

McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



January 2026

PRINCIPALS REPORT

Dear families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year to all of our McGowan community! I hope all of our families have had a restful winter break and are ready for 2026!

Learning Updates (Report Cards) were published on December 12 and I encourage parents to review their child's progress thus far and make goals for the rest of the school year. I am thrilled to share some thoughts on a key theme that is guiding our journey throughout the coming months: McGowan Magic.

As we begin the new year, our schoolwide theme—McGowan Magic—celebrates the everyday wonders of learning and growth that happen in our classrooms. The real magic isn't tricks or sparkle; it's the moment a student masters a new skill, gains confidence, or discovers a love for learning. January is a perfect time to reflect on how far our students have come and to look ahead with excitement as the magic continues to grow at McGowan Park Elementary.

Let's enjoy the month of January remembering the "MAGIC" in our children's learning and growth.

With gratitude and a touch of school magic

Mrs. Latta (Proud Principal)



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION 2026

Neighborhood Kindergarten Registration starts February 1-6th. If you live in the catchment for McGowan Park Elementary, please visit the school office between 9am-3pm to pick up a registration package and return the completed package by February 6. Only students from our catchment area may be accepted at this time and parents 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. Out of catchment students will be put on a wait list and notified in September if there is room at our school.

Students who need to be registered for the September at the new school Snine Elementary, are able to pick up forms at McGowan in preparation for the next school year.

Schools of Choice Information Night - January 14, 2026

Schools of Choice K Reg Dates - January 19-23, 2026

K Information Night - January 28, 2026

Neighborhood Schools K Reg Dates - February 1-6, 2026

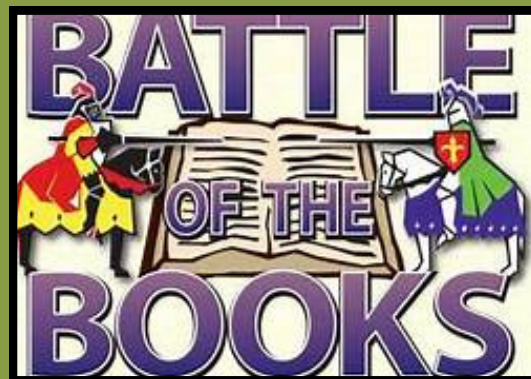
UNPLUG AND PLAY WEEK- JAN 24 - 31ST

Keep a lookout for Unplug and Play brochures coming home with your child this month. There are great events happening throughout the community, and we are hoping that families will take this time to enjoy activities such as: reading, doing crafts, playing board games, puzzles, etc. to decrease screen time. Brochures can also be filled out and returned to the school in order to be entered into a draw for a prize!



BATTLE OF THE BOOKS

Welcome back everyone! Battle of the Books practices will begin this month for students in grades 3-7. Battle of the Books is a Kamloops Reading Motivation Program. The goals of the program is to encourage and to recognize students who enjoy reading and to broaden reading interests. Students will be practicing with Ms. Stonehouse in the library one day a week at lunch and teams will be put together in March. Zones and District competitions will take place in April.



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. Art submissions will be collected at the school level at the end of February 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. Latta.



Basketball Season is here!!



Basketball season is underway. Special thanks to Mr. Woods and Mr. Blower for organising the teams for McGowan. League games begin Tuesday January 20th. Stay tuned for more info coming home soon.

Pancake Breakfast.

On Friday December 12th, students and staff were treated to a hot pancake breakfast. Members of the PAC arrived early in the morning to make over 800 pancakes for our school community. Special thanks to our PAC events team that provided such a special treat that day!





CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE

Our children and teenagers are often reminded about what's not going well for them, for others, or in our world.

We need to teach them to see the beauty and the blessings that surround them, every day, to focus on what is going well and what we do have. A positive attitude helps them to feel safe, to feel happy, satisfied, and appreciative.

We can't always control what happens, but we can choose how to respond to it.

Let's help them see and celebrate our beautiful, diverse world.

A lovely little movie: Gratitude-

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4115qFsdWKQ>

SNOW AND SLEDDING AT MCGOWAN

Each year we need to remind our students about the expectations when the snow accumulates.

Please review these expectations with your child and know that children that are not safe outside will need to review these 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 can bring a sled from home, however, these are stored outside the building and they are not to be taken on the school bus.
- All students sliding must be wearing snow pants and mittens. Students sledding must be seated to slide. Primary students are only sliding on the hill closest to the primary playground. Intermediate students are sliding on the far hill closest to the music portable.



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 or bare 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.



INSIDE DAYS

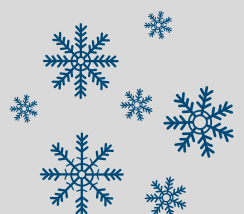
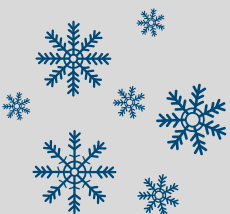
A huge thank you to staff and parent volunteers who help with noon hour supervision. With the cold weather coming, we expect there will be some inside days due to the freezing temperatures.

During the winter months many children enjoy the outside and winter weather. Heading outside is always the #1 preferred activity for children so that they get fresh air and exercise. However, with the cold weather, we will sometimes have days where it is not safe to have the children playing outside.

While there is not a solid temperature set for inside days, please know that we do watch the temperature daily and factor in the wind chill. On days where students stay inside, we will have the library open for games club and also have a room for colouring. Teachers are also planning to have activities available for students to enjoy.



*Cold days
Warm hearts!*



McGowan Christmas Concert- "Joy to the World"

Our December Christmas Concert on December 11th was a wonderful celebration of winter traditions from around the world. McGowan students filled the gym with holiday spirit as our Kindergarten to Grade 5 classes performed joyful songs and dances for a full house of families and friends. The evening truly showcased the talent, enthusiasm, and hard work of our students. Thank you to all the families who generously brought Christmas hamper donations—your kindness made the night even more meaningful. Students and staff were incredibly proud of our amazing school community!



SCHOOL CALENDAR 2026

JANUARY

- 6 PAC MEETING - 6PM**
- 8/9 BLOWER- DRUG AWARENESS PRES.**
- 12 MCCAUGHERTY @ GYMNASTICS**
- 15 GLIEGE/NESSMAN @ SKATING- MEMORIAL**
- 15/16 BLOWER- DRUG AWARENESS**
- 18 NEW K- SCHOOLS OF CHOICE MEETING**
- 19 MCCAUGHERTY @ GYMNASTICS**
- 20 BASKETBALL LEAGUE PLAY BEGINS**
- 24-31 UNPLUG & PLAY WEEK**
- 26 MCCAUGHERTY GYMNASTICS**
- 28 NEW KINDERGARTEN INFO NIGHT- 6:30PM**
- 29 INTERMEDIATE MOVIE NIGHT**

FEBRUARY

- 2 MCCAUGHERTY- GYMNASTICS**
- 6 DISTRICT PROD DAY- NO SCHOOL**
- 9 MCCAUGHERTY- GYMNASTICS**
- 13 MCGOWAN VALENTINES DAY
GREEN THUMB THEATRE- PERFORMANCE**
- 18 FAMILY DAY- NO SCHOOL**
- 18-20 HIP HOP ARTIST IN RESIDENCE**
- 23 MCCAUGHERTY GYMNASTICS**
- 25 PINK SHIRT DAY- KINDNESS DANCE**
- 26 NORMAN FOOTE CONCERT**

MARCH

- 11 TROLLSONS ARTS PERFORMANCE**
- 12 BASKETBALL ENDS**
- 14- 29 SPRING BREAK**



Criminal Record Checks

The district is requiring Criminal Record checks for all adults who will be working/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



LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS

The best way to get your child's belongings back to them if lost is to label them with their first and last name (last name at the very least). This includes jackets, hoodies, winter boots, snow pants, and water bottles. We do our best to return lost items to students but without a label it is very difficult.



**HAPPY
JANUARY**

KINDERGARTEN

IT TAKES A VILLAGE CONNECTING FAMILIES TO KINDERGARTEN

A Parent/Caregiver-focused event:

Learn about local community supports and programs that can help your child transition smoothly into Kindergarten.



February 18, 2026

TIME: 5:30PM - 7:30PM

John Tod Early Years Center

150 Wood St, Kamloops, BC



Afterschool Robotics Program

Cost ~~\$249~~
\$199 for McGowan
Park Elementary
Students



Lesson 1:
3 wheels are better than 2

Lesson 2:
The first battle bot

Lesson 3:
Fun with Steam Rollers

Lesson 4:
Asteroid Defence

Lesson 5:
Battle bot round 2

Join us on
Jan 20, 27,
Feb 03, 10, 17
@ McGowan Park
Elementary
(2080 Tremerton Dr)
for our Afterschool
Robotics Program
5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Ages 6 - 12



REGISTER NOW



ROBTHINK
Build, Code and Play with Robots
KAMLOOPS

250-574-7099

kamloops@myrobothink.com

Robothink Registration

<https://tinyurl.com/574zmqwy>