



McDermid Community School

HONOR ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY
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FEBRUARY, 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

February is a short month, but packed full of fun. We are looking forward to our annual turkey lunch: this year we will be able to seat all of our students together in the gym and celebrate as an entire school – which we missed over covid. We are also looking forward to events like Valentine's celebrations, Pink Day, and Staff Appreciation. McDermid is fortunate to have a number of hardworking, caring staff who regularly go above and beyond to contribute to a safe and fun school environment. Teachers work hard at staying on top of best practices in education, to bring lessons to life, and to match students with supports for success. As we learn about the Grandfather Teaching of love this month, there is no better model than our staff.

We are nearing the half-way mark of the school year. It's a good time to refresh school routines and expectations to ensure we are all doing our best to be successful. We ask that families try to have students coming to school rested and prepared for learning. Many of our students have lost or broken their water bottles: we would appreciate families checking in to see if those need replacing. While we have enjoyed some nicer weather, we also know the cold season is far from over: please take time to search for ski pants, boots, toques and mittens so that students are prepared to be outside. Students are expected to go outside for recess: it's important for them to have the fresh air, exercise, and free play during those break times.

As always, please feel free to contact us at the office with any questions or concerns. Happy February!

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Josephson
Principal

At McDermid, February is the month of Love

The Grandfather Teaching of Love is represented by the Eagle. The teaching of love is found in all of the other teachings. The eagle is strong enough to carry all of the teachings and flies high enough to see all of creation. When we live by these teachings and see ourselves as the eagle does, we are able to love who we are. Once we have found that balance within, we can provide love to our family and community.

For this reason, the eagle feather is one of the most sacred items and must be earned.



WORKING THROUGH CONFLICT

Learning to love yourself is a difficult skill. We continue to encourage students to ensure they speak up when they need help or when they have a concern.

Stress can be like a pop can: if you continue to shake it, when the can is finally opened it can create a giant mess. Rather than bottling our problems up, we encourage students to talk to staff when they are going through challenges so that we can help address it in a timely, proactive manner.



Everyone has conflict, which is disagreements or challenges between more than one person. Learning to navigate conflict is a skill. This is different than bullying, which is when someone in a position of power (strength, ability, etc.) consistently targets someone else. When students come to staff with concerns, we take time to ensure we are gathering information about every side of the story to determine whether a situation is conflict or bullying, and then determine how we can best support a positive resolution.

At McDermid, when problems occur, we work through a process of

"Own It - Fix It - Change It - Move On." Ask your child to share an example of what this means.

SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE

Kids Help Phone is an excellent resource for students and families. The website is full of resources, as well as availability for a live chat or a confidential phone call.



Report Cards and Edsby

Report Cards were sent home Friday, January 27th. Edsby continues to be our primary resource for communication. Families can check on marks, communicate absences, or message staff. Teachers continue to make reports on progress throughout the year. If you have not yet been able to access Edsby, please contact the office.

Strategies for Success: Attendance Matters

Regular attendance is a strong predictor of school success. As we move into the second half of the year, it's important to continue building skills and routines to help students arrive on time at the school, rested and ready to learn.

- **Children with good attendance generally achieve higher grades and enjoy school more. Children benefit from and make the most of their educational opportunities if they attend school regularly and on time.**
- **Missing just one day every two weeks can add up to 18 days in a year. This is known as chronic attendance and research shows it negatively impacts a student's academic performance.**
- **Students who are absent an average of 15 days a year miss a year's worth of school before their senior year. When students miss a day of school it actually puts them two days behind their classmates.**

DID YOU KNOW?

- Students should miss no more than 9 days of school each year to stay engaged, successful and on track to graduation.
- Frequent absences can be a sign that a student is losing interest in school, struggling with school work, dealing with a bully or facing some other difficulty.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By 9th grade, attendance is a better predictor of graduation rates than 8th grade test scores.
- Missing 10%, or 2 days a month, over the course of the school year, can affect a student's academic success.

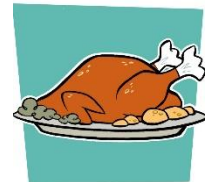
NUTRITION PROGRAM

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).

A **FREE, WHOLE-SCHOOL TURKEY LUNCH** will take place on Thursday, February 2nd! All of our students are invited to stay for that day.



Supervision will be provided for any of our Kindergarten students who wish to stay for lunch: they will need to be picked up at 12:30 p.m. Our pre-K students are welcome to come early at 11:45 to join in as well. Permission slips will be sent home for students who do not regularly stay for lunch.

FEBRUARY EVENTS:

Thursday, February 2nd – Fancy/Formal Day (Dress Your Best!)

Thursday, February 2nd – FREE, whole-school turkey lunch.

Kindergarten and pre-K students are welcome to stay for lunch: permission forms will need to be signed.

Friday, February 10th – PD Day: No School for Students

February 13 – 17 – Staff Appreciation Week

We will be taking time to celebrate the outstanding individuals that pour into our students on a daily basis. Consider sending a note or card to a staff member as an encouragement.

Tuesday, February 14th – Valentine's Day: Wear Red, White & Pink

Students will have a reading buddy activity

Wednesday, February 15th – Pink Day

Pink Day reminds us that we need to be actively kind and look out for one another in positive ways. Students are encouraged to wear pink.

February 20 – 24 – No School: February Break

Tuesday, February 28th – Love Assembly at 10:30 a.m.



Looking Ahead:

On Friday, March 3rd our school will be celebrating our own McDermid Carnaval – a celebration of Michif culture. We will have activities both indoors and outdoors, weather dependent. Stay tuned for more information!

