



P. E. McGibbon Public School

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Mr. Eryn Smit, Principal Mr. Cam Gordon, Vice-Principal

Mrs. Kate Brown, Secretary

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

With the first three months of school under our belts, we can safely say that this has been a very successful beginning to our school year! Thank you to everyone who has been involved in supporting student learning and well-being here at P.E. McGibbon. Whether it is parents and other members of our community helping with school work at home, or volunteering for educational programs, hot lunch days, parent council, chaperoning students on a field trip, coaching teams, or any of the other activities, the support from both within and outside of our school has been tremendous.

KINDERSTART KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION Junior Kindergarten registration for September 2019 is fast approaching. If you are aware of anyone who might be interested in registering their child, please let them know that registrations will be accepted during our **Kindergarten Registration day, February 7, 2019. Eligible students must be 4 years of age by December 2018.**

- ★ Register your Child for Kindergarten beginning in September 2019
- ★ Drop in at the school for a one hour visit to meet staff, engage in fun activities and learn more about kindergarten
- ★ Find out about community services and resources available to help support your children's positive transition to school

Parents are asked to bring their child's birth certificate, emergency contact information and proof of address. We encourage parents to share any relevant medical concerns at registration.

Winter Is Coming! Download the MySBI app! Student Transportation Services is pleased to offer the **MySBI** mobile app to receive instant notifications of school bus delays, and cancellations. Just download the free app from Android/Apple app stores, and subscribe to Weather Notifications, as well as to your school bus(es). Please visit www.mysbi.ca for additional details.

EMERGENCY CONTACTS AND STUDENT INFORMATION If you have any changes regarding your child's emergency contacts, phone numbers, change in drop off or pick up location for bussing etc. please send these changes in writing to the office as it is crucial that our records are accurate and up to date in order for the office to be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Please note that we cannot release students to someone that is not an emergency contact unless a note is sent to the homeroom teacher/office.

INCLEMENT WEATHER In the event of inclement weather, listen to the local radio station or check the website www.schoolbusinfo.com for information regarding bus cancellations and school closures. Please keep the following in mind: in the event of fog, buses that are cancelled in the morning will run in the afternoon. When buses are cancelled in the morning due to snow, buses will not run in the afternoon. On days where the buses are not running but schools are open, parents are encouraged to bring students to school unless safety has to be compromised. Classes will be conducted as usual on these types of days. Parents are reminded that every day counts! We look to parent support to reach our common goal of continuous improvement in student achievement.

LOST AND FOUND Please feel free to check for your child's lost articles on our Lost and Found table which is located outside the Learning Commons. We highly recommend that names be placed on lunch boxes, school bags, coats and boots to identify the owner. Items from Lost and Found will be on display in the main hallway until Thursday Dec. 20th. They will then be donated to a local charity.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT SAFETY With the arrival of winter-like weather, such as snow build-up, ice or freezing rain, or temperatures below zero degrees Celsius can make equipment unsafe for use. Our playground is closed until Spring to ensure student safety. ****Students should only be on the playground during supervised times 8:35 a.m.—8:50 a.m.****

NUT AWARE SCHOOL The health and safety of all our children at P.E. McGibbon Public School is of the utmost importance. A number of our students and staff have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut based products. Even a trace amount from peanut/nut products or food that has come into contact with a peanut/nut source (cross-contamination) can result in a life threatening anaphylactic reaction. To provide the minimized allergen environment, we need the support and cooperation of you, the parents/guardians and the school community. Students are asked to bring lunches and snacks free of peanuts and tree nuts, as well as products that have the “may contain peanuts/tree nuts” warning on them. Note: It is a parent/guardian’s responsibility to keep the school informed in writing of any special medical concerns/issues that your child(ren) has/have and provide any medication, epipen, etc. with proper documentation from the child’s physician and/or pediatrician. Please contact the office for these required forms.

PEDICULOSIS As the weather gets colder and students are wearing coats, hats and gloves again, parents/guardians are encouraged to check the child(ren) regularly for head lice and nits. Catching them early is the key to limiting the spread within your household and at school. If head lice are found on a student at school, a letter is sent home with students in that class to keep you informed.

ATTENDANCE Student attendance continues to be a focus for improved academic achievement. It is important that students arrive on time and attend school daily if they are to maximize their learning opportunities. If a student is absent due to illness, medical appointment or another reason, the classroom teacher or the office must be notified. As part of our safe arrival protocols and procedures, we have to verify student attendance several times throughout the day. There is voicemail on our main school phone line (519.344.4371) for your convenience. Please state the student’s name and reason for absence.

CHARACTER CORNER As we continue to work with students on appropriate behavior and character development, our focus is based on the four agreements of TRIBES and the LKDSB Character Attributes. December is “Empathy” month at P.E. McGibbon. Empathy means we strive to understand how others are feeling and to see things from their perspective. Empathy is the ability to put yourself in someone else’s shoes and imagine what it would be like to be them in that situation. You imagine that you feel the way they do, understand the choices they’re forced with, and what things they are dealing with. It may be the feeling of concern and understanding for another’s situation or feelings. It may be an emotional feeling of identification or understanding of a work of art. It is an appreciation of another’s problems and feelings without experiencing the same emotional reaction. Our empathy assembly will occur in the New year.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Christmas Santa Shop: The junior division is teaming up with the FDK division to run a "Santa Gift Shop" out of the Learning Commons starting December 17th. FDK students will be able to come to the shop and purchase gifts for their family for the low cost of \$1.00 per item. The shop will be set up and organized by the junior division. Staff, families and community members are kindly asked to donate new and gently used items to our shop. The proceeds from our Santa Shop will go towards giving a senior in our community a Christmas.

Canned Food Drive: The P.E. McGibbon School community will be conducting a canned food drive from Monday, December 3-Friday, December 21. Collected items will be donated to the Inn of the Good Shepherd.

Celebration of Lights: On Friday, November 16th, the intermediate classes walked to Centennial Park to decorate trees for the Celebration of Lights. Thank you to all classrooms who created decorations for the event!

P.E. McGibbon Public School Night with the Sarnia Legionnaires:

Sarnia Legionnaires versus the LaSalle Vipers

Puck drops @ 7:10 p.m.

Sarnia Arena, 134 Brock Street

All ages \$5 per ticket

100% of the ticket sales go directly to P.E. McGibbon Public School

IN CLOSING....

We hope you enjoy this family time together, during this festive season. We are fortunate to have the gift of family and friends to celebrate the holidays with us. We hope the 2019 New Year brings you health, peace and happiness.

We welcome back students on Monday January 7th, 2019.

Happy Holidays!

Eryn Smit
Principal

&

Cam Gordon
Vice-Principal