



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, March 6, 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:

WOW! Here we are heading into the final week of term 2 and preparing for spring break!

A week from now, staff will be posting Learning Updates for Term 2. These Learning Updates can be accessed via the Parent Connect link (see link below); this is the same place that parents and guardians access permission forms. The documents will be available on **Friday, March 13th**, you will be able to access your child's term 2 reports using the same email address that you receive our newsletters: <https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/Identity/Account/Login>

Our 'Lost and Found' box is beginning to OVERFLOW again with many warm jackets, sweaters, hats, gloves etc. Many of these items are likely needed for spring break. Please be sure to check the box in the main hallway if your child is missing an essential item.

We do have another bitter-sweet staffing announcement to make. After +20 years of working full time in our school district, our amazing school secretary, Ms. Val Irwin, has decided to take a tentative step into the world of semi-retirement. Ms. Val will be moving over to Braefoot Elementary after spring break into a part-time position; her last day at McKenzie will be next Friday, March 13th. We will miss her wealth of information, never ending supply of patience and vast organizational skills in our school. If you have a moment over the next week, please be sure to drop by and wish her well on her new adventure!

Ms. Carmen & Mrs. Beattie

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mar. 9 Jump Rope for Heart PAC Event: Helping Kids Build Healthy Friendships @ 7pm (see page 4)	Mar. 10	Mar. 11 Div. 7 & 8 Observatory fieldtrip	Mar. 12 StrongStart Closed	Mar. 13 PAC Hot Lunch (pizza & sushi) Learning Updates are available for viewing StrongStart Closed

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- Mar. 13th – PAC Hot Lunch & Learning Updates “Live”
- Mar. 16th- 27th – Spring Break (no school)
- Mar. 30th – School reopens after Spring Break
- Apr. 2nd – Autism Assembly
- Apr. 3rd – Good Friday (no school)
- Apr. 6th – Easter Monday (no school)

March 2026 – Black History Month

GVSD#61 Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Calendar

- 8 – International Women's Day
- 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- 19/20 – Eid al-Fitr
- 20 – March Equinox
- 21 – International Day of the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- 21 – World Down Syndrome Day
- 31 – Indigenous Languages Day
- 31 – Transgender Day of Visibility

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.



Thank you to all the families who donated baked goods and to everyone who came out to support our bake sale. Together our community raised \$2512.05.

We are so thankful for this amazing community and for everyone who contributed to making our fundraiser a success.

With gratitude,
The McKenzie Basketball Team



JUMP ROPE FOR HEART ON MARCH 9th

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 and stroke. Students will join more than 850,000 kids moving to a healthier future each year across Canada. Plus, their fundraising will help save lives and beat heart disease and stroke. Click on the link below, register your student under McKenzie Elementary School – Victoria, and spread the word.

[Jump Rope for Heart Fundraiser Link](#)



Presenting Partner
Desjardins

Mckenzie Elementary School - Victoria

is joining the fight to beat heart disease and stroke.

Our school is proud to be participating in Heart & Stroke's Jump Rope for Heart program!

Why it matters:

- Students get active and have fun at school on their Event Day.
- Students learn life-long healthy habits.
- Together, we raise funds to support lifesaving heart and brain research.

Jump in and make a difference!
To learn more about promotions, healthy habits and your impact visit jumpropeforheart.ca

Scan to support

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Don't forget to change your clocks on
Sunday March 8th



Feb 17-March 19

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting (sawm), prayer (salah), reflection, and community.



RAMADAN
KAREEM



Special Food Day

Next Friday, March 13 is our next special food day for Pizza and Sushi.

Order deadline is Sunday, March 8th

To order, visit www.mckenzie.hotlunches.net

Questions? mckenziehotlunch@gmail.com



Please remember to send your children dressed for the weather. Spring showers have started, the school grounds are wet, and our students go outside to play for recess and lunch time no matter the weather.



HELPING KIDS BUILD HEALTHY FRIENDSHIPS

We are pleased to host Dr. Allison Rees for a parent education session on helping children build strong relationship skills. This presentation explores how children experience friendships through their nervous systems, communication, and boundaries. Parents will learn how to support children in understanding feelings, navigating peer challenges, and repairing misunderstandings, with a focus on skills, emotional safety, and connection rather than labels.

March 9, 2026 at 7:00 PM
Strawberry Vale Elementary - Music Room
4109 Rosedale Avenue
Register to attend in-person or online at:
<https://forms.gle/n4c7xLmu1xNC3CHd8>

erase | EXPECT RESPECT & A SAFE EDUCATION

Information for Parents and Caregivers

Resources to support you and your child



Register for free training

Tips to protect children and youth online



Have a conversation

Talk with children and youth about things they may be experiencing

What kind of information can I find on erase.gov.bc.ca?

- **Practical guidance** to help you support your child's safety and well-being
- **Resources and information about:**
 - Diversity and inclusion
 - Mental health and substance use
 - School and online safety
- **Free training sessions** to help you keep your child safe online
- **Videos** explaining erase, the Report It Tool, and safe, caring and inclusive schools
- **Tips** for bringing concerns to your child's school

What is the Report It Tool?

Report It is an anonymous online tool for students to report anything concerning to their school safety team—whether it happens at school, online, or somewhere else. Find it at erase.gov.bc.ca.

Questions? Reach out to your school to learn more.



Ministry of Education and Child Care

As a parent you are a member of the PAC Join us for the next PAC meeting and have a say in our school.

March 11th at 6:30pm in the library

PAC meeting agenda

1. Healthy schools co-ordinator
2. Admin update
3. Treasurer's update and budget items to vote on
4. Events - family photo sessions and spring dance
5. Fundraising - Purdy's Easter Chocolates
6. Big projects - GAGA ball pit final approval
7. Parent Education update
8. PAC promotion - new members' welcome!



COMMUNITY OFFERINGS:



Outdoor Spring & Summer Programs

Our affordable, year-round educational adventures are all about getting outside to play and explore. Kids build real-life skills, confidence, and a love for nature without even realizing they're learning!

- Hands-on outdoor skills
- Inclusive, supportive environment
- Day, overnight & wilderness options
- New adventures every time!

 **SPRING CAMPS** 

A fun, inclusive Spring Break adventure where kids build real outdoor skills, confidence, and a lasting connection to nature.

 **SUMMER CAMPS** 

Campers build self-confidence, independence and resilience through age-appropriate challenges and achievements.

Come play outside with us! Pro-D, leadership & custom camps available.
Visit westernadventures.ca or call 250-888-1338 to get started.



WESTERN EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

SAVE THE DATE



1st Annual Inclusive Sport Festival

A fun, social festival of sport for all children in school districts throughout the South Vancouver Island region that experience a disability or diagnosis.



EVENTS INCLUDE:

Sprints, Throws and Jumps
Wheelchair sports
Boccia
and many more!

For more information, contact cwright@pise.ca

Mental Health Resources available for families

ERASE Parent Sessions: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities:

https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-establishing-family-practices-for-safeguarding-against-cyberbullying-and-sextortion?utm_campaign=March2026CounsellorNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=

Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion:

https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-establishing-family-practices-for-safeguarding-against-cyberbullying-and-sextortion?utm_campaign=March2026CounsellorNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=

Family Smart presentations coming up:

https://keltymentalhealth.ca/event/2026/03/parenting-when-anxiety-shows-anger?utm_campaign=March2026CounsellorNewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=#:~:text=March%201%2C%202026



TOGETHER *in stride*

Booking Now for Spring!

Learning with Horses

Social Skill Development through hands-on, group activities with horses in a safe, inclusive farm setting.

- Ages 11+
- Guided, non-riding interactions with horses
- Supportive, inclusive learning environment
- Explore teamwork, communication, leadership & self-awareness - learning by doing together.
- Sessions follow a curriculum with defined goals and outcomes
- 12 participants per group

Open to all school groups through our pay-what-you-can model.

Located in Saanichton

For more information & to book contact

Melissa Flagg, Program Manager

250.510.8722

programcoordinator@togetherinstride.ca

[togetherinstride](http://togetherinstride.ca)

