



The Prowler

the news of the week
les nouvelles de la semaine



We are grateful to live, work, and play on the unceded, ancestral territories of fourteen First Nations representing the Dakelh, Nedut'en and Wet'suwet'en peoples.

Sept 4, 2024

250-567-2267

<http://wlm.sd91.bc.ca>

Issue 01

Hadi, Bonjour and Hello,

Welcome back! It was just amazing to see everyone yesterday.

I'd like to say a special welcome to our new students and families including all our new Kindergarten students. We are so excited to welcome our new vice-principal, Mrs. Erin Baker. Erin is joining us from years at NVSS as a VP, counsellor teacher and student. We are also welcoming Mme Olivia Obonsawin and Mme Amy Forsyth to our French Immersion teaching team and Mrs. Heather Hinz is staying with us to help with some prep classes. Ms. Amanda Price is joining us from Ft St. James to work with our food programs and we will let you know about any other changes to our Support Staff.

We are thrilled to host our Open House/Ice Cream Social this year on Thursday, September 12th from 6:00 to 7:30. After visiting classrooms, we invite you and your family to our gym where you can all enjoy an ice cream sundae and meet other McLeod families. We'd like to thank our PAC for hosting this event. If you can offer a bit of extra assistance to help us serve ice cream, please let me know as soon as possible. At 7:00 our PAC will be having their first meeting of the year in our TLC. We invite all caregivers to come out and join us.

There is nothing more important to us than keeping our McLeod family safe. For this reason, McLeod will be a NUT FREE school again this year. It is essential that we do our best to keep our students and staff with life-threatening allergies as safe as possible. No peanuts, Brazil nuts or hazelnuts (ie – Nutella) will be permitted in our building. If a student brings any food to school containing these ingredients, the item will be returned home to you. We also work with Public Health to ensure our staff are trained in the necessary procedures in the event of an anaphylactic reaction. THANK YOU for your kindness and caring as we look after our kids and adults.

McLeod is also a scent free environment. Many items such as perfumes, creams, deodorants, hair products and essential oils can result in strong reactions for our students and staff who have scent sensitivities or allergies. Thank you for helping to

keep everyone comfortable by keeping scents out of our school.

Each year we have a theme for the year. Last year our theme was an "Attitude of Gratitude." This year we are going to learn to "Be a Bridge" with each other using parts of the pledge from the book with this title. These monthly goals will line up with the BC Core Competencies that we work on daily.

This newsletter includes LOTS of information, and we hope you will take the time to check it all out. Please have a look at the:

- SD91 Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process
- Parent Guide to Emergency Planning
- Registration Verification Form. Please Complete the form so we have your most updated information. It is especially important that we have the correct contact information including emergency contact info. Please return the Verification Form to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

We have been working to update our McLeod Code of Conduct. Our first draft is in your child's agenda. The Code of Conduct includes our new Technology Policy to align with the new BC Ministry of Education requirements. As this is a change for all of us, I have highlighted it in another section of this newsletter. Please have a look.

It is our goal to work together with you and the kids to help our McLeod students become adults who can take on the world. Please feel free to contact the school if you ever have any questions or concerns.

Proud to be McLeod
Ms. L. Hart

We are trying to be kind to our earth and reduce the amount of paper we use at school. We will send out the front page of the newsletter and the Hot Lunch Menu in a hard copy, but the rest of the newsletter will be sent electronically. Please call the office to get your name on our newsletter e-mail list, or, try out our new QR code to the newsletter!





SEPTEMBER 2024 MENU



Each meal is \$6.00. Please Pre-Order and Pre-pay.

Student's Name: _____ Teacher: _____

Total Amount: _____

If your child regularly receives a Hot Lunch, please check the menu for meals that they cannot or will not eat. Please provide a lunch for your child on those days. Thank you! Cheques should be made payable to SD91

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 Labor Day	3 ½ day Dismissal at 12:00.	4 Spaghetti (V) 	5 Frittata (V)  Just B4 Registration	6 Pizza Bagels (V) 
9 Roast Chicken 	10 Grilled Cheese (V) 	11 Pancakes and Eggs (V) 	12 Fish Sticks  Open House/Ice Cream Social 4:00-7:30 7:00 PAC Meeting	13 Chicken Chow Mien  Fun Day!
16 Sweet and Sour Meatballs with Rice 	17 French Toast (V) 	18 Beef Barley Soup 	19 Turkey Sandwich  Crazy Hair Day	20 District Planning Day (No School)
23 Sausage and Eggs (V) 	24 Roast Beef and Cheese Bun 	25 Pierogy Casserole (V) 	26 Chicken Strips  Ultimate Frisbee Tournament	27 Lasagna  School Honoring of National Truth and Reconciliation Day 11:00 Panorama Pic
30 National Day of Truth and Reconciliation				

COMING SOON:

- Sept 5: Just B4 Preschool Registration Opens at 10 AM
- Sept 12: Ice Cream Social Open House - 6:30 - 7:30 PM
PAC Meeting - 7 PM
- Sept 19: Crazy Hair Day
- Sept 20: District Planning Day - **NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**
- Sept 26: Ultimate Frisbee Tournament
- Sept 27: School day honouring Day for Truth & Reconciliation
- Sept 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - **NO SCHOOL**



Please like our [PAC Facebook Page](#) to stay up to date with what is going on in the school!



We are very proud that we offer additional support and connection for students of Indigenous ancestry at our school. In BC schools, students/families can self-identify as being of Indigenous ancestry. There is no paperwork or "proof" required. Please contact Ms. Hart if you are interested in finding out more about this support at our school.

SEPT - JUNE ONLY 10 SPOTS AVAILABLE!

*2024/25 REGISTRATION OPENS SOON!

Just B4 PRESCHOOL PROGRAM

FEE: \$117 PER MONTH

SAFE & INCLUSIVE
OPEN TO CHILDREN AGES 3 AND 4
NOT ALREADY ENROLLED IN PRESCHOOL

WLMcleod Elementary School
Vanderhoof

Registration opens at 10 am on Sept 5!
Bring your child's care card & birth certificate.
Families can apply for Affordable Child Care Benefits!

Tues & Thurs 1:15 - 3:15 pm

MCLEOD IS

NOT FREE.



Thanks for
keeping our
McLeod
family safe.

**No peanuts, Brazil nuts and hazelnuts
(including peanut butter and Nutella)
PLEASE.**

Welcome to McLeod!

McLeod Families are invited on
Thursday, September 12

Open House +
Ice Cream Social

6:00-7:30pm

PAC Meeting

7:00pm

Call 250-567-2267 for more
information or go to Facebook:
www.facebook.com/WLMPAC



BE A BRIDGE PLEDGE

- ✓ I will be the one to reach out and say hello.
- ✓ I will keep an open mind.
- ✓ I will give my full attention when someone is speaking to make them feel seen, heard and valued.
- ✓ I will acknowledge other people's feelings.
- ✓ I will offer encouragement instead of criticism.
- ✓ I will talk positively about others.
- ✓ I will invite everyone to be part of an activity.
- ✓ I will flex my empathy muscles and try to understand another's viewpoint.
- ✓ I will be myself.
- ✓ I will give myself time for rest and reflection.



How do you solve
a **problem?**

Use your
WITS!

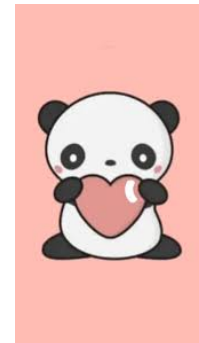


Walk Away
Ignore
Talk it Out
Seek Help

www.witsprogram.ca



Let's all use our WITS at home and at school



Check out our McLeod website

wlm.sdq1.bc.ca/

Thank you for keeping McLeod scent free
(including essential oils).

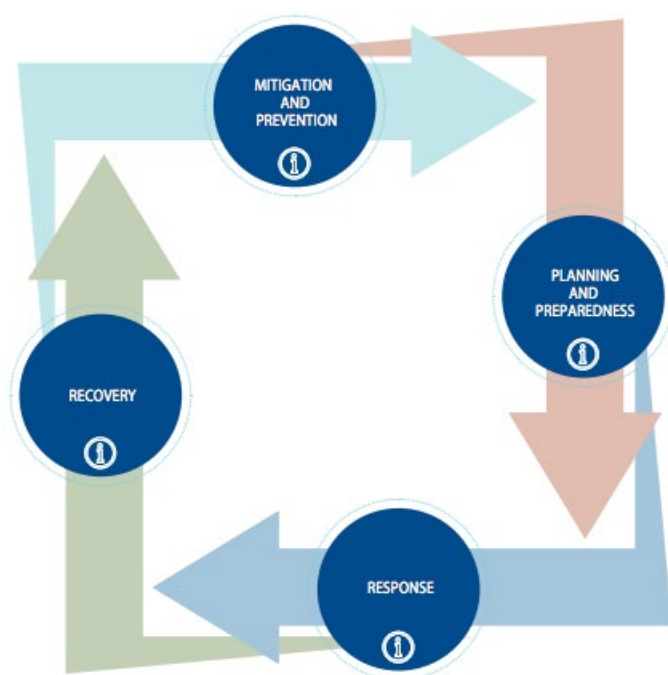
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Our schools are considered one of the safest places in our communities, but emergencies can happen without warning. School District 91 has emergency preparedness plans in place in the event of a crisis situation.

During an emergency, the first priority is the safety of our students and staff. In order to provide an effective response to emergencies, School District 91 has developed an emergency preparedness plans based on provincial guidelines. The district plan serves as a template for individual schools to guide their own emergency preparedness manuals. All district and school plans are reviewed annually and always after an emergency occurs.

Emergencies are unpredictable. We usually have little warning that an event or series of events may cause a massive disruption in our lives and our communities. As one of the major areas in which people gather, schools are places where emergency preparedness is critically important to the well-being of students and employees and to the confidence that parents feel in entrusting their children to the care of educators in BC schools. With planning, training and practice, our employees will be better equipped to handle potential emergency situations.



ALL HAZARDS APPROACH

Rather than focus on and try to provide detail relating to a large number of different events, our planning takes an all-hazards approach.

All-Hazard: *Any incident or event, natural or human caused, that requires an organized response by a public, private, and/or governmental entity in order to protect life, public health and safety, values to be protected, and to minimize any disruption of governmental, social, and economic services.*

An all-hazards approach focuses on planning that involves a small number of responses that can be used in different types of emergencies.

School emergencies can be on a small scale, confined to one site, or on a larger scale, potentially impacting an entire school district or even many districts. A small, localized fire within a school, for example, will require a different response than a chemical leak from a train derailment that will affect a whole community.

Being ready to address different scenarios, in collaboration with first responders and relevant community agencies, takes considerable preparation on the part of staff. While district personnel are not necessarily trained as emergency services workers, they may be called upon to fulfil roles related to first aid, damage assessment, locating students and staff, and care and comfort for students for a period of time.

WHEN AN EMERGENCY OCCURS

Although your natural instincts in an emergency may be to come down to the school to safeguard your child, please understand that doing so could impede the response to the emergency. Going to the school may interfere with the emergency crews and school personnel efforts to deal with the situation. Extra vehicles and people on the site may make the task more difficult and possibly put more people at risk. If you arrive at the school in the middle of an emergency, please respect the protocol in progress. **When it is safe to do so parents/guardians will be informed on the procedures to pick up their children from school.**

During emergency, please do not call the school or your child's cell phone. We need to ensure our phone systems are not overloaded during times of crisis. Calling your child cell phone during an emergency can be putting them at higher risk by disclosing their location or drawing attention to them during a lockdown.

KEEPING INFORMED DURING AN EMERGENCY

During an emergency, it is unlikely you'll be able to reach the school by phone we will, however, make every effort to contact parents directly or by one of the methods described below when appropriate to do so. If parents subscribe to the School Messenger* notification service used by School District 91, messages will be sent out during emergencies. The school district will also keep parents informed by posting information on the district website, and through social media and local radio stations.

REUNITING WITH YOUR CHILD

We recognize that one emergency occurs parents will be worried and want to be reunited with their child as quickly as possible. To ensure everyone's safety, specific procedures have been established for releasing students after an emergency. The parent-child reunion area will be established after emergency. Depending on the type of emergency, this reunion area may or may not be at your regular school. Students will only be released to an individual designated as legal guardian or emergency contact. You may be required to show a valid identification when you pick up your child and sign a release form. If you are unable to pick up your child, he/she will be kept safe until alternate arrangements can be made.

**School Messenger is being implemented in all schools during the 2018-19 school year. Please check with your child's school to see if this system is activated and how you can receive information.*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What is emergency preparedness?

SD 91 has taken steps to ensure your child's safety while in school. Each school has developed emergency preparedness plans including the steps staff will take in the event of an emergency, including a parent communication plan and evacuation plan. These plans are reviewed on a regular basis.

2. How can I stay informed?

SD 91 will broadcast emergency messages on our notification service, Synrevoice and other media sites. General emergency messages, including early and late school openings and closings can be found on the school board's website. Emergency messages are also given to local radio stations. Parents are encouraged to use these media sources for updates. During an emergency, parents should refrain from calling the school as it overloads phone lines and interferes with the work staff must undertake during a threat to school safety.

3. How will my child's school handle an emergency situation?

All SD 91 schools have an emergency preparedness plan. While emergency plans are based on School Board procedures and Provincial guidelines, the specifics of each plan differ according to unique characteristics for each location. A response to an emergency will differ based on the specifics of that situation. The flexibility of the plan is key to the success of the response. All school plans are reviewed on a regular basis and input is encouraged from all education partners.

4. How can I see the Emergency Preparedness Plan from my child's school?

Please contact your child's school for a copy of their manual.

5. What is a "Lockdown?"

This response is used when there is an immediate and imminent threat to the school building population. School staff and students are secured in the rooms they are currently in and no one is allowed to leave until the situation has been safely resolved or evacuated safely. Most commonly implemented when the potential for violence against members of the school population.

6. What is "Hold and Secure?"

Hold and Secure is a response to a threat in the general vicinity of a school, but not on or very near to school property. This could be a police pursuit, a crime in progress or when information is received that might put the school at risk. Staff, students and visitors are considered to be safe inside the school. A Hold and Secure can move to a Lockdown if situation becomes more serious.

What is "Shelter in Place?"

This response allows the school to continue with the normal school day, but forbids outside activity. A shelter in place order is used when personal safety is considered to be in danger if anyone leaves the school. It is usually associated with an environmental issue where hazardous materials are released into the atmosphere. For example, a chemical spill or gas leak in the immediate vicinity of the school. Shelter in place might also be used in the case of a wild animal in the vicinity of the school (e.g. cougar or bear).

7. What will SD 91 do if an emergency situation occurs while students are in school?

The specific actions taken by school personnel in any emergency situation, both district-wide and at individual schools, will depend on the specifics of the situation. Any action taken would depend on several factors, including the level of threat and the advice or directive of local, provincial, and federal agencies. The safety of students and staff members will be the primary concern in any decision.

9. Can I pick up my child?

Parents will be allowed to pick up their children unless public safety officials have declared that there is some reason why access to the facility is restricted. During any emergency, school personnel will endeavour to maintain a safe and calm environment for children within the school. School will not automatically be canceled in emergency situations because the school may be the safest place for children to be. Although some parents may feel compelled to pick up their children from school at that time; we want to assure them that their children are being looked after. Parents will be informed on when and where they can pick up their children when safe to do so.

10. Who can pick up my children?

Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized to do so on the student's emergency card or who do not have written parent authorization. Parents and guardians at the start of each school year will complete the emergency contact information. Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the emergency contacts as needed throughout the school year.

11. Should I contact my child directly during an emergency on his cell phone or call the school?

In emergency situations we ask parents to not to call the school as school staff will be assisting students and emergency responders. If school phone lines are busy with parent calls, we risk missing important information from emergency staff. We also ask parents not to contact their children on cell phones as this can interfere with safety protocols. Updates will be given through SD 91 social media and news media when available. During emergency situations we understand the concern from parents and community members and our primary focus will be on keeping our students as safe as possible.

12. What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?

The transportation department will be in contact with the District Office for instructions in the event that a crisis occurs while students are in transport. Bus drivers will be informed to avoid driving toward the crisis location. Parents will be informed of the parent-student reunification center location via the school board's emergency messaging system and local media.

13. What about my child's medication?

If your child takes medication regularly, you should make sure that the school has an appropriate amount of additional medication on hand. Talk with your child's principal for more information. In the event of a threat to school safety, emergency personnel will be notified of any specific medical needs.

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice and Process

What is a threat?

A threat is an expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something. Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, posted on the Internet or made by gesture. Threats will be taken seriously, responded to and investigated.

When is a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment started?

A Violence Threat/Risk Assessment will be started by behaviours such as:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/written threats to harm or kill others or self
- Internet threats to harm or kill others or self
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats and fire setting.
- Or similar behaviours

What happens in a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

When a threat making or high risk behaviour is reported to the principal, the principal will activate the protocol and a team appropriate to the situation will be set up. Once the team has been activated, interviews may be held with the student(s), the threat maker, parents and the staff, to determine the level of risk and to plan an appropriate response. The team may include people from the community such as RCMP or counsellors.

What are the purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment?

The purposes of a Violence Threat/Risk Assessment are:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- To begin to understand the factors that contribute to the threat maker's behaviour
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan to address the emotional and physical needs of the threat maker
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.



Duty to Report

To keep school communities safe and caring, staff, parents, students and community members must report all threat related behaviours to the principal. The principal will then activate the initial response.

Can I refuse to be part of the Student Threat Assessment process?

In order to ensure a safe and caring environment a threat assessment needs to be completed. It is important for everyone involved to engage in the process. If there is a reluctance to participate, the process will still be completed.

School District No. 91 Values

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) is committed to creating and maintaining school environments in which students, staff, parents, and others feel safe. Schools cannot ignore any threat of violence.

Where can I get further information?

Please discuss this information with your children so that they understand the intent. Should you require further clarification, please contact your school Principal or Superintendent of Schools at 250-567-2284.

Fair Notice: Violence Threat/Risk Assessment

It is important that all students and staff of School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes) be allowed to work in an environment free from harm. Threat making behaviour will not be tolerated. All threats and all high risk behaviours will be investigated and acted on accordingly. This may involve other agencies and Ministries including the RCMP. If your child is involved in threat making behaviour you will be contacted. (Code of Conduct Policy 502.1)

School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

153 East Connaught St.
Vanderhoof B.C.
Phone: 250-567-2284
Fax: 250-567-4639



School District No. 91 (Nechako Lakes)

Violence Threat/Risk Assessment: Fair Notice



School District No. 91
Phone: 250-567-2284