



Something To Hoot About!

Instagram: @TDSB_McMurrich

J. Whitfield, Principal
L. Scott, Vice Principal
25 October 2024

Upcoming Dates

Winter Concert
(Grades 1-6)
Wednesday, 18
December



Pizza Lunch
Thursday, 19 December

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 Day
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

November

McMurrich Library Update

Devon Marshall

It is a busy time in the Library. This past Wednesday I attended the GTA Resource Fair in the Queen Elizabeth Building at the Exhibition grounds. I was able to make some great purchases and can't wait to share all the new titles in a variety of genres with staff, students and family in the coming weeks.

Book Fair News

A reminder - the Scholastic Book Fair is coming to McMurrich next week! Students have been invited to preview the Book Fair or make purchases with their classes. The Book Fair will also be open Monday, December 2, Tuesday, December 3 and Wednesday December 4 after school until 4:00. We will remain open late the evening of Thursday, December 5 from after school until 6:00. The Book Fair will not be open on Friday, December 6. If you are interested in volunteering at the Book Fair please contact Devon Marshall at Devon.Marshall@tdsb.on.ca. If you are willing and able, we could use volunteers to help make the Book Fair a success during the following times:

- Monday, December 2 - 12:35 - 4:00
- Tuesday, December 3 - 12:35 - 4:00
- Wednesday, December 4 - 12:35 - 4:00
- Thursday, December 5 - 12:35 - 6:00
- Friday, December 6 - 12:35 - 4:00 Book Fair Take Down

For more information and preview some of the many book titles available at the Book Fair, please visit:

<https://bookfairs.scholastic.ca/bf/mcmurrichpublicschool1> Thank you for your ongoing support! I look forward to seeing everyone at the Book Fair!



Food Drive

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

All students who contributed food to the Food Drive were automatically entered into a raffle where they could win one of the "Candy Cottages" created by our McMurrich staff!

School Council News

Holiday Market is coming!

Mark Your Calendars for the McMurrich Holiday Market!

Join us on **Sunday, December 8th, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.** in the McMurrich school gym for a festive celebration of local talent and seasonal cheer! Discover unique holiday gifts from local makers offering handmade creations, jewelry, artwork, fashion, stickers, plants, school merch, delicious treats and more.

While you shop, enjoy live music, sip on hot chocolate, and capture a special holiday photo with your family! Don't forget to follow [@McMurrichCouncil](#) on Instagram for a sneak peek at our incredible vendors.

We need your help to make this event a success! If you're available to volunteer, please email us at mcmurrichmarket@gmail.com.

Let's Stay in Touch

Stay on top of McMurrich's parent-community events, council meetings and fundraisers by connecting with your school council on social! You can find them on instagram at [@mcmurrichcouncil](#) or on Facebook by searching, McMurrich Junior Public School.

Heritage Month Committee Support

We are excited to announce that the teachers at McMurrich have started a Heritage Committee to celebrate the diverse cultures within our school community. Our goal is to promote understanding, appreciation, and respect for one another by highlighting the many heritages that make our community unique.

The Heritage Committee is seeking parents/ guardians who would like to contribute to one of the TDSB's Heritage Months (listed below). Participation can take many forms, such as:

- Reading a book to students
- Sharing stories or experiences about your heritage
- Creating and discussing an art piece that represents your culture
- Any other activity that reflects and celebrates your heritage

If you're interested in participating in one of the Heritage Months, we'd love to hear from you! Whether it's reading to students, giving a talk, or leading an activity, your involvement will help us create a more inclusive and culturally enriched environment for all.

Please sign up (below) and include your contact information if you'd like to participate. Thank you for helping us celebrate the wonderful diversity in our community! If you have any questions please email Sharmila.Patel@tdsb.on.ca

[Heritage Month Contribution Form](#)

McMurrich School Council Sign-Up

Council Committees

You have the opportunity to sign up for a committee within the school council! It's important to note that you do not need to be a member of the school council to participate in a committee, so this is a great way to get involved and make a difference. If you're interested in contributing your ideas and helping to shape our school community, we encourage you to take this step.

To sign up for a School Council committee, simply visit the following link: <https://signup.com/go/qfjniYY>. We look forward to seeing your enthusiasm and commitment in action!

Class Connectors

Coming soon is our Class Connectors program. This program started a few years ago by School Council as a way to help families build connections with each other. Every classroom should have a volunteer "Classroom Connector" – a parent/caregiver who will (a) organize a classroom roster and circulate it so families may connect with each other easily; (b) occasionally act as a liaison to School Council for their classroom when needed and (c) may wish to organize outside school class events like park meetups or meetup skate days.

Please complete the digital form to join your classroom roster or volunteer as a Connector (if you're interested). Please complete the [Class Connector Sign-Up form](#) by Friday, October 11th.

Boomerang Lunch

This year we will be adopting a "Boomerang Lunch" program for all students eating lunch at school.

Boomerang Lunch means that students will bring back all waste generated by their lunch, including wrappers, cores, pits, peels and any food not eaten. This has a number of advantages;

- you can see what your young person is eating and modify their lunch accordingly,
- organic waste can be disposed of in your municipal organics collection (we don't have organics collection at McMurrich),
- can help prevent insects and rodents in the classrooms.

Please make sure that there is a container to place organic waste in inside your young person's lunch bag so that it doesn't make a mess!

Water is always the preferred drink at school. A reusable water bottle can be refilled at our bottle filling stations throughout the day.

Please note that we are unable to accept lunch deliveries from delivery services such as Uber Eats and Door Dash.

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 a 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.