

McKinney Family Update September 9 – 13, 2024.

What an incredible first week! The 2024-25 school year is going to be a great one!

We would like to acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the hən'qəmin'əm' language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live.

Welcome

We are all absolutely thrilled to start this new school year with you and your children. As we embark on this new school year, we want to express our sincere gratitude for your continued trust and partnership in nurturing the educational growth and development of your children. At McKinney, we are committed to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can flourish. We look forward to working closely with you to make this school year a memorable and successful one for your child(ren).

Please help us welcome the new staff at McKinney:

- Mr. Mason is our new Grade 2/3 teacher
- Ms. Madeline is our new Grade 1/2 Montessori teacher
- Ms. Bella is our new Grade 7 Montessori teacher
- Ms. Hilborn is our new Grade 4/5 Montessori teacher
- Ms. CJ is our new Grade 1/2 teacher
- Mr. Forrest is our new Resource teacher
- Ms. Johal is our new Grade 5/6 teacher

We both appreciate and are grateful for the partnership with parents. McKinney parents have many opportunities to get involved, such as [PAC](#) and RAM, but most importantly, parents/guardians can support their children's learning by:

- Reading with your children. This is by far our best recommendation. And it doesn't matter what language you read in: English or your Home language. Reading is reading. Find a good book and read to them, with them, or listen to them read. Cuddle up with your kids and enjoy a book just for the sake of enjoyment! Children of all ages benefit from this. Grade 7s too!
- Talk to your kids about school. Try not to put down homework or certain subjects. Hold it all in high regard and ask your kids about what they are learning. Here are some good conversation starters:

- What was your favourite part of today?
- Who was kind to you today? Who were you kind to?
- What did you do at recess/lunch today?
- What is something new you learned today?
- What was something super funny that happened today?
- Cook together
- Visit the library together
- Play together
- Work with your child's teacher. Get to know them and what they expect. Read your child's agenda. If you have a problem with the teacher or school, please don't discuss this in front of your child. Meet with the teacher to discuss your concerns. Children bring to school the attitudes about schooling that they learn at home. If you stay positive, they will probably stay positive too!

Bell schedule reminder

8:40 first bell

8:45 classes begin

Meet the Staff Night

We welcome all families to come meet their child's teacher on Thursday, September 19th. More information and details to come.

Parent Advisory Council - PAC

All parents are automatically members of our Parent Advisory Committee. We encourage you to attend and hear about all the wonderful things that the PAC does to support student learning at McKinney.

A Message from the PAC executive

Dear McKinney Community,

We are excited to invite you to our first PAC meeting of the school year! Your involvement is essential in fostering a supportive and engaging learning environment for all our students.

Date: September 9 2024

Time: 7pm

Location: Mckinney Library and via Zoom

Meeting URL: <https://ubc.zoom.us/j/64277087806>
Meeting ID: 642 7708 7806
Passcode: 129159

At this meeting, we will discuss our goals for the year, upcoming school events, budget, and opportunities for parent involvement. We value your input and encourage you to bring your ideas and suggestions on how we can continue to enhance our school community.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Best wishes,

PAC Executive Committee

Upcoming Important Dates in September

Sept 9 – PAC meeting

Sept 19 – Terry Fox Run

Sept 20 – Pro D Day – no school for students

Sept 27 – Orange Shirt Day

Sept 30 – Truth & Reconciliation Day – no school

The entire school calendar can be found here:

<https://mckinney.sd38.bc.ca/node/5>

Affordability Fund

This past spring, the provincial government announced a renewal of one-time funds for the *Student and Family Affordability Fund*. This fund is designed to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs in the following areas:

- School and course fees
- School supplies and course materials
- Field trips
- School-related extracurricular opportunities
- Clothing and footwear required for sports and school activities

Please reach out to Gallit Zvi (principal) or Monika Sood (vice principal) if you are in need of assistance. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

And Finally, Thank you

Thank you for being an essential part of the McKinney Elementary community. Here's to a successful and fulfilling 2024-2025 school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Zvi and Ms. Sood