



McDermid Community School

HONOR ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY
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APRIL (Avrii) 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are looking forward to the change in season and welcoming spring! We will not get very far into the month of April before we pause for the Easter Break, which begins on Friday, April 7th.

A number of people found March to be a challenging month. We missed out on being able to be outside as much as we would have enjoyed due to the continuing cold weather. When our students are not able to get enough of a break to run and enjoy free play, we find conflicts pop up more often. We continue to ask families to report any concerns as soon as they develop so we can mediate as effectively as possible. In the month of March and continuing this month, our students have been doing various learning activities around resolving conflict, remembering kindness and respecting differences, and developing both empathy and self-regulation.

We were thrilled to close out March with our first "Aen Festivaal Michif." This was a day where we immersed our school into a variety of learning activities around Metis culture – from eating bannock, to dancing the Red River Jig, to various visual art projects, to practicing the Michif language. Students were in multi-grade groups, which allowed our seniors some extra leadership opportunities, and allowed our younger students to get to know students from other grades. Our day ended with a storytelling presentation from parent Simon Moccasin. McDermid has been a pilot school for an early learning Michif program for 3 years now, and this year we added in classes on the Michif language to our older grades. This is a unique program in Regina and we are thankful to our dedicated staff, supportive community, and Metis Nation of Saskatchewan for helping this initiative to grow and thrive.

In March, our students have also attended a play, fire safety presentations, high school presentations (Grade 8), and enjoyed a number of theme days put on by our Student Leadership Club.

We thank all the families who came out to the conferences near the start of March. Healthy communication between home and school plays an important part in student success. We encourage families to continue to check progress on Edsby and to reach out with any questions, concerns, or compliments (it means a lot to our staff when they know they have done something that made a positive impact).

We hope the month of April is a healthy one for our school families, and that the Spring Break is restful.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Josephson
Principal

At McDermid, April is the month of Truth (Michif: "La Vayritii")



The Grandfather Teaching of Truth is represented by the Turtle (Michif: "La Torcheu").

A turtle represents truth because a turtle has remained the same since the beginning of time. A turtle adapts, but does not change its basic nature. We need to remain true to ourselves and not allow the core values we have to be changed by what is going on around us.

A turtle also has 13 big shells on his back – which represents the 13 moons in a year. This is a reminder that we need to walk in truth all year long.

Spring/Easter Break: Spring Break will take place April 7th to 14th. Classes resume Monday, April 17th.

We thank our SLC team for planning some fun activities leading in to the break for our students. These will be happening on Thursday.

Dental Hygenist Visits

Dental Hygenist visits will take place April 3rd – 6th. Notes have gone home for families with students involved.



Water Bottles Needed! Many of our students have lost or broken the water bottles they began the year with. Please check in with your child and ensure they have a replacement if needed. We would also gratefully accept donations from anyone who has some extras to spare.

Cold Weather Reminders

We have not quite shaken winter weather conditions. Please make sure students come to school with proper outdoor clothing (coats, boots, mittens, etc.) so that are able to comfortably play outside during recess.



Thom Collegiate's Beat Cancer Fundraiser



McDermid is partnering with Thom Collegiate for their "Beat Cancer" Fundraiser this year. They have a donor willing to match what they raise up to \$20 000. Thom is running a competition for their feeder schools and the one that raises the most money wins a half-day "play day" at Thom!

Our Student Leadership Club will be selling freezies and glow sticks on both Friday, April 21st and Friday, April 28th.

CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Our older grades are spending time working through lessons on the difference between conflict, bullying, harassment and racism, and best practices for dealing with them.

"I Statements" are one tool our students are learning. An "I Statement" really invites others to be on our team, and provides a bridge to work together. This is the opposite of a "You" statement, which places blame and often assumes intent.



"You Statement" Examples: "You are Wrong," "You are Selfish," "You are Embarrassing," "You etc.

An "I Statement" begins with how I feel, explains the action (not the intent) the other person did to cause the feeling, and proposes a solution. This allows someone to help us and repair the relationship.

"I Statement" Examples:

"I felt frustrated when you cut in front of me in line. Next time could you wait your turn?"

"I was embarrassed when you told everyone what my mark was. Next time please respect my privacy."



"I Statements" are a good test to see if someone did not intend to cause a problem or did not realize their actions would be harmful. Our encouragement is that if these kinds of conversations do not work, and a student finds themselves repeatedly targeted either verbally or physically, they should seek adult support. If a student is intentionally using racial or homophobic terms, or repeatedly causing physical harm, it is important to report this right away.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Free Breakfast begins at 8:20 a.m. and students can remain supervised in the Nutrition Room until they head out for recess or start class at 8:50 a.m.

Daily snacks are provided for our students in Pre-K through Grade 3. We serve snacks to our older grades weekly.

Lunch: Students are welcome to bring their own lunch, or to purchase one for \$2. Payment can be made the day of, or ahead of time either through the office or School Cash Online (available through our website).

APRIL EVENTS:

April 5th – 8th - Dental Hygienist Visits

Thursday, April 6th – School-Wide Bingo and Easter Egg Hunt Activity

Friday, April 7th to Friday, April 14th – NO SCHOOL: SPRING BREAK

Monday, April 17th – Students Return to Class

Tuesday, April 18th – Gr. 8 Farewell Photos – AM

Tuesday, April 25th – RPL Storytime with Kindergarten

Friday, April 28th– Truth Assembly at 2:45 & Pre-K Family Day



Truth