



# October 2024

# McKee McNews



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, October 1  
First SAC meeting and  
Photo Day

Wednesday, October 2  
Cross Country Meet @  
Earl Bales

Thursday, October 3 and  
Friday October 4  
Rosh Hashanah

Thursday October 3  
Navrati begins

Saturday, October 5  
World Teacher Day

Friday, October 11 - PA  
Day (no school)

Monday, October 14  
Thanksgiving Day (No  
School)

Thursday, October 31 -  
Halloween

### McKee Public School

35 Church Avenue Toronto, Ontario  
M2N 6X6

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

Jeanette Lang  
Principal  
416-395-2680

Cathy Tang  
Vice-Principal  
416-395-2680

Helen Fisher  
Superintendent  
416-395-8819

Weidong Pei  
Trustee  
416-395-8787

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to share that we have had a wonderful start to our school year! Routines are set and we are well on our way to a very successful year of learning. Thank you for sending us your beautiful children everyday.

I can tell you from visiting the classrooms often, that the tone of learning is exceptional and teachers are giving students what they need in terms of curriculum content as well as an environment that is rooted in kindness and caring.

We are looking forward to our first **Parent Council meeting tonight**. Tuesday, October 1st. A strong and involved Parent Council contributes greatly to an effective school. We will be electing our School Council Executive at this first meeting and hope to have several Members at Large who will also contribute to discussion and act as voting members.



We are very thankful that our construction project is underway. The students have done a remarkable job responding to new entrances and a smaller play space that we hope will only last this school year. We will update you as the year goes on with regards to this timeline.

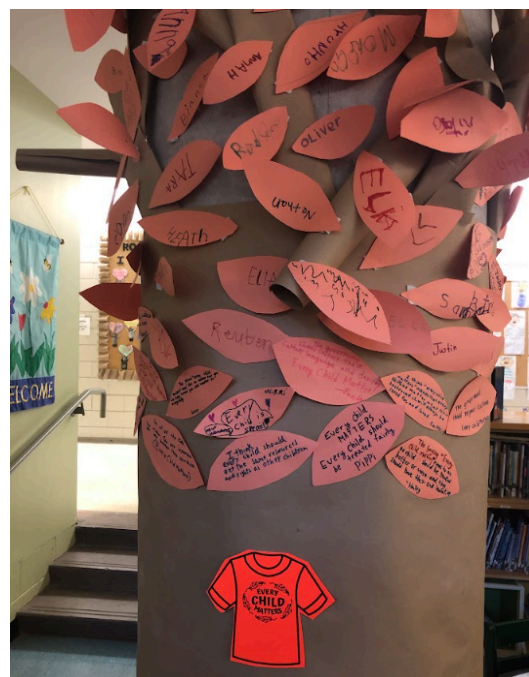
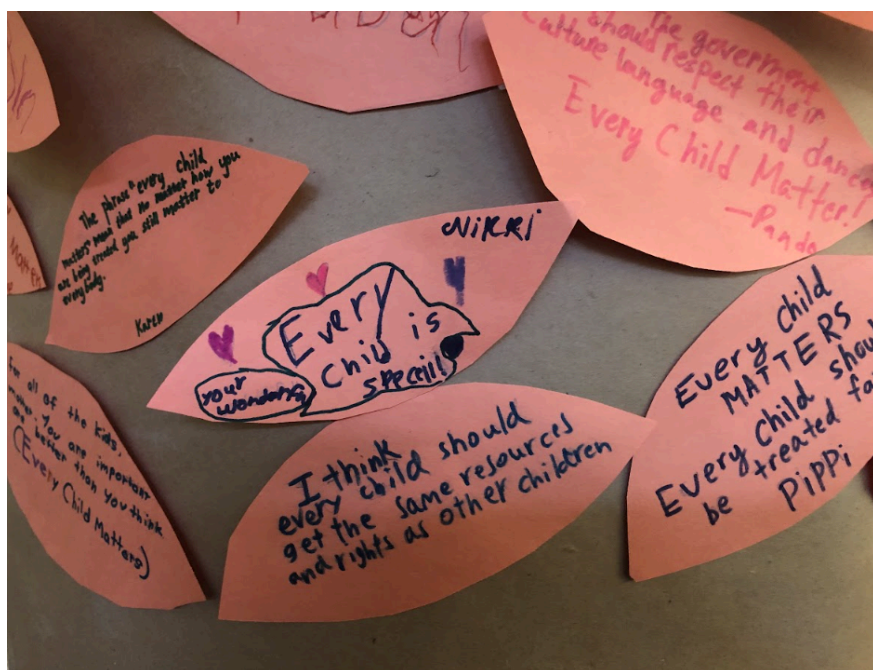
Please continue to connect with your child's teacher, myself or my VP Cathy Tang if you have any questions or if we can help you in any way. Thank you for being a supportive partner in your child's education.

Jeanette Lang  
Principal  
McKee PS

## Library News in September

It has been a very busy month in the McKee library! The library is open for check out and the students have already started borrowing library books. We are encouraging responsibility and independence by going over library routines and how to take care of a library book. The library helper club has started for students in grades 4 and 5. They will be responsible for putting away library books and keeping the library neat and organized.

This month we also learned about residential school survivor Phyllis Webstad and Orange Shirt Day. The students took some time to reflect on and write about what “Every Child Matters,” means to them.



### Website Recommendation:

Don't forget to check out the virtual library for amazing resources for students to access at home

[TDSB Virtual Library](#)

Thank you,  
Ms. Nmezi



## **Punctuality Matters**

Supervision in our playground begins at 8:30 a.m. Our **first bell** rings at **8:40 a.m.**, when doors open to allow students to enter our school building. A **second bell** rings at **8:45 a.m.** when students are expected in their classrooms to be ready for our Land Acknowledgement, O'Canada and morning announcements. **After 8:45 a.m.** students can only enter through our main doors and will be considered **late**. Students who arrive late to school must report to the office and wait until morning announcements are complete before signing in to receive a late slip. Students are all encouraged to **try to arrive at school on time.**

## **Director of Education Search Survey**

As the TDSB searches for its next Director of Education, they want to hear from you! A survey is being conducted to learn more about insights on the appointment of the TDSB's next leader. Students, staff, parents/guardians/caregivers and members of the broader community are encouraged to take the time to share their thoughts on opportunities that lie ahead for the new Director of Education in the coming years. The results of this survey will be used to develop criteria to select the next Director of Education who will shape the TDSB's future strategy, key performance indicators, and will build upon the TDSB's commitments to its diverse community of students, staff, and stakeholders. Survey responses will be confidential and reported anonymously as group data. Please submit your survey no later than September 22, 2024 at 11:59 pm. Access the survey at [bit.ly/TDSBDirector](https://bit.ly/TDSBDirector)

## **Settlement Workers**

We are also very fortunate to have 3 amazing Settlement workers who support our newcomer families: Iona Seo (Korean), Tara Eskandari (Farsi) and Iris Yang (Mandarin). Each of these wonderful settlement workers visits McKee every week and can be reached by calling our office as needed.

## Halloween celebrations

We are excited to begin the planning for our upcoming Hallowe'en celebrations. Your child's teacher will share expectations on how your child's class will celebrate this fun day. We don't expect families to bring in treats for the class although some of you may wish to do so. Each grade will plan something a little different and the overarching idea and theme is that we are sensitive to the costumes that we choose and that we are not wearing face coverings that make it difficult to navigate. **We are also working with Sunnyside UP camp to be able to offer a special Hallowe'en experience here at McKee. Stay tuned for more information.**



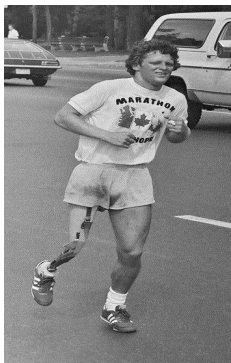
## Extra Curricular Activities

We are very pleased with the time the teachers are willing to give outside of their instructional day to ensure that our students are given opportunities for them to learn new skills and develop new friends and learn the important life lessons through sport.

We are excited about our Cross Country and Girls' Borden Ball team that are busying practising and honing their skills. We look forward to taking approximately 50 students to Earl Bales Park for a **Cross country meet on Wednesday, October 2nd**. **We are excited about our Girls' Gr. 4/5 Borden Ball tournament that is happening on Friday, October 4th @ Cassandra PS**. We are also busy with our Grade 4/5 boys' soccer team as well as other fun clubs like Choir that has begun today on October 1st.



## Terry Fox Activity Day



On September 26, staff and students participated in our annual Terry Fox run. All students came to an Assembly where we learned about the remarkable story of Terry Fox. All students participated in a



run/walk for at least 20 minutes in our school yard. Messages of hope, encouragement and resilience filled our hallways and classrooms as we discussed Terry's perseverance. Thank you to all parents who have donated to this worthy cause of contributing to finding a cure for Cancer. **To date we have raised over \$3400.00 from both cash and on-line donations. For those who wish to donate, please see link below to help us with reaching our goal of \$7000.00**

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/McKeePSNorthYork>

We dedicated this year's Terry Fox run to a beloved teacher, Ms Sarah Coles who passed away almost one year ago from Cancer. Her brother, Luke Coles came to McKee to speak with our students, as he has a strong connection with the Terry Fox Foundation and McKee is very dear to his family with Sarah being a beloved staff member for over 20 years. For those of you who remember Ms Coles, she was a dedicated and kind teacher who went above and beyond for her students. McKee PS was a very special part of her life and we are honoured to dedicate our fundraiser in Ms Coles' name this year.

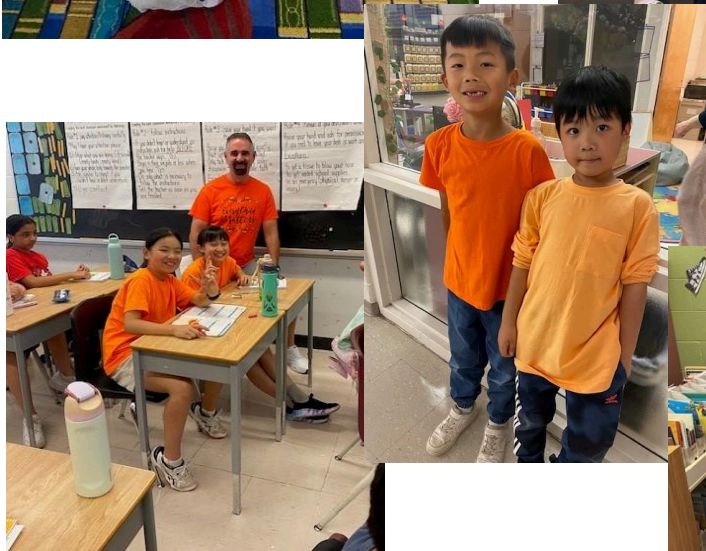




## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On September 30th, McKee students and staff wore orange shirts to recognize the mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples specifically with what happened with residential schools. Students learned through videos, books and

dialogue in their classrooms the history and stories behind what happened years ago. The story of Phyllis Webstad was shared with students. McKee will continue along this journey of going deeper into understanding First Nations teaching. As a school community, we are proud to be a part of this Truth and Reconciliation process.





## Construction update

You may have noticed the fence hoarding that surrounds our West side of the school. The work inside the building is about to begin and we will do everything we can to mitigate the noise and any disruption to student learning. I know the teachers are having discussions rooted in safety but also in real life learning that comes from projects like these. It will be very exciting to see the progress with the hopes that the 3 new classrooms are added to McKee at the beginning of 2025.

Please continue to access the website below for updates.

<https://www.tdsb.on.ca/About-Us/Facility-Services/Capital-Projects/McKee-Public-School>

### [Newcomer Program begins at McKee](#)

We are so pleased to be once again welcoming Karen Peng and Pema Choedon who are facilitating this wonderful program.

This program is designed to help ease some of the transitional challenges new Canadian students experience when integrating into the Canadian school system and Canadian culture. The program will focus on Culinary & Creative Arts. Students will participate in small group and activities will include: - Healthy Eating Habits - Canadian grown fruits - Exploring different art mediums - Discovering Canadian artists - Language Development - All food & art material will be provided. We use the Ministry Report to pull names of students who have been in Canada for less than 5 years to assist with our selection process.