



125 Carlton Ave.
East Rutherford, NJ 07073
P: 201-531-1235
Fax: 201-531-1491
November 2017
Issue # 1

From the Principal's Desk



All of our students are adjusting back into the school routines well. We hope the adjustment on the home front is going equally as well. I would like to take the time to thank all of the parents, staff, and the East Rutherford Police Department for all of your help to improve the drop off process in the morning. As a reminder, ensure to follow drop off and pickup guidelines, arrive before 8:30 A.M., and utilize both Wall Street and New Street designated areas for drop off only.

As I have communicated at Back to School Night, McKenzie School is excited to continue some past initiatives in addition to some new ones this year.

- Celebration of "Red Ribbon Week" and School Spirit
- Continued implementation of McKenzie's School Safety Patrol (3rd & 4th Grades)
- Daily Character Education quotes read by 4th grade students during morning announcements
- McKenzie students celebrated October as the "Month of Respect" with Pillars of Respect
- Stomp Out Bullying and Making Healthy Choices Assembly on November 15th (Thank you ER PTA & ER Municipal Alliance)
- Continuation of Wildcat of the Month (highlighting well rounded students and exemplary behavior)
- Continuation of the Golden Ticket Program (highlights good behavior)
- McKenzie School Honors Local Veterans at our annual Veterans Day Assembly
- Continuation of our class S.T.E.A.M. trips

Furthermore, the first and second grade students will be presenting their individual grade level concerts on the evening of Wednesday, December 6th. Please see your invitation for your child's specific time of the concert. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Guidance



The guidance program is designed as a support system for students in the areas of academics, testing, and social issues. Mrs. Puig, our Guidance Counselor works with the students in a group setting or on an individual basis to help them develop their social, emotional, and educational growth.

McKenzie School Students have been involved in many positive Character Education activities. We celebrated "Friendship" during the month of September, "Respect" during October, and "Compassion" in November.

The fall testing of NJEA MAP for all of Kindergarten, First Grade, & Second Grade has been completed. Teachers have distributed scores during Parent/Teacher Conferences. NJASK Science and PARCC Reports have been mailed home to the parents of last year's 3rd & 4th Grade students.

Mrs. Puig is available to the parents as well, to discuss any concerns. Please feel free to call her at 201-531-1235 (Ext. 4004) or email at hpuig@erboe.net.

Spanish News



This has been a great start of the year in Spanish class! Students have been enjoying learning Spanish through songs, stories, games, and fun activities. So far, students have learned the greetings, the numbers, and the alphabet. Currently, students are working on learning the calendar, the parts of the body and clothing. 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!

Technology News



During their technology classes, the first grade students are currently creating a book entitled “All About Me” using the Pixie 2 drawing program. The pages of the book include a self-drawing, a family drawing, things they like, things they don’t like, and their favorite place.

ESL News



McKenzie School’s Kindergarten ESL students visited Shop Rite of Wallington. They learned about proper nutrition and the food groups with Dietitians Dana and Margaret. Students did a scavenger hunt throughout the store. Their favorite part was meeting Mr. Moe and his lobster in the seafood department.

Winter McKenzie Music



This year we will have Winter Concerts featuring the **first grades at 6PM** and the **second grades at 7:15PM** at McKenzie School. Both performances will be on December 6th. The students are excitedly participating and rehearsing to be their best for their beloved parents/guardians, grandparents, relatives and friends! Hope to see everyone attend!! Truthfully, you are the world to your children!

Scotering into School



All the physical education classes are looking forward to an active year. Your children have been practicing a variety of skills. They have been jumping rope, playing soccer and cooperative games, and riding the square, long and tricycle scooters in relays and free-style. As always, thank you for helping your children be prepared the days they have class.

Fourth Grade Art News



Giovanni Michaca was chosen as the Art Student of the Month for the month of September by Mrs. Speer. Giovanni is a 4th grade student in Ms.Scardino’s class. He was chosen because he is the model student. Mrs. Speer tries to limit her choices for Art Student of the Month to 4th graders because so many students work so hard and do extra work. Giovanni has been an outstanding student since Kindergarten, and Mrs. Speer was happy to award this honor to him.

The McKenzie School Art Student of the Month for October, 2017, is **Gabriel Coelho Ribeiro**. Gabriel is in Ms. Thielker’s 4th grade class. Gabriel joined McKenzie School last year when he was in third grade and quickly became noticed for his superior drawing skills. You can see Gabriel and Giovanni’s pictures on Mrs. Speer’s Artist of the Month bulletin board.

We’ve Grown So Much and Come So Far!



Our Pre-K students have grown so much and come so far since the beginning of the school year! We have explored topics such as All About Me, Our Bodies, and Communities. We have also learned to write our names, letters in the alphabet and their sounds, sight words and explored numbers. Of course we love to work cooperatively in our classroom centers such as Art, Blocks, Dramatic Play, and Table Toys. During the upcoming weeks, the students will learn about Safety and Nutrition.

What Been Happening IN The K's?!



The Kindergartens are totally immersed in McKenzie School's math series *Go Math* which is aligned to New Jersey's Student Learning Standards. We are using math vocabulary words such as greater than and less than, sets, number words, comparing and five frame as well as using our new math manipulative kits to complete classwork. Our students are blending sounds, reading sight words, and are becoming aware of print all around them which are all important aspects of Emergent Literacy. As we discussed at Back to School Night and Conferences, keep reading every night for at least 20 minutes. This helps to establish important habits that will last all through school. Don't forget to communicate with your child, this a simple way to build vocabulary.

In order to have a smoother home and school connection please remember these few points:

- Put *any money* sent to school in an envelope with your child's name and teacher's name on it.
- Now that the cold weather is here, practice *zipping* coats.
- Write your child's name on their coat tag...*the Lost and Found is over-flowing!*

First Grade Fun



The First Graders are currently in Unit 2 of our English/Language Arts Curriculum, Benchmark Literacy. The students have been learning about character traits! Our First Graders are excited about their Spelling Lists each week. They have been doing a great job practicing and learning their words each week. In Math, we are tackling strategies for both Addition and Subtraction. We had a great time celebrating Halloween and we remembered all that we are thankful for at Thanksgiving. Keep in mind that as the year continues, your children will begin reading their assessments independently. Remember to use the amazing websites we have access to so your child can review his or her skills at home. Two of our favorites are Spellingcity.com and Razkids.com!!

Exploring in Second Grade!



Our second grade family is working very hard at becoming skilled readers by analyzing our characters and examining the sequence of events within a text. In Writer's Workshop, we explored the five stages of writing and learned how our authors get inspiration for their books. We also had the opportunity to visit the South Bergen Jointure where we transformed into scientists to explore animal life cycles and even programmed robots! Stay tuned as we fill our year with fun learning adventures.

Pumpkin Book Reports



The 3rd grade students worked very hard on their "Pumpkin Book Reports." The 3rd grade loved welcoming fall with some fabulous decorated pumpkins. The students loved sharing their art work and book reports with their classmates. We also loved hearing about all about the different books. We also want to give a big thank you to all our parents and guardians who came out to parent teacher conferences! We look forward to the upcoming months and seeing what else we have in store for 3rd grade!

4th Grade Honors Veterans



Do you know a lot about Veterans Day? The 4th grade classes certainly do! This marking period, the students worked very hard on researching the holiday. The 4th grade students each took on different aspects of Veterans Day to present to the school and special guest visitors on November 8th. Performances were a variety of reader's theater plays, songs, poster presentations, tributes, and poems. The assembly was a great celebration to honor all those who have served for our country. If you want to learn more about Veterans Day, ask your child today!

Touching Our Way to Learning in BSI!



The Basic Skills students in 1st and 2nd grades have been very busy so far this year. In reading, they have been using a program called “Foundations”. This program is an intensive phonics program to help the students achieve success in reading. In math, they have been learning “TouchMath”. TouchMath is a program that emphasizes visual, auditory and tactile/kinesthetic learning and integrates all three into a few, easy-to-master techniques. The program works like training wheels on a bicycle. While facts are being introduced, students rely on the TouchPoints to give them greater support and balance. When facts are forgotten for a moment, the TouchPoints can be recalled as a reference point. After facts are mastered, the TouchMath training wheels may be set aside for good. Just a reminder: Please remember to schedule time each day to read to your child/children along with studying their math facts; this will be time well spent!

No more Chalkboard!

Hello Smart Board!

No more Whiteboard

The **Smart Board** continues to be a hit this year for all 3rd and 4th grade BSI students. It enhances instruction by bringing more collaboration and interaction into the classroom. Students are and have been more involved and motivated to learn. It also provides a visual context to lessons, making math and reading concepts easier to understand. With multiple ways to interact with content and the ability to learn collaboratively, students feel less anxious about mastering math concepts along with sharpening their reading skills.

Depending on each student’s learning style, teachers can explain concepts and ideas in many different ways. As a result, students have more opportunities to see, hear, and interact with lesson material where instruction is more meaningful and students become more driven to learn. The positive influence this interactive way of teaching has on the students is endless.

Parents, please be mindful to use the website www.thinkcentral.com for **Go Math**. You can also use this same website for extra reading material just by clicking on Reading/Language Art. Furthermore, explore www.studyisland.com to engage your child/children in ways that are unimaginable. Any questions you have about these websites, please feel free to contact the Basic Skills team: mgagis@erboe.net or jkelly@erboe.net.

Hey fourth grade parents! See America’s natural wonders and historic sites for free.

Did you know that having a child in 4th grade can give you free access to any national park in the United States? This fourth grade pass gives you and your entire family free admission into the park. Go to <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/>

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.

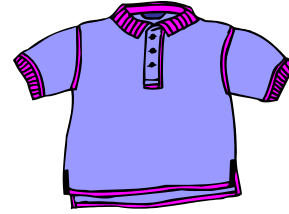
Please remember that if your child is going to be late for school, YOU MUST COME INTO THE OFFICE TO SIGN THEM IN. Students ARE NOT to come into school late WITHOUT AN ADULT.

DATES TO REMEMBER



12/6	1 st & 2 nd Grade Concert at McKenzie
12/12	ER Referendum Public Meeting
12/14 & 12/15	Holiday Bazaar
12/21	BOE Meeting
12/22	One Session Day
12/25 – 1/2	No School (Holiday Recess)
1/4	BOE Meeting
1/5	Progress Reports Sent Home
1/10	PTA Meeting
1/15	No School (MLK Day)
1/26	One Session Day
2/9	Report Cards Sent Home

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



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.

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.