



What's
up
@McKechnie

Sept
2023

Dear McKechnie Families:

Thank you to our staff for ensuring that transition to the new homerooms for our students was smooth! Students were very eager and excited to meet their new teacher and see their new classroom!

It is hard to believe that it is mid-September! We are proud of our students for being their best selves and demonstrating evidence of P.A.W.S. (Code of Conduct). McKechnie is a busy and fun school with many opportunities for students to participate in clubs and sports. We look forward to a great learning and fun 2023-24 school year.

Our special thanks to our dedicated PAC – who did a phenomenal job in serving coffee last week! We look forward to working alongside with you to continue to bring our community together!

Mrs. Parin Morgan
Principal



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.

Re-usable cutlery

There are number of students who are forgetting to bring cutlery for their lunch. Reminder to please supply your child with their own re-usable cutlery so that they can wash and re-use each day. This would be a great thing to pick up over the holidays to help reduce our impact on the environment!



Student Sign Out and Late/Absent Safe Arrival Procedure

School starts at 9am everyday. Late arrivals are to sign in at the hallway binder **prior** to joining his/her class.

When you need to pick up your child during school hours for medical appointments, please inform the teacher **and** leave a clear message **before 9AM through the Safe Arrival Line so that we can prepare your child and be ready at the school office for pickup.**

Please report to the school office to sign your child out.

If you know your child is going to be late or not coming to school, please leave a message on the **Safe Arrival line before 9AM. We will start contacting families by 9:30AM for unaccounted students.**

Safe Arrival Phone # Please leave a message by 9AM

604-713-5159 Press 54#

Bell Schedule

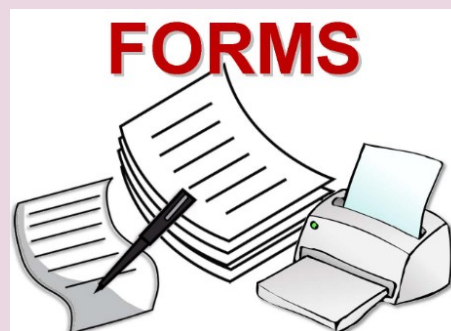
8:57	Warning Bell
9:00	Classes Begin
10:40-11	Recess
12:10-12:57	Lunch
3:03	Dismissal

Student Verification forms/packages

September is a time when schools require a substantial amount of paperwork from families. Please watch for a package containing a variety of important forms that will be sent home soon with each student. It is most important that you review these forms very carefully and ensure that information is correct and up to date. **Please ensure that you have supplied the required contact numbers so that we can reach you in the event of an emergency.**

This year Schools will be collecting consent for the following online. More information will be forthcoming.

- VSB Internal Use Media Consent
- External Use Media Consent
- CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation
- Adobe CC Consent (if applicable)
- Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy



VSB Dog Policy



Dogs are not allowed on the school grounds, playfields or in the school at any time between the hours of 8:00 am – 5:00 pm and during other organized school events outside of these hours unless they are service dogs. Please take some time to review the VSB's Dog Code, posted on the bright green signs on the fences which includes more detailed information. Our school grounds and buildings are very active places with many children playing and moving about. Some children are afraid of dogs and/or allergic to them. School age children may put themselves at risk without thinking and get hurt by a dog. Unfortunately, dog feces have been left on our playgrounds, which is a concern for our students' safety and hygiene when they engage in healthy outdoor play and as you can imagine it creates unpleasant odours. Allergic reactions, unhygienic situations arising from pet feces, and the possibility of unpredictable aggression contribute to the School District's decision to prohibit dogs in/on school properties during the school day.

Thank you for your cooperation and for making our school grounds and playfields safe for all our students.

Terry Fox Run on September 21st

On **Thursday, September 21st**, Mckechnie Elementary will host the Terry Fox Run. Classes will be running around the school and field with their buddy classes at a designated time throughout the day. Your child's teacher will tell you your child's run time. Please prepare your child in appropriate clothing for the weather and physical activities. We will run rain or shine.



This year all donations will be individually submitted to the Terry Fox Foundation. There will be **no cash** donations at school.

Please click the QR code, enter **Dr. R.E. McKechnie** in search box to [donate](#). Donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. All Mckechnie donations will be totaled in the school hallway on our Terry Fox poster. To read more about Terry Fox and his Marathon of Hope, click this link.

<https://terryfox.org/terrys-story/>



Thank you for your support.

School Cash Online

The Vancouver School Board uses School Cash Online at McKechnie Elementary as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including field trips to yearbooks. This secure system helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly, and easily online.

The system puts all the school fees available to your student online for purchase, keeping you informed of your child's activities and needs. We will post items through the system and assign the relevant fees to your child. You can then choose to purchase these fees online with one of three different methods, including credit cards. You can also stay informed and keep track of which school fees require your attention. The system strictly adheres to Canada's privacy and anti-spam legislation and meets the latest industry standards for payment security.

If you have not already done so, please take time to register now – a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's usual first name, last name, and birth date to register.

McKechnie T Shirts

Please place order by Friday September 15th on [School Cash](#)

In anticipation of our upcoming Cross Country season we are having a McKechnie spirit wear t-shirt sale. We are recommending that all members of our team purchase their own McKechnie school t-shirt. So, if you don't already have your own shirt, now is the time to get one. These shirts are a great way to identify all of our students at track meets and will be used for many years to come. Youth sized shirts are \$12 and Adults are \$14. Not only are they functional as a school jersey, they're also fashionable as well! Get yours today! **Place your order on [School Cash](#) by Friday September 15th.**

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below;

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

Nut Free / Scent Free Zone



McKechnie School is “allergy-aware” and “scent aware”! We have students and/or staff in the school that do have life-threatening allergies to certain foods (peanuts, seafood/fish, tree nuts, scents). People with a severe food allergy must not eat even tiny amounts of the food that cause them to have an allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction can come on quickly and this can occur if the person is simply in the same room as the allergen. To help reduce the risk of an accidental exposure, please *do not* send snacks containing peanuts, seafood/fish or tree nuts. Also, please remind your child not to share food, drinks or eating utensils with others. If your child does have an allergy, please help them to ensure their own safety by teaching them not to share food with others at school. We cannot guarantee a nut-free/scent-free environment, but we can all do our part to help one another.

If your child requires an epipen, puffer, or have a life threatening medical alert we should be aware of, please report the necessary information to the office immediately and your child’s teacher. The school also requires a copy of your child’s medical plan, if they have one, along with non-expired medications or EpiPens.

Parent Advisory Committee

This year’s executive members are:

Co-Chairs – Joyce Isamu

Treasurer – Simon Sun

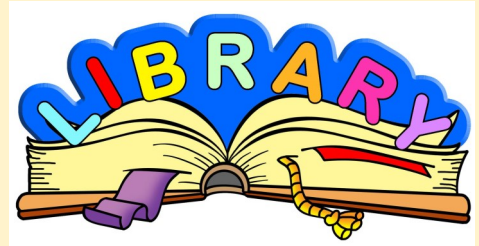
Secretary - TBA

Volunteer Coordinator – Navi Sihota



Library News

Book Bags! At McKechnie we use book bags for our K-3 students because it helps to protect our expensive hard cover picture books--easily \$25-\$30 if you need to replace it due to damage from meeting a water bottle. The cost of these bags has risen in the last few years from \$8-\$14 and Ms. Koke likes to collect them in June for use by the students again the following year with the idea that they should last 3-4 years. This helps to keep the bags from being misplaced over the summer. Not all of the bags came back last year and we are short this year as a result, so if you have your book bag at home still, please don't get another one from your teacher. If you find an extra at home, please bring it to the library. We would love to have any extra book bags if there are any intermediate students who no longer use them. Please bring them to the library.



Ms. Koke broke her leg over the summer, so some days there will be an alternate librarian in the library. Ms. Koke will be relying even more on her student volunteers and parent volunteers to step up and help keep the library running smoothly. The parent volunteers who regularly came in to help with shelving books and other tasks are so appreciated. Please email Ms. Koke if you have a couple of hours to spare Monday-Wednesdays. skoke@vsb.bc.ca

Cross Country 2023

Cross-Country season is starting soon! Practices will begin next week before school and all students from kindergarten to Grade 7 are encouraged to come out and join the fun.

Orders for McKechnie Wolf t-shirts, which serve as our team uniform, are up on [SchoolCashOnline](#). The deadline to order is this Friday, September 15th.

Dates for practices and meets are TBA, so stay tuned!



Garden Club Update

Our boxes are looking amazing thanks in large part to KidsWorld who came to water a couple of times per week over the summer. Their hard work and dedication meant that the fresh delicious produce grown was prepared and eaten by the kids and also by neighbours and families from our larger community. I'd call that a win-win.



That said, we are having issues with lots of little kids picking green tomatoes and other food from the garden while unsupervised, and we are finding tiny green tomatoes and other food scattered in the wood chips or on the ground. Work and effort has been put into growing these foods, and please do not let your children pick unripe produce! It's wasteful to pick it when it is not ready yet. Plus they will get a tummy ache.



Food ripens at different times and the items that are still growing have been left there because they are not ready yet. Garden Club will be having some sort of Harvest Celebration around Thanksgiving, and if no food is left to ripen, there won't be anything to celebrate.



Thank you all for supporting the Garden Club and our food and sustainability program in our school community!

The Garden Club



DR. R.E. MCKECHNIE STAFF LIST 2023-2024

Principal		Mr. Michael Singh
Administrative Office Assistant		Mrs. Nancy Yuen-Chan
Div. 1 Grade 6/7	Room #212	Ms. Taryn Puil
Div. 2 Grade 6/7	Room #209	Mr. Trevor Smitna
Div. 3 Grade 5/6	Room #105	Ms. Christina Williston
Div. 4 Grade 5	Room #207	Mrs. Vicki Wong
Div. 5 Grade 4	Room #208	Mr. Scott Kemp
Div. 6 Grade 3/4	Room #210	Ms. Zoe McNair
Div. 7 Grade 2/3	Room # 101	Mrs. Maria Papageorgiou (M-W.)
		Ms. Joellen Housego (Th.-Fr.)
Div. 8 Grade 2/3	Room #106	Ms. Sisley Killam
Div. 9 Grade 1/2	Room# 211	Mr. Ben Fanning
Div. 10 Grade 1/2	Room #102	Mrs. Nidia Pawliuk
Div. 11 Grade 1	Room #110	Mrs. Tammy Chang – (Mon. - Wed.)
		Ms. Shelley Koke - (Thurs. – Fri.)
Div. 12 Grade KF	Room #104	Ms. Kristin Lum-Tong
Resource Teacher	Room #206	Ms. Cindy Tsang
Resource Teacher	Room #109	Ms. Michaela Muir (Mon – Wed)
Resource Teacher	Room #109	TBA
Librarian	Room #103	Ms. Shelley Koke
Prep Coverage/Music	Portable	Mr. Glenn de Verteuil – Head Teacher

Support Staff:

Mr. Richer Guinto	Building Engineer
Mr. Koon Chan	Afternoon Custodian
Ms. Maria Andriopoulos	Supervision Aide
Ms. Benny Ng	Supervision Aide
Ms. Vicky Fiskilis	Student Support Worker – (Mon., Tues, Wed.)
Ms. Alice Warren	Student Support Worker
Ms. Yukiko Ichizawa	Student Support Worker – (Thurs - Fri.)
Ms. Catherine Preece	Student Support Worker
Ms. Dragana Hajduk	Student Support Worker
Ms. Noriko Yoshida	Student Support Worker

District Staff:

Ms. TBA	Speech/Language Pathologist – Thurs AM
Ms. Siobhan Dowle	Area Counsellor – Wed & Thurs AM only
Mrs. Harj Johal	School Nurse
Mr. David Ki	Psychologist
Ms. Elisabeth Chan	Settlement Worker
Ms. Lauren Moore	Deaf Hard of Hearing – Wednesday AM

Principal: Mike Singh 604-713-4952
 Administrative Assistant: Nancy Yuen-Chan
 Director of Instruction: Christopher Wong
 VSB Trustee Liaison: Suzie Mah
 Vancouver School Board 604-713-5000

**Safe Arrive @ McKechnie—Please Call before 9 am
 604-713-5159 Press “54#”**

**For extended leave—Please email
 nyuenchan@vsb.bc.ca with details**



September 2023





Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5 Back to School 10 am dismissal	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 MEET THE TEACHER Meet the Teacher & PAC Welcome Back Social	21 TERRY FOX RUN Terry Fox Run	22 No school 	23
24	25	26	27	28 PAC MEETING 2-3 PM (rm 202)	29 orange shirt day	30

October 2023



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2 <i>No school</i>  National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	3	4	5  <i>Photo Day</i>	6	7
8	9 <i>No School</i> <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 <i>No school</i>  Pro-D	21
22	23	24	25 <i>2pm</i> <i>Dismissal</i> <i>Goal Setting Conference</i>	26 <i>2pm</i> <i>Dismissal</i> <i>Goal Setting Conference</i>	27  <i>immunization clinic</i>	28
29	30	31				

