



# November 2023

# McKee McNews



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, November 8  
Photo Retake Day

Saturday, November 11  
Remembrance Day

Sunday, November 12  
Diwali

Wednesday, November 15  
Progress Reports Go Home

Thursday, November 16  
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Friday, November 17  
P.A. Day  
Parent/Teacher Interviews

Wednesday, November 22  
Parent Council Meeting -  
Hybrid @ 6:00

## McKee Public School

35 Church Avenue Toronto, Ontario  
M2N 6X6

Telephone: 416-395-2680 Safe Arrival Program: 416-395-2688 Fax 416-395-4497

School Website: <http://schoolweb.tdsb.on.ca/mckee> Twitter: @McKeeSchool

Jeanette Lang  
Principal

Laurel Poon  
Vice-Principal

416-395-2680

Domenic Giorgi  
Superintendent  
416-396-9172

Weidong Pei  
Trustee  
416-395-8787

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We have had a very busy month celebrating student success in and out of the classroom. We hope your child has settled in with the school routines and has developed friendships within the class. Communication with the classroom teacher is essential and on-going. Please don't hesitate to reach out to myself, our VP or your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding your child's learning.

We hope that you found your child's Curriculum night presentation helpful on October 5th. Effective schools have a strong home and school partnership and on-going dialogue either through a digital format or through the Agenda is key to student success.

You will have an opportunity to discuss your child's progress report on **Thursday, November 16th and Friday, November 17th or during an alternate date chosen by your child's teacher.** More information will be sent home shortly regarding how this will work. We will make an effort to coordinate sibling interviews when scheduling these visits. Some teachers may offer alternate dates to accommodate numbers.

We are very thankful to families who donated towards our Terry Fox fundraiser. **This year, \$6384.45 was raised towards cancer research** in the hopes of keeping Terry's dream alive. Thank you for your generosity and support with this important initiative.

Please ensure you are not blocking the entrance/exit to the school grounds after dropping off your child. We are noticing a small bottleneck happening with students trying to get by but parents are standing in the entrance way.

We are having a **Remembrance Day assembly on Friday, November 10th** for our students only. Teachers are working hard to plan age appropriate lessons that anchor the meaning behind why we come together on November 11th to honour those who gave their lives so we can enjoy the peace we have today.

Thank you for being a partner in your child's education.

Jeanette Lang  
Principal  
McKee PS



Lest We Forget.

## Durga Puja

### **In the words of Misha from Ms Mullrooney's class,**

A very happy Durgotsava to all families who celebrate Durga Puja. Durga Puja, also known as Durgotsava or Sharadotsav is an annual Hindu festival celebrated in the month of October. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil and recognizes motherly (or divine feminine) power behind all of life and creation. This importance of Durga Puja in modern times is more of a social and cultural essence than a religious one. Durga Puja, in Kolkata India has been inscribed on the cultural heritage list of UNESCO in December 2021. Over the years, Durga Puja has become an inseparable part of Indian Culture with a diverse group of people celebrating this festival in their unique way. I wish everyone who celebrates Durga Puja a very happy Durgotsava.



## DIWALI

Diwali, the festival of lights, is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and Jains in India and around the world. This year, we celebrate on November 12th. The historical events and stories may be different for each faith, but this festival represents the same symbolic victory of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance, and good over evil. It is celebrated for five days.

As a school community we look forward to celebrating Diwali and recognizing those families who partake in the many rituals like lighting Diyas and making Rangoli designs. Students will have the opportunity to use their voice by sharing on the announcements ways that they celebrate this wonderful occasion.

Diwali is typically celebrated with the entire family and extended family. It provides ample time for love, joy, laughter, fun, excitement, reverence, and sharing. It unites family members and helps renew family ties. It provides grandparents an opportunity to share family traditions and gives them an opportunity to pass on the family artefacts and heirlooms to the next generation. **We wish all our families a Happy Diwali!!**





## October Library News

This month we have been talking about gratitude and about what we feel thankful for. Some of the classes wrote down what they are grateful for and placed it on our McKee Thankfulness Tree in the library. We also had our annual pumpkin carving/decorating contest. Each class designed and carved a pumpkin and the teachers voted for their favourite designs. Happy Halloween!



Website Recommendation:

New on the



ONCORE

ON-CORE is a English and French streaming platform with an extensive library of recent video titles that are correlated to K-12 Ontario curriculum in all subject areas. Find On-Core on the Virtual Library in the Watch & Listen section of Read Watch Learn or on the Français page under

Regarder. See the Password & Info button at the top of the [Virtual Library](#) for login information.

Thank you,  
Ms. Nmezi



## Early French Immersion Application Process

The entry point to Early French Immersion is **Junior Kindergarten for September 2024.**

The application to the Early French Immersion program will remain an online process managed by the Central French Department



The application program opens on **November 6, 2023.**

The deadline for online applications is **December 1, 2023.**

An offer of placement in the program (not a specific school) is guaranteed to all on-time applicants. Families with an older sibling currently in an Early French Immersion program are still required to complete an online application for the new student. Interested families can apply via the [Application Link](#).

At any time, please visit the [TDSB French website](#) to view a [video](#) that provides information about the TDSB French Language programs as well as the application and placement process in the Early French Immersion and the Middle French Immersion programs. More information about the Early Immersion Program is available in [22 languages](#), or visit the [Information Sessions](#) website for related links to join a live Zoom webinar about the application process.

## Personal items of value

Parents and guardians, as much as we love shiny new items at McKee and making things magical, personal items of value and money should stay at home. Please do not let your child/children bring personal items of value or money unless specifically asked to do so. We will not be responsible for items that are lost or stolen if they do end up at the school without consent.

## Food Drive coming!!

We are proud of our partnership with NeighbourLink North York and together with the McKee students, we are initiating a food drive with a focus on healthy non-perishable and useful household items. We are looking at having this drive from November 27- December 7th so that food donations can be delivered to families in time for the holidays. More info to come shortly.





## Congratulations to the McKee Cross Country Team!

51 students put on a red shirt and represented McKee at the NORTH CROSS COUNTRY MEET located at EARL BALES PARK in the past month and a half. With weeks of training behind them, the student athletes showed perseverance and determination to sweat through the rugged terrain and achieve personal best finishes. Students in Grade 3, 4, and 5 competed on October 18th in the Conference Finals.



Results can be found at

<https://results.raceroster.com/v2/en-CA/results/m5a6vzcc2anjng5r/results?subEvent=181050&page=1>

We had 3 McKee students who competed at the City Finals - Congratulations goes out to Koji who placed 7th, Leon who placed 61st and to Grace who placed 75th. Tremendous effort by all students who participated. So proud of you all!!



## Terry Fox Fundraising Efforts

**A quick shout out to everyone who helped McKee raise \$6384.45 for the Terry Fox foundation – nice work as this exceeds our goal.**





**Happy World Teachers Day on October 5th- Thank you to Nicole Wu and Vincent Qian for providing treats to our staff in celebration of World Teachers Day. On behalf of our entire McKee staff, we thank our parents for showing appreciation as we love our jobs and welcome wonderful students each and every day!**



## The National Ballet of Canada visits McKee!



**This month, we were fortunate to have The National Ballet of Canada's RBC Apprentice Programme come in to teach McKee some dance**



**moves! The YOU (Youth, Outreach and Understanding Dance) workshops gave us an opportunity to explore movement as an art form and as a way to communicate. We learned how to dance like we were in space, use our imagination, and use our whole body to make different shapes. We enjoyed being active, trying various steps while learning the moves as a class. The YOU dance Teaching Artists and Educators did an incredible job and kept everyone engaged with their hands-on program. We look forward to seeing them again next time!**





### Grade 4 Field Trip to Harbourfront Centre

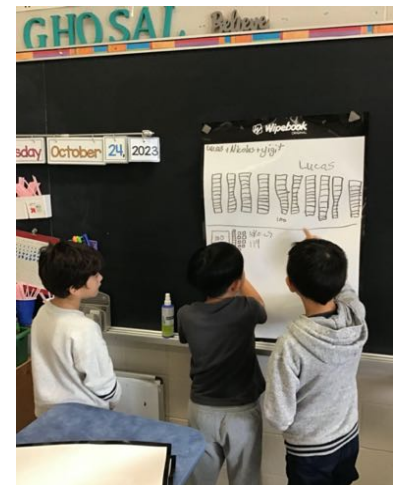
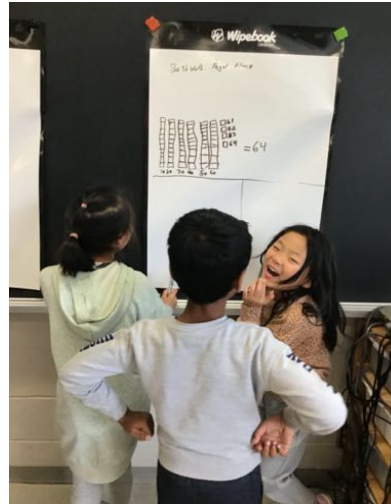
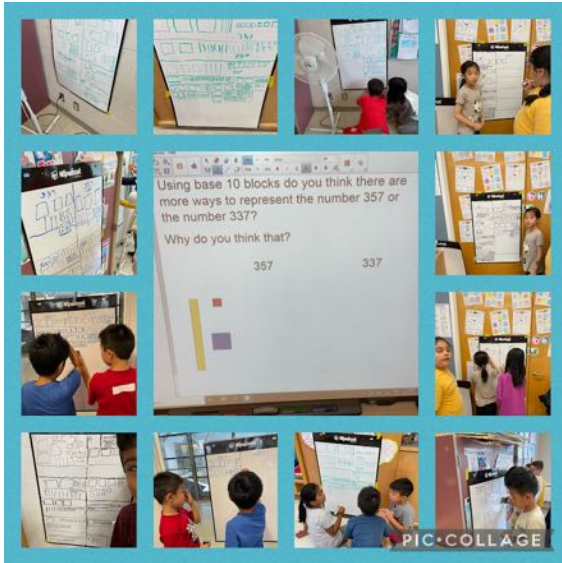
*It all started when we were sitting on the carpet waiting excitedly to leave McKee and start our trip to Harbourfront Centre. After the attendance we*

*started walking to the subway station with Mr. Morris, the parent volunteers and our class of 30 students. It was a nice and cool day. When we got to the subway station we waited patiently for the subway to come and for us to sit down. I had two partners, Danica and Natalie. I sat near them but not too close to them because there wasn't an extra seat. The subway ride was from North York Centre Station to Union Station. It was supposed to be an hour long but it only felt like 10 minutes long because my mind was focused on having fun and chatting with my friends. Once we got off the subway we immediately went to the street car station. After getting on two vehicles we finally made it there. We then went inside with Leslie, the Art instructor, and she began her lesson. She taught us about stamps and then taught us how to make a lino print/stamp. We had a lot of fun drawing, carving and most of all printing. After we finished making our stamps we went to a lunchroom and ate our lunches. When we all finished our lunches, we followed Mike, who was our dance teacher. We went through a hallway that had different rooms where artists worked. For example, there was glass making, metal making and lots of other different art rooms. But after we got through the hallway we reached the room where we would do our dancing. Mike showed us some dancing and explained to us what Urban meant and different types of street dancing. After having fun at Harbourfront Centre it all came to an end where we got on the street car then the subway. I hope to go back to Harbourfront Centre again. It all comes to this, why did we go to Harbourfront/what was the purpose of this trip? Well I think the reason why we went to Harbourfront is to have fun and to learn a few new things about Art and Dance!*

*By: Katie Wai (Grade 4)*



## Building Thinking Classrooms



**In Math, we learn, grow, and have fun together. Building thinking classrooms is a way in which we engage our learners in multiple ways of expressing their learning.**

***"I like that there's a lot of ideas such as working with our Wipeboards in groups that are made from Flippity (a computer generated random grouping program). I like this type of learning." - Lucas O.R.***

## **Our amazing Gr. $\frac{3}{4}$ Virtual Class.**



**Our Gr.  $\frac{3}{4}$  Virtual Class is running beautifully - this class is filled with engaged students who are working so well together. This class has students from 8 different TDSB schools who are part of our McKee family. A quick shout out and congratulations to these students who attend our Assemblies virtually and are working so hard each and every day. Mr Corvo is so proud of their accomplishments and it shows!**







*On October 10th, 2023, we went to Denlow Public School to compete with other schools for girls soccer. We had 3 games to play. At the first match we scored a goal, but after a few rounds the other team started to get competitive. Finally, the referee blew the whistle for half time. We then had a 5 minute break and we thought of strategies to win, but sadly it didn't work as planned.*

*For the second match we improved from the other match and we tried our best and we did score a couple of goals in that game but they caught up. Lastly, there was one last game and we started practising and then it was time to shine, but they scored two more times and then we scored. Unfortunately, we lost the game. But at least we had a lot of fun playing with other teams and*

*seeing how other teams competed.*

*Although we didn't win, we had a great time. A lot of us on the team never competed before or played this sport ever in our lives. We just wanted to say thank you to all the coaches and our teammates! By: Salam and Paris*

*The girls soccer team was very fun. It was a great time knowing more people too. But the best part was me and my friends going on the field. The practices were tiring but it was all amazing. We sometimes went to Mitchell Field to practise and it was also very fun too. So when the day of the tournament came, we were ready to play. During the drive to the tournament, I felt nervous and also it was a long long way to get there. But soon enough we made it to the other school and when I stepped out of the car, I was super nervous. When I saw my friend, I felt relieved. I reminded myself to stay calm. Then I did and it was time to go on the field. I was super excited. In the middle of the game, I began to feel tired but I persevered. It was sad losing, but it was still a wonderful experience.*

**Written by:**

**Natalie and Danica**

**A special thank you to Ms Caira, Ms Hwang and Mr Morris for their time organizing and preparing this team and for creating memories that will last a lifetime.**





## World Prematurity Day at McKee!

Thursday,  
November 16th

**One in 10 babies  
worldwide are born too  
soon. In Canada, 30,000**

**babies are born prematurely every year.**

Kaia Ng, one of our Gr. 2 students in Ms Thai's class is one of these babies born prematurely and is committed to raising awareness for World Prematurity Day. Kaia will be speaking about this important day on the morning announcements as well as will present a slideshow to her classmates.

Students and families can participate in this initiative by:

- Wearing **purple** on **Friday November 17, 2023**.
- When you place an order with **Mabel's Labels** choose Canadian Premature Babies Foundation as a charity and we will receive a small percentage of your order as a donation.  
[www.mabelslabel.com](http://www.mabelslabel.com).
- You can **donate your reward points to CPBF**. Download the Pampers Clubs Rewards app.
- Or donate at <https://www.cpbfbpc.org/donate>

The purpose is to advocate for the rights of parents to be with their children while in the NICU.

Thank you for joining us in raising awareness for Canada's tiniest babies.



## Dance - A -Thon Fundraising team



Every year, McKee does a remarkable job fundraising for our Annual Dance-a-Thon. Nancy Charron, our beloved retired librarian will be at our next School Council meeting to speak about the Dance-a-thon. She is looking to put together a fundraising team. Anyone interested in being part of this Dance-a-thon, planning committee, please email [Nancy.Ng-Charron@tdsb.on.ca](mailto:Nancy.Ng-Charron@tdsb.on.ca). A special thanks to all the parents who were part of this team last year. We are

hoping for a repeat of another successful Dance-a-thon scheduled for March 6th.

Hallowe'en was a success! It was a wonderful day enjoyed by all. All staff creatively found ways to weave in some fun activities into their learning for at least part of the day. The Kindie students stole the show as they had a parade throughout the halls of McKee. We even had fun Hallowe'en activities in the gym. More pictures will come next month.



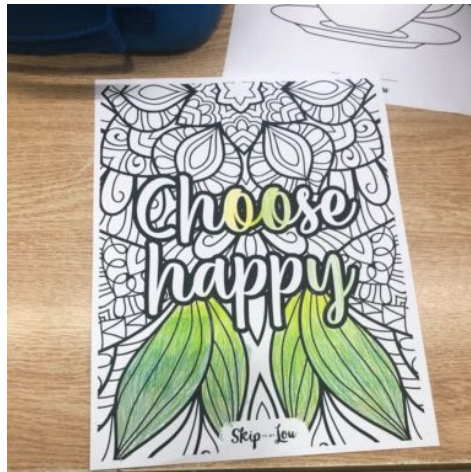
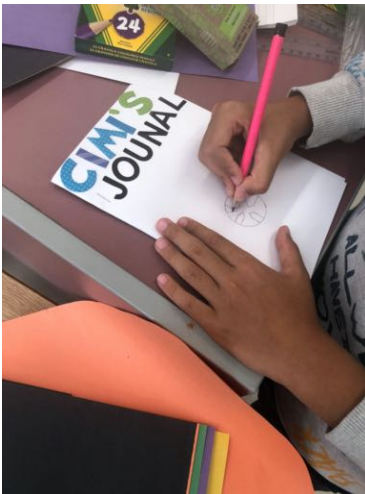
## Creative and Inspire Club

The Create and Inspire Club has started at McKee on Tuesdays at 11:30am and is a creative opportunity for Grades 4 and 5 students. Students have made friendship bracelets to commemorate World Mental Health Day, and continue to work on beautiful crafts, scrapbooks, journals, and other keepsakes throughout the lunch hour. Here is what our students have to say about our club so far this year.

*"I like Create and Inspire because we can do whatever craft we want. When I do crafts, I like it because I never have time at home to do them" - Sophia A, Grade 5*

*"I like Create and Inspire club because I use my imagination and I get to bond with my friends here and it's really relaxing" -Chloe L, Grade 5*

*"I feel good about Create and Inspire because I can let my imagination go free and create whatever I want" - Jigisha, Grade 4*





## ***FDK Trip to the Farm -***

*What a glorious day and first field trip for many of our FDK students and parents. All Kindergarten students travelled to Round the Bend Farm on October 18th and brought back their learning into the classroom. For days after, students were*



*immersed in dialogue, writing activities and opportunities to showcase their learning through pictures and words. Teachers were intentional with discussing the life cycle "from seed to pumpkin" as seen in the pictures below. Teachers also engaged their students with pumpkin decorating activities which the students loved.*

*Experiences like these provide authentic experiences for our students to learn from and create memories that last a lifetime. A special thank you to all parents who attended as without your help this field trip could never happen. Thanks to Ms Mocioiu and to Ms Ungerman for sharing these pictures. Parents in other FDK classes can take a peek at their google classrooms or windows for more pictures and artwork.*







## FDK FIELD TRIP TO ROUND THE BEND FARM - FROM THE FDK TEAM



On October 18, 2023, the Kindergarten children took a trip to Round the Bend Family Farm. There we saw and experienced many different aspects of farm life and activities.



We went on a wagon ride pulled by a tractor. We took a tour of the farm and saw the vegetables that grew there. There were cauliflower (white, yellow, and purple), brussels sprouts, broccoli, cabbage, lettuce, sunflowers, corn, and pumpkins. The farmer Pietra said the asparagus was not ready yet because it wasn't the right season for them. The children enjoyed riding on a wagon, especially when we went over bumpy spots.



The children were allowed to play in the hay maze and then on the slides. The black slide was a fast slide and the white one was s-l-o-w. But they were both very bumpy! The children had so much fun going up and down the slides, all the while squealing with delight!



The children really enjoyed feeding the animals on the farm. We saw a llama, goats, sheep, cows, pigs, chickens, and ducks. The children were given kale to feed these animals and boy, did they ever love eating the kale! Some of the children were afraid to approach the animals at first, but they soon discovered the joy of feeding these gentle animals.



Then we went into a classroom to learn about how the pumpkins grow on the farm. It was very informative. For example, one of the things that we learned was that pumpkins are a type of winter squash that belongs to a family of gourds.





## McKee McNews November 2023



It was a beautiful day for a farm trip and the Kindergarten children had such a wonderful time visiting, seeing, learning, and experiencing farm life firsthand. But we could not have done this without the help of our wonderful parent volunteers. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to be with us! You made our learning so meaningful!!

