



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, September 12, 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.

Administrators' Message:

We have had a fantastic first, full week at school and all our classes have begun to settle into their new schedules and routines.

We have a variety of funding resources available at school for families and students that may need some help with extra items for meals at school (extra breakfast food and supplementary lunch items), additional groceries, covering costs of school planners, school supplies and more. We know that the rising costs of living in Victoria continues to present challenges for many in our community and we have additional resources to help. If your family could use some additional support in these areas, please do not hesitate to reach out to your classroom teacher or one of us in the office.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Welcome Back Event when the classrooms will be open to visit between 5:00 – 5:30 next Wednesday.

Have a great weekend.

Jordana & Carmen

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept 15	Sept 16	Sept 17 Welcome Back Event 4:30-6pm 	Sept 18 Popsicle Sale after school  PAC Hot Lunch	Sept 19 Div 1, 2 & 3 Field Trip to Holland Point (Dallas Rd.)

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Sept. 17 – Welcome Back Event
Sept. 22 – Pro-D Day (no school for students)
Sept. 26 – Terry Fox Run at 2pm
Sept. 29 – Orange Shirt Day & Assembly at 11:00am
Sept. 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no school for students)

SPECIAL FOOD DAY!

Our First Special Food Day of the year is next
Thursday, September 18th

Order deadline is Sunday, September 14th

To order, visit www.mckenzie.hotlunches.net
Questions? mckenziehotlunch@gmail.com

Grade 4/5 Salish Sea Program Fundraiser:

Popsicle Sales
\$2 each!

For sale by the C doors,
after school on:
Thursday, September 18,
25 and Thursday,
October 2

Thank you for supporting
our grade 4/5 classes!



SEPTEMBER REMINDERS

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 phone: 250 479 1691.



PARENT CONNECT:

Parent Connect is the Greater Victoria School District online service used for signing digital forms and providing consent for use of digital tools in the classroom. Please log in (or sign up using the email address you provided the school) to Parent Connect and review the consent items where action is required. Additionally, you are encouraged to review items that you have previously consented to by selecting 'Forms' in the menu. Consent for all forms and digital tools rolls over from year-to-year. For additional information please visit the tech for learning site: <https://techforlearning.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-connect/>

PARKING:

The staff parking lot on Raymond Street is very small and is for staff parking only. There are two additional lots at the back of the school, or street parking along Margaret and Raymond Streets for family parking. In addition, please remember to respect our neighbours by not blocking their driveways or parking on their lawns when you are dropping off or picking up your children.

DOGS:



Dogs are not allowed to be on school property during the school day. Please leave your four-legged friends at home if you are walking your child(ren) to and from the school.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Our online calendar has been updated with dates of PAC meetings, Pro-D Days, School Vacations, and other important dates. Please visit <https://mckenzie.sd61.bc.ca/news-events/calendar/> to view.



AGENDAS:

We are asking families to pay \$10 for each agenda and encourage payment be made through The Cash Online site (link is on the left side on the homepage of our McKenzie School website). Cash will be accepted if you are unable to use the CashOnline site.

EARLY PICKUP:



If you are picking up your child prior to the dismissal bell, please ensure that you sign them out at the office. In the event of an emergency, it is extremely important for us to know which students are in the school.

STUDENT FORMS:

You should have received, or will be receiving, a package of important office forms. Please review all sections, make changes, sign and return to the school with your child(ren) as soon as possible.

TEAMS & CLUBS AT MCKENZIE:

In the coming months there will be sports teams and clubs starting up at McKenzie. Information will be shared on the daily announcements, so that children know what is being offered and when and where to sign up. Some clubs being offered are Sticker, Maker, Board Games & Play Bins, Stamp, Pokémon, Playground Helpers and Leadership. More information to come...

ALLERGY AWARENESS:

McKenzie Elementary has several students and staff with severe allergies. **All types of nuts (peanuts and tree nuts), fish, shellfish, sesame, flax, kiwi, cherries, wheat, rye, barley, oats, ALL egg and egg products, ALL bird meat, wasps 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 several 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, the following is a link for FREE anaphylaxis training. <https://www.allergyaware.ca/courses/>. This is the same course that all 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.



McKenzie PAC
presents

Hey McKenzie families! The PAC is excited to help kick off the school year with a fun, schoolwide play date. Come join other families on the school field from 4:30-6:00pm. Our classrooms will be open from 5-5:30pm for walkthroughs and casual chats with staff.

What to expect:

- Meet your child's teachers during our open house
- Bring a picnic and a blanket to relax on the school grounds
- Play, connect, and enjoy some outdoor fun!

 Got lawn games? Bring them along! The more, the merrier.

Come join us, catch up with friends, and make this first month back extra special. We can't wait to see you there!

~Your PAC

Western Educational Adventures

W.E. have some fantastic programs being offered throughout the school year. Some examples are: TechFree Programs, Teen Wilderness Expeditions, Spring Break Camps, Year-Long Youth Leadership and Fall Pro-D Camps.

Check out www.westernadventures.ca for more information.

UVIC PACIFIC COAST SWIMMING HAS A MCKENZIE SWIM TEAM Lightning F.A.S.T. "Friends Learning Skills Together"



REGISTRATION INFORMATION has been sent home with students interested, can be picked up in the office or email the school sponsor Ms. Sam – sblair@sd61.bc.ca

Practices will be on Wednesdays, our first practice will be on Wednesday, Oct 29th from 3:15pm-4:00pm. Program runs Oct - Mar with 4 swim meets a year.

PARTICIPANTS MUST BE ABLE TO COMPETENTLY SWIM 25 METERS AND BE COMFORTABLE IN THE WATER WITHOUT AN INSTRUCTOR IN THE POOL WITH THEM.

KidsKlub

MCKENZIE EARLY LEARNERS

Kids Klub is proud to be opening a new Early Learners program at McKenzie Elementary School (4005 Raymond St) for ages 3-5

FOR MORE INFO
CALL US AT 250-881-1223
OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.KIDSKLUB.CA

TERRY FOX RUN:

On Friday, September 26th our students will be running laps around the outside of our school in support of the Terry Fox Run. If you are interested in supporting this charity, please consider donating to by visiting the following fundraising link:

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/McKenzieElementary>



Combined Classes

The Greater Victoria School District is committed to creating classes that nurture individual and collaborative student learning. This includes



combined-grade (sometimes referred to as 'split' classes) where students from consecutive grades are grouped together.

The term 'combined' reflects a holistic approach that emphasizes whole group instruction, and offers opportunities for flexible groupings to meet students' learning styles and needs.

Combined Classes Encourage:



- **Cross-grade friendships**
- **Connectedness and reciprocal relationships**
- **Independence**
- **Leadership and modeling**
- **Holistic, theme-based units of inquiry**
- **Expanded opportunity for review and challenge**
- **Opportunities for a broader range of experiences**

In the Greater Victoria School District, combined classes are common and it is likely a student will experience a combined-grade class during their elementary years.