



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, January 16, 2026

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:

Here we are in the middle of January already! It was another fun week at McKenzie with many different learning opportunities. We had some fun on Wednesday with the "anything but a back pack" day ... there were toy shopping carts, baskets, pet crates, boxes, baskets, many varieties of suitcases and more!! Thank you to those that participated. The spirit days build community and always bring forth interesting conversations and put smiles on each other's faces. Black Excellence Day was recognized on Thursday by many who wore black. Many stories were read in classrooms and some knowledge was shared on our morning announcements.

The sunshine this week has been uplifting and the frosty mornings are always filled with awe and curiosity, and remind us that winter is still upon us. Don't forget your mittens and toques! We hope that everyone has a fun weekend and is able to find some time in the sunshine while it's here!

Ms. Carmen & Mrs. Beattie

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Jan. 19 Skating Div 4 & 10 Parent Education Night	Jan. 20	Jan. 21	Jan. 22	Jan. 23 Skating Div 3 & 12

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Jan. 19th – Skating Div 4 & 10 & PAC Education Night (see pg. 3)
Jan. 23rd – Skating Div 3 & 12
Jan. 26th – **Professional Development (No school for students)**
Jan. 26th – 30th – English Kindergarten Registration Week
Jan. 28th – Twin Day
Feb. 2nd-5th – Scholastic Book Fair
Feb 3rd-6th – **No early morning circuit**
Feb 4th – 5th – McKenzie Art Show
Feb. 4th – Student Led Conferences
(early dismissal @ 11:50am)



January 2026 – Tamil Heritage Month

GVSD#61 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Calendar

24 – International Day of Education
27 – International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust
29 – National Day of Remembrance of Quebec Mosque Attack and Action Against Islamophobia

2025-26 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.



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to McKenzie.

February 2nd - 5th

Ms. Natalie is hoping to have parent volunteers to assist with the book fair. If you can volunteer, please connect via email

ncoffin@sd61.bc.ca

Every Kid Deserves the Book Fair

Scholastics goal is to help get more books to more kids and make the Book Fair more accessible to all families. You will find \$3, \$5, and \$10 books on every shelf, marked with a red sticker on the cover. These books are spread throughout the Fair to give every student the opportunity to choose the book they want to read.

Ask Ms. Natalie to help find the value books at your school's Fair.

Book Fair Hours:

February 2nd – 2:45pm -3:45pm

February 3rd – 2:45pm – 3:45pm

February 4th (early dismissal)

12:00pm – 5:45pm

February 5th – 2:45pm – 3:45pm

McKenzie Art Show

Students are working hard creating with clay, watercolor paints, oil pastels and many other mediums for the upcoming art show.

Art show will be open for viewing in the gym:

February 4th (early dismissal)

12:00pm - 5:45pm

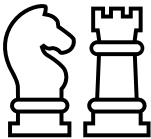
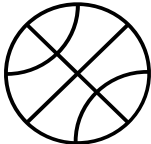
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February 5th 2:45pm - 4:30pm

Our black light room is jungle theme this year



McKenzie Staff Sponsored Clubs

<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
<u>Chess Club</u> Mrs. Harvey Grades 3 & 4 Lunch recess in Rm. 11	<u>Sticker Club</u> Mrs. Stratford Grades K-2 Lunch recess in Rm. 13	<u>Board Games/Play Bin Club</u> Mrs. Gregson Grades 3-5 Lunch Recess in Rm. 5	<u>Pickleball</u> Mrs. Bushell Grades 4 & 5 Every second week until Spring Break and every week after Spring Break during lunch recess in the gym
	<u>Sewing Club</u> Ms. Natalie Grade 4 & 5 Lunch recess in the library	<u>Stamp Club</u> Mrs. Sparrow Grades 1-5 Lunch Recess in Rm. 3	<u>Basketball</u> Mrs. Bushell & Mr. Scott Grades 4 & 5 Please listen to announcements for practice schedule
<u>Basketball</u> Mrs. Bushell & Mr. Scott Grades 4 & 5 Please listen to announcements for practice schedule		<u>Swim Club</u> Ms. Sam *Registered students* 3:15pm-4:00pm at Saanich Commonwealth Place	Coming soon: Lahal Club Track & Field Spring Cross Country Rugby

Sock Drive

*McKenzie Elementary, please donate socks to support our local community! Socks will be donated to the **Aboriginal Coalition to End Homelessness Society.***

January 19 - February 12

Socks must be:

- **New**
- **Unused**
- **Adult-sized**



Learning Updates (Report Cards) were posted on Friday December 12th

So far only 61% of the reports have been read.

If you have not yet read your child's Term One Learning Update please access the link below:

<https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/Identity/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F>

This link can also be found under the 'Parent' section of the McKenzie Elementary website

If you need a paper copy of your child's update, please do not hesitate to reach out to their classroom teacher.



**When your child is going to be absent from school,
please let us know**



by email attendance27@sd61.bc.ca or phone 250-479-1691

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Important Dates:

French Immersion: Jan 12-16

English: Jan 26-30



**If your child was born in 2021, we are
eager to welcome them to Kindergarten!**



**Register Online:
www.sd61.bc.ca**



PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

Please register using [this link](#).

[Join the meeting now](#)

Meeting ID: 263 173 018 172 7

Passcode: s387Gk3Z



JOIN US FOR A PARENT EDUCATION **FREE EVENING WORKSHOP**

**Monday, January 19th
6-7:30pm | McKenzie Elementary School**

**Learn strategies from
Emotion-Focused Family Therapy (EFFT)
with Tory Vitaly, MSW, RSW**

- EFFT is an **evidence-based** practical approach that helps parents and caregivers support **children of ALL ages**
- Learn techniques for managing your child's **emotional dysregulation, emotional shutdown, anxiety, depression and more**
- Presentation with a **Q&A**
- **Supportive space** for parents and caregivers to learn and practice new skills

 **19 January 2026**

 **6:00 pm - 7:30 pm**

 **McKenzie Elementary
School Library**

ALL WELCOME

**FREE for parents to attend. Snacks and beverages provided.
Presented by McKenzie PAC and Fairfield & Oak Bay Psychology**



FAIRFIELD PSYCHOLOGY
fairfieldpsychology.com

Join VCPAC for an inspiring evening dedicated to building stronger literacy foundations in our community. Hear from educators, connect with local families, and discover practical ways to support your child's learning journey. Featured speakers include: Dr. Shelby Pollitt, Literacy Coordinator in SD62; David Hovis, Director of Instruction, Learning & Inclusion in SD61; and Breanna Glover, District Literacy Teacher in SD61. Childminding, pizza and games will be provided for the kids

[Register here](#)



LITERACY FAMILY FORUM

PRESENTED BY VCPAC



Join us for an inspiring evening dedicated to building stronger literacy foundations in our community. Hear from educators, connect with local families, and discover practical ways to support your child's learning journey.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Dr. Shelby Pollitt

*Literacy Coordinator
Sooke School District*

David Hovis

*Director of Instruction, Learning
& Inclusion, School District #61*

Breanna Glover

*District Literacy Teacher
School District #61*

- Learn about effective literacy strategies and supports
- Engage with educational leaders
- Discover ways to enhance literacy learning at home and support your child's education
- Open Q&A to share your questions and experiences



SIGN UP

Thursday, January 22, 2026

<https://forms.gle/dxuwFGcjTKQMhhuw9>

6:45 PM - 8:30 PM

Oak Bay High School Theatre 2121 Cadboro Bay Rd

Doors open at 6:15 PM, Presenters begin at 6:45 PM

Pizza and games available for kids!



Connect & Learn

Online Events for Parents & Caregivers

Every month, we host events for parents and caregivers of a child or youth with a mental health and/or substance use challenge.

Join us to watch a video and share experiences and strategies that help in the hard moments, focusing on strengthening our understanding and connection with our kids.



Supporting Safety at Home When Your Child Has a Mental Health Crisis

When your child or youth has had a mental health crisis, knowing how to keep them safe can be overwhelming. Our concerns can include suicidal thoughts, self-harming, aggression or any situation where you or your child is concerned about their safety. Learn from Lu Ripley, Director of Community Learning and Engagement at the BC Crisis Centre and Tammy Music, Family Peer Support Worker at Surrey Memorial Hospital's Child & Adolescent Psychiatric Stabilization Unit about some ways that can help us plan to keep them safe at home.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Parent Peer Support Worker.

- **COST:** Free
- **DATES:** Times are in Pacific Time (most of B.C.)
 - Wednesday, January 14, 12pm
 - Thursday, January 22, 6:30pm

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Join us to watch a video and share experiences and strategies that help in the hard moments, focusing on strengthening our understanding and connection with our kids.



Connecting with Our Kids When Anxiety Leads to Social Isolation

When kids spend a lot of time alone because of their anxiety, it can be frustrating and challenging for parents. Join us as Christine M. Yu, M.A., Registered Clinical Counsellor, and a parent talk about the hard stuff. Learn some strategies that can help us connect with our kids when they are socially isolated.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Family Peer Support Worker.

- **COST:** Free
- **DATES:**
 - Thursday, January 8, 6:30pm
 - Tuesday, January 20, 6:30pm
 - Thursday, January 29, 6:30pm



Register online at
familysmart.ca/events



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familysmart.ca/events



Thank you to Bartlett Tree Experts for their generous support of our Tree Chipping Fundraiser. With the donation of their services over we were able to raise over \$1800.00 for our Kenzie Kids!



Bartlett specializes in:

- Tree & Shrub Pruning
- Insect & Disease Management
- Fertilization & Soil Care
- Tree Removals & Inspections

Call 250-479-3873 or request an appointment online to discover why Bartlett is the leader in tree care services. Tell them McKenzie Elementary sent you!