

SEPTEMBER 2023



# P.E. McGibbon Public School

Principal: Mr. Kevin Chambers  
Vice Principal: Mrs. Melissa Holmes

Secretary: Mrs. Jennifer Rayner  
Office Clerk: Mrs. Alex Moore

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## Welcome Back

Welcome back to P.E. McGibbon Public School! We are excited to see everyone again and are looking forward to getting to know the new students who are joining us this year. Our entire school team has worked diligently to prepare the classrooms, hallways and playground for students and for a fresh start to the academic year. Through everyone's efforts, the building is transformed into a dynamic learning environment. We all look forward to working with you to continue to build a school community centered on excellence in education. The staff at P.E. McGibbon believes that all of our students can achieve, learn, and become contributing members of society.

### P.E. McGibbon's Daily Schedule

8:35 am - 8:50 am:	Arrival
8:50 am - 10:50 am:	Instructional time
10:50 am - 11:30 am:	Nutrition Break/Recess
11:30 am - 1:10 pm:	Instructional Time
1:10 pm - 1:50 pm:	Nutrition Break/Recess
1:50 pm - 3:10 pm:	Instructional Time
3:10 pm:	Dismissal

# Snack Program

We will continue to offer snack bins to each classroom everyday. The snack bins will include a variety of foods from grains, dairy, fruits, and vegetables. The student snack program is only made possible through the generous donations of our community partners. These partners include, but are not limited to, Sarnia Kiwanis, Ontario Student Nutrition Program, United Way, Noelle's Gift, Toonies for Tummies, Pembina, PC Children's Charity, VON, Bare Necessities, and Imperial.

# Cell Phones

Students are not to use their cell phones (text or call) at any time while at school, unless directed by their teachers. If a student carries a cell phone, they are responsible for the cell phone at all times. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. Each classroom teacher will review their expectations regarding cell phone use in their classroom. Parents and students will communicate using the school telephone 519-344-4371. Please contact the school to send a message to your child. If a student is feeling unwell, parents/guardians will be notified by school staff.

# Attendance Matters

During the post pandemic period, the rate of problematic student attendance has increased across the province. Persistent absenteeism is defined by the Ministry of Education as: "any student who has missed 10% or more of school days for any reason, including unexcused or excused absences, over an academic year." While we recognize that there are times when students are ill and must stay home, we would ask that you reflect on your family's schedule (i.e. appointments, vacation planning, sports commitments, special outings) and routines (i.e. bedtimes, morning routines) as we move into this school year to foster minimal disruptions to their educational programming.

- \* Missing 10% (or about 18 days) makes it harder to learn to read.
- \* Missing 1 day a week is the same as missing 20% of the school year.
- \* Students can fall behind if they miss just a day or two every few weeks.

Start building the habit of attending school on time while your child is young. Good attendance will help children do well in high school, college, and work.

# Dress Code

We regard ourselves as a place of business; our business is learning. Appropriate dress is defined as attire that is free of symbols of hate, gang membership or images that portray violence, death, abuse, cigarettes, drugs, alcohol, racial slurs, obscene words, political or sexual statements. All students should come to school in clothing that is appropriate. We ask families to demonstrate common sense and good judgment recognizing that school is a public institution where expectations for dress may differ from personal choices.

It is important that your child has a pair of indoor shoes that are left at school to be strictly used indoors. If your family is in need of support to purchase footwear, please reach out to your child's teacher or the school office. We would be happy to help assist.

## Safe Arrival

During the school day, your child's safety is of outmost importance to us. It is imperative that you call the office if your child is going to be absent or late. For your convenience, we also have voice mail which allows you to contact the school at any time during the night, over the weekends and early in the morning. The phone number is 519-344-4371. When you leave a message, please be sure to note the child's full name, teacher and reason for absence.

If a child is absent and we have not heard from a parent/guardian, we will attempt to contact the parent/guardian to ensure that the child is safe. If a parent cannot be reached, we will contact the emergency numbers provided until we can reach a parent/guardian. If your child's dismissal arrangements change in any way, please send a note in the morning. It is extremely busy in the office at the end of the day, and messages left on the machine may not be retrieved in time to pass onto the teacher.

It is very important to let the school know if there is any change in personal information: home or work numbers, cell numbers, address changes etc. In the event of an unexplained absence or emergency, we will then be able to contact you immediately.

## Medical Conditions & Allergies

Please notify the office immediately if your child has a prevalent medical condition or allergy (Asthma, Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes). The school will work together with you to develop a Plan of Care for your child. If your child takes medication at school, you are required to have a form completed by your doctor for the school to administer the medication.

## Upcoming Events

September 5th: First Day of School

September 14th: Grizzly Wear Day

September 15th: PD Day

September 19th: Parent Council Meeting - 6:30 pm

September 28th: Meet the Staff Open House

September 29th: Orange Shirt Day