



# McCaig Elementary School

## November 2018

### Newsletter



#### Message from the Principal & Vice Principal

We would like to express a heartfelt thanks to our PPO for organizing the amazing haunted house and the incredible fun house for our students on Halloween once again this year. The students absolutely LOVED it! McCaig is truly blessed to have so many parents who dedicate their time and energy so selflessly to the school for the benefit of the children. Thank you! Lastly, thanks to TFOMES for providing the funding to make it all happen.



#### Message from the McCaig Halloween committee

The McCaig Halloween committee would like to thank all parent volunteers who gave their time and creativity in putting together this year's Haunted Houses. We would like to express gratitude to Mr. Mason and Mme Gauthier as well as the entire McCaig staff for accommodating us and, by the way, all of them were scared silly by the Haunted Hospital! This event was made possible by TFOMES; thank you for creating lasting memories for our children and teachers.

Thank you to Monsieur Paul for his help with our Halloween events through the years and a huge thank you to "Live Entertainment - Stefano Russo" and Valerio Zeffiro from "Special Effects Services" for helping us create the perfect ambience in the "Under The Sea" Adventure! It would not have been the same without your contribution and generosity! Lastly, thank you to Anna Persichilli; you Rock!

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – Coretta Scott King.

#### Orange Shirt Day

McCaig students participated in Orange Shirt Day on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>. This day was organized to demonstrate our commitment to recognizing the harm that the residential school system caused to many children's sense of self-esteem and wellbeing. Our goal was to bring awareness and pledge our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters.

The McCaig Elementary School We Team, teachers and students, raised awareness and funds that were donated to WE Charity, in support of education for Truth and Reconciliation. The first two weeks of October the teachers presented lessons, stories and videos for our students to better understand why we support the Truth and Reconciliation effort here at McCaig.



#### Gladiators Girls Futsal team



Congratulations to the McCaig Gladiators Girls Futsal team for completing the RSEQLL Futsal season undefeated...finishing in first place... 3-3 tie and 4-0 win on October 27<sup>th</sup> !!! Wow! They are on fire! Mr. Strina is proud of you all for your skill, performance, and outstanding sportsmanship!



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#### WE Scare Hunger Campaign

On Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup>, McCaig students, staff and the WE Ambassadors took part in the "We Scare Hunger" campaign to help the St. Michael's Mission. Thank you for all your donations! We were able to fill many cars full of food that helped a number of needy families.



#### TEAL Pumpkin Project Update

The Teal Pumpkin Project promotes safety, inclusion and respect of individuals managing food allergies. This movement offers an alternative for kids with food allergies, as well as other children for whom candy is not an option, and keeps Halloween a fun, positive experience for all! With this goal of creating a safer, happier Halloween for all of our students in mind, PPO organized a contest where student had to guess how many non-food treats were in a container. Olivia, one of our grade 4 student won the contest and the prize!



#### Lockdown Practice

On Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual Lockdown practice with students and staff. Our Rosemere Agent Communautaire, Chantal Lefebvre, came to help us. Everything went very well.



#### Report Card and Parent-Teacher Night



This year's Parent/Teacher night will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Report cards will be distributed electronically via email to all parents a few days

before the parent teacher meetings. Your child's teacher will send you an invitation.



#### Parent-Teacher Conferences

Teachers will be sending home a letter indicating whether or not a parent-teacher interview is required. Conferences will be held by appointment only. Also, please note that students must remain at home.

#### McCaig Book Fair

Our annual McCaig Book Fair is being held in the library at the school from November 15<sup>th</sup> to November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

The library will be open for parents/teachers during parent interview night, which will be held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>.





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#### TFOMES, Governing Board & PPO

## Meeting

The last PPO meetings was held on November 8<sup>th</sup> and the next one is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

TFOMES most recent monthly meeting was held November 12<sup>th</sup> with the next one slated to be held December 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

The Governing Board last met on Tuesday October 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. Our next meeting is November 27<sup>th</sup>.

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#### Vaccinations

Grade 4 vaccinations took place at McCaig November 14<sup>th</sup>, between 9:00am and 12:25pm. The vaccinations were for Hepatitis B and HPV.



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#### New Brain Break Station

Brain breaks are mental breaks designed to help students stay focused and/or refocus on the task at hand. A brain break is a short mental break that is taken during regular intervals during classroom instruction. Brain breaks are usually limited to five minutes or less and work best when they incorporate physical activities. We continue to add new brain break stations in our hallways. Students need to have the permission from their teacher before taking a brain break. We have about dozen brain break stations in all in the school.

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#### 2018-2019 Student Council

We would like to congratulate the following students who have been voted in as the 2018-2019 McCaig Student Council:

- Evangelia B.
- Allyssia D.
- Gianni G.
- Isabella L.
- Emma P.
- Colby F.
- Mia G.
- Erik H.
- Yoonha N.
- Chloe P.

## STUDENT COUNCIL

All of the many participants who tried out did an outstanding job and should be proud of their hard work. We were extremely impressed! Thank you for your effort! Each classroom will be assigned a Student Council representative who will be visiting the homeroom classrooms throughout the coming weeks.

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#### Remembrance Day

McCaig held two assemblies (Junior and Senior) for Remembrance Day. The assemblies were organized by Student Council under the guidance of Mrs. Da Costa and Mrs. Cruise. Students from each class presented their wreaths during the Remembrance Day ceremonies. We paid our respects and took the time to remember the members of the armed forces who died in the line of duty and raised funds in support of Veterans and their families by giving a donation for a poppy as well. Good job everyone!





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#### Extracurricular activities

A big thank-you also goes out to the many teachers who are presently running extra-curricular activities for our students:

| Activity         | Teacher   |
|------------------|---|
| Flag Football    | Mr. Swaminadhan, Mr. Di Stefano, Mrs. Kristin, Mme Mylène |
| Lego Club        | Mr. Swaminadhan   |
| Hockey           | Mr. Strina  |
| Soccer           | Mr. Strina<br>Mr. Di Stefano                              |
| Futsal           | Mr. Strina  |
| Dance            | Mrs. Villani  |
| Scrabooking      | Mme Catherine, Mrs. Julien, Mme Boily, Mrs. Laura         |
| Open gym fitness | Mr. Di Stefano  |
| Student Council  | Mrs. Cruise, Mrs. Da Costa                                |
| Leaders          | Mrs. Phillion, Mr. Gabriel                                |
| Reading Clubs    | Mrs. Da Costa<br>Mrs. Fraser                              |
| Game Room        | Mrs. Julien, M. Gabriel, Mme Catherine                    |
| WE Club          | Mrs. Ducharme   |
| Computer Club    | Mrs. Cruise   |



#### Dress warmly – winter weather is here!

Please note that students are expected to come to school dressed ready to play outside. In wintertime, students should have a warm jacket, snow pants, hats, mitts, neck warmer and boots. All items should be labelled. Please note that Oliver's Labels are available (<http://www.oliverslabels.com/mccaig>). Check out the website if you are interested. It is also strongly suggested that students have an extra set of clothes/socks at school to avoid a parent being called to exchange wet clothes/socks.

#### Mesure d'accueil

Measure D'Accueil is an after school program designed to help students who are learning French for the first time. The program is also called "Allocation de soutien à l'accueil, en français langue seconde". It is available to NEWLY arrived students in the province with NO or minimal background in French. The raison d'être of this federally funded program is to help students integrate, as soon as possible, into the regular FSL class. You will soon be contacted (a letter will be sent home) if your child is eligible and advised of the details.



#### Facebook page

Kindly like and follow our McCaig Facebook page to view all our great projects and get our latest news.





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#### **WE are silent**

Our voices are a powerful tool for social change—and so is our silence.

We kicked off our campaign on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018. On any given day, more than 130 million girls around the world are not in school. On October 11<sup>th</sup>, International Day of the Girl Child, The McCaig We Team will start their We Are Silent campaign to give a voice to those girls and children everywhere.

By taking a vow of silence in solidarity with those who go unheard, we can prove just how big of a difference we can make. With the WE Are Silent fundraiser, the donations will go toward the WE Villages Education Pillar of Impact. Education is the cornerstone of a sustainable community and for every \$50 raised, one child will be able to go to school, giving them the tools to advocate for their basic rights and secure a livelihood.

November 20<sup>th</sup> is the United Nations Universal Children's Day, which signifies and offers a platform to advocate, promote and celebrate children's rights—that's why WE is choosing this day to go silent. On November 20<sup>th</sup>, speak up with silence and give a voice to those whose rights are not upheld.

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#### **Aluminum pull-tabs for the Shriners Hospital**



We are still collecting aluminum can pull-tabs at McCaig. The drop off point is near the main office. Please do your part. It's not that hard! Just collect the pull-tabs at home in a plastic baggy and when it's full have your child bring it to school. Every little bit helps and this is such a worthy cause. We in-turn will drop off what we collect to the Karnak Center in Montreal which collects the pull-tabs as a fundraiser for the Shriners Hospital.

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#### **Important dates:**

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>:** Parent-Teacher Night

**November 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Pedagogical Day (Daycare services offered for students who are registered).

**November 27<sup>th</sup>:** Governing Board Meeting

**November 30<sup>th</sup>:** Pedagogical day (Daycare services offered for students who are registered).



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#### **Water Fountains**

McCaig has purchased two new water fountains for the school. One will go in the K/cycle 1 hallway and the other in the Cycle 2 hallway. The old fountains were proving problematic, in part, because of low water pressure that caused them to be unsanitary and unhygienic. The new water fountains have a refrigerated water reservoir and both a regular water spigot and a separate dispenser to fill water bottles.





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#### Playground Rules

Parents are asked to take note of the following playground rules now that the snow has arrived. Please make sure to discuss these rules with your child.

- Snow forts, snowballs, snowmen are not permitted in the schoolyard.
- All Kindergarten, Cycle 1 and 2 (grades 1, 2, 3 and 4) students, without exception, **MUST** wear boots and snow pants at all times while playing outside, whether they are on the field or on the asphalt area. This applies to both recess, lunch and during daycare.
- All Cycle 3 students (grades 5 and 6), without exception, **MUST** wear boots at all times, whether they are on the field or on the asphalt area. They do have the choice of whether or not to wear their snow pants (they are strongly encouraged to) but they **ARE** allowed to go on the field and on the asphalt area without snow pants. However, they **MUST** wear snow pants if they wish to slide on the snow hills, which will soon make their appearance.



#### Champions

We are proud to say that McCaig Gladiators Girls Futsal Team are the Regional RSEQLL Regional Champions.... Today marked another proud moment as the team gets to bring home the two banners... one for being season champions and the bigger banner for being the Regional Champions in the girls division... Everyone played well, demonstrated sportsmanship and skill. The banners will hang in the McCaig gym forever...alongside the many other banners we have won over the years... Mr. Strina and Mr. DiStefano are proud of all of you!!! Go Gladiators Go!!!

