



What's
up
@McKechnie

JUNE
2025

Dear McKechnie Community,

The end of June is here again! We're grateful for the community events and gatherings that helped us wrap up another school year. This time of year is reflective for both educators and students. It's a moment to celebrate the successes and growth we've seen, along with the wonderful memories we've shared as a class.

Every June, we say goodbye to our grade 7 students as they finish their elementary schooling and move on to high school. We wish them all the best in their transitions and remind them of the important skills they've learned over the past seven years with us. We want to thank Ms. Puil and Mr. Smitna for their dedication to the grade 7 students and classrooms this grad year.

A big thank you to all our staff for their continued commitment and dedication to McKechnie. This year has had its ups and downs and surprises, but they've navigated it all and reached the end of the school year with clear evidence of growth and learning for everyone. A special goodbye and congratulations to Ms. Vicky Faskillis, who has been an SSA at McKechnie for many years and has touched the lives of many of our special needs students. We wish her a relaxing and fun retirement!

And a HUGE thank you to our wonderful McKechnie PAC, parents, and families. We couldn't do what we do without your support. Friday Night Fun Fair was a huge success and a fun community-building event! Thank you to Navi R, Navi, Kiran, Sophia, Padma, The and Tiffany, our amazing committee, who took this on with a vengeance and rocked it! Also, to the many volunteers who helped out.

Thank you to all our parents for sharing your precious children with us every day. We've seen an increase in resilience and flexibility this year, and they continue to grow and thrive! A special shout-out to Tiffany Lee, our amazing volunteer. She has been a huge support to the school over the years, especially with events like our Friday Fun Fair, and her dedication to the outstanding yearbook she creates yearly. I will miss her support; she has helped and guided me into our school community, sometimes with challenges along the way, and I am so thankful! Please come back and help, Tiffany!

As we move into summer vacation soon, please accept our best wishes for an adventurous, safe, and fun July and August. We look forward to welcoming everyone back on September 2nd

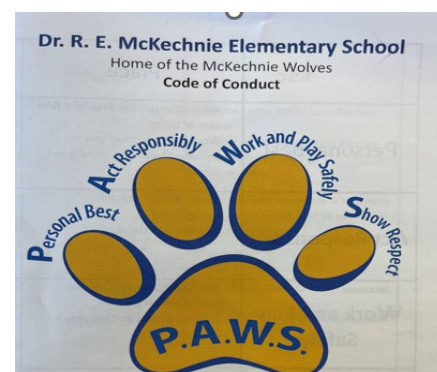
Warm regards,

Lindsay Thompson
Principal,

McKechnie Elementary School



The students and staff of Dr. R. E. McKechnie Elementary School acknowledge that we work, live and learn on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and T'sleil Wathuth Coast Salish peoples.



Are you leaving for summer break before June 25th?



Report cards will be sent home on Wednesday June 25. If your child will not be at school, please provide to the teacher a self-addressed, stamped envelope for your child's report card to be mailed home.

Alternatively, you can pick up your child's report card on June 26 or in September. Click the [link](#) if your child will be absent on June 25.

"Are you planning to return to school later than September 2, 2025?"

School starts on Tuesday, September 2, 2025. If your child will be returning after noon on that day but before Friday, September 26, 2025, please use the provided link to submit details.



The link will remain open all summer for any plans made while school is closed. Please note that if the school cannot confirm attendance by noon on Friday, September 26, 2025, your child's spot may be given to a waitlisted student. Let me know if you need any assistance!" <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?>

Library Information



Please seek out any library books that need to come back to the library as Ms. Koke would like to have everything back by June 13th at the latest. Ms. Koke will be sending out a bill for anything not received by June 16. If your child believes that they have returned the book already, please come to the library and help Ms. Koke search for it. There's lots to do in the library to get all the materials in before summer (especially from those graduating or moving schools), so Ms. Koke really appreciates receiving library materials on time!

From the Garden Club

Garden Club Tomato plant sale continues after school from 3pm to 3:15pm in the library or in Ms. Chang's room (div 11). Prices range from \$2-\$6 for each ready to plant.

Please remember to bring cash and support Garden Club.

During the plant sale, Ms Koke will have 10 boxes of hardcover picture books that are being weeded from our library. Most of them are in beautiful condition but have not been signed out for the last couple of years. Please come and see if there are any you would like to take and provide us with a cash donation to purchase new books that the students are eager to read. Books that do not stay within our community will be donated to a charity up north who are always thrilled to receive them.

Any families who are willing to care for the garden boxes over the summer for a week or two please please contact Ms. Koke or Mrs. Chang with your contact details and availability .

Thank you for supporting the garden club!



Class Casting

Student placement is a very complex process that we take very seriously. We spend many hours reviewing student placements before assigning classes. The assignment of students to classes is decided by a team, including the current teacher(s), Resource Teacher, School Counsellor and School Principal. This professional team considers each placement carefully as they create classes. At McKechnie, there are 300 students to place into classes.

The criteria considered in the class placement process includes:

- the program needs of the child
- physical and emotional maturity
- learning styles and personalities
- balance of academic abilities
- balance of students of varying gender identities
- balance of grade levels in a combined class
- balance of students with special needs and Individual Education Plans (IEPs)
- balance of students who are English Language Learners (ELL)
- cultural diversity
- logistics of SSA support
- motivation level of each student
- independent work habits
- leadership skills
- behaviour factors regarding each student
- social needs and friendships
- compatibility of students (i.e. the need to separate some students)
- family dynamics (twins, siblings etc.)
- information provided by the teacher and specialist teachers
- class size and composition requirements

All students are placed after careful consideration, into the best learning environment possible for the student. Our class lists are structured to provide equitable classes.

The school organization does not make it possible to have all straight grade classes and there will inevitably be combined classes. Please understand that it is not possible for your child to always be in the lower/ or higher grade of the combined class. There is a misconception and perception that this will give students an "edge" as they are learning curriculum of the higher grade. This is not true. Each teacher must teach the curriculum learning intentions of the grade. This is reflected in lesson content, learning activities and in assessment and evaluation.

There is consideration given to peer group, a support peer/group and friendships. Understandably, students may wish to be with a large group of friends or friends of their choosing. Please note that friends are distinctly different from learning partners. Students who are good learning partners may or may not be friends with whom they interact socially. Social groupings are not high priority for class placement. It is among the many factors considered. For a variety of reasons, students may be separated or grouped together. These reasons, to maintain confidentiality, are not disclosed to parents or the students.

If you feel your child requires *special* or *additional* consideration in addition to the factors listed above, please send a brief email to [Ms. Thompson](#) indicating which factors require **exceptional** consideration. Please note, do not name preferred or non-preferred teachers. Requests containing the request (or not) of certain teachers will not be considered. If there are extenuating circumstances under which your child cannot be in a class with a certain peer, please indicate this. Please note, if there is a large list of peers your

Candy & Gum at School



To keep our school grounds clean and enjoyable for everyone, we kindly ask that families avoid sending candy as a snack with their children. We've noticed an increase in wrappers being left around, and we want to maintain a tidy environment.

Additionally, gum is **not permitted** at school. Unfortunately, we've had some recent issues with gum being found on floors, walls, and even inside our photocopier. Let's work together to keep our spaces fresh and welcoming!



Thank you for your support in helping us uphold these expectations.

BELL SCHEDULE AND SAFE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Safe Arrival Phone Number
604-713-5159 Extension 54

WHAT TO DO IF LATE, PICKING UP EARLY, OR ABSENT

(Please do not have your child call the Safe ARRIVAL LINE,
Guardians must leave message)

Safe Arrival Procedures for Parents and Children:

When your child will be absent, picked up early, or late, please phone the Safe Arrival Line at **604-713-5159 Extension 54** PRIOR to 9 am. Report the following information slowly and clearly:

1. Child's name (SPELL SURNAME) and division number
2. Date your child will be absent **OR** if arriving late, time of return.
3. When students arrive late - They must **SIGN IN** at the Office **BEFORE** reporting to class.

When students are picked up early - They must **SIGN OUT** at the Office **BEFORE** pick up.

Safe Arrival Number 604-713-5159 Ext. 54

Gr.7 Grad Parent Committee

GR.7 GRAD
WED. JUNE 18TH @ 5-9PM



Please contact studiotiffanylee@gmail.com if you'd like to help out on the Gr.7 Grad Committee. Volunteers needed to help plan, organize, decorate, & run the Gr.7 Grad dinner event.

Do you have any special skills or hobbies that you would like to share? Please contact 604-506-0882 to be our next workshop presenter!

SPRING

Morning Meet-Ups

RSVP by text to **604-506-0882** by Thursday each week.

来和其他McKechnie的家长见面，并与大家交流！这是一个轻松的星期五早晨聚会，将会在每个星期五定期举行。每次聚会都会分享特定的主题，如果您有任何想和社区家长们分享的内容，请告诉我们。让我们一起在星期五早晨享受美好时光！请在3月6日(星期四)前发短信至604-506-0882，回复您是否出席，谢谢！

OPEN TO ALL PARENTS & CARE GIVERS

FRIDAYS

9:00AM

McKechnie Elementary School Library

Children's Festival Field Trip—Divisions 11 & 12



**Blooming
Gardeners**



**Div 5 @ "The Grunch"
performance**



Mother's Day Artwork



Firefighter visit with K's



**Div. 6 investigates artifacts borrowed from the Canadian
Museum of History.**

Grade 7 to Camp Strathcona





Friday Night Fun Fair





FNFF
EVEE



Thank you Volunteers



Fun Fair
END





**McKechnie
Wolves**





Calendar 2025-26
Dr. R. E McKechnie
 Elementary School



SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	180
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	5 Professional Development Days 1 Non-Instructional Day 1 Administrative Day (June 26)

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 19, 2025
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 22, 2025-Friday, January 2, 2026
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 5, 2026
Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 13, 2026
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 16-Friday, March 27, 2026
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday March 30, 2026
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2026
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 26, 2026

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS
 (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)**

Friday, September 19, 2025	Professional Development Day
Friday, October 24, 2025	Professional Development Day
Friday, November 21, 2025	Professional Development Day
Monday, January 12, 2026	Professional Development Day
Friday, February 13, 2026	Professional Development Day
Monday, April 20, 2026	Non-Instructional Day

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Tuesday, October 14, 2025	2:00 pm Early Dismissal
Wednesday, October 15, 2025	2:00 pm Early Dismissal
Wednesday, April 22, 2026	2:00 pm Early Dismissal
Thursday, April 23, 2026	2:00 pm Early Dismissal

Elementary Standard Bell Schedule 2025-26	
9:00-10:30	Class Time
10:30-10:50	Recess
10:50-12:10	Class Time
12:10-12:55	Lunch
12:55-2:55	Class Time
2:55-2:58	Flexible Class Time



June 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 <i>McKechnie Monday</i> 	3	4	5 <i>Div 5 field trip to "The Grunch" play—</i>	6	7
8	9	10	11 <i>Volunteer Thank You Tea</i> 	12	13	14
15 <i>HAPPY FATHERS DAY</i>	16	17	18 <i>Grd 7 leaving ceremony 5pm-9pm</i> 	19	20 <i>Grd 7 to</i> 	21
22	23 <i>2pm-3pm Kindergarten Tea 7pm-8pm PAC MEETING</i> 	24 <i>SPORTS Day</i> 	25 <i>Friday, March 15th Report Cards Go Home</i> 	26 <i>LAST DAY of SCHOOL! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!</i> 	27	28
29	30					<i>Back to School Tuesday, September 2nd 9AM-10AM</i>

Principal	Lindsay Thompson	604-713-4952
Office Admin Support	Nancy Yuen-Chan	
Director of Instruction	Christopher Wong	
VSB Trustee Liaison	Suzie Mah	
Vancouver School Board		604-713-5000

Safe Arrival @ McKechnie

Please call before 9am 604-713-5159

Press "54#" and leave message

For extended leave—please email nyuenchan@vsb.bc.ca

McKechnie Spirit Day is on the
1st Monday of every month

Please come to the McKechnie office to view
Items for Sale



September 2025



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 9 am-10 am students attend— <i>Early Dismissal</i>	3 9 am-3 pm Gr 1-7 Students at- tend full day	4	5	6
7	8 	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 <i>PRO D</i> <i>DAY—no school</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 				