

McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



February 2026

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we move into February and the middle of Term 2, academics continue to be an important focus across our school, with students actively engaged in their learning and building on the skills introduced earlier in the year. Alongside this academic work, February also provides meaningful opportunities to focus on kindness, friendships, and positivity within our school community. Valentine's Day on February 14 and Pink Shirt Day on February 26 serve as important reminders of the role empathy, respect, and inclusion play in creating a safe and welcoming environment for all learners. Through classroom activities and school-wide initiatives, we will continue to support students in developing positive relationships and a strong sense of belonging. Thank you to our parents and community for your ongoing support and partnership in your child's learning.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Latta (Proud Principal)

A black, cursive handwritten signature of Mrs. Latta, featuring a heart shape integrated into the middle of the signature.



PINK SHIRT DAY - FEBRUARY 26th

This February, our school will join schools across the country in recognizing Pink Shirt Day, a day dedicated to promoting kindness, inclusion, and respect. It is an opportunity for students to reflect on the importance of standing up against bullying and supporting one another. By participating, we reinforce our commitment to creating a safe, welcoming, and positive school community where every student feels valued. This year's Pink Shirt Day will take place on **Wednesday, February 25th**. The theme for this year's Anti Bullying day is "Sprinkle Kindness." We will be having a number of kindness initiatives happening this month in preparation for Feb 25th. On Feb 25th, our PAC is planning a "Pink Dance" for our students to promote friendship. Primaries and Intermediates will each have their own dance times. All students are invited to wear pink shirts on this day.



*McGowan is committed to the
development of the whole child
as a unique individual*

erase
 EXPECT RESPECT &
 A SAFE EDUCATION

E.R.A.S.E. Tool- Expect Respect and a Safe Education

This tool is located on our school website and it is all about building safe and caring school communities. If there is something worrying your child or your child's friends at school, encourage them to let an adult know about it so they can help to resolve it.

The ERASE Report-It tool is an easy and confidential way to send a message to your school, who will follow up on the situation right away. They will only follow up with you directly only IF you provide your name.

50 acts of KINDNESS for kids

1. Fill a vending machine with change.
2. Do a chore without them knowing.
3. Hold the door open for someone.
4. Tell a joke.
5. Smile at everyone.
6. Feed the birds.
7. Send a postcard to a friend or family.
8. Leave a letter in a library book.
9. Sing songs at a nursing home.
10. Pick up litter.
11. Leave Happy notes around town.
12. Make playdough for a preschool class.
13. Call a friend you haven't spoken to in awhile.
14. Let someone go ahead of you in line.
15. Compliment a friend.
16. Donate your toys.
17. Sell items you no longer use and donate the proceeds.
18. Play with the animals at the shelter.
19. Pay off a school lunch account for a child.
20. Wash someone's car.
21. Cook dinner for a neighbor.
22. Buy extra school supplies for a teacher.
23. Plant something.
24. Collect books for the library.
25. Donate coloring books to the children's hospital.
26. Teach someone something new.
27. Take treats to the police station.
28. Read a book to someone.
29. Buy coffee for a stranger.
30. Create gift boxes for soldiers.
31. Help your parents make dinner.
32. Tape money to a parking meter.
33. Give the bus driver a thank you card.
34. Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
35. Recycle.
36. Clean up the park.
37. Do a 5k for a good cause.
38. Babysit for free.
39. Have a complain free day.
40. Show a new kid around the school.
41. Help your neighbor with yard work.
42. Save soda tabs for the children's hospital.
43. Buy groceries for the person behind you.
44. Donate your hair after a haircut.
45. Pay a stranger's library fees.
46. Do a favor without asking for anything in return.
47. Donate your old clothes to the children's shelter.
48. Help a struggling student.
49. Walk or ride your bike.
50. Be kind to yourself!

KINDNESS



I can choose to be kind.

Each and every day.

I can choose to be kind.

To everyone in every way.

When I am kind to others,

I make the world a little brighter.

When I am kind to others,

I make my heart a little lighter.

So plant a seed of kindness,

And watch the world bloom.

So plant a seed of kindness,

and we'll chase away the gloom.

SPORTS UPDATE- 2026

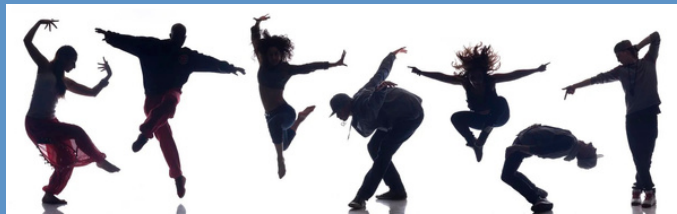


Basketball season is well underway! League games will finish the week of Feb 26th. Thank you to our parent coaches as well as Mr. Blower, Mr. Woods and our staff members who have been supporting our players with reffing, score keeping and sponsoring behind the scenes. We appreciate all of the volunteer time that everyone is spending to support our McGowan athletes.



YOUNG ARTISTS' CONFERENCE

Each year, select students in **Grades 4-7** in SD73 are invited to participate in the Annual Young Artists' Conference, held this year at TRU on April 29th. Art submissions will be collected at the school level and students will be chosen prior to Spring Break. If this is something your child/ren might be interested in, please have your child connect with Ms. Ruberg.



ARTIST IN RESIDENCE- JESS DANCE

Jess Dance is a Vancouver-based dance education organization that provides mobile hip-hop and street dance programs to schools across British Columbia and Canada. Founded by Jess Dexter in 1998, the company specializes in bringing professional instructors to elementary schools. On Feb 17-19 all of our McGowan students will be participating in lessons with "Jess Dance," and professional hip hop artist 'Younie'. Students will learn about the hip hop style and work on a street dance routine. Last year students really enjoyed these sessions as part of their PE classes and they especially loved the opportunity at the end to showcase what they had learned. I am certain it will be a positive week of physical movement!

February Advice from Shona Wood - School & Family Consultant

KINDNESS IS CONTAGIOUS

When we treat our children and teens with kindness,
they become kind and caring adults.
Love, kindness, and compassion make everyone feel better and
make the world a better place.

"TOO OFTEN WE UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF A TOUCH, A SMILE, A KIND WORD, A LISTENING EAR, AN HONEST COMPLIMENT, OR THE SMALLEST ACT OF CARING, ALL OF WHICH HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO TURN A LIFE AROUND."

- LEO BUSCAGLIA



RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS
FOUNDATION
www.randomactsofkindness.org

MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEYS

Once again the Ministry is looking for feedback through their annual learning survey. Parents can complete the Internet Electronic Anonymous Surveys, providing immediate satisfaction level results to the school and the district. Please complete this survey by Monday April 1, 2025. Students in Grades 4, and 7 will complete the survey during class time. Please use the DIRECT ACCESS log in (right hand side). To complete the survey:

1. Go to any computer that has an up-to-date internet browser access at home or work. Go to http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm.

You can also enter through our school website under the PARENT/STUDENTS/ SUPPORT HELP TOP TAB and then in the 'drop down' menu select MINISTRY STUDENT LEARNING SURVEY.

2. Find our district and school name and language you prefer.

3. Complete the survey by clicking on the 'radio buttons" for each question. Move to the next set of questions by clicking on NEXT in the bottom right corner of the screen.

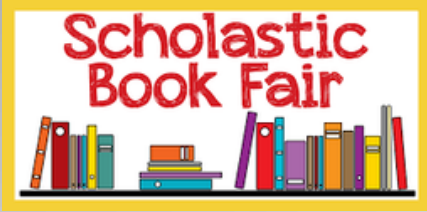
4. When you are finished the survey, you will get a message "Thank you for sharing your views."

5. Once complete, our school will have the results immediately.

Your views are completely anonymous, but very helpful in planning for our school.

Thank you for participating.





LIBRARY NEWS

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to McGowan Mar 2-6th! Mark your calendars. Students will be bringing home information regarding times and books for sale as we get closer to the date.



CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

Criminal Record Checks are required for all volunteers and 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

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL PICK-UP AND STUDENT SAFETY

*****The school parking lot is limited to STAFF ONLY. ******

To help ensure the safety of our students, parents should not be parking in the bus loop or in either of our staff lots *at any time* to drop off or pick up students. And please do not block the entrance of the staff parking lot.

Parents are encouraged to park in the designated areas along Tremerton Drive or have students walk from our surrounding neighborhood areas. Please do not park in neighborhood home driveways or block the entrance to peoples' driveways. Thank you for your support and understanding to keep our students safe.



YOUNG AUTHORS' CONFERENCE

Each year, select students in Grades 4-7 in SD73 are invited to participate in the Annual Young Authors' Conference, held at TRU. Deadlines for submissions are yet to be determined, but if this is something your child/ren might be interested in, please have your child connect with Mrs. Ruberg or Mrs. Stonehouse in the library.

February - Cookies for Kindness



February is a month when we traditionally focus on kindness and caring, and it's a wonderful reminder of the importance of including others, sharing, and looking out for one another. This month at McGowan Park, we are excited to launch our **Cookies for Kindness** initiative!

Throughout February, staff will be on the lookout for students who demonstrate acts of kindness, thoughtfulness, and care toward others. When students are noticed showing kindness, they will be recognized with a paper kindness heart, celebrating their positive actions. Each kindness heart can be entered into a draw for cookies! Each Friday one primary student and one intermediate student will be recognized. Each student recognized will receive a whole box of cookies to take back to their classroom to share with their class, reinforcing the joy of generosity and community.

Adding to the fun, our special guest "Inspector Gizmo" has been visiting classrooms and hallways, searching first-hand for examples of kindness in action. The school is buzzing with excitement as we are eagerly finding ways to show kindness through our school community.

This initiative will run for the entire month of February and has already created a lot of positive energy around our school. We are so proud of our McGowan students and their enthusiasm for spreading kindness!



McGowan Park Fundraiser Concert

**GRADES 1-5 SING
WITH NORMAN FOOTE!**

FUNDRAISER FOR SOUND CART
STORAGE UNIT FOR OUR GYM!

Tickets \$15 each
Singers attend free/
Children under 5 Free!

**NORMAN FOOTE- PROFESSIONAL
SINGER/SONGWRITER/COMEDIAN-**

**GR.1-5 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN SONG
WRITING WORKSHOPS AND PARENTS ARE
INVITED TO HEAR STUDENTS PERFORM**

**FRIDAY FEBRUARY
27TH @ 6:30PM**

**MCGOWAN
STUDENTS PERFORM
WITH PROFESSIONAL
CANADIAN ARTIST**

NORMAN FOOTE

**MCGOWAN
CHOIRS WILL
PERFORM!**

NORMAN FOOTE



TICKETS
AVAILABLE ON
SCHOOLCASH
ONLINE OR BY
CASH AT SCHOOL
OFFICE

CONCERT FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27TH @ 6:30PM

Grade 1-5 Concert with Norman Foote-Feb 27 @6:30pm

On Friday Feb 27, students in grade 1-5 will be performing in our Norman Foote Fundraiser concert in the McGowan Park gym at 6:30pm.

Students have been learning some of Norman Foote's songs to join him on stage and on Thursday and Friday classes will be participating in song writing sessions to write some original pieces. They will perform these songs for families in the evening!

Tickets are for sale on SchoolCash- \$15-This is a fundraiser concert to support Part 2 of our SoundSystem Upgrade for our gym. Please call the school if you have any questions (250-374-4545)

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026

Neighborhood Kindergarten Registration starts February 1-6th. If you live in the catchment for McGowan Park Elementary or Snine Elementary, please visit our school office between 9am-3pm to pick up a registration package. Students who need to be registered for Kindergarten at the new school, Snine Elementary, can pick up forms at McGowan Elementary in preparation for the next school year.

Only students from their catchment areas may be accepted at this time and parents do need to prove they live in our catchment area to attend. Students from another neighborhood must register at their catchment area school, complete an "APPLICATION FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENT TRANSFER TO ANOTHER SCHOOL" form and bring that to McGowan Park Elementary during the official Kindergarten registration time. All out of catchment students will be put on a wait list and will be notified if there is room at our school.

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS K REG DATES - FEBRUARY 1-6, 2026

PLANNING AHEAD IN 2026

Feb 6	District Inservice Day
Feb 12/13	Harper Mountain- Gr. 5/6
Feb 13	Artstarts Performance Unplug & Play Sheets Due
Feb 16	Family Day - No School
Feb 17	Lockdown Drill #2
Feb 18-20	Hip Hop Artist
Feb 25	Pink Shirt Day PAC Friendship Dance
Feb 26/27	Norman Foote Norman Foote Concert- 6:30pm
Mar 2-6	McGowan Book Fair
Mar 6	McGowan Jump Day
Mar 11	Artstarts Trollsons Performance Term 2 Report Cards
Mar 12	Bakesale- by Straker's Class
Mar 14-29	Spring Break
Apr 3 & 6	Easter Long Weekend
Apr 15/16	Spring Production

Welcome to
Kindergarten!

SCHOOL FEES - SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

Fees cover the expense of school supplies as well as a concert series for our students. Please be aware that unpaid fees directly affect programs and resources at the school. Fees are available to view on the School Cash Online site ([Click HERE](#)). Please call the office at 250-374-4545 if you need more information about the total cost for fees, or if you require assistance with the School Cash Online program.

Hello
FEBRUARY

