



Something To Hoot About!

Instagram: @TDSB_McMurrich

J. Whitfield, Principal
L. Scott, Vice Principal
19 December 2024

Upcoming Dates

Winter Break
December 23-January 3

First Day back to school
in 2025
Monday, January 6

PA Day
Friday, January 17

Class Photos
Thursday, January 23

Pizza Lunch
THURSDAY, January 30

EARLY PICK UP

If you need to pick up your young person early for an appointment, please avoid arriving during recess time, it will take much longer to get them to you!

AM recess: 10:10 – 10:25

Lunch recess: 11:55 – 12:35

PM recess: 1:55 – 2:05

December

Thank you to all those families that came out to our Winter Concert! It was an incredible evening of music, dance and good feelings! We hope everyone has a wonderful Winter Break. **We will see everyone back at McMurrich on Monday, January 6th.**



Candy Cottage Winners

The Food Drive organized by BTC was a huge success and we surpassed our target of 750 items of non-perishable food.

Students from all participating classes were entered into a draw for the Candy Cottages created by McMurrich staff.

Here are the luck winners!



Library Update

Mr. Marshall

Although December is a shortened month in the library, it was still a very busy place this month! At the end of November I had the opportunity of visiting the GTA Resource Fair at the Exhibition grounds. It is always a pleasure to go and seek out new books and replenish some of the titles in the library that have been well loved or lost. I was able to make some great nonfiction purchases to help support classrooms with Social Studies and Science, as well as some new novels in a variety of genres, beautiful new picture books and of course, some new and exciting graphic novels. All new books have been sent off to the TDSB Library Department to be catalogued and entered into our system. I have received part of the shipment and eagerly await the rest in the New Year. I am excited to get these new titles into students' hands after the Holidays!

Of course, McMurrich also hosted the Scholastic Book Fair. It was a hit! It was wonderful to see students and their families browsing and shopping, sharing the love of reading all while raising money to support our Library! We set an ambitious goal of selling \$10 000 worth of materials. Although we did not reach our goal, we came incredibly close! I'm very pleased to share that we sold just over \$9300 of merchandise! Way to go McMurrich! While we don't get to keep all of that (unfortunately!), we do have a sizable percentage of it to add to the Library coffers. These funds will help us purchase new titles, other learning resources and materials to improve our library and get more books into students' hands! Thank you to everyone who made a purchase or just came to say hi and support us - it is appreciated.

Lastly, as we head into the Winter Holidays, please remind your young people to look for any lost or overdue library materials and bring them back in the New Year. I look forward to seeing all students back in the library in January and getting new books on the shelves and into their hands! Happy Holidays and all the best in 2025!

Hendrick Ave. is for WALKING

Please note that the signs on Hendrick Ave. between Benson and the McMurrich state that there is NO stopping between 8:00 AM and 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM. If you are dropping your young person off for school during those times please WALK down Hendrick Ave. instead of driving. In recent weeks we have noticed an increase in cars driving down this block and then attempting to turn around or back up creating some dangerous situations as they bump up onto the sidewalk as young people and their families are walking to school.

We have requested some extra patrols from Toronto Police Service to remind our community about these new(ish) traffic rules.

Let's keep our students – and their families - safe!!

ITEMS WANTED

We are looking for items for our Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Program. There are 10 different types of play and all are really important to the growth and development of young people. At McMurrich we encourage and promote play in all forms!

Our students engage in creative, challenging and fun play during recess. **If you have old wagons, buggies, area rugs, outdoor rugs, wooden planks or chairs our students will put them to good use!**

You can leave donations by the OPAL shed in the mornings of any school day and we will incorporate them into play!

SPORTS UPDATE

The sports scene at McMurrich continues to thrive and we are happy to report some amazing performances. To start, both our grade 5 and grade 6 boys' volleyball teams finished 1st in their respective tournaments. The grade 6 team has been quite disciplined with their approach to "3-hit" volleyball and lost a competitive quarterfinal match against Rawlinson. The grade 5 team is super keen and demonstrates a cohesive team approach. Thus far, they have won their semifinal and conference final and move on to the City Championships at Humber College. Go Owls!

Both our grade 5 and grade 6 girls' basketball teams also had very successful seasons. With the support of one of our parent volunteers, Pat Marcello, both teams developed sound basketball fundamentals. Everyone demonstrated tenacious defense and unselfish play and performed well in tournament play. Special congratulations to our grade 5 team who won their tournament and also their semifinal match. Way to go on finishing the season as Conference Finalists!!

Boys' Basketball and Girls' Volleyball Tryouts

Presently, boys' basketball and girls' volleyball tryouts are taking place and it's great to see so many boys and girls developing their skills and making strong efforts in tryouts. Good luck to everyone! Please check the McMurrich School Calendar ([McMurrich School Calendar Link](#)) for updates on future team practices and tournament dates. Go McMurrich Go!!

All Gender Ball Hockey Tryouts

All students in grades 4 to 6 are invited to try out for all gender ball hockey (grade 3's can not participate). Tryouts will commence in January after the holiday break. Mr. McKenzie and Ms. Barkin will be sharing more information regarding tryouts in the near future.

All Gender Volleyball and Badminton Tryouts

If your child is interested in trying out for All Gender Badminton or All Gender Volleyball, please take note that team tryouts will be taking place in the latter part of February or early March. An additional email will be sent out in the new year with more details.

Grade 1 - 3 Intramural Floor Hockey (Final Reminder)

If your child is interested in playing friendly games of floor hockey during the lunch hour, please fill out the google form below. Please remember this is only open to students in grades 1 to 3. Students will be placed on teams and games will commence after the Winter Holidays (schedule will be provided in early January). **Deadline to signup is extended to Friday, December 20th.** Once teams are made, it's very difficult to add students so please observe the deadline closely.

[Intramural Floor Hockey Signup Link \(Grades 1 to 3\)](#)

Any questions regarding boys basketball and intramural floor hockey, please direct them to Mr. Perretta at frank.perretta@tdsb.on.ca.



TDSB Property and Dogs

Please remember that dogs are NOT allowed on TDSB property unless they are a certified service animal with proper documentation and apparatus.

If you bring your dog when picking up or dropping off, please ensure that you have someone with you who can wait outside the fence with your furry friend.

Many of us have dogs and we love them however we do want to respect the By-Laws in place to create a safe, hygienic, and welcoming environment for all students.

Cell Phone Policy

As you may have heard the Ministry of Education introduced a new policy outlining use of mobile devices.

- **Students in Grades 6 and Below** - Students' personal mobile devices must be stored out of view and powered off or set to silent mode throughout the full instructional day, except when their use is explicitly permitted by the educator under the circumstances outlined above. If an educator sees a personal mobile device that is not stored out of view, they must require the device be handed in for the instructional day and the device must be placed, by the student, in a storage area in a location designated by the principal.

• **Please note that smartwatches are mobile devices and are not permitted during the school day. If your young person brings a smartwatch to school they should leave them in their backpacks on silent.**

If you need to get in touch with your young person during the school day please contact the school's main office and we can get a message to them and let your young person know that if they need to contact you they should let their teacher know and they will facilitate that contact.

Students at McMurrich have access to Chromebooks throughout the day should they need a device to access curriculum.