



Something To Hoot About!

Instagram: @TDSB_McMurrich

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

Upcoming Dates

Halloween Parade
9:15am, October 31

PIZZA LUNCH
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1ST

October

What a beautiful fall month we've been treated to. Our new play structure has finally been inspected and opened and our students have had a wonderful time exploring all it has to offer! HUGE thank you to our amazing School Council for working hard to raise the funds to upgrade the play experience of our students!



Loving our slides!



All the world's a stage!

Other field enhancements this month included the installation of our baseball backstop and our outdoor stages.



PLAY BALL!!



McMurrich <3 Wheelbarrows!

Last but not least our students were THRILLED to receive two new wheelbarrows to add to our OPAL collection! Thanks to School Council for purchasing and THANK YOU to Jonathan Hook for delivering them to us!

Progress Reports will be coming home on Monday, November 11. At this time teachers will meet with all families to discuss their young person's progress. Most interviews will occur on Thursday, November 14th after school and Friday, November 15th before noon.

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!

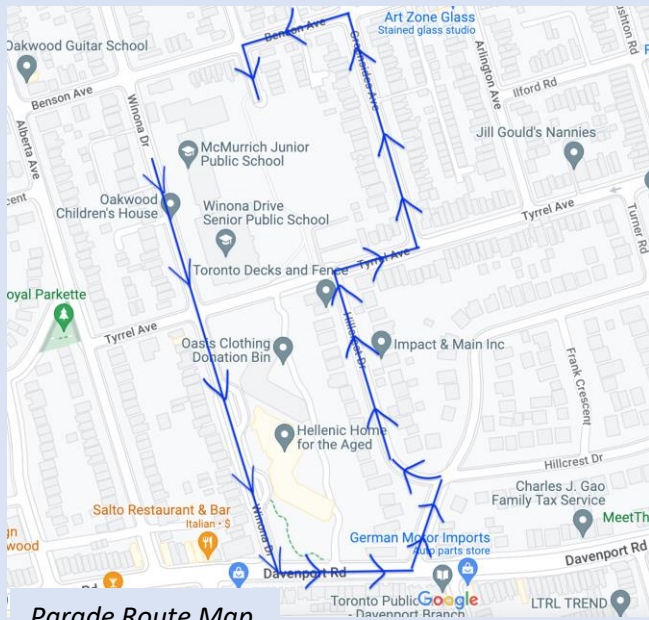
AM recess: 10:10 – 10:25

Lunch recess: 11:55 – 12:35

PM recess: 1:55 – 2:05

Halloween!

Halloween is coming! On October 31st, we will be having our Halloween Parade through the community to show off our creative costumes. This year we will be starting at 9:15 AM immediately after teachers have taken attendance. **Please take photos of your young person only** – do not photograph and post photos of staff and other students. Thank you! Enjoy!



Parade Route Map

Student Nutrition Program

We are excited about implementing our Student Nutrition Program this year and our parent lead, Sarah Bowness, along with her team, is working hard to create a program that will infuse nutrition education in a fun and tasty way!

As an introduction to the program we will be providing a snack pack to all students from Grade 1 to Grade 6 courtesy of Luciano's No Frills!

Heritage Month Committee Support

We are excited to announce that the teachers at McMurich 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 Library Update

Devon Marshall

As we wrap up the second month of school and enter November, I am happy to share some exciting Library news and events that are taking place in the near future. During the week of December 2 - 6, the McMurrich Library will be hosting our Scholastic Book Fair. This event allows us to raise funds that go towards building and maintaining our school library book collection. Proceeds from the Book Fair go directly into our library and get new books into the hands of our students, as well as the shelves in our classrooms! In the past two years we sold about \$10 000 worth of merchandise which allows us to reinvest in new books and other resources to use with students at McMurrich. This is only possible with the support of our student community and their families - so thank you! However, it is not only the financial support of the McMurrich family community that is appreciated, it is also the generosity of parent volunteers who come and help with setup, take down and after school sales of the Book Fair. If you are available to help out, even for just a small amount of time, your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Book Fair Set Up is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of Thursday, November 28. Take Down and clean up will happen after lunch on Friday, December 6. The Book Fair will be open for classes to visit during the afternoon throughout the week for students to make purchases. It will remain open after school until 4:00 each day and we will stay open late on Thursday, December 5 until 6:00. If you are available to volunteer and lend a hand please get in touch by emailing me at Devon.Marshall@tdsb.on.ca.

In other Library News, I am excited to be able to attend the GTA Resource Fair on November 27 at the Queen Elizabeth building at Exhibition Place. This event features a number of vendors from across the GTA showcasing their wares. In the past we have been able to purchase high quality books from a variety of authors, publishers and genres. These books form the backbone of our collection and I cannot wait to explore some new titles and bring back high quality and engaging books for our students in Kindergarten all the way up to Grade 6!

Earlier this week, some students received notification of overdue books. Students who had late books were given a pink slip of paper with the title of the book and reminded to please return it as soon as possible.

Lastly, I wish to thank School Council for considering our request for some funding to upgrade the Library furniture! On Friday November 22, McMurrich will be hosting our annual Danceathon with proceeds raised going towards our Library upgrades. We are hoping to make the space more welcoming and comfortable with the purchasing of new furniture. Thank you again for your generosity in making this happen as we look towards updating our library space and collection! Without your support this could not happen!

Athletic Update

Frank Perretta

The school year has been active and exciting for many students participating in extracurricular endeavours. Our cross country, flag football, touch football, and soccer teams kicked off the school year with many exciting highlights. We had over 20 students finish in the "top 20" at our area cross country meet and qualify for the conference finals. Special congratulations to Mateo who advanced to the City Finals and finished 12th overall. Our grade 5 boys touch football team finished the season as Conference Finalists (2nd place) and our grade 5 flag football team finished 1st as Conference Champions and now move on to the City Finals. Way to go Owls!

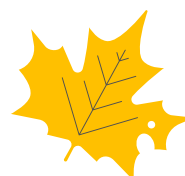
Presently, boys' volleyball and girls' basketball tryouts are taking place and it's great to see a record number of boys and girls developing their skills and making strong efforts in tryouts. Good luck to everyone! Please check the McMurrich School Calendar ([McMurrich School Calendar Link](#)) for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

Boys Basketball and Girls Volleyball Tryouts

If your child is interested in trying out for the boys basketball or girls volleyball teams, please take note that team tryouts will be taking place in the latter part of December and early January. All parents are reminded to complete the permission forms on the EMA portal once they become available (early December). An additional email will be sent out next month with additional information. If you have any questions regarding team tryouts, please feel free to contact Mr. Perretta at frank.perretta@tdsb.on.ca.

Terry Fox Update

Our Terry Fox School Fundraising Campaign was a huge success. Our school raised \$4,150 for the Terry Fox Foundation this year and we surpassed our fundraising goal of \$3,500. Way to go McMurrich!



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.