



# McDermid Community School

HONOR ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY



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## MARCH 2022 NEWSLETTER



### Principal & Vice-Principal Message

We have entered the second half of the school year with a great deal of hope. Our students celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school on February 15<sup>th</sup> and we were able to take time and reflect on a lot of fun and learning that has taken place.

The month of March signals a number of changes in our school building. We think it is timely that our Grandfather Teaching is Wisdom, as that is what we intend to use as we have reached a time period where provincial regulations around Covid-19 have changed.

We are looking forward to being able to cautiously return to a school climate where students spend more time connecting with one another, and with the larger student body. We are also very hopeful about the extras such as field trips, extracurricular activities, and even looking ahead toward year-end celebrations. Change, good or bad, requires a lot of energy – and so we intend to pace ourselves as we shift some of our routines and procedures. Please know that our commitment to a safe learning environment remains the same, and our cleaning protocols will also remain in place – sanitation, hand washing, etc.

**Masking:** The Government of Saskatchewan has advised school boards to remove the requirement for masks on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We encourage continued mask use by staff and students. McDermid will continue to provide masks. We ask that families take some time at home to discuss the importance of honoring and supporting the personal choices of students and staff.

**Rapid Test Kits** are still available upon request from the office.

**Sickness:** We continue to ask that if your child is sick you keep them at home and please notify the school of the absence.

**Cohort Mixing:** Our goal is always to be guided by decisions that are best for our students. Mixing of cohorts will begin to maximize our educational supports and to provide further socialization opportunities for students.

This month we will have our first whole-school assembly in nearly 3 years! As we are still proceeding with caution, this assembly will be for students and staff only. We are, however, looking for ways to find meaningful in-person connections with our families in the future. We will use some time during our staff professional development day on Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup> to discuss these changes. There is no school for students on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

It is important to us that families all feel safe and comfortable in the building. As we navigate different opinions and choices we will do so from a place of Respect – one of our three McDermid Core Values.

*Ms. April Howard*

Vice-Principal

*Mr. Bob Phillips*

Principal

### March is the month of Wisdom

**Wisdom is the Grandfather Teaching represented by the beaver.** Wisdom is not just being smart, but having good judgement based on personal knowledge and experience. A wise person understands their giftings and uses them to help the community.

Wisdom is sharing your gifts, and knowing your limitations. A beaver's teeth are a powerful gift, but if the beaver does not use them well, they will grow over and cause it harm.

The beaver is intelligent, productive, and cares for its family.

For links providing more teaching on Wisdom, please see our website at [mcdermid.rbe.sk.ca](http://mcdermid.rbe.sk.ca)



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” -Nelson Mandela

## 3-Way-Conferences

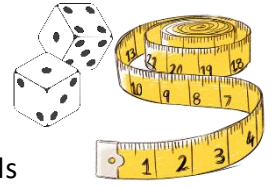
Student/Teacher/Guardian Conferences will take place on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Students DO NOT attend class on this day.

The conferences are an opportunity to reflect on growth and challenges, and do some planning as a team with students on next steps for growth. **Please note that our conferences will all be done virtually.** Staff will be sending home proposed meeting times (done by zoom or phone call) to confirm with caregivers.



## March Math Focus

A learning focus at McDermid is building strong numeracy (math) skills with our students. Play-based instruction is one of the best ways for students to learn. Near the end of the month, students will be learning a number of simple math games, and then bringing materials home so that they can continue playing with family. We encourage families to give these a try and help support skill development for our students.



\*Families who take a photo of themselves playing the games at home will be entered to win a gift card for Indigo.

## SCC Meeting – In Person!

We have had a flurry of activity with our SCC over the past few weeks making final decisions regarding our new playground build. The SCC is a great opportunity for our community members to find out more about what is happening in the school, and to have a voice. New members are always welcome.

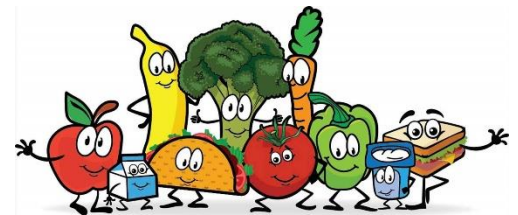
Please join us in the school gym on Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

## 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 March Breakfast and Lunch Calendar is attached. Please note the special lunch – Chicken Wraps – happening on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## MARCH EVENTS:

Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kindness Day – Wear Pink

Monday, March 7<sup>th</sup>: PD Day – No School for Students

Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup>: Hat Day

Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup>: Conference Day – No School for Students. *Conferences done virtually*

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: SCC Meeting at 6:00

Wednesday, March 16<sup>th</sup>: Classroom Buddy Leprechaun Trap Making Competition

Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: St. Patrick's Day – Wear Green!

Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>: Whole School Wisdom Assembly

Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Marvelous March Math- *Games Sent Home for Families to Try*

Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>: Special Lunch – Chicken Wraps

Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>: Prize Draw for March Math

