



McKenzie Weekly



Friday, September 11, 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:

Our first week has been filled with purposeful connecting activities, relationship building, and GaGa Ball fun! THANK YOU to our PAC for the very popular GaGa Ball Pit – it is a HUGE source of enjoyment for our students. We really enjoyed reconnecting with past students and families, while also welcoming 18 new Grade 1-5 students and families to McKenzie this week. We are also thrilled to add a few new staff members to our community as well. Our incoming kindergarten students (40 of them!) have started to attend in small groups this week; Monday will be their first full day. We look forward to getting to know all our new students and supporting all students discover their potential this school year!

We will be moving to our permanent classes' year early next week. Students continued to spend time in their grade groupings and have had the opportunity to work with all of the teachers at their level over the last few days. Thank you for your patience while our team continues to work collaboratively to create the best learning environments for your children.

Have a wonderful weekend and we'll see you back on Monday.

Ms. Carmen & Mrs. Wanless

Mark your calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sept. 14 Fire Drill	Sept. 15	Sept. 16 PAC meeting 6:30pm	Sept. 17	Sept. 18 Welcome Back Assembly Terry Fox Run

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

Sept. 21 - Pro-Development Day – No school for students
Sept. 23 - Welcome Back Event hosted by the PAC
Sept. 28 - Orange Shirt Day Assembly
Sept. 30 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – No School



McKenzie Bell Schedule	
Morning Bell	8:45
Recess	10:15-10:30
Lunch - Eating	11:50-12:10
Lunch - Outdoor Play	12:10-12:35
Dismissal Bell	2:37

SUPPORTING YOUR STUDENT:

Thank you for your support as we finalize classroom placements and continue to work in our grade groupings. We hope to move into our permanent classes early next week. We recognize that this process can sometimes bring up feelings of anxiety, worry, disappointment or upset, and we appreciate your help in supporting your child as they build resilience and coping skills.

We are working hard to ensure every child has someone they requested as a learning partner; while creating balanced classes. Once we move into our permanent classes; it is likely that some students may initially feel disappointed about not being placed in the same class as a particular friend. During this time, your positive support and reassurance around your child's upcoming classroom placement can make a meaningful difference in helping them adjust and feel confident in their new class.

If this is the case, we encourage you to validate your child's feelings without reinforcing the expectation that their placement could change. For example:

"I understand that's disappointing. I know you were hoping for something different."

"I know it may feel a little scary or unfamiliar at first, but I'm confident you will settle in quickly. We're here to help you as you adjust."

With support from both school staff and families, our experience is that students typically adjust quickly, develop new friendships, and become comfortable in their new classroom communities. Thank you for partnering with us to help your child approach this transition with confidence and a positive mindset.

ATTENDANCE:

Your child's safety is our utmost concern, and ensuring their safe arrival is our priority.

- If your child arrives late, they must **sign in at the main office** and receive a **late slip**, which they must then give to their teacher.
- If you need to pick up your child early, please **sign them out at the office** before leaving the school.



In the event of an emergency, it is **imperative that we know who is inside the building**. Following these procedures helps us maintain an accurate record of all students and ensures everyone's safety.

If your child is going to be late or absent from school, please remember to let us know.

Either via email: attendance27@sd61.bc.ca or phone: 250 479 1691.

STUDENT FORMS:

Student Verification Forms will be completed online this year. Please watch for an email arriving next week with instructions on how to complete them. 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. Fieldtrips, agendas, and other items requiring payment can also be accessed through Parent Connects School Cash Online. Please log in or sign up using the email address you provided the school and review any consent items that require your action.

[Parent Connect Link](#)

You are also encouraged to review items that you have previously consented to by selecting 'Forms' from the menu. Please note that consent for forms and digital tools carries over from year-to-year.

For additional information please visit the Tech for Learning site: [Tech for Learning](#)

DRESS FOR THE WEATHER:

WETcoast weather is upon us. McKenzie goes outside in the rain or shine, please be prepared and dress your students for the weather. Inside shoes and a change of clothing are highly recommended.

If finances are a barrier, please reach out to our Principal, Ms. Carmen, at cgauvreau@sd61.bc.ca. She would be happy to discuss available options and support.



ALLERGY AWARENESS:

McKenzie Elementary has several students and staff with severe allergies. **All types of nuts (peanuts and tree nuts), fish, sesame, eggs, kiwi, cherries, cucumbers, all scents, 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 for anaphylaxis forms and information and medical alert conditions. [Allergy Aware Courses](#) offers free anaphylaxis training. 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.

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Our online calendar has been updated with dates of PAC meetings, Pro-D Days, School Vacations, and other important dates. Please visit [McKenzie School Calendar](#) to view.

Here are some important dates to add to your calendar:



2026/2027 School Year Calendar	
Professional Development Days (Non-instructional Days)	Monday, September 21, 2026 Friday, October 23, 2026 Friday, November 27, 2026 Friday, February 12, 2027 Friday, May 21, 2027 One additional day to be chosen by each school
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving	Monday, October 12, 2026
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11, 2026
Last day of class before Winter vacation	Friday, December 18, 2026
Schools re-open after Winter vacation	Monday, January 4, 2027
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
Last day of class before Spring vacation	Friday, March 12, 2027
Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday	Monday, March 29, 2027
Schools re-open after Spring vacation	Wednesday, March 31, 2027
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24, 2027
Last day of school for students	Thursday, June 24, 2027
Administrative Day and School Closing	Friday, June 25, 2027

Our chosen Pro-D Day
is January 25th

FRIENDLY REMINDERS:

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



TEAMS & CLUBS AT MCKENZIE:

In the coming months, staff sponsors will be starting a variety of sports teams and clubs at McKenzie. Information about the teams and clubs being offered, as well as when and where students can sign up, will be shared in the daily announcements and our weekly newsletter. Students are encouraged to listen to the announcements, so they don't miss out on opportunities to get involved!

Current offerings:

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

Watch the newsletter and listen to the announcements for registration package pickup.
Practices will be weekly on Wednesdays, starting Oct 14th from 3:15pm-4:00pm @ Saanich Commonwealth Place
Program runs Oct - Mar with 4 Sunday swim meets a year.

Cost is \$160.00 per swimmer.

Parents/caregivers are responsible for transportation to and from the pool.

If you have any questions, please contact our school sponsor, Ms. Sam, at sblair@sd61.bc.ca

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



McKenzie Strings is an extracurricular optional announcements, Grade 5 student who would like to learn to play the violin, viola or cello. Classes will be on Mondays from 2:45 - 3:30 in the music room. Grade 5 students received a short presentation about the program and information will be sent home to parents. Our first strings class will take place on Monday September 14th, no instrument necessary for the first day.

Please contact Jennifer Fisher for any questions at jefisher@sd61.bc.ca.
Please specify McKenzie Strings in the subject line.

PAC NEWS:



A Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is an organized group of parents and caregivers that works to support students, improve school life, and bridge communication between families and school leaders.

Core Responsibilities

- **Advocating for Families:** They represent the collective voice of parents and advocate for student needs and welfare.
- **Building Community:** They organize school events, special activities, and volunteer opportunities to connect home and school.
- **Advising Administration:** They share parent feedback and consult with principals or program leaders on school policies, goals, and programs.
- **Fundraising and Supporting Staff:** Many groups raise funds to purchase equipment, sponsor field trips, or grant teacher requests.
- **Providing Education:** They host workshops and share resources to help parents navigate the school system and support learning at home.

PAC MEETING – SEPTEMBER 16TH:

Please mark your calendar and join other McKenzie families for the first PAC meeting of the year. Wednesday September 16th at 6:30pm in the library. New members welcome! As a parent/caregiver at our school you are already a member of our PAC and we would love your input. We will be planning the Welcome Back event scheduled for Sept 23 and other school start up items.



Information for PAC HOT LUNCH Food Days 2026 - 2027

Our Special Food Day Program returns this year brought to you by the PAC! This has once again been set up through www.mckenzie.hotlunches.net where we encourage you to register (or re-register) to help ensure accuracy with the orders and to make the process as easy for everyone as possible.

Here's how to get started...

- ✓ Go to mckenzie.hotlunches.net
- ✓ Click on "Click Here to Register"
- ✓ Enter Access Code **MEHL**
- ✓ Complete the rest of the registration form. (Including your email address will ensure you receive reminder emails about hot lunch order deadlines and your child's hot lunch order for the upcoming week)
- ✓ Click the "**Register Now**" button at the bottom
- ✓ Follow the instructions to add each child in your family who attends McKenzie Elementary School
- ✓ Once your child(ren) are registered, click on "Orders"
- ✓ Proceed to order hot lunch for your child(ren)

Payment:

We accept hot lunch order payments through PayPal (www.paypal.com) where you can either pay with a credit card as a PayPal guest (Visa, Mastercard or Amex), or set up your own PayPal account.

**Cash payments are difficult to process and are by exception only. Please contact if required.*

The hot lunch online order system requires a small amount of setup time at the beginning as parents must register each child you have attending our school prior to ordering a hot lunch. **If you were registered last year, you will have to re-register this year.** Once the initial setup process is complete, your hot lunch orders for the remainder of the year should be quick and simple.

If you have any trouble, please reference the "Help" tab and the "Parent Instruction Guide," or contact mckenziehotlunch@gmail.com (don't email the hot lunch system). This is a volunteer run program by busy moms!

Keep an eye on the Facebook McKenzie PAC page for reminders as well as the school newsletter!

*We don't refund for missed days, either arrange pickup at lunch or food will be donated.

*If finances are a barrier, please contact the principal Carmen Gavreau or the email above.

*Please Note: Should you experience any issues with your PayPal account, you must contact PayPal directly to solve the issue.

Subway & Sushi dates: Sept 25th, Nov 20th, Feb 19th, April 23rd, June 11th

Pizza & Sushi dates: Oct 22nd, Dec 18th, Jan 22nd, Mar 12th, May 20th



Country Grocer “Save a Tape” Program- save your receipts from Royal Oak or Esquimalt Country Grocer and send them to school with your Kenzie Kid. We receive a % of all receipts submitted to the program in Country Grocer Gift Cards. Ask friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to save their receipts for you as well, this is a great way to support while just doing your normal shopping.

COMMUNITY OFFERINGS:

KidsKlub
MCKENZIE

Early Learners

SPACE AVAILABLE

- ✓ Ages 3-5yrs
- ✓ 8:15am-4:45pm
- ✓ Program runs through the school year and during the summer months

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.kidsklub.ca/early-learners

McKenzie Early Learners
4005 Raymond Street
V8Z 6L4



PAC 101

CONNECT, LEARN, COLLABORATE

Hosted by VCPAC (Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)

Whether you are curious about PACs, considering volunteering, or have just joined your PAC executive, this session will help you understand how PACs work, meet other parents across the district, and explore ways to get involved.

Learn about the roles of school PACs and VCPAC, discover the resources available through VCPAC and BCCPAC, and find out how families can contribute in ways that fit their time and interests. Enjoy pizza and light refreshments, then join a friendly round-table discussion to share ideas about what helps families participate, the challenges and opportunities your school faces, and the resources PACs can share.

Experienced PAC members are especially encouraged to attend. Your insights will help shape the round-table conversations, and this is a great opportunity to brainstorm with other schools.

Thursday, October 1st | 5:45 - 8:00 PM

SJ Willis Education Centre

(923 Topaz Ave, Victoria, BC) | Meeting Room A

5:45 PM	PAC 101 presentation
6:15 PM	Pizza and light refreshments
6:45 PM	Round Table Group Discussions
7:45 PM	Next steps & wrap up



Please RSVP with your dietary restrictions here:
<https://forms.gle/kMpoNw4bWzQ24ffYA>

No prior PAC experience is required. All parents and caregivers in the district are welcome.

If you have any questions, please email kendalls@vcpac.ca.