

Dear McKechnie Families,

June has arrived, bringing one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year! With field trips, Grade 7 celebrations, the Strathcona Park Lodge trip, the Volunteer Tea, Sports Day, and the anticipation of summer vacation, we encourage families to stay connected and keep track of the many events your children are participating in.



On June 17, we will celebrate and say farewell to our Grade 7 students as they complete their elementary journey and prepare for high school. We are incredibly proud of all they have accomplished and know they will carry their skills and experiences forward with confidence. Thank you to Ms. Puil, Ms. Williston, and Mr. Smitna for their dedication and care in supporting our students this year.

We also extend our appreciation to our wonderful staff for their ongoing commitment to our school community. The track and field meet at Churchill on May 27 was a great success, with beautiful weather and outstanding student performances. Thank you to Ms. Puil, Ms. Williston, Ms. Wong, and Ms. Jenkins for their support.

To our amazing PAC, parents, and families... thank you for all you do to make McKechnie such a vibrant and supportive place. We look forward to the Friday Night Fun Fair on June 12, a special event that brings our community together.

Thank you, as always, for trusting us with your children each day.

Lindsay Thompson

Principal

McKechnie Elementary School



Thank you McKechnie Volunteers!

We invite all parent volunteers to our Parent Appreciation Tea on Wednesday, June 11 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Please [RSVP](#) by June 1st. We'd love to thank you in person!



Are you leaving early for summer break?

Please complete [survey](#)

Report cards will be sent home on Tuesday June 23rd. If your child will be leaving early for summer break, please **complete this [survey](#) by Friday, June 12th** so we can plan accordingly. For early departures, you may:

- Provide your teacher with a **self-addressed, stamped envelope (please provide proper postage)** to have the report card mailed home.

or

- **Pick up** the report card from the office in September.



“Are you planning to return to school

later than September 8, 2026?”

Complete ONLY if you are returning **AFTER September 8th**

School starts on Tuesday, September 8, 2026. If your child returns **after** September 8th but **before** Friday, September 25, 2026, 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 11, 2026, your child's spot may be given to a waitlisted student. Let me know if you need any assistance!"

YELLOW FISH PROJECT

Students in Divisions 1 and 3 recently participated in the City of Vancouver's Yellow Fish Project as part of their learning about water systems and environmental stewardship. After exploring how storm drains connect directly to local waterways, students painted yellow fish beside nearby drains to remind community members that anything entering a storm drain can impact fish and aquatic habitats. The project provided a meaningful hands-on opportunity for students to apply their learning while helping raise awareness about protecting Vancouver's waterways. Students were proud to contribute to their community and help promote responsible care of this important resource.



Garden News



Garden club has a limited number of vegetables, tomatoes, and flowers for sale. Please see [Ms Koke](#) or [Mrs Chang](#). All purchases are by donation. Thank you for supporting McKechnie Garden club.

Library News

Ms. Koke will be trying to have all of the books, returned to the library by June 16 at the latest. Please locate all library books, so they can be returned and inventory done in the library before the end of the month.



If you are unable to locate a book and you feel it has been returned, please come into the library and help Ms Koke look for it and settle up your account if we are unable to find it. Thank you very much for your assistance and support this year.

McKechnie's 2025–2026 yearbook is now available for purchase on [SchoolCash Online](#) for \$31.

This year's edition features a **160 page, full colour printed yearbook**.

Thanks to the generous support of our PAC, we are able to offer the yearbook **at cost**. A heartfelt thank you to the McKechnie PAC and all of our dedicated yearbook volunteers for creating this one of a kind elementary school keepsake.

Order your child's copy today. The deadline to purchase is Monday, June 8th. Please note that **yearbooks can only be purchased online**, and **no extra copies will be ordered**, so be sure to reserve yours before the deadline.



McKechnie group digital photos are available for purchase through Edge Imaging. Please use the link below to view your photos. For any questions, contact Edge Imaging Customer Care at 778-656-1762.

Grade 7 Playground Photos

<https://geosnapshot.com/e/mxh-dr-r-e-mckechnie-elementary-grad-group-50604/50604?source=event-eo-share>

PASSWORD: MXHV12026

McKechnie Club Photos

<https://geosnapshot.com/e/mxh-dr-r-e-mckechnie-elementary-teams-clubs-50605/50605?source=event-eo-share>

PASSWORD: MXHV22026

Schoolwide Panorama Photos

<https://geosnapshot.com/e/mxh-dr-r-e-mckechnie-elementary-rooftop-50606/50606?source=event-eo-share>

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 child cannot be or wish to be with, this request cannot be met in its entirety. At least one will be met where possible - please note the preferred or non-preferred friend(s) carefully. All parent input into class placement will be shared with the current classroom teacher and the school-based team of the Principal, School Counsellor and Resource Teacher.



PLAY QUEST ADVENTURES

www.playquestadventures.ca

Our summer day camp inspires you to explore, play and grow through cooperative, adventure-filled activities that spark curiosity and confidence.

with Mr. Kemp and Mrs. Jenkins

July 6th - 10th	Urban Amazing Race
July 13th - 17th	Collaboration Games
July 20th - 24th	Outdoor Adventures
July 27th - July 31st	Leadership in Action

Location: Quilchena Park
Time: 9:00am- 3:00pm
Grade 4-7

Register
\$350
weekly



Register Online Now - Space is Limited!

Calendar 2026-27
MCKECHNIE
 Elementary School



SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

Number of Days in Session	186
Number of Days of Instruction	179
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	5 Professional Development Days 1 Non-Instructional Day 1 Administrative Day (June 30)

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 8, 2026
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Wednesday, September 30, 2026
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 12, 2026
Remembrance Day	Wednesday, November 11,
2026 Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 18, 2026
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 21, 2026 - Friday, January 1, 2027
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 4, 2027
Family Day	Monday, February 15, 2027
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 12, 2027
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 15, 2027 - Thursday, March 25, 2027
Good Friday	Friday, March 26, 2027
Easter Monday	Monday, March 29, 2027
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, March 30, 2027
Victoria Day	Monday, May 24, 2027
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Tuesday, June 29, 2027
Administrative/School Closing Day	Wednesday, June 30, 2027

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

Monday, September 21, 2026	Professional Development Day (School)
Friday, October 23, 2026	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 20, 2026	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Friday, February 12, 2027	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 19, 2027	Non-Instructional Day (District wide)
Friday, May 21, 2027	Professional Development Day (School)

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Wednesday, October 21, 2026	2:00 PM
Thursday, October 22, 2026	2:00 PM
Wednesday, April 21, 2027	2:00 PM
Thursday, April 22, 2027	2:00 PM

9:00-10:10	Instructional Time
10:30-10:50	Break
10:50-12:50	Instructional Time
12:30-12:55	Lunch
12:55-1:00	Instructional Time

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.

McKechnie Photo Gallery



Div 10 & 11 to Children's Festival



Urban Ecology Workshop



Div 5 & 6 to Downtown Library



McKechnie Photo Gallery



Badminton



Elevate Frisbee



Camp Strathcona 2026



Track and Field



IMPORTANT REMINDERS:



Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a snack, lunch, and any necessary eating utensils. Lunches packed in a thermos will stay warm, and our hot lunch program is offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. To avoid in-class learning interruptions, we kindly ask that families do not drop off thermoses or bring lunches during the school day. The school has safe, filtered drinking water available for all students.

Afternoon pickup is at 3:00 p.m. If you expect to be 10–15 minutes late, please call the office so we can support your child. Late pickups can cause children to feel anxious, so timely communication is greatly appreciated.

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.



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Gr 7's to Camp Strathcona 	2 Gr 7's to Camp Strathcona	3 Gr 7's to Camp Strathcona 7pm—PAC AGM	4 Gr 7's to Camp Strathcona	5 Gr 7's to Camp Strathcona Div 5/6 to Fraser River	6
7	8 Deadline to order Yearbook	9	10	11	12 Div 06 to Maple Grove Park	13
14	15	16	17 	18 Gr 7's to Playland Field Trip Div 05 to Acti-	19	20
21	22	23 	24 Primaries to Maple Grove Park	25 	26	27
28	29	30				School starts Tuesday September 8th 9-10am

Principal	Lindsay Thompson	604-713-4952
Office Admin Support	Nancy Yuen-Chan	
Director of Instruction	Christopher Wong	
VSBC Trustee Liaison	Suzie Mah	

Safe Arrival @ McKechnie

Please call before 9am 604-713-5159

Press "54#" and leave message

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

Lost and Found

Year-End Housecleaning

Lost and Found will be displayed under the covered area on June 2–3. **Unclaimed items will be donated or discarded on June 5th.** Please stop by to check for your belongings.



MCKECHNIE
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL

Join us for an **IN PERSON**

ANNUAL GENERAL PAC MEETING

Wednesday June 3, 2026
7pm McKechnie Library

All Parents & Guardians Invited



Agenda

- Principal update
- Budget update
- Upcoming Activities
- Recap 2025/2026 successes
- 2026/2027 PAC Plans

There will be tea, coffee and snacks.
Babysitting is provided on request.

RSVP with QR code



September 2026

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 <small>9-10AM</small> 	9	10	11	12
13	14 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 NO SCHOOL 			