



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, September 26, 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:

This week our staff were able to come together on Monday for our first Professional Development Day. We continued our collaborative work on our literacy school goals and planned some fantastic lessons to help support our students in their writing goals for this school year.

Students participated in our annual school Terry Fox run this afternoon - wow - we have some speedy runners at McKenzie! The time out in nature as a whole school was enjoyed by all. We will continue to collect donations online or \$2 toonies for Terry and Cops for Cancer throughout next week.

On Monday, students are invited to wear orange to acknowledge Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation. We will host an assembly on Monday morning and on Tuesday, the school will be closed to honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day.

We hope your weekend is filled with wonderful things.

Carmen & Jordana

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept. 29 Orange Shirt Day Assembly @ 11am  Cross Country Meet @ 3:45pm	Sept. 30 Statutory Holiday 	Oct. 1 Photo Day 	Oct. 2 Cops for Cancer 'Ride-by' @ 2:05pm Popsicle Sale after school 	Oct. 3

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Oct. 6 – Cross Country @ Lansdowne 3:45pm
Oct. 8 – PAC Meeting
Oct. 13 – Thanksgiving (no school for students)
Oct. 14 – Cross Country @ Lambrick Park 3:45pm
Oct. 15 – Earthquake Drill @ 1:15pm
Oct. 16 – Photo Retakes
Oct. 17 – Fall Dance (tentatively set)
Oct. 17 – PAC Hot Lunch
Oct. 20 – Cross Country @ Lambrick Park 3:45pm
Oct. 24 – Professional Development Day (no school for students)

October 2025

GVSD#61 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Calendar

Oct. 2	Yom Kippur
Oct. 5	World Teachers' Day
Oct. 11	International Day of the Girl Child
Oct. 13	Thanksgiving Day
Oct. 18	Persons Day
Oct. 20	Diwali/Deepavali
Oct. 31	Halloween

COPS FOR CANCER RIDE BY OCT. 2/25

Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock 2025 is an exciting annual event where police agencies and emergency service personnel cycle for 14 days on Vancouver Island BC, raising money for childhood cancer research and support services at the Canadian Cancer Society. The cops for cancer team will be riding by McKenzie School at approximately 2:05 pm on October 2nd. Staff, students, and any family members that would like to join us will be lining the sidewalk to cheer for the riders as they peddle by. If you would like to donate to the Tour de Rock charity, please visit:



https://support.cancer.ca/site/TR/CopsforCancer/COPS_NW_even?pg=entry&fr_id=30364

BIKE TO SCHOOL WEEK – SEPTEMBER 27 – OCTOBER 3:



McKenzie Elementary is participating in Bike to School Week (BTSW) 2025! Bike to School Week (BTSW) is a 100% free community-wide celebration that encourages kids of all ages and abilities to choose biking for transportation. It is held twice a year, filled with prizes, educational opportunities, and community spirit. Kids are invited to ride their bikes to school, with their friends, or just for fun. Every ride counts, and every rider is part of a growing movement towards a healthier, greener future. Want to get involved? Participate in Capital Bike's Bingo By Bike event during BTSW from September 27-October 3. Pick up a Bingo Card from the table outside the office.

PARENT CONCERNS:

The Greater Victoria School District strives to nurture each student's learning and well-being in a safe, responsive, and inclusive learning community. If you have any suggestions, questions, or concerns about your child's learning experience, we ask that you follow our communication protocol at the following link:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-concerns-complaint-process-2/>

PARENT DRIVERS:

Are you planning on driving for a school field trip in the coming school year? Visit our McKenzie website:

<https://mckenzie.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/volunteer-driver-form/> for the drivers form and details.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS OCTOBER 21 & 22:

We are looking forward to meeting with parents and guardians on October 21st and 22nd for Parent Teacher interviews. Interviews will be scheduled using School Appointments.com and will go live for booking between Monday, October 13th @ 7am and October 19th @ 7pm. **The link with instructions will be shared in the October 10th newsletter.**

Tuesday Oct. 21st - students will be **dismissed at the regular time (2:37pm)**. Interview times will be between 3:00pm - 4:30pm

Wednesday Oct. 22nd - students will be **dismissed EARLY at the lunch bell (11:50am)**. Interview times will be between 12:45pm – 6:00pm

PAC NEWS:

🍁 ✦ Volunteer Call-Out – Fall Dance (Oct 17th)! ✦ 🍁

We are looking for a Lead and volunteers to help bring our Fall Dance to life! There are both planning roles and event-day roles available—but first, we need a Lead to guide the team.

✦ Lead Role

The Lead will:

- Be the main point of contact for volunteers.
- Coordinate sign-ups, shift changes, and ensure each role is covered.
- Book and confirm the DJ.
- Work with the PAC, who will support with troubleshooting and share tips from past events.

Once we have a Lead in place, we'll open sign-ups for the rest of the volunteer roles.

⚠️ **Without a Lead, we will not be able to host this year's event.**

✦ No experience needed—just enthusiasm and a bit of community spirit!

✉️ Interested? Email mckenziepac@gmail.com to sign up.

Parent & Family Resources:

Family Smart offers parent peer support, online resources, workshops, and training for parents to support youth mental health. <https://familysmart.ca/>

Every month, we host online events for parents & caregivers who are parenting a child or youth with a mental health and/or substance use challenge called “in the know.” We watch a video and share experiences and strategies that help in the hard moments and focus on strengthening our understanding and connection with our kids.

Topic for September Emotion Regulation:

Big feelings can be tough for kids and parents. Join us to learn practical ways to support emotional regulation with Registered Clinical Counsellor, Nicole Allen. Meeting dates:

Sept 18 6:30 - 8:00

Sept 23 6:30 - 8:00

Sept 24 12:00 - 1:30

[Join us online. It's free.](#)

NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION DAY SEPTEMBER 30:

4th Annual South Island Powwow

Where Tradition and Culture Come Alive

When: September 30th, 2025

Where: Royal Athletic Park, 1014 Caledonia Ave, Victoria, BC

Gates open at 10:00 am

Grand Entry at 12:00 pm

Free Admission

Everyone Welcome

September 30th marks National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

The annual South Island Powwow is an opportunity to recognize Survivors and their families in the spirit of reconciliation.

Through song and dance, we will celebrate traditional Indigenous cultures and resiliency.



Truth & Reconciliation Day Ride

September 30/25



Please Register for FREE at capitalbike.ca*

9:30 AM: Meet @ Songhees Park -free coffee & snacks
10:00 AM: Presentation
11:00 AM: Ride to Wharf St., then Dallas Road to Vancouver St., ending at the South Island Powwow!
12:00 PM: Arrive at South Island Powwow, Royal Athletic Park. Bike Valet will be available.

*Registration required

**FREE!
Register @
[Capitalbike.CA](https://capitalbike.ca)**