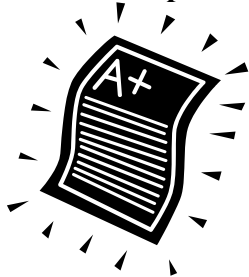




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From the Principal's Desk



Educators everywhere recognize the important contributions that parents make towards a child's success in school. There is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of the children. The close partnership between home and school is one of the exceptional strengths at McKenzie School. Please continue this close partnership by communicating with your child's classroom throughout the entire school year.

As a reminder, please communicate with the main office to ensure we have all up to date contact information for our emergency broadcasts.

In addition, please visit our District website under the "For Families" tab for the East Rutherford School District mobile application download.

Spanish News



Spanish class has been wonderful so far! Students have been enjoying learning greetings, alphabet, numbers, and the calendar in Spanish through songs, stories, games, and fun activities. Currently, students are working on learning the colors and shapes in Spanish. All parents are encouraged to ask their children to share what they are learning in Spanish class and to practice with them at home. Thank you for your continued support!

Guidance



McKenzie Students continue to practice good citizenship by participating in many positive Character Education activities. We celebrated "Generosity" during the month of December and "Honesty" during the month of January.

Kindergarten, First, and Second grade students have all completed their winter administration of MAP. Results will be in the Report Cards.

Mrs. Puig is currently making preparations for the administration of PARCC that will begin in April. The following tests and dates are included for your information. Make-up testing is the week after each specific test. More information will follow regarding the specific exams. Please feel free to contact Mrs. Puig for any specific questions regarding testing at 201-531-1235 (4004).

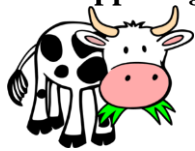
PARCC (4th Grade) – April 4 – 12, 2017
PARCC (3rd Grade) – April 25 - May 3, 2017

Technology



The next unit of study in technology is focusing on research and presentation of information using Powerpoint. Using both the Internet and print sources, the second graders are researching different states, the third graders are researching animals, and the fourth graders are exploring worldwide landmarks. Following their fact-finding, they will develop PowerPoint presentations through which they will share their information with the rest of their classmates. Their final slide, "Knowledge Check," measures how successfully each group conveys its facts to the audience.

ESL Happenings



ESL has a lot of activities happening!!

The boys and girls in Kindergarten are learning about farm animals. They are learning about the jobs of each farm animal, the sounds they make, and their body parts.

Students in Grade 1 are recently introduced to objects that are needs and objects that are wants. This is opening their eyes to the world market. They are becoming familiar with the many kinds of stores and goods that are sold.

Students in Grade 2 are learning about how animals stay alive with the help of camouflage. They are enjoying videos which shows how different animals hide.

Grades 3 and 4 are learning lessons about life through Folktales from around the world.

Media Moments



Third and fourth grade students have been jumping into information seeking skills, learning about online search engines, useful websites, and encyclopedias. Fourth grade students created book trailers using images and information they found online, while third graders researched people to create short video biographies. Kindergarten, first, and second grades have been exploring the themes of resolutions, making mistakes, and creativity. Reading books like *The Girl Who Never Made Mistakes* and *The Most Magnificent Thing*, students have discussed how many inventions we use every day—from cheese to sticky-notes—were created because of a mistake!

A reminder about student book checkout: Students checking out books can have them for two weeks and may have no more than two books checked out at one time. If books need to be renewed, students may come see Miss Whealan. Let's keep reading!

Scoop and SNOWBALLS!



Our Physical Education classes have enjoyed a variety of activities. Your children have been developing their basketball and volleyball skills. Through these sports their eye-hand coordination and jumping skills are improving. They are having fun learning line dances and playing with indoor snowballs since the holidays and first snow.

Composer Curiosity



Fourth Grade music classes worked on creating composer reports this marking period. The final product was due the week of January 9. After being graded they have been taking turns presenting the reports in class followed by a musical selection representing their particular composer. The students are enjoying sharing their work as well as listening to the variety of serious music.

Pre-K and Kindergarten are currently preparing to WOW you with their Spring Concert on March 23 in the afternoon. Memos will go home with all the details closer to the concert. Hope to see you all there!

What is STEAM?



By now everyone is familiar with the STEM subjects, Science, Technology, Engineering and Math. But what is STEAM? It stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

STEM + Art = STEAM

As we move into the 21st century creativity and innovation are necessary to drive our economy forward. During the month of January Mrs. Speer introduced the students to the science of snowflakes, and they saw how beautiful science could be. Mrs. Speer showed the students how to cut their own 6-sided snowflakes, and when we were done cutting it really looked like it “snowed” in the classroom. What fun! You may have heard that no two snowflakes are the same, but checkout www.snowcrystals.com. The “designer snowflakes” will amaze you.



Pre-K is looking forward to celebrating our 100th day of school. On the 100th day of school, we will participate in counting activities and celebrate what we have accomplished so far. We look forward to the rest of a wonderful school year.

Kindergarten News



The weather is getting colder!

Please practice zipping, buttoning and snapping coats as well as how to actually put their coats on.

Please remind your children to put their hats and gloves in their coat pockets or sleeves or in their backpacks when they are not using them. These items are getting lost in the Gym when the children wait for school to start and at lunchtime.

Please practice tying shoes also!

We have run out of tissues. Can you please send in one more square box [not long and rectangular-they are too big for our tables]. That should take us to the end of the year!! Thank you for your generosity!

First Grade



Since the New Year started, first graders have been very busy this winter practicing reading and writing skills. In math, we started counting up to 120 and are now learning about place value. Last week, we travelled to our STEAM program. There we learned all about planets, constellations, the water cycle, and extreme weather. The 3-D printer made us a rocket ship to display in our classrooms. We love the hands on learning of these trips and can't wait for our spring STEAM!

Crazy About Cursive



The second graders have been very busy learning cursive at last! The children have learned that there are four key elements to remember in order to have beautiful cursive writing. We call them the 4 S's: Shape, size, spacing, and slant. Now, they are evaluating their own handwriting by using these four keys to legibility. The students are very excited about applying their new script writing in all subject areas and are crazy about cursive.

As we approach the 3rd marking period, the 2nd graders will be participating in 100 day activities. Students will work with partners to sort, graph, and build a Fruit Loops necklace using 100 fruit loops. Happy 100th Day!!

Fun in Third



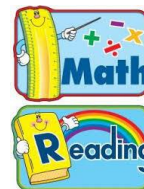
This marking period has been very busy. The entire third grade has been learning about many different and interesting things in all of our subject areas. We have started to learn our multiplication facts in Math, about different communities in Social Studies, and we have started our Realistic Fiction writing unit. We are also very pleased to be returning to the South Bergen Jointure Steam Lab this month. There, we will continue our investigations into in science, technology, engineering, art and math.

Fourth Graders Explore the World



Do you know the many different ecosystems that comprise our world? This marking period fourth grade students became scientists and exploring the ecosystems that make up our Planet Earth. Students were responsible for choosing an ecosystem, investigating the climate, location within the world, plants and animals inhabiting it, and examining the different types of food chains and webs within their particular ecosystem. Students were then asked to discover items to create a 3d model with their peers. After constructing their ecosystems they presented and shared them with their classmates. Students loved exploring the ecosystems of the world. If you want to learn more about them ask your child today!

Read On! Write On! & Count On!



The 1st through 4th Grade Basic Skills reading and math classes have been working diligently to sharpen their skills. A wide variety of techniques and strategies are incorporated in the reading and math curricula on a daily basis. Students are working hard to broaden their knowledge in math with an array of concepts. Using manipulatives, along with the Smart Board, offers the students different approaches in problem solving. In reading, we are working on increasing our stamina which will strengthen comprehension and build oral fluency. Our goal in writing is to create narratives that grab our readers' attention. Our new motto is "Read On! Write On! & Count On"

FRIENDLY REMINDER



Please be advised that the New Jersey compulsory attendance laws require that all children between the ages of six and sixteen regularly attend school. Extended vacations should be planned during a period when school is not in session.

Please remember that if your child is going to be late for school, YOU MUST COME INTO THE OFFICE TO SIGN THEM IN. Students ARE NOT to come into school late WITHOUT AN ADULT.

DATES TO REMEMBER



2/9	Wear Red Day
2/10	Zumba Day
2/10	Mr. Scelsa Discovery Lab Trip
2/14	Wear Red or Pink for Valentine's Day
2/17 & 2/20	No School – Presidents' Day Recess
2/16	Board of Education Meeting - Faust
3/8	Earth Dome
3/9	Progress Reports Sent Home
3/14	Pre-K Registration
3/15	4 th Grade Class Picture
3/15	PTA Meeting – Faust
3/21	One Session Day
3/23	Pre-K & K Concert
4/4	4 th Grade PARCC Begins
4/10	Report Cards Sent Home

If Your Child is Absent



IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT, PLEASE REMEMBER TO CALL THE SCHOOL AT 201-531-1235 AND PRESS 1 TO LEAVE A MESSAGE.



Students returning to school require a note:

**3 days or less – Parent's note
More than 3 days – Doctor's note
Any student being treated for flu like symptoms – Doctor's note**

All notes should include the dates and reason for absence.

Please remind your child to check the Lost and Found for any items they may be missing.



For Your Information



Be sure that we have all of your current information, such as address and phone numbers.

It is imperative that we have a working phone number to reach parents, guardians, and emergency contacts.

Please send a note to school with all changes. This is for the safety and security of your child.

Classroom Parties



- Parent(s) or staff members who wish to supply food/beverages for any event or occasion must contact the classroom teacher to arrange the date/time for the event/celebration and to determine if any child in the classroom is allergic to any particular food item.
- Parent(s) or staff members must bring to school only food/snack items or beverages that have been prepared or manufactured by a commercial establishment and packaged or boxed in a sealed container provided by the same commercial establishment where the items were purchased. The manufacturer's official printed ingredient list must be on the container. No hand written ingredient lists will be accepted.
- All food must be brought to the main office for inspection.
- No home-baked or homemade items will be permitted.

SAFETY REMINDERS:



General

- **Students will be going outside for recess most days. They need warm jackets.**

Arrival

- Students should not arrive to school before 8:10A.M. Supervision is not provided before this time. Arriving early causes congestion on Carlton Ave.
- After 8:10A.M. students are to be discharged at curbside on New Street, or at the Wall Street drop-off area. The length of the curb provides space for 5-6 cars to discharge passengers.
- Do not let your child out of the car on the driver's side, and please move as safely as possible so that the line keeps moving and congestion on Carlton Ave. is limited.
- Please wait your turn.
- Watch carefully as you pull away from the curb.
- The East Rutherford Police have suggested that parents consider discharging older students on Wall St. and having them walk to the New St. entrance, or parking in the town's recreation parking lot on Paterson Ave and crossing the field to the New St. entrance.
- Get to school on time. The day begins at 8:30A.M.
- If late, please park your car and follow the late arrival instructions below.
- Students arriving after 8:35 **must be escorted and signed in by an adult.**

Dismissal

- Anytime there is a change in your child's dismissal procedure, he/she must have a note.
- If your child rides the bus, he/she is expected to ride the same bus, going to the same stop each day.
- Please pick your child up on time both from bus stops and here at school.
- Do not park illegally when picking-up.