



Magpie Association Charter

Spring 2024

The Magpie Association's purpose is to inspire community engagement, increase belonging amongst parents and guardians, and create a healthy parent/school partnership.

The Magpie Association believes:

- all parents and guardians of McGillis should have access points to engage in the Magpie Association.
- planning and offering programs, events, and activities at varying times of the day is respectful, equitable, and can maximize participation.
- a vibrant and engaged community is key to the School's long term success.
- we are a better association when we include diverse voices.

The Magpie Association is led and organized by the Magpie Association Council (MAC). The MAC:

- comprises parents/guardians and school staff, including grade level parent/guardian representatives, the three division directors, and a member of the School Advancement team.
- consists of Grade level representatives who self-nominate annually as volunteers (welcoming any number of interested participants).
- meets quarterly to review upcoming calendar and community events at McGillis and to discuss and plan programming and educational opportunities for families - both as a full group and in breakout groups with the three division directors.
- sets educational, program, and engagement goals annually for the School community outside of the classroom.
- collaborates to design educational, program, and engagement opportunities.
- posts notes from their quarterly meeting on the Magpie Association page on Veracross.
- distinguishes a Liaison Council annually, consisting of one Lower School, Middle School, and TLC representative.

The Magpie Association Liaison Council (MALC):

- is formed through nominations by the MAC.
- consists of 1-2 parent/guardian representatives from each of the three divisions (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, TLC), Division Directors, and an Advancement Staff member.
- members serve a one-year term with a preference to serve an additional one-year term limit.
- meets biannually with school staff to review and assess Magpie Association procedures.
- initiates the annual process to create renewed MAC representatives.
- gathers and helps to facilitate grade level room reps.

The Magpie Association strives to advance the mission and values of McGillis by designing, planning, and supporting initiatives, programs, and events that enhance our community, programs, and resources. Examples of how the Magpie Association may achieve this include:

- making personal connections with every parent at McGillis each year.
- communicating volunteer opportunities to parents/guardians specific to class/grade.
- promoting community events that invite parent/guardian participation.
- making outreach to all new McGillis families.
- creating social gatherings for grade levels.
- designing and overseeing a parent/guardian message board to connect people to resources.
- collecting a skills inventory of parents/guardians, knowing how community members skills can be leveraged to support the School.
- surveying families on their interests for programming that advances parenting skills.
- collaborating with Division Directors to design and promote programming.
- facilitating regular appreciations for faculty and staff.

Definitions:

- Magpie Association (MA): Every parent/guardian at McGillis is an automatic welcome member of the MA.
- Magpie Association Council (MAC): The MAC is a group of grade-level representatives, division directors, and an Advancement staff member. (10 parents/guardians, 4 staff)
- Magpie Association Liaison Council (MALC): MALC is a group of leaders - one from each school division (3), plus Division Directors and an Advancement Staff member.