

# McGowan Park Elementary MAGIC MONTHLY



**NOVEMBER 2025**

## PRINCIPALS REPORT

Dear families,

As November arrives, our halls are filled with the magic of learning, kindness, and reflection. This month gives us many opportunities to pause and appreciate the people and moments that make our school community so special.

In November, we take time to honour and remember those who served and continue to serve our country. As part of our Remembrance Day observances, students will learn about the importance of peace, courage, and gratitude. Through classroom discussions, art, and poetry, we will reflect on the sacrifices that have helped shape the freedoms we enjoy today. Our Remembrance Day assembly will be a time for our school community to come together in respect and remembrance.

Our theme this month is “The Magic of Gratitude and Reflection.” We see this magic daily—in the kindness students show one another, in their determination to learn, and in the sense of community that fills our classrooms. November is also a time to recognize and thank our families for the many ways you support our school. Your involvement, encouragement, and care help our students shine brighter every day.

As we move through this season of change, let’s continue to celebrate the magic in small moments—whether it’s a thoughtful gesture, a new discovery, or simply taking a moment to say thank you. Wishing you and your family a peaceful and reflective November.

With gratitude and a touch of school magic

Mrs. Latta (Proud Principal)



## ACCESSING MYEDBC FOR PARENTS/STUDENTS

Upcoming learning updates (report cards) will be uploaded to the MYED portal. MyEducationBC (MyEd BC) is a secure student information system set up by the province of BC. Security is guided by the rules and regulations of the School Act and Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

The MyEd BC Parent Portal is available for parents to access:

- Attendance information
- Report cards
- GradeBook marks (for those classes using MyEd BC Gradebook)
- Your current contact information
- Individual Education Plans (and progress reports)
- Verification sheets
- Student Portfolio

**\*\*We recommend trying to login before the reports are published to ensure that you are able to login. An email will be sent to you on the day the reports are published to the parent portal.**

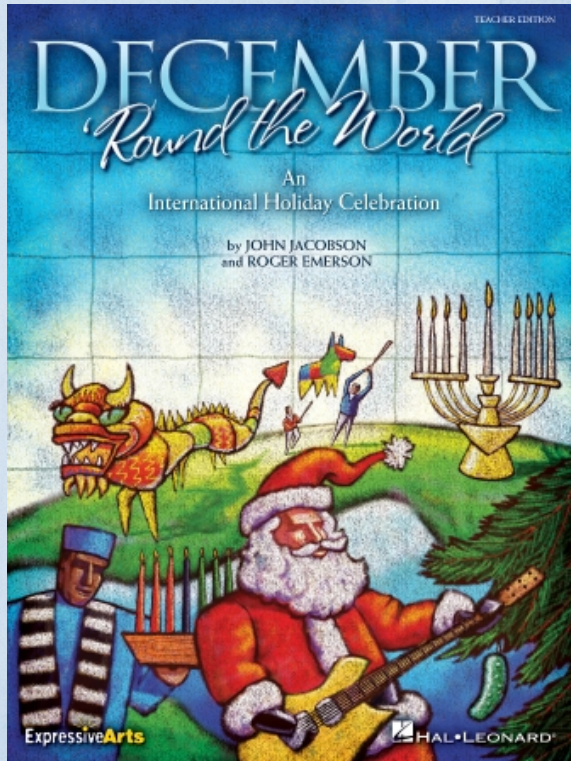
As a reminder, your username is the email address you provided to the school and the password is in the email that was sent to you already (when the account was created). If you have forgotten your password, please click on the “I forgot my password” link and follow the instructions before contacting the school.

There is support information on the school website (under Parents and Students Heading, MyED BC parent and student Portal)



## REMEMBRANCE DAY AT MCGOWAN

On Monday, November 10th, students at McGowan will all participate in our school assembly, showing respect and honouring those who fought for our freedom. A few classes will be presenting songs and poems and all classes will create a wreath to lay in remembrance. It is always a beautiful time to remember as students wear poppies and we show respect with remembrance.



### McGOWAN CHRISTMAS CONCERT: DECEMBER ROUND THE WORLD

December traditions take center stage this holiday season as 'round the world we go! DISCOVER the special preparations for Chinese New Year, Germany's St. Nicholas Day tradition of a hidden pickle in the Tannenbaum, the seven principles of Kwanzaa from our African ancestors, the miracle and lights of Jewish Hanukkah, the festive atmosphere of Mexico's Las Posadas and Christmas Canadian-style! SHARE the universal messages of peace, hope and good will in our school and community this holiday season. **This year's concert is Thursday December 11 at 1:15 & 6:00pm.** The concert this year will include many of our classes K-6. Please check with your child to find out if they are involved! (Intermediates are also planning a musical for the spring- stay tuned!)

VOLLEYBALL SEASON IS WELL UNDERWAY. THIS YEAR WE HAVE 6 TEAMS. OUR GAMES ARE HAPPENING ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS EACH WEEK.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER COACHES ERIN WATERS, JAMIE ROOS AND JOANNE LOADER AS WELL AS OUR OWN COACHES MR. WOODS, MR. BLOWER, MS. ORYSCHAK, MS. STRAKER, MS. REILLY AND MS. BONE.

WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR MR. BLOWER FOR COORDINATING OUR REFS AND MS. BAERG FOR ORGANIZING OUR SCORE KEEPERS. WE APPRECIATE YOUR TIME AND ENERGY SUPPORTING OUR KIDS THIS SEASON!

# VOLLEYBALL



## BUSY TRAFFIC COORDOR

Our school is located in a busy corridor and dropping students off and picking up is a very busy time. It has been brought to our attention that traffic can be very hectic at the crosswalk by the church on Summit Drive. Please chat with your children about safety when crossing at these lights. Let's all drive with care and caution to help ensure our kids are getting to and from school safely.



## Counselling Corner



November can be a time of reflection, to look back and appreciate the sacrifices others have made for us. We want our children and teens to remember, to appreciate, to value our freedom, choices, and opportunities.

But what do our children and teens remember, what is stored, what is contributing to who they will become as adults?



Often it is how we make them feel in our presence. A kind word, a smile, a gentle gesture, a peaceful moment, a true connection. Non-verbal communication can be 70% or more, so what are we communicating and what will be remembered?

## The Handbells continue to Ring!

Ms. Ruberg's handbell group just finished their Halloween Handbell debut and on October 30 & 31 McGowan students were treated to some Halloween Handbells over our morning announcements.

What a beautiful sound these bells make. They are now busy working on some wonderful Christmas music! We look forward to their next debut hopefully at our Christmas concert in December!



## Robothinks

During the week of October 14-17, students at McGowan were excited to welcome RoboThink Kamloops for a hands-on STEM learning experience! RoboThink offers engaging programs that teach children about science, technology, engineering, and math through building and coding robots. All classes from Kindergarten to Grade 7 had the opportunity to participate in a lesson, learning how to design and create their own robots. The sessions encouraged creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork – and most importantly, sparked a lot of excitement for learning through innovation and fun!



## Indigenous Community Dinner

McGowan, Dufferin, and South Sahali Elementary Schools came together for our first Indigenous Community Dinner — an evening filled with connection, culture, and celebration. Over 60 students and parents joined us to share a meal of chili and bannock, enjoy traditional storytelling, and experience the beauty of Indigenous dance. The evening concluded with a circle dance, symbolizing unity and community. It was a wonderful way to come together as three school communities, and we look forward to continuing this new tradition with more shared dinners in the future.



## POINTS OF PROGRESS

Research shows that strong communication between school and home is vital for student success. Regular updates on progress and ongoing dialogue throughout the year help keep parents and educators engaged in the students' learning.

Points of Progress Timeline for McGowan:

Oct/Nov Flexible Sharing of Student learning

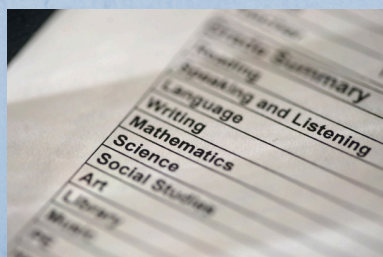
December 12: 1st Formal Learning Update

March 11: Second Formal Learning Update

Spring: Presentation of Learning/Information Sharing

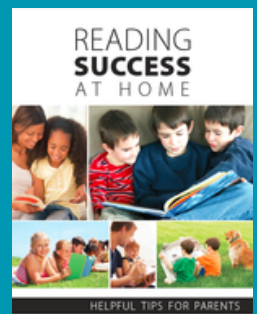
June 25: Final Formal Learning Update

During the months of Oct/November teachers will be updating you on your child's learning in different ways. Some teachers will invite families to come in for parent/teacher interviews, others will host presentations of learning and some teachers send home informal reports.



## GR.1 COME READ WITH ME

October 16 our Grade 1 families participated in our annual "Come Read with Me" program. This is a very helpful session for the grown-ups to attend, as it teaches some valuable strategies that help to support children to learn the fundamentals of reading. Families learn games and skills to help support children with learning to read and develop language skills. All families left with a bag of activities and books for their child. This year we had over 42 families represented and present to help support our students with beginning literacy. Well done McGowan!!



## Candy Bones Theatre Visits McGowan!

November 3, students were treated to an engaging and interactive performance by Candy Bones Theatre, a multidisciplinary arts company that combines theatre, music, shadow puppetry, and comedy. The show explored creativity, growth mindset, and the power of perseverance in a fun and entertaining way. With plenty of audience participation and lots of laughs, students learned the importance of “trying and trying again” through the magic of live performance!



### **HEALTHY MORNING SNACKS FOR EARLY STUDENT ARRIVALS**

This year, we are supporting our students with healthy snacks to start their day. On Tuesday & Thursday mornings there will be healthy snacks available for students that need something to eat before school begins. Special thanks to Ms. Straker and Ms. Kotani for preparing the food on these days. We have been currently feeding around 30 students needing a little extra snack on these mornings!





## CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS

The district is requiring site specific 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>.

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This is specific to McGowan

### **CALENDAR 2025**

#### **NOVEMBER**

- 3 CANDYBONE THEATRE**
- 6 CLIMBING LOUNGE- GLIEGE**
- 10 REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY- 10:45AM**
- 11 REMEMBRANCE DAY - NO SCHOOL**
- 13 FIRE DRILL #3**
- 21 MILK & COOKIE DAY- SPCA FUNDRAISER  
WILDSAFE BC PRESENTATIONS**
- 27 PAC MOVIE NIGHT**

#### **DECEMBER**

- 1 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY**
- 3 LOWRENOFF- SKATING @ MEMORIAL  
ANNE GREEN GABLES-SAGEBRUSH**
- 11 CHRISTMAS CONCERT-1:15 & 6PM**
- 12 PAC PANCAKE BREAKFAST**
- 15 WOODS SKATING**
- 16 LOWRENOFF/GLIEGE- SKATING**
- 19 LAST DAY BEFORE WINTER BREAK**



## LOST & FOUND

You would be astounded to see how many items we have in our Lost and Found. We pick up many items that are left outside at recess and lunch, but it is difficult to return them to their rightful owners if there is no name on them. We ask that you label all of your child/ren's belongings so that we can get these "lost" items back to your family ASAP. All of the lost and found items can be found on the Lost and Found rack in the middle hallway outside Mr. Murphy's custodial room.

## 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!

