



McLeod Road Traditional School

Home of the Thunderbolts

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McLeod Road Newsletter #4 – October 21, 2021

Hello Families,

The first month and half of school has already passed us by and here we are in the middle of October already!

Congratulations to Trixie Cadd (Ms. Trixie) who is the successful applicant for our Head Secretary position. Ms. Trixie has been here since August and has fit in quite nicely to our school and is a lovely addition to our staff!

Arrival to School:

We have had too many students arriving to school late. Your child needs to be at **school by 8:25am each morning** so that they are on time for the instructional day. Some students are regularly arriving late and that does not set the day on a positive note for them, as well as they miss the morning routine that has been established by the classroom teacher. Please speak to me if this is an issue for your family. Of course, there are times when life gets in the way and we are running late once in a while. I do understand that.

Student Absences:

If your child is going to be away from school, you must call the office and let us know, even if you have told the classroom teacher. You can always leave a message on our answering machine if it is after hours.

Early Dismissal / Parent Teacher Conferences:

On Wednesday October 27th, students will be dismissed at 1:30pm, so that teachers can meet with parents to discuss students. This time is meant for parents, that have concerns regarding their child's learning, to meet with the classroom teacher and discuss. They will be 15 minute blocks that will be scheduled through the office. Due to Covid, only one parent will be able to come in and no younger siblings that do not attend school will be able to come in. To keep up with your child's progress, parents are expected to view their child's Freshgrade Portfolio on a regular basis. If you have concerns and would like a meeting with the teacher, please book an appointment by calling the office no later than 11:30 on Wednesday Oct. 27th. These will be first come first serve basis bookings. There will be no last-minute bookings after 11:30, and you will have to arrange another time to meet with the teacher.

Halloween Celebrations:

Our annual pumpkin carving/decorating contest will be happening again this year during the last week of October. If they choose to participate, students must have their pumpkins at school, either Wednesday October 27th, or October 28th. Please send them with your children in the

morning where they will take them to their classrooms first. Students are invited to carve or decorate one pumpkin each. The categories to enter are: Scariest, Happiest, or Most Creative. Students must have their name and division written on the bottom of the pumpkin with sharpie ink or a piece of masking tape.

On Friday Oct. 29th, all classes will be doing a viewing of the pumpkin and voting on their favourites for each category. Winners will be announced on Friday afternoon. All pumpkins must be taken home Friday afterschool. They will not be kept at the school and will be disposed of Friday afterschool.

Student Lunches:

Please ensure that your child has everything they need for their lunch. We will not be handing out any disposable cutlery anymore. Please note that lunches cannot be dropped off anymore and we will continue with this policy from now on.

PAC:

We are in need of PAC members to join our executive or even attend our meetings. This year the PAC will be able to do more in terms of the Covid restrictions and it would be so wonderful for our students to be able to be involved in new things! We will be having our first PAC meeting next Tuesday October 26th, at 6:00pm in the school gym. All parents of our school are part of the PAC and are welcome to join all meetings!

School-Wide Themes:

The staff at McLeod Road have started working on monthly themes that all classes will be learning about. This month it is **Gratitude**. At the beginning at each month, we will have a quick assembly (primary and intermediate separate) to introduce the new monthly theme. At the end of each month we will be having a celebration assembly where various classes will be sharing their learning and activities. The theme for November will be **Empathy**. To be involved in the learning, please discuss these themes at home with your child and ask what they have learned or done with it.

Dates for the Calendar:

October 20	Interim Reports go home
October 22	Provincial Professional Development Day (schools not in session)
October 26	PAC Meeting 6:00pm MRT gym
October 27	1:30 Early Dismissal
October 30	MRT Pumpkin Carving/Decorating Contest
November 4	Diwali
November 7	Daylight Savings ends – Turn clocks back one hour
November 11	Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)
November 12	Non-Instructional Day (Schools Closed)
November 17	Photo Retake Day

Updated health and safety protocols in all schools:

All staff and students (K-12) must wear a mask when inside a school or on a bus.

We recognize this will be a change for some of our young students. We will work closely with our students on mask wearing in a positive manner and ensure all of our students continue to have access to non-medical face masks.

The Board of Education also discussed additional measures including vaccination clinics, testing, and notifications:

- **School-based Vaccine Clinics:** The Board of Education will partner with Fraser Health to examine hosting vaccine clinics in our schools for the purpose of increasing vaccination rates in our communities where rates are low. These clinics will only be available to our school communities - staff, students and their families.
- **COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle test kits:** The Board will promote the use of [take-home COVID-19 Mouth Rinse/Gargle Sample Collection kits](#) to families with children who become symptomatic while at school. This initiative will help increase access to testing and work towards preventing COVID-19 transmission in the school environment.
- **Notifications:** Families are now able to access COVID-19 exposures on the [Fraser Health website](#). Fraser Health will post the school name and date(s) of exposure on their website [here](#). Our Board will continue to work with Fraser Health to do all we can to ensure that notification processes are timely, transparent, and include information about clusters.

Important Health and Safety Procedures and Routines – COVID-19 Related:

- **Parents and caregivers are responsible to assess their children each day before going to school.** If your child is experiencing symptoms of common cold, influenza, Covid-19, or other infectious respiratory disease, **please keep your child home until there has been an assessment by a health care provider AND the symptoms have resolved.**
- Access to our building will be limited to students and staff unless arrangements have been made through the office. Please call the office if you need to make an appointment.
- Please send your child to school with all items needed for the day. No items or lunches should be dropped off at the office during the school day. (students bring mask, full water bottle, backpack, and lunch and snacks every day)
- Physical contact will continue to be discouraged, as we must all respect others' personal space.
- Regular and frequent hand washing and hand sanitizing will be occurring.
- Reduced hallway traffic with directional arrows are in place.
- Masks are mandatory inside for all staff and students in Grades K-7.
- Daily cleaning and disinfecting will occur.
- No sharing of food of any kind.
- Ensure your child arrives to school on time each day, and **limit early pick up times.**

Please do not hesitate to call the school should you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ms. Reena Chohan
Principal

