



What's
up
@McKechnie

September
2024

Hello McKechnie Families:

Welcome back to Dr. R. E. McKechnie Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year! We are thrilled to have had such a fantastic start, with the first two weeks already behind us. It has been wonderful to reunite with our students and see their enthusiastic faces as they settle into their new classes. This is my first September start at McKechnie, and I am very excited.

Whether you are a returning member of our community or joining us for the first time, we are delighted to have you here. Dr. R. E. McKechnie Elementary School is a unique and special place, and I am eager to get to know all of our new students and their families, as well as reconnect with those I already know. Our dedicated staff has been working tirelessly to prepare for this school year, ensuring that your children will have an enriching and enjoyable experience.

A special thank you to our wonderful PAC for providing coffee and snacks on the first day. Please consider joining our PAC and taking part in the amazing things they do for our school. Thank you PAC members for being an integral part of our school community.

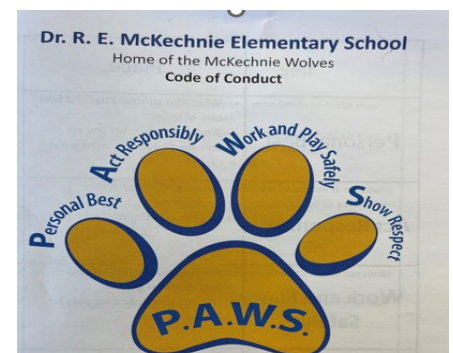
We look forward to collaborating with you and your family throughout the year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,

Lindsay Thompson
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.





You're Invited!

Date: September 19, 2024

Time: 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Location: McKechnie School

Join us for a special opportunity to meet your child's teachers and see their classrooms!

Schedule:

3:00 PM - 4:00PM: Visit classrooms to introduce yourselves and see the room. **This is a chance to say hello, not to discuss your child.** If you wish to discuss specifics about your child, please make a separate appointment.

- **3:00 PM - 5:00 PM:** Enjoy snacks and refreshments hosted by our wonderful PAC in the undercover area. Take this chance to meet other families in the McKechnie community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Elementary Standard Bell Schedule 2024-25	
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

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

Before 9 AM - Please call The Safe Arrival Number 604-713-5159 Extension 54, and leave a message on the voice mail when your child(ren) will be absent or late to school.

(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

NOTE: For extended absences (ie - Vacation) please email classroom teacher AND the [office](#) dates of extended absence. No need to call Safe Arrival daily in this case.

Please contact the school office if you require further information. Thank you

From the Library Corner:



Ms. Koke is back in the library Monday-Wednesday this year, and job-sharing grade 1/2 with Mrs. Chang this year. There are many grade 4-7 students who have stepped up to be Library Monitors this year, and we'll be rotating students every 6-8 weeks. Monitors have started this week, and the schedule will soon be posted on the bulletin board outside the library which will be in effect until Halloween.

Training has begun for the new monitors, and thank you to the last year's student monitors who are assisting in this process.

Please encourage your children to return their books directly to the library rather than leaving them in their cubbies or class bins as there were several incidences of books going missing last year, when I know that those books were returned to the school. We would like to minimize those situations.

For those primary students who are new to the school, McKechnie has Book Bags that are included as a rental in the school fees. Book bags that were returned to Ms. Koke prior to the summer have been returned. A small number of new Book Bags have been received, and we were sent a slightly larger bag by mistake. If you see other students walking around with different bags, that is the reason why. The book bags are very important for use in the library, especially by the lower primaries as they protect our books from damage that occurs from being left out on the playground in the rain or coming into contact with water bottles inside a backpack. Thank you for sending your book bags with your child on library day! The new Book Bags will be distributed to newer students over the next several weeks.

Garden Club



Garden Club will be active over the next few weeks as we pick our produce. Sadly, random people from the neighbourhood have felt entitled to help themselves to some of the produce and have picked beans, tomatoes, squashes, and pumpkins which I find very upsetting as they did not do any of the labour and it robs our students of the final reward of picking the produce. Garden Club will be making some signs to post on or in the beds, doing some fall cleanup, and planting daffodil bulbs around the school.

Terry Fox Run on September 19th

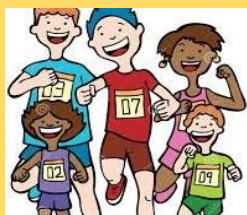
On **Thursday, September 19th**, McKechnie Elementary will host the Terry Fox Run. Classes will be running around the school and field with their buddy classes at a designated time throughout the day. Your child's teacher will tell you your child's run time. Please prepare your child in appropriate clothing for the weather and physical activities. We will run rain or shine.

Please note you must consent on the [Neighbourhood Class Walk Consent Form](#) BY SEPTEMBER 19TH in order for your child to participate in the Terry Fox Run.

This year all donations will be individually submitted to the Terry Fox Foundation. Please click the link to [donate](#). Donations over \$20 will receive a tax receipt. All McKechnie donations will be totalled 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/>

There will be **no cash** donations at school.

Thank you for your support. [Terry Fox School Run](#)



CROSS-COUNTRY SEASON

Cross-country running season is starting soon! All McKechnie students in Grades K-7 are welcome to join the cross-country team.

Practices will be on Monday and Wednesday mornings from 8:15-8:45, weather permitting. **Practices start on Monday, September 16th.**

Mini-meets will be from 3:30-4:30 on September 24th at Balaclava Park, October 1st at Quilchena Park, and October 8th at Balaclava Park.

The District Final Meet will take place on October 22nd from 1-3pm at Trout Lake.

A permission form for practices and the mini-meets went home this week and should be returned before the first practice.

Please [order](#) a blue McKechnie Wolf School Spirit shirt if you don't already have one through [SchoolCash Online](#) by Thursday September 19th. **All students are expected to wear the McKechnie Wolves T shirt at all meets.**

CASH ONLINE



The Vancouver School Board now has School Cash Online at **McKechnie Elementary** as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including field trips and 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.schoolcashionline.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.

To receive email notifications of upcoming fees, please select "YES" and check the box indicating "I want to receive email notifications for new fees assigned to my student and updates on school-related activities." Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at 1(866) 961-1803 or by visiting <https://helpdesk.supportschoolcashionline.com/en/support/home?>

McKechnie Hoodie Sweatshirts & McKechnie Socks for Sale

We have limited amounts of size childrens' Small McKechnie Hoodies and size Large kids/Adult size socks for sale **in the school office** Please come by the school office to purchase.

Youth size hoodie -\$45

McKechnie Socks—\$14 each

Reminder that **the first Monday of every month is McKechnie Spirit Day** where we encourage all students to show their school spirit by wearing McKechnie wear. Wearing your McKechnie Spirit Wear is a wonderful way to show your school spirit!



IMPORTANT REMINDERS TO PARENTS:

No Uber Eats or Personal Food Deliveries to Classrooms

We kindly remind parents that 'Uber Eats' and other personal food deliveries are **not permitted to classrooms**. If a student forgets their lunch, parents can drop it off at a table outside the office. It is the student's responsibility to pick up their lunch from there.

Minimizing Classroom Disruptions

Unless it's an **emergency**, students and teachers should not be disturbed during class time to call home for non-urgent messages, such as who is picking them up. These interruptions are very disruptive to the learning environment, and will not be permitted. The office staff is extremely busy and is not able to pass messages on to your children.

Reminder to Parents: No Cutlery Provided

Please remember to send cutlery with your child(ren). The office **DOES NOT** have any to give them and we will not be providing cutlery from the staffroom. If your child does not have any cutlery, they will have to have lunch without any. Thank you for remembering to do this.



We thank you for your cooperation!

Nut Free Zone

A reminder that several students at McKechnie have severe allergies (especially nuts). We ask that families refrain from sending nut products with their child. Please check with your child's teacher if you are unsure of food allergies.



If your child requires an epipen, puffer or has medical issues that we should be aware of, please contact the school office to further discuss. Thank you.

Parents To-D List:

Due Thursday September 19th

- ◇ Complete/Update Student Verification Sheet
- ◇ Complete Reunification Sheet (Long yellow sheet) - 1 sheet per family
- ◇ Order McKechnie Spirit Wear T shirt ([SchoolCash Online](#))
- ◇ Complete [online forms](#) (Must complete to participate in Terry Fox Run on September 19th)
- ◇ Pay School Fees on ([SchoolCash Online](#))

Magee Music Society

Hello Magee Community and Friends,

We hope you had a wonderful summer!

We are kicking off our school year with a fall Paper Shredding Fundraiser. Here are the details:



- When: **THIS** coming Saturday, September 14, 2024
- Time: 10am - 2pm
- Where: Magee Parking Lot
- Suggested Donation: \$15 per bag, \$20 per box - but we will appreciate any donation given!

Our Wind Ensemble and Senior Jazz Band are preparing to go on tour to Ireland in the Spring. They will be performing at various locations, collaborating with local schools, interacting with local musicians and exploring historical sites. Your donation will help fund amazing experiences such as this, along with student scholarships, new instrument purchases and clinician workshops.

We can't thank you enough for your continued support!

Magee Music Society

McKechnie PAC Information

Please [join](#) the McKechnie Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) [WhatsApp](#) group to stay informed about exciting upcoming school events, activities, and important announcements such as hot lunches, afterschool programs, and opportunities to get involved.



Mark your calendars:

- ◆ Hot lunch starts Mon Sept 16—[Order here](#)
- ◆ Meet the Teachers social on Thurs Sept 19, 3:00-5:00pm
- ◆ PAC meeting with Principal Thurs Sept 26, 7-8pm, in library

More information and programs will be announced on the WhatsApp group. Looking forward to building a strong community together.

Sincerely,

PAC Executive (Serena, Joyce, Simon, Navi)

PIZZA LUNCH is Back!

Order and raise money for the school and help the Grade 7s!

We will start on Friday, September 27.

There are 4 flavours of pizza to choose from:

1. Extra Cheese
2. Double Pepperoni
3. Hawaiian: Ham & Pineapple
4. BBQ Chicken: Bacon & Chicken



And there are 3 flavours of “Kiju” Organic Juice! You can order at MunchaLunch at www.munchalunch.com

DR. R.E. MCKECHNIE STAFF LIST 2024-2025

Principal		Ms. Lindsay Thompson
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 6	Room #105	Ms. Christina Williston
Div. 4 Grade 5	Room #207	Mrs. Vicki Wong
Div. 5 Grade 4/5	Room #208	Mr. Scott Kemp
Div. 6 Grade 4	Room #210	Ms. Zoe McNair
Div. 7 Grade 3	Room # 101	Mrs. Maria Papageorgiou (Mon.- Wed.)
		Ms. Joellen Housego (Thur.-Fri.)
Div. 8 Grade 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 1/2	Room #110	Mrs. Tammy Chang – (Mon. - Wed.)
		Ms. Shelley Koke - (Thur. – Fri.)
Div. 12 Grade KF	Room #104	Ms. Kristin Lum-Tong
Resource Teacher	Room #206	Mrs. Cindy Jenkins
Resource Teacher	Room #109	Ms. Michaela Muir (Mon. – Wed.)
Resource Teacher	Room #109	Ms. Katharine Thurmeier (Mon. - Thur.)
Librarian	Room #103	Ms. Shelley Koke
Prep Coverage/Music	Portable	Mr. Glenn de Verteuil – Head Teacher

Support Staff:

Mr. Gilbert Cacao	Building Engineer
Mr. Koon Chan	Afternoon Custodian
Ms. Maria Andriopoulos	Supervision Aide
Ms. Benny Ng	Supervision Aide
Ms. Vicky Fiskilis	Student Support Worker – (Mon. - Wed.)
Ms. Alice Warren	Student Support Worker
Ms. Mary Loewen	Student Support Worker – (Thur. - Fri.)
Ms. Catherine Preece	Student Support Worker
Ms. Karina Toftrup	Student Support Worker
Ms. Noriko Yoshida	Student Support Worker
Ms. Hilma De Castro	Student Support Worker
Ms. Ping Ping Leng	Student Support Worker
Ms. Ingrid Kosco-Duplinski	Student Support Worker

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

September 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1	2	3 	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 <u>Hot Lunch Starts</u> 	17	18	19 <u>Terry Fox Run</u> <u>Due: Verification-Forms/ My Forms/ & T-Shirt Order</u> 3-5 PM Meet the Teachers	20 	21
22	23	24	25	26 7-8 pm 	27 <u>Pizza Lunch Starts</u> 	28
29	30 					

SEPTEMBER




October 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2 Student Picture Day 	3	4	5 
6	7 McKechnie Monday Spirit Day 	8	9	10 Grade 6 Immunization 	11	12
13	14 Happy Thanksgiving! 	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 2pm EARLY DISMISSAL 	24 2pm EARLY DISMISSAL 	25 	26
27	28	29	30	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN 		