

McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



OCTOBER 2025

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Thank you to our entire school community who contributed to a wonderful school start up. Students are now settled into classrooms and hard at work on various projects and activities.

McGowan follows the values from our Magic Matrix. At our school we value perseverance, honesty, kindness, and positivity. As MAGIC STARS, we pride ourselves in a GROWTH MINDSET!

This year, we're excited to launch our year long school theme: "Magic!" Inspired by Andy Grammer's song "Magic," we're encouraging students to discover and celebrate the strengths and talents that make them unique. The song reminds us that we all have something special inside—kindness, creativity, resilience, curiosity—and when we use it, we make the world around us a better place. Throughout the year, students will participate in activities that highlight their "magic" and recognize the magic in others. From classroom challenges to assemblies, art projects, and school-wide events, we'll be encouraging everyone to believe in themselves and each other. We can't wait to see what kind of magic your child discovers this school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Latta (Proud Principal)

MCGOWAN BELL SCHEDULE 2025-26

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



CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING - Grades 3-7



Congratulations to all our Elementary Cross-Country runners for their participation in our runs. This year we had over 20 McGowan runners who participated in 3 runs: McArthur Park, Eagle Point Golf Course and Westsyde Centennial Park. Thanks to our staff sponsors Mr. Woods for his leadership in this event. Way to represent McGowan!

TRANSPORTATION TO AND FROM SCHOOL



Our school is located in a busy corridor and dropping students off and picking up is a very busy time for our neighborhood. Please be courteous and respectful of those homes that are around our school and not drive on peoples lawns or block their driveways or our staff parking lots. We encourage students to walk to school if they live close by or ask that families drop their children off further down the block.

Do you know we have 4 school buses that drop students off at our school each morning and pick them up at the end of the day? You may have noticed we have pylons set up in our bus roundabout to ensure buses are able to drop off and pick up our students. We kindly ask that you do not block the roundabout when dropping off/picking up your child to give space for our buses.

Kindergarten School Bus Safety Learning

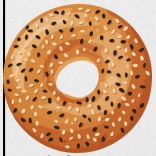
On Friday, October 3rd, our Kindergarten students took part in an engaging school bus safety presentation. During the session, they learned all about how the school bus works, the important safety rules to follow while riding, and the roles of both the bus driver and the students in keeping everyone safe. After the presentation, students had the exciting opportunity to explore a real school bus – they listened to the sounds it makes, saw the flashing lights in action, met a friendly bus driver, and even took a short tour inside the bus. It was a fun and educational experience that helped our youngest learners build confidence and understanding about riding the school bus safely!





ORANGE SHIRT DAY

McGowan Park Elementary participated in Orange Shirt Day on September 29, 2025. On this day we were reminded 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.



Healthy Morning Snacks for Early Student Arrivals

With over 200 students arriving early on the school buses, we have noticed that some students arrive in the morning needing more food to start their day. We understand that buses leave early and sometimes mornings can be busy. This year, we are pleased to share that McGowan has received some funding to support our students with healthy snacks to start their day. (ie. cut up fruit, muffins, toast etc)

On Tuesday & Thursday mornings from 8-8:20am, there will be healthy snacks available for students that need something to eat. Room 125, just inside our alcove, will be open and we will have light breakfast snacks available. Special thanks to Ms. Straker and Ms. Kotani for preparing the food on these days. If this is something that you would like your child to receive on a weekly basis, please send us an email or call the school so we can know how much to prepare and can ensure there are no allergies.

(alatta@sd73.bc.ca or 250-374-4545)



MCGOWAN TERRY FOX RUN 2025



On Friday, September 20th McGowan Park Elementary participated in the annual Terry Fox run. The event began with our Terry Fox student leaders leading the school in a warm up and Mrs. Millburn's class sharing a reader's theatre piece about Terry Fox. Students participated in the run either running through the McGowan neighbourhood or around our school field. This year we raised \$1575 and ran together through the community. Way to go McGowan!



CELL PHONE POLICY



As of last 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](#).

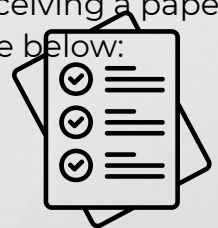
Students who come to school with cellular phones are reminded that these are to be kept in their lockers. If you need to get a hold of your child(ren), please call the office and we will be able to get a message to your student. If your child's teacher needs to speak to your child about their phone use 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

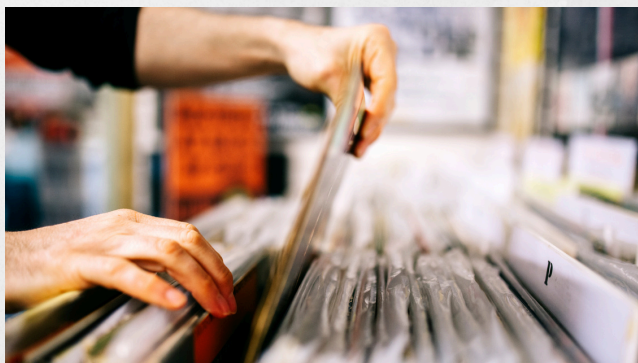
Report cards will be published to the portal again this year. Parents will NOT be receiving a paper copy so this is very important. Instructions to access the MyEd BC Parent Portal are below: Each parent or guardian or household will have their own separate account.

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:6L2FVNZXU .

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.



Sweater weather

Autumn is definitely upon us and with that comes cooler temperatures. On supervision each day we are still seeing some students dressed for summer weather. Students will need to remember coats and sweaters as they are expected to be outside for recess and lunch breaks. Doors open at 8:25 each morning and students need to wait outside in the morning until the bell goes and teachers let children into the school.

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. 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. 30th 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 we will have 5 volleyball teams from grades 6-7 playing this year. Grade 5 students will have a special opportunity to participate in intramurals and/or our rec. teams. Special thanks to our coaches and volunteers as well as our own Mr. Woods and Mr. Blower for all your time and energy supporting our kids this year!

Kierah: Irish Madness Performance

On Friday September 26, McGowan was treated to a wonderful Celtic performance by Kíerah: Irish Madness. Out of Vancouver, Kierah is one of Canada's finest and most versatile Celtic fiddle performers. With an Irish/Scottish heritage, Kíerah's true passion is performing Celtic fiddle music to schools. Kíerah completely captivated and engaged our student audience this year. Her high energy performance style, her musicality and story telling taught our students all about the different styles of this style of music.



Halloween Bell Choir

Very exciting news! Mrs. Ruberg has started a bell choir! Meeting at lunch hours, students are learning a Harry Potter Halloween piece. This is a great musical opportunity as students learn to follow the notes and count while reading music! Stay tuned on this great opportunity for our students.



OCTOBER CALENDAR 2025

- 1 GR. 4& 7 FSAS BEGIN
FIRE DRILL - 10:15AM
- 3 GR K SCHOOL BUS TRAINING
- 7 PAC MEETING- 6:00 LIBRARY
- 8 CROSS COUNTRY RUN @WS 3:15PM
- 9 MCGOWAN INDIGENOUS FAMILY
DINNER @SOUTH SAHALI- 5-7PM
- 13 THANKSGIVING - NO SCHOOL
- 14-17 ROBO THINKS GUEST
@MCGOWAN
- 15 GR.1 COME READ WITH ME
- 20 CARRIGAN/MCCAUGHERTY@ PETE
MURRAY'S CORN FIELD
- 21 LOCKDOWN DRILL #1
VOLLEYBALL SEASON BEGINS
- 23 KOSSEY, COVA, MILBURN TO
PETE MURRAY'S CORN FIELD
- 24 PROVINCIAL INSERVICE DAY
- 27 PHOTO RETAKES
- 30 PAC HALLOWEEN DANCE
- 31 HALLOWEEN CELEBRATIONS

Counselling Corner

October brings many changes, the beauty of fall, the excitement of Halloween, a switch to more indoor activities for some, the colder weather, and darker nights, to mention but a few.

Many of our children and youth embrace these changes, but for some changes/transitions are challenging. Our job is to help prepare our children and youth, to ensure they know we are here for them, to support and guide, to help them feel safe. We need to ensure that Halloween is experienced as a fun, silly, spooky time not a scary time that could overwhelm our more vulnerable. Have fun together, in a safe and inclusive way, play is good for everyone

-Ms. Wood (McGowan School & Family Consultant)



OCTOBER DIVERSITY CALENDAR

- 1: International Day of Older Persons
- 4: Sisters in Spirit Day
- 5: World Teacher Day
- 6: World Habitat Day
- 6-12: National Family Week
- 11: Coming Out Day
- 11: International Day of the Girl Child
- 16: World Food Day
- 17: International Day for the Education of Poverty
- Person's Day
- 24: World Development Information Day
- 26: Intersex Awareness Day

HAPPY
**THANKS
GIVING**

