



# McKenzie Weekly

Friday, April 24, 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:

We have had another busy week and have thoroughly enjoyed the warm spring weather. Our grade 4 students participated in the Saanich Emergency Preparedness Program, fire drill, whole school & class photos and an Indigenous Student Lunch. Our grade 4 students also completed the Student Learning Survey as well. Thank you to those grade 4 parents that have also completed this survey; we appreciate your participation. The survey will remain open until the end of April.

We look forward to seeing many of you this evening for our PAC sponsored Spring Fling Dance! Thank you in advance to our amazing PAC & other parent volunteers for making this event happen!

*Ms. Carmen & Mrs. Beattie*

## Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Apr. 27</b>	<b>Apr. 28</b>	<b>Apr. 29</b>	<b>Apr. 30</b>	<b>May. 1</b>
Popsicle Sale after school at the garden	Strong Start Closed	School Spirit - Decades Day	Autism Awareness Assembly	Div. 4 Fieldtrip to Island View Beach

## UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- May 5<sup>th</sup>- Kindergarten immunizations
- May 5<sup>th</sup> - Young Entrepreneur Fair 9am-2pm
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Rugby Jamboree 10am – 1pm
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Kindy Muffins for Mum 8:45am-9:15am
- May 8<sup>th</sup> – Mountain West Photo Fundraiser 4pm – 8pm
- May 11<sup>th</sup> – Kindys to Butterfly Gardens 11am-2:30pm
- May 12<sup>th</sup>- Grade 5's @ Camp Thunderbird
- May. 13<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meeting (online @ 6:30pm)
- May. 15<sup>th</sup> – Pro-D Day (No School)
- May. 18<sup>th</sup> – Victoria Day (No School)

**May 2026 - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Calendar**  
Asian Heritage Month  
Canadian Jewish Heritage Month

- 1. Principal and Vice Principal Appreciation Day
- 5. National Day of Awareness of MMIWG (Red Dress Day)
- 4-10. Mental Health Week
- 15. Moose Hide Campaign Day
- 15. International Day of Families
- 17. International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia
- 18. Victoria Day
- 24-30. National AccessAbility Week
- 26/27. Eid-al-Adha

### 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.

# MCKENZIE THIS WEEK:





# Young Entrepreneurs Fair

Divisions 1, 2, and 3 participated in the **Powerplay Young Entrepreneurs** program. Students worked through the business plan model and created their own small businesses.

Our young entrepreneurs invite school staff, families, and students to our market on **Tuesday, May 5**. Students will visit the market with their classes.

Students may want to bring a nominal amount of money for spending in a ziplock bag. There will be a variety of crafts and homemade items. Prices generally range from \$1.00 - \$6.00 each.

We look forward to seeing you there!



**Date:** Tuesday, May 5, 2026

**Times:** 9:00 am – 10:00 am  
10:35 am – 11:45 am  
12:40 pm – 1:40 pm



**Location:** Big Gym at McKenzie Elementary



## Emergency Drills and Protocols

During an emergency, the safety of students and staff is our top priority. In order to provide an effective response to any school crisis, emergency plans are in place for each school, and we work in conjunction with local agencies to plan for, respond and communicate during emergency events. Each school year, schools are required to complete six fire drills, two lockdown drills and three earthquake drills.

Last week, alongside our Saanich School Police Liaison Officer, we completed our first lockdown drill of the school year. Staff and students were fully briefed about our protocols in advance of this scheduled drill and reviewed the procedures in an age-appropriate manner prior to the drill. The drill was completed in less than ten minutes.

More information about our emergency drills and protocols can be found at the link below:

<https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/emergency-drills-and-protocols/>

# PAC INFORMATION:



**MCKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

## SPRING FLING DANCE

6:00 PM - 7:30 PM  
**24 APRIL**

LIVE DJ | PIZZA  
SWEETS TREATS  
ENTRANCE BY DONATION

HELP US SWEETEN THE NIGHT!  
TREAT DONATIONS NEEDED!  
HOMEMADE OR STORE-BOUGHT  
GOODIES WILL BE SOLD AT THE DANCE.  
PLEASE BRING THEM TO THE OFFICE IN  
THE AM OR TO THE DANCE

ALL STUDENTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED  
BY ADULTS.

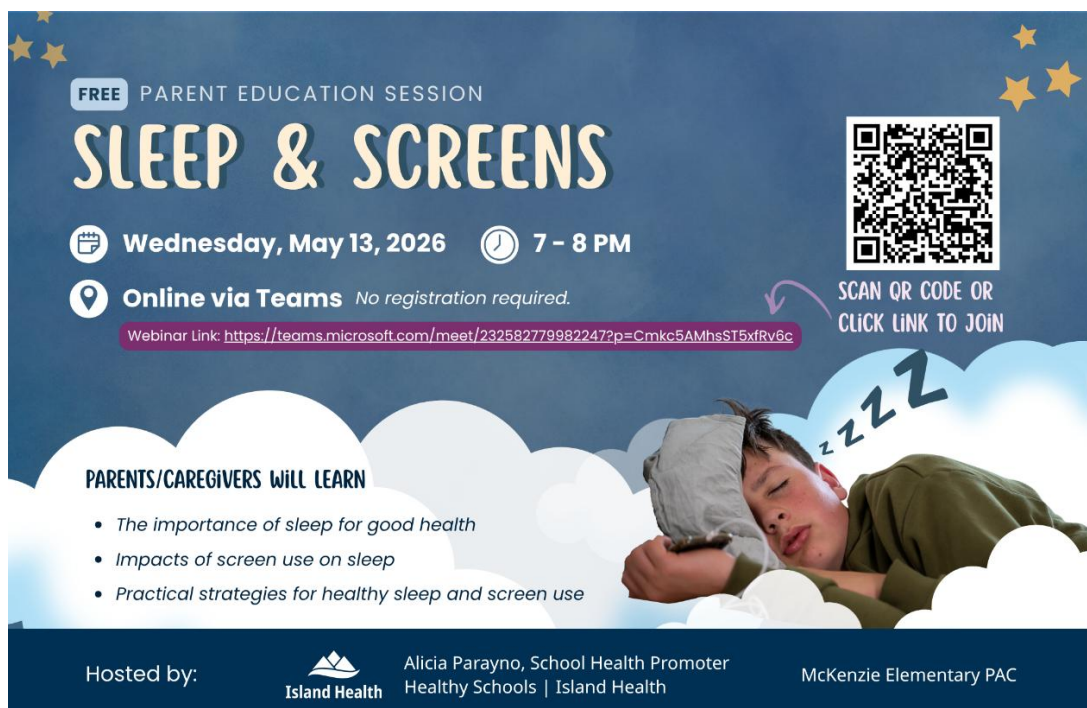
Proceeds benefit the PAC and help make  
future events possible.

**TONIGHT!!**

### The Neurodiversity Family Centre



We are an inclusive space, offering support, education, and fostering connections for individuals of all ages, with or without a formal diagnosis. We offer specialized counselling for neurodivergent children, youth, adults and their families, within, but not exclusively, areas like Autism support, parenting support, and ADHD services. Additionally, we also offer couple's counselling and specialize in neurodivergent relationship dynamics.


<https://www.neurodiversityfamilycentre.com/>




**FREE** PARENT EDUCATION SESSION

## SLEEP & SCREENS

 Wednesday, May 13, 2026  7 - 8 PM


 **Online via Teams** No registration required.

Webinar Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/join/232582779982247?p=CmKc5AMhsST5xRv6c>

 SCAN QR CODE OR  
CLICK LINK TO JOIN

**PARENTS/CAREGIVERS WILL LEARN**

- The importance of sleep for good health
- Impacts of screen use on sleep
- Practical strategies for healthy sleep and screen use

Hosted by:  Alicia Parayno, School Health Promoter  
Healthy Schools | Island Health

McKenzie Elementary PAC

# PAC POSITIONS

Please attend the May 13 PAC meeting if you are interested in any of these positions. New members welcome!

## PAC PRESIDENT

- Create the agenda for PAC meetings
- Organize the regular running of PAC
- Chairs the PAC meetings

## VICE-PRESIDENT

- Assist the president in the running of PAC
- Perform president's role when necessary
- Assist in coordinating communication

## SECRETARY

- Keep a record of meeting proceedings
- Facilitate communication
- Write meeting minutes

## TREASURER

- Keep records of financial transactions
- Provide monthly financial reports
- Signing and submitting cheques

## GRADE REPRESENTATIVE

- Communicate between PAC and parents
- Help organize parent volunteers
- Assist with social and fundraising events

## Family Photo Night is coming soon!

EACH FAMILY RECEIVES 1 **FREE** 8X10 PHOTO OF THEIR CHOICE!

- An affordable and convenient option for family portraits.
- Great for Mother's Day, Father's Day and holiday gift-giving!
- Sitting fee is \$30. 100% of the fee is donated back to your school!
- Convenient weekend and evening portrait sessions
- 10 minute sitting includes 10-15 online proofs with the option to order additional photos.

Have questions? Email us at [help@mountainwest.ca](mailto:help@mountainwest.ca)

Sign up today!



**MOUNTAINWEST STUDIOS**

6869 Merritt Avenue,  
Burnaby BC, V5J 4R5

Phone: 604.433.0551  
Toll Free 1.888.644.4494

[help@mountainwest.ca](mailto:help@mountainwest.ca)  
[mountainwest.ca](http://mountainwest.ca)

**This is a fundraiser!** 100% of the \$30 sitting fee goes directly back to the school, and each family will receive a complimentary 8x10 print.

To book your Family portrait sitting, please visit this link:  
[McKenzie Elementary School Family Sittings](#)

## PHOTO SESSION FUNDRAISER

Mountain West Studios is excited to be providing family photo sessions as a fundraiser! The sessions will take place on **Friday, May 8** in the small gym. This environment allows us to provide quality portrait sessions within a comfortable location. Our goal is to provide portraits that **CELEBRATE YOU** and your Family.

# Your Chance to Host an International Student!



The Greater Victoria School District's International Program, Victoria International Education, is looking for new host families for high school students arriving in September, 2026.

If you are curious about hosting, the International Program staff would love to meet you at an upcoming information session!

#### Information Session Details:

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 22
- **Time:** 6:30 PM
- **Location:** [Uplands Campus](#) (3461 Henderson Rd)
- **RSVP:** [homestay@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@sd61.bc.ca)

Anyone interested in providing a supportive and caring home is welcome to apply to become a host family including retirees, couples, families with children, and individuals.

#### Host Families Enjoy:

- **Flexible Options:** Hosting opportunities for 1 month, 3 months, 5 months, 10 months or more
- **Program Support:** Orientation and ongoing 24/7 support from the homestay office
- **Reimbursement:** \$1,350 per student, per month for hosting expenses
- **Cultural Exchange:** Learn about new cultures, share traditions, and create international friendships while helping youth succeed

#### More Information and How to Apply:

- **Phone:** 250-592-6871
- **Email:** [homestay@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:homestay@sd61.bc.ca)
- **Website:** [Victoria International Education Homestay Program](#)
- **Apply:** [Victoria International Education Application](#)

## Mountain West Studios will be hosting a community photo session for students who may have missed the opportunity to have photos taken or would like a retake.

**Date:** Friday, May 29, 2026

*\*we kindly ask that you sign up by Monday, May 25*

**Location:** Victoria West Community Centre Reading Room  
521 Craigflower Rd, Victoria

**Sign Up Here:** [Community Retakes - Victoria](#)

#### Please note the following regarding your appointment:

Photo sessions will require a \$20 deposit. You will receive a discount code in the amount of your deposit, which is redeemable towards any purchase. Students will have 2-4 standard school photos taken and uploaded to a personal gallery.

All photos taken at this event are made available for personal purchase and will not be included in school services such as yearbooks if applicable.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Mountain West Studios' customer service team for assistance. Phone: 1.888.644.4494 Email: [help@mountainwest.ca](mailto:help@mountainwest.ca)

# COMMUNITY OFFERINGS:

**Science Rendezvous**  
Victoria

**UVIC**

Come for the science,  
stay for the fun!

A free day of exploration and  
creativity related to Science,  
Technology, Engineering and Math.

For K-12 students, educators  
and scientists of all ages.

**May 9, 2026**  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

**Bob Wright Centre, Elliott  
Building and Petch Building**  
UVic campus

This event is hosted by the Faculty of Science in  
collaboration with the Faculties of Engineering and  
Computer Science and Social Sciences



VCPAC Educational Townhall  
Spectrum Highschool  
Thursday April 23, 2026  
6:30 - 8:30 PM

## AI & TECH IN EDUCATION

### BENEFITS, RISKS, AND STUDENT RIGHTS

#### What Parents Need to Know

- How AI & tech are used
- Protecting student rights
- How parents can engage

**SPEAKERS**

- OLINE TWISS, Deputy Commissioner, BC OIPC
- JOSH BARKS, A/Director of IT & Learning, SD61
- TOM AERTS, Deputy Superintendent, SD61

**FREE TO REGISTER**  
ON-SITE CHILDMINDING AVAILABLE!  
PIZZA & GAMES FOR THE KIDS.  
<https://forms.gle/2EonTytjq8YmiweG9>

Sponsored by Thrifty Foods

'intheknow'  
Online Events

## 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.



### Emotion Regulation Part 2: Deepening Our Understanding

Our kids' big emotions don't always make sense. As parents, we might even feel like we're walking on egg shells because we're scared of another big emotional outburst. Watch our second video conversation with Nicole Allen, Registered Clinical Counsellor, to deepen your understanding about your kids' emotion regulation. Nicole helps us understand why some kids cope easier than others, how to determine what our child needs during those hard moments, and shares some strategies that can help.

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.)
  - Tuesday, April 7, 6:30pm
  - Tuesday, April 21, 12:00pm
  - Wednesday, April 29, 6:30pm



Register online at  
[familysmart.ca/events](https://familysmart.ca/events)



15<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**FAMILY**  
SPORT & RECREATION  
**FESTIVAL**



Hosted by...



**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11 am - 3 pm**  
 PISE, at Camosun College Interurban Campus  
 4371 Interurban Rd.

Over 30 activities | Raffle Prizes | FREE

pi.se.ca



# Victoria Stamp and Postcard Fair

Plus: Kids ♥ Stamps!  
School Club Exhibits

## Sunday April 26, 2026



- › Victoria
- › Stamp
- › Club

**10:00AM - 3:00PM**  
**Sandman Hotel Victoria**  
**2852 Douglas Street**



**Free Admission - Free Parking - Free Stamps for Beginners**

VICTORIA  
*Children's*  
 EST. 2001  
**Choir**  
**SING!**  
 with us!

★ AUDITIONS May/June

**PRELUDE CHOIR**  
 AGES 7-9  
 Non-auditioned.  
 Fun and engaging.  
 Registration opens April 1st.

**RECITAL CHOIR**  
 AGES 10-12  
 Sing great music  
 and build wonderful  
 relationships.

**CONCERT CHOIR**  
 AGES 12-17  
 Share your singing  
 passion in rehearsals,  
 performances, camps & tours.  
 Build lifelong friendships.

**YOUTH ENSEMBLE**  
 AGES 17-20  
 Develop your  
 musical and personal  
 leadership skills.

Call Today: 250.721.0856  
[victoriachildrenschoir.ca](http://victoriachildrenschoir.ca)

