



McDermid Community School

HONOR ~ RESPECT ~ RESPONSIBILITY
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MARCH (Maar), 2023 NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

February really seemed to fly by! We were absolutely thrilled to once again welcome community members back into the building to support our annual Turkey Lunch. Many, many thanks to the various volunteers and donors who made it happen, including MLA Mark Docherty for his donation, school trustee Cindy Anderson and our School Resource Officer Cst. Logan for coming to serve, as well as other special guests including former VP at McDermid Kim Engel and her mom who spent the morning cooking and serving. Our staff are also very thankful to the SCC for providing a lunch during Staff Appreciation Week: having a supportive community is so important to the success of our school.

Preserving, revitalizing, and strengthening Indigenous languages is part of the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Language and cultural learning is important at McDermid, and we recognize that on Treaty 4 land we have partnerships with people from a variety of backgrounds and languages, including being the homeland of the Metis nation. We are very pleased to make extra efforts in March to learn the Michif language. Aen Festivaal Michif will be a highlight of the month with a number of fun activities planned to celebrate and deepen our understanding of Metis culture.

March is full of activity: we especially look forward to welcoming families back in to the building next week for our conferences. Please take time to look through all of the March dates and events and as always, contact the office for any information or help you may need.

Sincerely,
Mr. Ryan Josephson
Principal

At McDermid, March is the month of Wisdom (Michif: "Nipwahkow")



The Grandfather Teaching of Wisdom is represented by the Beaver (Michif: "Aen Kaastor").

WISDOM IS THE ABILITY TO MAKE DECISIONS BASED ON PERSONAL KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE.

The building of a community is entirely dependent on gifts given to each member by the creator and how these gifts are used. The Beaver's example of using his sharp teeth for cutting trees and branches to build his dams and lodges expresses this teaching. If he did not use his teeth, the teeth would continue to grow until they became useless, ultimately making it impossible for him to sustain himself. The same can be said for human beings. One's spirit will grow weak if it is not fulfilling its use. When used properly however, these gifts contribute to the development of a peaceful and healthy community. *(from Empoweringthespirit.ca)*

THREE-WAY CONFERENCES – FRIDAY, MARCH 10TH

Conferences for students, guardians, and teachers will take place on Friday, March 10th. There is NO REGULAR SCHOOL that day.

An email link has been sent out for families to begin booking with classroom teachers. If you have not received one, please contact the office ASAP so we can help you book a time. (Ms. Pollock and Ms. Jones are sending out a separate booking for their celebrations of learning).



Families have the option of coming to the school in person, or doing a conference virtually (phone or zoom). These conferences are generally a time where students help take the lead in the meeting to discuss progress and goals.

If you need support in making a booking, or need to work out a different day or time for a connection, please contact the office.

***There will be NO SCHOOL for PreK, Kindergarten, or the Michif program on Thursday, March 9th to accommodate some of the Celebrations of Learning.**



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.

PD DAY – FRIDAY, MARCH 17TH

There will be NO SCHOOL for students on Friday, March 17th due to the PD Day.

SCC MEETING – March 15th at 6:00 p.m.

The School Community Council meetings are open to anyone who would like to come and learn or talk about what is taking place in the school. This month's SCC meeting will be held in person and the gym.

AEN FESTIVAAL MICHIF! March 30th

McDermid is proud to be in its 3rd year of the Michif Early Language Learning Program, which is unique to our school in Regina. For the 2022/2023 school year we have been very excited to expand Michif instruction to our older students. Michif is the language of the Metis people: our school is on the traditional lands of this Indigenous people group. Michif has roots in Cree and French culture and the language is a beautiful blend of the two.

For the month of March, McDermid will have an extra focus on celebrating Michif culture, wrapping up this month with Aen Festivaal Michif on March 30th. This is our version of a mini Metis carnival, and will include various stations for students to explore and enjoy aspects of Metis culture and language. This date has been rescheduled from our original March 3rd date.



At McDermid we use the Southern or Heritage Michif dialect. If you would like to explore more about Michif culture, feel free to check out the following:

[The Métis Gathering site](https://metisgathering.ca/) has a vision to provide information about the historical and contemporary Métis Nation from a Métis perspective. <https://metisgathering.ca/>



Heritage Michif To Go App features over 11,500 translations and audio pronunciations by Michif-language expert Norman Fleury, including over 500 phrases. Available for iPhone and Android

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 pizza lunch is available to order for Friday, March 31st. Watch for more information and order forms during the conference day.

MARCH EVENTS:

Thursday, March 9th – NO SCHOOL FOR PRE-K, KINDERGARTEN, OR THE MICHIF PROGRAM.
Kindergarten Celebration of Learning

Friday, March 10th – No Regular Class: Three Way Conferences & Celebrations of Learning
Emails have been sent out to register for a conference time.

Monday, March 13th – Rainbow Day: each classroom will be assigned a color to wear

Tuesday, March 14th – Moustache Day: wear your best version of a moustache!

Wednesday, March 15th – Pajama Day

Wednesday, March 15th – SCC Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, March 16th – Green & White Day

Thursday, March 16th – Gr. 8 Open House at Thom – 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 17th – No School: PD Day

Friday, March 24th – Gr. 1-8 attending “Wind in the Willows.” Students are encouraged to stay for lunch as they need to be in the school by 12:15 to be ready for the bus.

Thursday, March 30th – Aen Festivaal Michif. Wisdom Assembly at 11:15 a.m.

Friday, March 31st – Pizza Lunch Day: more information/order forms will be available during conference day

Friday, March 31st – Fire Safety Presentation for primary grades in the afternoon

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