



SCHOOL NEWS #1

September, 2019

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 38 (Richmond)

McKay ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

7360 Lombard Road, Richmond, BC V7C 3N1

Phone: 604-668-6470 Fax: 604-668-6509

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Principal: Mr. Mark Hoath

Area Superintendent: Mr. Rick Ryan

School Trustee: Ms. Debbie Tablotney

Web Site: <http://mckay.sd38.bc.ca>

Dear Parents and Students:



We hope you enjoyed the wonderful sunny weather this summer! The staff at McKay extends a warm welcome to all of our students and families as we embark on the 2019/20 school year. We extend best wishes to all of our returning students and a special welcome to those of you who are new to the community, including 26 Kindergarten students. We are very pleased to welcome the following new staff to McKay:

- Ms. Ashley Wai – Intermediate Teacher
- Mr. Luis Ledesma – Intermediate Teacher
- Ms. Allison Buss – Primary Teacher
- Ms. Kelsey Chang – Primary Teacher

Please take some time to read the first newsletter of the school year as it contains a lot of important information about the upcoming school year.

All the new staff are excited to be part of the McKay community and we wish them the very best in their new roles. The returning staff members are all very dedicated and outstanding educators and have contributed greatly to the McKay community over the years. We are confident your child will have an excellent year!

Mark Hoath
School Principal

SCHOOL HOURS OF INSTRUCTION FOR 2019/2020

School Doors Open	8:30 AM
School Begins	8:45 AM
Recess	10:20 - 10:35 AM
Lunch	12:00 - 12:52 PM
Dismissal	2:45 PM

Students and parents are asked to wait outside the front door of the school until the bell rings at 8:30 am.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND STUDENT SAFETY

Student safety and social responsibility are very important and for many years the school has worked to ensure all students are valued and respected members of this school community.

Every Richmond school including McKay has developed their own school matrix which summarizes in child friendly language what we believe is important when interacting with other children or staff. The matrix also outlines specific behavioural expectations we have for all students. There will be a copy of the matrix in all classrooms and in the hallways.

All students are expected to stay on the school grounds during the school day at all times unless there is specific permission from school staff or parents.

There are three staff outside at recess each day and two noon hour supervisors at noon hour each assigned to different parts of the school grounds to ensure we can see all students at all times. All staff wear yellow vests.

Parents are expected to drive slowly through the parking lot and only drop off or pick up students in the lane closest to the school.

All visitors to the school are expected to check in at the school office and pick up a visitors' badge.

There is a medical room with necessary first aid supplies and the school staff are prepared to deal with minor student injuries or cuts and bruises. Parents will be notified of more significant issues and if necessary, the school will call for an ambulance in the event of a more serious incident. Parents are also notified if a child is struck in the head.

We value and actively teach our students to be safe and responsible and respectful members of this closely connected community and we are fortunate to have wonderfully friendly and caring children and supportive parents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child's teacher or Mr. Hoath.

NEWSLETTERS & SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Parents will receive a monthly school newsletter electronically beginning end of September, typically Fridays. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact the school office.

IMPORTANT DATES PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Sept 19	“Meet Your Child’s Teacher” 5:30- 6:30 PM
Sept 19	PAC Meeting 7:15 PM(In the staffroom)
Sept 23	Pro-D Day <i>(School Not In Session)</i>
Sept 24	New Student Welcome Luncheon (Grades 1 to 7)
Sept 26	Terry Fox Run
Sept 27	Photo day

School events and activities are also posted on the school website calendar

EPI-PENS

For the health and safety of your child, if your child had an Epi-pen held in the school office last year or requires an Epi-pen, please bring the Epi-pen to the school office as soon as possible and ensure the Epi-pen does not expire during the school year. We also have a form in the office that needs to be completed “Request for

Administration of Medication at School” and requires a pharmacy label.

PAC NEWS



All McKay parents are members of the PAC and everyone is welcome to attend monthly meetings or PAC sponsored events. We are fortunate to have a very supportive and well organized PAC executive. The McKay Parent Advisory Council (PAC) would like to take this opportunity to introduce its newly elected Executive and Volunteer members:

2019/20 PAC Executive

Chair President – Jenny Brown
Food Day Coordinator – Christine Hsu
Secretary – Irene Siqueira
Treasurer – Jennifer Shabbits

Please feel free to approach any of the Executive Members with your questions, ideas or concerns.

Generally, PAC Meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month unless otherwise advised.

Please note the first PAC meeting of the year will be on **Thursday, September 19th at 7:15 PM** in the staffroom.

‘MEET THE TEACHER’



On September 19th beginning at 5:30 PM there will be an opportunity for parents to meet your child’s teacher. This is an informal opportunity to ask any questions and teachers will have written information about the classroom program. Parents and students are asked to meet in the gym at 5:30 for a few words of welcome from the school and PAC.

McKay EARLY WARNING NUMBER: 604-668-6572



We are asking for your support to maintain the health of all children by keeping your child home when they are ill. Their recovery will be speeded up when they have the opportunity to rest at home. The early warning number operates 24 hours a day. Please call and leave a message if your child will be absent.

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS FOR THE 2019/2020 SCHOOL YEAR WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

- Monday, September 23rd
- Friday, October 25th (all schools)
- Friday, November 22nd
- Friday, February 14th
- Friday, May 15th
- Thursday, June 25th

IMPORTANT FORMS TO COMPLETE

Important Documents On Friday, September 6th you will receive a package of forms and information which includes the following: school supplies, verification of student and parent contact information, the walking field trip permission form, media release form and permission to

receive electronic communications from the school district. Please read these carefully and return the required information to your child’s classroom teacher as soon as possible and the deadline is September 19th. Please note that your child’s Student number is on the verification sheet – you will need this number to sign up for School Cash On-line for the first time.

STUDENT PLANNERS



Again this year, students in Grades 1-7 will be given a Student Planner to use as a communication tool between home and school. Students use these books to record daily homework assignments, special reminders about upcoming school events and other information that needs to be shared between home and school. Students will be using these planners on a daily basis. Planners are \$5.00 (Kindergarten students do not use).

FRIDAYS ARE HOT LUNCH DAYS BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 13TH



The PAC will be organizing hot food days throughout the school year beginning September 13th. An order form will be sent home with students shortly and children are asked to ensure the order form with payment on food day.

WHEN PICKING UP YOUR CHILDREN



When picking up your children, we are asking parents to wait outside the front door of the school due to limited space inside the entrance until 2:45 pm. The primary teachers will bring students to the front entrance at the end of the day.

A ‘TOONIE’ FOR TERRY FOX



On Friday, September 26th in the afternoon staff and students will participate in our annual Terry Fox Run. Students are encouraged to make a donation next week. The school hopes to raise \$500.00. Student leaders will be collecting each morning from classrooms.

NOON HOUR SUPERVISION AT McKay

Students will begin to eat lunch at 12:00 and the bell will ring at 12:25 for students to play outside until 12:50 when afternoon classes begin at 12:52. Students are encouraged to bring a recess snack. The school district employs two noon hour supervisors in addition to a number of educational assistants to ensure there is adequate supervision of students. Students will be outside unless it is raining really hard so as the weather cools students are encouraged to wear waterproof jackets.

