lowrenoff/Gliege Skating- Dec 15
- Woods Skating- Dec 16
- Christmas Hamper- Dec8-15
- Winter Break: Dec. 19 - Jan. 4



## TRU Nursing Students

On **Wednesday, December 3 and Friday, December 5**, our Kindergarten and Grade 1 classes were excited to welcome TRU nursing students into their classrooms for a hands-on lesson about the importance of proper handwashing.

Students learned how easily germs can spread through an eye-opening science experiment using fluorescent light—and the glowing evidence made quite an impression! Laughter, curiosity, and lots of “wow!” moments filled the room as children discovered just how important it is to wash their hands thoroughly.

A big thank-you to the TRU nursing students for bringing such an engaging and educational experience to McGowan!



# Spreading Kindness This December

As we move into December and the Christmas season, Ms. Wright is hoping to bring a little extra warmth and love to our wider community—and she's inviting our McGowan community to join her. Ms. Wright plans to bake cookies and bannock with classes to share with individuals in our city who may be experiencing crisis, homelessness, or difficulty meeting basic needs.

In addition to this baking at McGowan, Ms. Wright also wants to help our community members facing shelter challenges. During the winter months, access to warm food, clothing, and essential care becomes especially important. Over the next two weeks we will be collecting clean gloves, toques and socks. This project is a meaningful opportunity for our students to learn about compassion, generosity, and caring for our community. If you are interested in supporting, we will have boxes along side our food hamper bins to collect items.

Together, we can help spread kindness this holiday season.



A festive poster for a Christmas Bake Sale. At the top, the word "Christmas" is written in a red cursive font inside a gold-bordered frame. Below it, "BAKE SALE!" is written in large, bold, green capital letters. The event details are: "THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11TH 6:00-8:00" and "BRING TOONIES AND LOONIES!". The bottom half of the poster features a stack of chocolate chip cookies, a gingerbread man with a red bow tie, and a cupcake with pink frosting and colorful sprinkles. At the bottom right, it says "MRS. RUBERG'S CLASS IS RAISING MONEY FOR WATERAID!". The background is white with snowflakes and candy canes.

