



FAMILY WAAG
September 9 – 13, 2024

Monday Sept. 9	Tuesday Sept. 10	Wednesday Sept. 11	Thursday Sept. 12	Friday Sept. 13
ABCD	PLT -ABCD	ABCD	PLT-ABCD	AB ¹ B ² CD Terry Fox Run Alternate bell schedule

We acknowledge and thank the First Peoples of the hən'q'əmin'əm language group on whose traditional and unceded territories we teach, learn and live, and upon where the Musqueam people continue their traditions and cultural education. We acknowledge the ancestors, those who have walked before us, and thank them for their stewardship of this beautiful place. We acknowledge the Elders, the knowledge keepers, and counsellors of traditional teachings. We acknowledge children from all parts of the world, all nations. We are inspired by the vibrancy of your youth and we commit to continually striving to make the world we borrow from you a more peaceful, loving and safe place in which to learn, live and love.



FAMILY AND STUDENT AFFORDABILITY FUND

The provincial government announced a renewal for the Student and Family Affordability Fund. The Fund is to assist families who require financial assistance with school-related costs in the following areas: school and course fees, school supplies and course materials, field trips, school-related extracurricular opportunities and/or clothing and footwear required for sports and school activities.

If you need any assistance, please reach out to Mr. Johnstone (jjohnstone@sd38.bc.ca) As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

MCMATH ATHLETICS!

Please check the @mcmathathletics on Instagram for up-to-date info regarding tryouts for school sports.

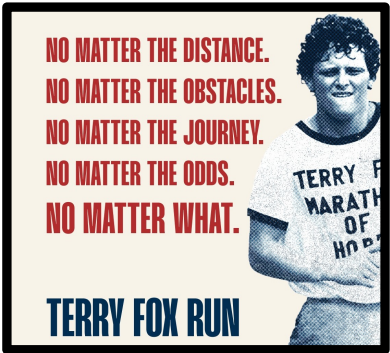
MCMATH STAFF BOOKCLUB

A few McMath Staff members will be reading **The Anxious Generation** by **Jonathan Haidt**. This reading ties in nicely with the new Digital Device Policy and the increased rates observed and reported of youth mental health issues and illnesses. We encourage caregivers to pick up a copy too.

TERRY FOX RUN – September 13

The annual Terry Fox Run has become a fall tradition in Canada, with nearly 600 communities, big and small, urban and rural, English and French, fundraising for cancer research. This year, all McMath students will be participating in Terry Fox Run on Friday, September 13 during Block B. All throughout the week, Block B teachers will be collecting donations from staff and students that will be donated towards cancer research. Donations will also be accepted through School Cash Online.

For more information, go to: <https://terryfox.org/>



NATIONAL TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

ORANGE SHIRT DAY: September 27

Reconciliation and the lasting impacts of residential schools have sparked conversations between parents and children, educators and students around Indigenous issues, histories, and perspective. We encourage staff and students to wear orange on Sept. 27 and to focus on Reconciliation in the days ahead of Sept. 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. For more information, go to: <https://orangeshirtday.org/>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Please make sure that the parent/guardian and student information on file is accurate. If you need to make changes or additions, please complete the form at: <https://shorturl.at/iKqmh>
We kindly ask ALL Grade 8 students to complete the form. Grade 8 students, your e-mail is needed to create your MyEd account.

PERSONALIZED LEARNING TIME (PLT)

Students have the opportunity again this year to engage in weekly, self-directed learning time with their teachers on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Questions to guide PLT:

- What do I need to be successful in my classes?
- What supports do I need to access during PLT?
- What skills do I need to develop further?
- What skills do I want to feel more confident in?
- Who can I seek out for help in my classes?
- Who can I seek out to develop more confidence in my skills?
- What do I not understand and need further help with?
- How can I deepen my understanding and my learning?
- What am I wondering about and who can I ask about my wonderings?
- What am I passionate about and want to learn more about?
- What strategies do I need to develop to maintain my emotional and mental well-being (e.g. stress and time managements)?
- How can I work or collaborate with my peers?

PLT is **YOUR TIME** for **YOUR LEARNING!**

NEW DISTRICT POLICY: STUDENT PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICE

Please find detailed information about the Student Personal Digital Device Guidelines on our school website: <https://mcmath.sd38.bc.ca/news/2024/08/personal-digital-device-guidelines>

The Ministry of Education requires ALL districts and schools to have a policy for digital devices. The purpose for this is to make youth safe, improve student mental health, and eliminate constant interruptions from their learning. The policy states that students can use their digital device IF, the teacher asks the students to use their device for a learning activity. Students who do not have device, will be offered a school device for the class. Otherwise, ALL students must keep their device powered off and be in their backpack or their locker. If students do not follow the policy, staff will remind the student, and if they continue to use their device, staff will connect with parents, and possibly the student will not be allowed to have device at school. Furthermore, devices should not be used in changerooms and bathrooms. Students will be able to use their devices at break and at lunch.

If a caregiver needs to get in touch with their teen during instructional time, feel free to give us a call at the office (604) 718-4050. Students also have access to call home if needed using the office phone.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Our current timetable was built based on our enrollment last Spring and student course requests. While the majority of students have received all their primary course requests, some students may have received their alternate request due to limited number of sections or timetable conflicts. As our Counselling team continues to work through course corrections, student requests for course changes will only be considered for strong educational reasons as we have limited flexibility in our timetable. As communicated in our start up newsletter, priority will be given to incomplete schedules and Grade 12 students graduation requirements. We appreciate everyone's patience, flexibility, and understanding during this time.

SCHOOL START TIME

As we start this school year, as a school community, we would like to continue to focus on supporting our students' learning and emphasize the importance of punctuality to ensure a successful and productive day for everyone. **Classes begin promptly at 8:30am Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays and at 9:30am Tuesdays and Thursdays.** To support our school's goal of maintaining a structured learning environment, we kindly request your assistance in ensuring that students arrive at school on time.

If you are driving your teen to school for pick up or drop off, we recommend avoiding the peak rush times (8:15am to 8:30am and 2:45pm to 3:00pm) as much as possible.

Arriving on time helps students settle in, focus, and make the most of their learning experience.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Sept. 13: Terry Fox Run (alternate schedule)
- Sept. 16: Photo Day
- Sept. 17: PAC Meeting 7pm
- Sept. 18: Langara College Presentation (lunch)
- Sept. 19: Grad Kick Off 3:35pm
- Gr 12 Parent Info Night @ 5:30pm
- Meet the Teacher @ 6:30pm