



McDermid Community School

HONOR ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY

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FEBRUARY 2022 NEWSLETTER



Principal & Vice-Principal Message

February is a short month, but we still have a number of exciting learning opportunities taking place. February is Indigenous Storytelling month, and in partnership with the Regina Public Library, our school division has provided a number of virtual opportunities for students to experience a variety of storytellers. Our Grade 8 students will be involved with Practical and Applied Arts training at Campus Regina. Teachers will be continuing to focus on the importance of play as a learning tool in the classroom, and we are hoping for warmer weather so that students can enjoy recess and other classroom breaks in the fresh air.

This month's Grandfather Teaching of Love reminds us that even when we look different, practice life differently, and/or have different opinions, we all deserve love and respect. This virtue lines up with the mission statement of Regina Public Schools: **To instil the value of knowledge, the dignity of effort, and the worth of the individual.**

It continues to be our commitment to deliver high-quality learning experiences and to celebrate the efforts of students wherever they are in their learning journey. It is important to us that students feel safe at school: that they have all of the tools they need, including an opportunity to have a healthy breakfast and lunch.

We also want to thank Elder Val for her continued support of our school, taking time to share cultural teachings with students, to smudge, and to simply love on the individuals in the building. It is always a pleasure to see her warm smiling face.

We thank all of our school families for their efforts in staying connected and helping us to support your children.

Ms. April Howard
Vice-Principal

Mr. Bob Phillips
Principal

February is the month of Love

Love is the Grandfather Teaching represented by the eagle. Love represents the Creator. It is everyone's right to have and experience love. Everyone has a right to feel safe and cared for and all of us have a responsibility to stand up for that right.



Love is caring deeply for someone else. In order to love others we must also love ourselves. It is hard to love when we are hurt: this is an important month to remember to seek help when we need it. When people are weak, they need love the most.

Love must be given freely as a gift. When we love, we can find peace.

Cold Weather Reminders

Our guidelines state that when there is a windchill of -25C or greater, we will have indoor recess.

Parents are asked to make sure students have proper winter clothing for all conditions, including warm coats, toques, mittens, ski pants, and boots. On a warm day, pants can get wet which will give students a chill or make them uncomfortable. On colder days, our school can get quite chilly.



If you need some extra winter clothes, let us know and we will try to help.

WHOLE-SCHOOL FREE FEBRUARY TURKEY MEAL



Everyone is welcome to stay at school for lunch on Thursday, February 17th. We will be serving a free turkey dinner for all of our students and staff that day.

COVID UPDATES

Effective January 28th, changes have been made to the reporting of and isolation for covid cases and close contacts. If a child tests positive for covid, you no longer need to report this to the school. The child is still to isolate for 5 days or until symptoms are gone, whichever is longer. Family members of someone who is self-isolating can still attend school.

We still ask that our families monitor for symptoms and if you are experiencing mild, cold-like symptoms, including cough, sore throat, sneezing without fever, it is recommended that you stay home and care for your symptoms, use rapid antigen testing and self-isolate if you test positive for COVID-19. **Test kits are still available from the office.**

When a Child is Home Sick

Teachers will do their best to provide materials when a child misses school for illness, but this is not sustainable long term. While we can appreciate the decisions of those choosing to keep their children home for extended periods of time, it is important to note that our teachers are not responsible for making up for lost learning opportunities.

If you have any concerns or questions about the most recent updates, please feel free to contact the school.



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK



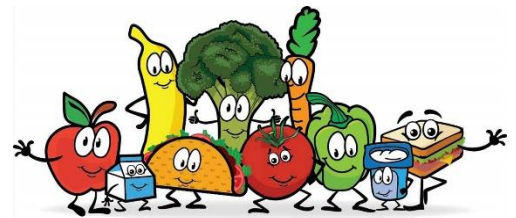
February 6th – 12th is a week at McDermid that we will be taking time to honor and appreciate our dedicated staff. The theme is “pulling together” and we certainly have seen that in our building and community.

It is clear our staff love our students. Our school continues to be a calm, routine environment, largely due to the regular presence of adults who are committed to seeing our students succeed. Our staff work diligently at making the building a safe and enjoyable learning environment. Daily we see examples of our staff going the extra mile for students – it may be ensuring an extra pair of mitts is found for someone who forgot, spending recess time helping a student catch up on a writing assignment, making a phone call to Batman to talk to the class about math, or sharing a joke. Many thanks to all of our staff!

Nutrition Program Menus

A **free breakfast** is provided from 8:20-8:50. Students are welcome to enter the front doors and go straight to the nutrition room.

Bag lunches are available for \$2 every day. These include one main item as well as a juice, fruit, and snack (treat).



Lunch money can be paid daily, pre-paid at the office, or pre-paid through School Cash Online. If you do not yet have an account, please go to the school website to find instructions.

The February Breakfast and Lunch Calendar is attached. Please note the special spaghetti meal.

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Thursday, February 3rd: **Global School Play Day**

February 6th – 12th: **Staff Appreciation Week**

Wednesday, February 9th: **Spaghetti & Meatballs Special Lunch**

Monday, February 14th: **Valentine's Day: Wear Red, White, and Pink!**

Tuesday, February 15th: **100th Day – Celebrated by some of our younger classrooms**

Thursday, February 17th: **Whole-School Free Turkey Meal**

Friday, February 18th: **Love Assembly – Video Assembly for Classrooms**

February 21st – 25th: **Family Week Break – No School for students or staff**

Monday, February 28th: **Students Return to School**

February is also Indigenous Storytelling Month – many classes will be participating in online events



Stay Connected on EDSBY

If you have not yet completed the EDSBY process for your family, please contact the school office right away by calling 306-791-8502.