



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, January 31, 2025

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.

Administrator's Message:

We have had a very busy week with a Robbie Burns Day celebration and various staff changes. Today is Mrs. Wanless's last day before she begins her personal leave. On Monday she and her family depart on a 6-month trip that will have them visiting 9 different countries. We wish Mrs. Wanless and her family safe travels and amazing adventures. Ms. Bell will be rejoining the McKenzie staff as Mrs. Wanless's replacement. Mrs. Bell was with us last year and we are very grateful that she was able to rejoin the McKenzie community. Last week we also said goodbye to Ms. Evan's, who worked alongside Mrs. McGregor in division 11. Mr. Horwood is replacing Ms. Evan's until the end of the year. Many of you are likely familiar with Mr. Horwood and he is a regular and well liked toc at McKenzie.

Thank you to the PAC for arranging last night's Parent Education workshop on finding a balance with digital technology. Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing pieces that we learned. One way to find a better balance with your personal devices is not to take them into your bedroom, bathroom or have them at the table while you are eating. New habits such as these may prove to be difficult to start; but research shows a marked improvement on mental health when both children and adults have clear boundaries with their devices and screens.

Wishing everyone a limited screen weekend!



Student's will be dismissed at 11:50am on Wednesday. Please plan on attending the Student Led Conferences and Art Show between the hours of 12:30-5pm.

Ms. Carmen

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Feb. 3	Feb. 4	Feb. 5 11:50am dismissal Student Led Conferences & Art Show 12:30-5pm Last Day of Book Fair 12-5pm	Feb. 6	Feb. 7

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- Feb 10 – Jump Rope Event
- Feb 10-13 – Student Transfer Process
- Feb 12 – PAC Meeting
- Feb 14 – Pro-D Day (no school for students)
- Feb 17 – Statutory Holiday
- Feb 19 – 100 Day Celebration for Kindies
- Feb 21 – Hot Lunch – Pizza and Sushi

GVSD Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Calendar

February Dates to Note:

- 11 – International Day of Women and Girls in Science
- 14 – Women's Memorial March
- 14 – Valentine's Day
- 17 – Family Day
- 17-23 – Heritage Week
- 28 – Pink Shirt Day
- 28- -Rare Disease Day

2024-25 SCHOOL GROWTH PLAN FOR MCKENZIE SCHOOL:

SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING GOAL: As a staff and community, we will provide students with opportunities to improve or increase their sense of belonging at school.

LITERACY GOAL: To improve writing through more explicit, tactile and oral language pre- writing strategies.

What is the Bike Bus?

A Bike Bus is a safe and enjoyable way for children to get to and from school riding bikes. One day a week, trained adult Bike Leaders and parent volunteers will lead a group bike ride to and from school on a mapped route.

Here is more information on the [HUB Cycling Bike Bus Program](#). Watch a video by the City of Vancouver about the [Bike Bus at Gordon Elementary](#).

School Travel Survey

To help us determine the level of interest and feasibility of running a Bike Bus in Spring 2025, we kindly request that you distribute the attached letter and [short School Travel Survey](#) to all families at your school, even if they do not plan to participate in the Bike Bus:

<https://forms.gle/ZHbF6cLWwuQcGUSr6>

Why do we ask families to complete a survey?

Information collected in the survey helps us to:

- Identify children and parents/guardians who are interested in participating
- Understand how families get to and from your school
- Plan a safe route based on where interested families are located
- Recruit volunteer Bike Bus Leaders

The deadline to complete this survey is **Wednesday, February 5**.

Note that at this stage, we are gathering information required to determine *if* we can run a Bike Bus at your school this Spring. Completing this process does not guarantee a Bike Bus will run at your school in Spring 2025.



The last day of our Scholastic Book Fair will be February 5th. Hours are 12-5pm.



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART ON FEBRUARY 10th:

Our school is excited to participate in Jump Rope for Heart this year! Students will discover fun ways to get active, practice healthy habits and learn about helping others while raising money to beat heart disease and stroke. We were given prizes for the school and one student from each class will win something just for participating!



[Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser Link](#)

McKenzie School celebrated Robbie Burns Day with a terrific performance by The Bon Accord Highland Dancers, and Ms. Johnston's dad was the bag piper!

Thank you so much for the special treat for our students and staff!!



PAC NEWS:

Thank you to our wonderful PAC for organizing the presentation:

Finding a Balance with Digital Technology

We have received positive feedback from several parents who found it very informative.

PARENT AND FAMILY RESOURCES:

Looking for a resource from a previous week? Click [here](#) for the full list.

Safer Schools Together Parent Resources
Safer Schools Together (SST) specializes in enhancing school safety by providing comprehensive training, services and tools that address both digital and behavioral threats.

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/resources/parent-caregiver-resources/>

If you have a resource to share, email it to mckenziepac@gmail.com.