



McCaig Elementary

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AN ENGLISH
EDUCATION,
A BILINGUAL
FUTURE

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ÉDUCATION
EN ANGLAIS,
UN AVENIR
BILINGUE



COMMISSION SCOLAIRE SIR-WILFRID-LAURIER
SIR WILFRID LAURIER SCHOOL BOARD
www.swlauriersb.qc.ca

November 1st, 2018

Dear Parents,

Recently we have seen a dramatic rise in the number of children bringing toys to school. More precisely, there has been an especially marked increase in the number of children bringing fidget toys or gadgets to school. Please be advised that fidget toys are banned from the school premises except for children with sensory issues etc. and this only after the teacher has agreed to their use and/or your child has an assessment indicating that a fidget tool or gadget is a recommended accommodation. Fidget tools and toys, with exceptions made for children with special needs, are not permitted at school as they are proving to be disruptive to the smooth functioning of the classroom. It has become apparent that these toys, particularly spinners, are highly distracting and in some cases are having a negative impact on learning. If you feel your child would benefit from the use of this type of device please contact your child's teachers directly. Ultimately the decision to allow them in class is left to the judgment and discretion of the professional; the teacher. There is no doubt that fidgets can be a useful tool to help children begin self-regulating their behaviour in class. The school has long accepted the proper use of sensory tools like squeeze balls, putty etc. and will continue to do so in the right circumstances. That being said, they are not toys and to distinguish between their use as a toy and as a useful tool, teacher authorization or an assessment by a recognized professional is required. Please do not send your child to school with fidget tools, including and especially spinners, until you get verification of their permitted use. If your child uses fidget spinners to help cope with focus or anxiety issues, it is worth having a meeting or conversation with your child's teachers to see if an arrangement can be made. Otherwise, please ensure that all toys are left at home. They will be confiscated if found on a student who does not have permission to use them. Once again, please make sure to be in touch with your child's teacher, as they might not allow it in their classroom.

Thank you for your support in this matter.

Richard Mason
Principal
McCaig Elementary

