



October 2021

McKee McNews



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, September 29 - Terry Fox Run

Monday, September 30 - Orange Shirt Day

Thursday, September 30
First SAC meeting

Tuesday, October 5 - World Teachers' Day

Wednesday, October 6 - Curriculum Night

Thursday October 7 - 14
Navratri begins (Hinduism)

Friday, October 7 - Photo Day

Monday, October 11 - Thanksgiving Day

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

416-395-2680

Tina Weinberg

Vice-Principal

Domenic Giorgi

Superintendent

416-396-9172

Alexander Brown

Trustee

416-395-8787

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to share that we have had a very successful but incredibly busy start to our school year! We went through a reorganization process that involved moving 80 McKee students to a virtual class which meant asking 5 staff to move from in person to virtual class as well. The teachers responded beautifully to the changes and have been working diligently to ensure that relationships are built and their classroom rules and routines are set. Our 5 virtual classes include students from Stilecroft PS, Wilmington PS, Churchill PS, and Earnest PS. We welcome those who are new to McKee and hope you enjoy this experience.

A gentle reminder that because we are a large staff, we need every single available spot in our parking lot. Parents are asked not to park their cars in our parking lot after 8:00 a.m.

We were very pleased with the turnout for our first **School Advisory Council (SAC)** on **Thursday, September 30th**. Our SAC executives include:

Co Chairs - *Maria Spear and Melisa Ash*

Co Treasurers – *Kavita Srivastava, Yise Zhang and Andriy Muntyanov*

Co Secretaries - *Hayley Buckler, Jolie Chan*

This fantastic group of parents will act as an advisory group to both Tina and myself and will spearhead many worthwhile initiatives this year that will benefit our school community. We also have several parents who are “members at large” who will attend meetings and provide input into planning. Thank you and welcome to these members: *Atefeh Javadian, Tanaz Jivraj, Along Tkach, Reem Dabbour, Shirley Lee, Nazgol Adili, Vincent Yu, Fridan Naghiyeva and Nicole Chu.*

All the best for a wonderful year together.

Jeanette Lang

Principal

McKee PS

Everything You Need to Know

The beginning of school can be an exciting but somewhat overwhelming time – for both parents and students. But we're here to help make the transition as smooth as possible and provide all the information you need to know to get started on the right foot. As a parent or guardian, there are many ways to be involved in your child's education. To learn more about school councils and parent involvement on a Board-wide basis, visit www.tdsb.on.ca/howtogetinvolved. A gentle reminder to please complete all permission click emails so that we have all the information and consent forms from you to ensure a fulsome experience at McKee.

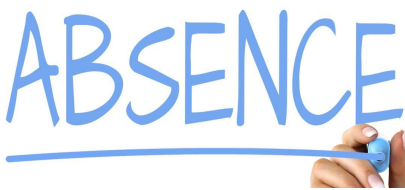
Punctuality Matters



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 ready for our Land Acknowledgements, O'Canada and our 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. This process can take up to 20 minutes depending upon the number of students signing in late given the need to complete the health screening and sanitization procedures. Prompt attendance at school is essential to maximize instructional time and to teach children the importance of punctuality and responsibility.

A Safe School

We have policies and procedures in place to make McKee a safe place for all of our students.



Our fenced primary and kindergarten yards are for students only. Parents are invited to wait outside the fenced area at each of these yards. In case of rain please do not send children to school early as we will not be bringing students into the gym before school starts due to Covid.

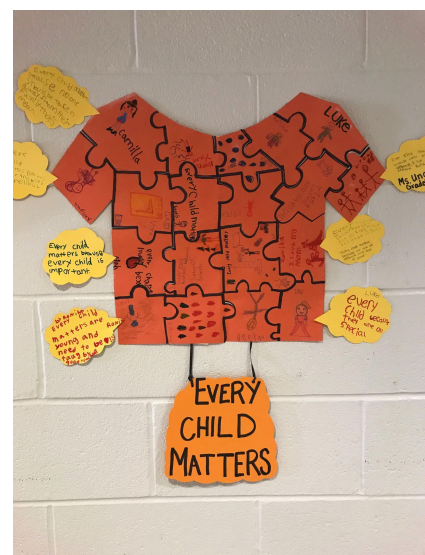
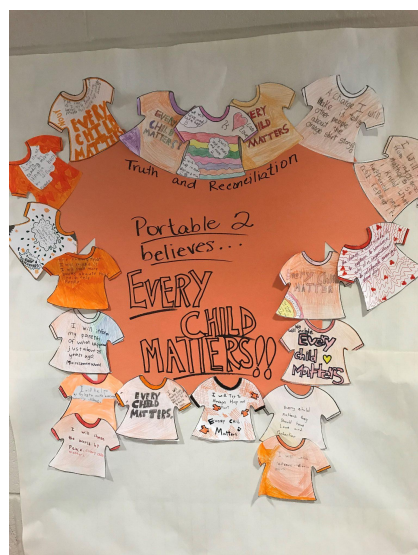
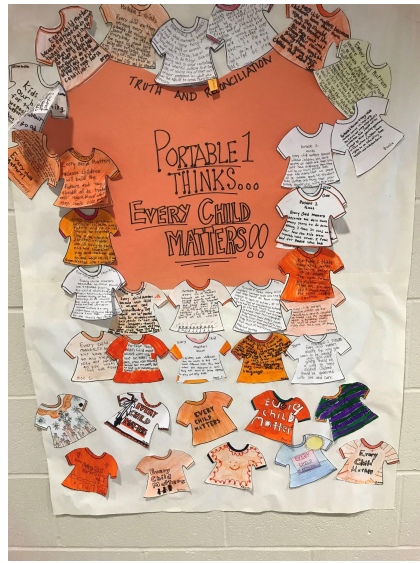
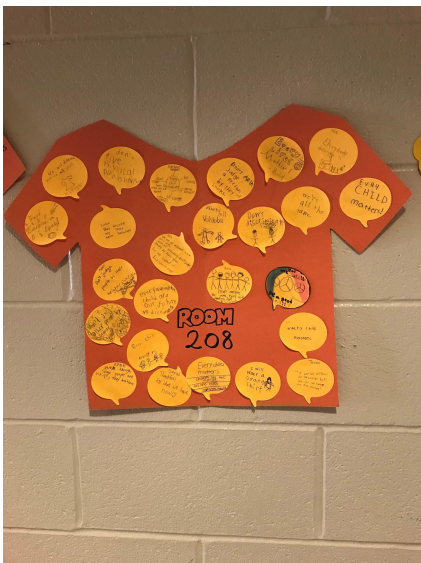
If your child is going to be absent or late please call our 24-hour Safe Arrival Program at 416-395-2688. It is essential that all our students are accounted for and we know they are safe.

Ongoing and frequent communication is an extremely important factor in the success of our students. We encourage parents to help us learn more about your children. Call the teacher, send a note to tell us something we should know or to celebrate a success or write in the student agenda or google classroom.

Throughout the day, students travel around the building (washroom, drinking fountain to fill their water bottle, office, etc.) using the buddy system. Teachers have a system to track which students are out of the classroom. Thank you for your support as we strive to provide our students with a safe learning environment.

Orange Shirt Day

On September 30th, McKee students and staff came together to wear orange shirts to recognize the mistreatment of Indigenous Peoples and their experiences in residential schools. Students learned through videos, books and dialogue in their classrooms the history and stories behind what happened during this time. The story of Phyllis Webstad was also shared with students. McKee will continue along this journey of going deeper into understanding of Indigenous learning and are proud to be a part of this truth and reconciliation process.



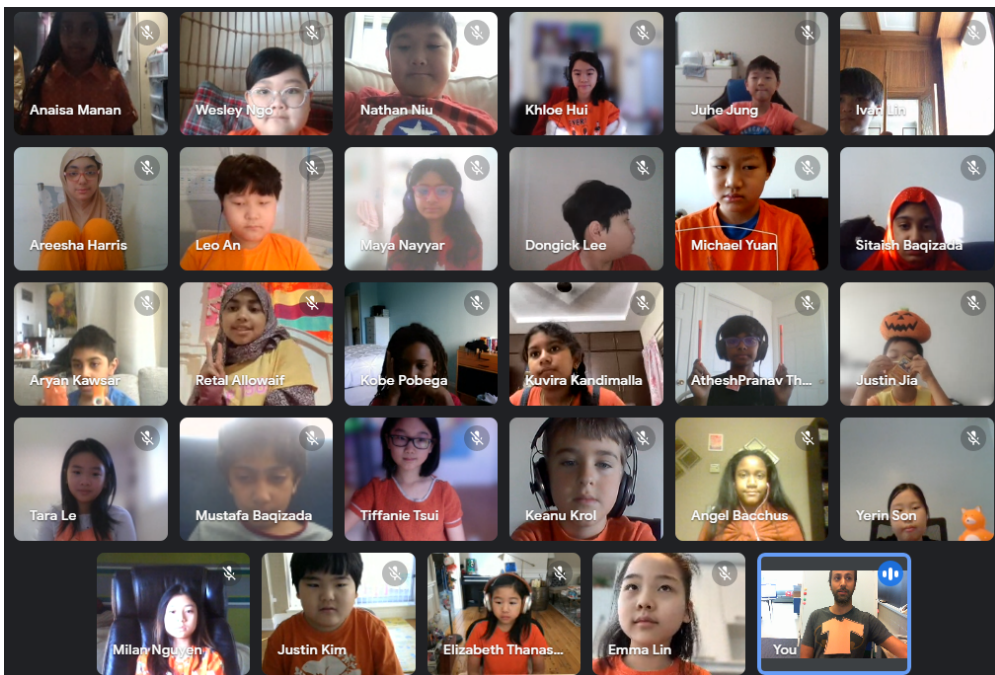
Indigenous teachings



Take a peek at the meaningful work of our Gr. 3 students in Ms Hwang's class who wrote messages of hope along our school sidewalk.

Students have been unpacking the tragic reality of Canada's history through pictures, books and discussions.

Prior to going outside, the students decided if they wanted to work alone or with others. They then sketched a plan before they went to work. These messages showcase the deep thinking and understanding of why we recognize Orange Shirt Day.



So nice to see our Virtual learners from Mr Morris' Grade 4/5 class also participating wholeheartedly in Orange Shirt Day.

School Character Bees



Each month, our school recognizes the month's Character Trait. Teachers chose a student who has demonstrated a particular character trait well and showcases them in front of their peers. One student per class receives a Bee. A McKee Bee is a student who contributes to the positive culture of McKee with a specific action or ongoing positive attitude or behaviour. Unfortunately, we cannot have school assemblies due to Covid and our need to cohort so these students will be recognized in their home classrooms.

Terry Fox Day - Wednesday, September 29th, 2021

Students have been learning about the story of Terry Fox through morning announcements, rich discussion within the classroom and through reading books and sharing stories. We have a TryLikeTerry display where students use post it notes to write how they will try like Terry and have displayed these messages outside their classroom. Each class that participates will get a ballot and our wonderful librarian Ms Charron will pull a ballot for the winning classroom to see who will win a copy of the book Terry Fox and Me. Students went outside, participated in a group warm-up and then ran laps in the spirit of the day.



