



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, September 9, 2022

McKenzie Elementary School wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories, we live, we learn, we play and we do our work.

Principal’s Message:

It has been a great week; full of excitement, laughter and some nerves. Our class / grade structure has been approved by the district; so we are set for the year. We have welcomed a number of new staff members and families to our McKenzie Community; thank you to everyone for making all of us ‘newbies’ feel so welcomed. Our new kindergarten students started to attend in small groups today; please be sure to say ‘Hi’ to the graduating class of 2035!

As we move into the weekend, it is important to remember that students need time to adjust to new learning situations, new teacher(s) and new friends. The beginning of the school year can be emotionally difficult and disappointments can be magnified due to lack of sleep, change in routines etc. However, in almost all cases, students adapt to their new classes within a few weeks. We also know that children take their cues from the important adults in their lives; so thank you in advance for your support and additional patience with your children.

Carmen

Carmen Gauvreau

Mark your calendar!

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept. 12	Sept. 13	Sept. 14 First Full Day of Kindergarten	Sept. 15	Sept. 16

DATES TO NOTE:

Sept. 21 – Photo Day

Sept. 22 – PAC Welcome Event

Sept. 23 – Non-Instructional Day (no school for students)

Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (Statutory Holiday)

ATTENDANCE:

If your child is going to be absent from school please remember to let us know. Either via email attendance27@sd61.bc.ca or call our office 250-479 1691.

NEW STAFF AT MCKENZIE:

Please connect to our school website <https://mckenzie.sd61.bc.ca/staff-info/staff-directory/> for an updated list of all of our new staff member

ALLERGY AWARENESS:

McKenzie Elementary has a number of students and staff with severe allergies. **All types of nuts (peanuts and tree nuts), fish, shellfish, sesame, cherries and bees are the items of greatest concern. For some students and staff members, these foods cause an anaphylaxis reaction which could result in death.** We also have a number of children who are Celiac and / or gluten intolerant. **When preparing lunches, we strongly encourage the use of alternatives to peanut or nut butters and we ask that you avoid sending peanuts, all types of tree nuts, fish/shellfish and cherries.**



Students that do happen to bring allergens in their lunch will be asked to eat at a specific table / desk so that the surfaces can be properly cleaned to reduce exposure and risk

Reducing the risk for these students and staff members is of great importance. Thank you for your support and effort to make McKenzie Elementary a healthy, safe and caring place for everyone!

Please visit School District #61's Healthy, Safe and Caring Schools webpage (<https://healthyschools.sd61.bc.ca/student-health/tool-kit-for-management-of-emergency-medical-conditions/>) for information on anaphylaxis training, childhood diseases and ailments. In addition, here is a link (<https://www.allergyaware.ca/courses/>) for FREE anaphylaxis training. This is the same course that all of our staff members take each year. If your child has a friend or classmate with a severe, or anaphylactic allergy, this is great information for you to have for playdates and birthdays.

REPORT CARDS AND DIGITAL PORTFOLIOS:

FreshGrade is no longer available as a reporting platform to document student progress. The company was sold earlier this year and the new owner decommissioned the platform on August 31. Neither "Classic" or "Connect" are accessible. The school district has archived FreshGrade data for legal purposes.

For this school year, a new Digital Portfolio Tool has been created by school district technology staff and is now live for all K-8. Parents will access the Digital Portfolios through Parent Connect. Older students will also be able to access their portfolio through Student Connect using their Google account login once a teacher sets up their class template.

Our staff also has the option of utilizing a more traditional report card format call *Communicating Student Learning (CSL)*. Teachers will be communicating which format they have chosen over the next few weeks.

Parent information regarding the new digital portfolio is [located here](#)

STUDENT FORMS:



FORMS, forms, forms. You should have received a package of information. Please review ALL sections, make changes and sign. **PLEASE RETURN THEM TO THE SCHOOL ASAP.**

PARENT CONNECT, SCHOOL PLANNERS AND SCHOOL CASH ONLINE:

We will be sending out a separate email related to the items above as we are in the process of updating our school website and links to match the current school year. Thank you for your patience!