

McKenzie School Newsletter



FEBRUARY 2018

ISSUE#2

Principal's Message

by Mr. Barrow

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 teacher 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.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/14 Wear red/pink
- 2/16 No School
- 2/19 No School
- 3/7 PTA Meeting
- 3/13 Progress Reports
- 3/13 Referendum Vote
- 3/20 One Session Day
- 3/22 PreK & K Concert
- 3/28 Pre-K Registration
- 3/29 One Session Day
- 3/30 No School
- 4/2-4/6 No School
- 4/11 PTA Meeting
- 4/24 Report Cards

Guidance Office

by Mrs. Puig

Kindergarten, First, and Second grade students have all completed their winter administration of MAP.

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.

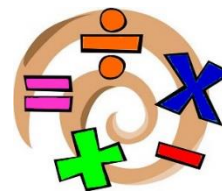
Please feel free to contact Mrs. Puig for any specific questions regarding testing at 201-531-1235 (4004).

- PARCC (3rd Grade) – April 24 - May 3, 2018
- PARCC (4th Grade) – May 8 - 17, 2018



Basic Skills Instruction

by Mrs. Kelly & Mrs. Gagis



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!"



Spanish

by Senora Paal

Spanish class has been wonderful so far! Students have been enjoying learning Spanish through songs, stories, games, and fun activities. So far, depending on their grade level, students have learned the greetings, numbers, alphabet, days of the week/months of the year, parts of the body, clothing items, and adjectives. Currently, students are working on learning the colors/shapes, classroom items, and the family vocabulary. 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

Physical Education

by Mrs. Schneider & Ms. Fontana

"Teamwork Makes the Dream Work!" This marking period, students are learning the basics of basketball such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. They are playing games that help them to work in small teams and as individuals. Students are also working on balancing skills with a variety of different pattern balance beams, jumping obstacles, and exercises to increase muscle strength and stability!



Technology

by Mr. Higgins

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.

Music

by Mrs. Alvarez



Pre-K and Kindergarten are preparing to enchant you with their Barnyard Moosical 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! Fourth Grade music classes will be working on creating composer reports during the 3rd marking period. The final product is due the week of March 5. After being graded they will be taking turns presenting the reports in class followed by a musical selection representing their particular composer.



Art

by Mrs. Speer

Why is Art Important?

"Creativity is intelligence having fun"
~Albert Einstein

Your child may not grow-up to be the next Picasso, but they will learn many things in art class that will help them to grow. They will learn how to be creative, and that creativity can be applied to many other subjects. Children look forward to art class so please encourage them to continue the learning and the fun at home.

Be prepared for a mess. Cover your kitchen table with a drop cloth, old table cloth or newspaper and let the mess happen. Just providing the art materials is enough for young children. It is not necessary to give directions all the time. Children's art work does not have to be representational. Just stay interested and ask your child to tell you or write a sentence about his or her art. Don't forget to display the work and share it with grandparents.

ESL

By Mrs. Forte & Mrs. Fallon



The ESL students in Mrs. Fallon and Mrs. Forte's classes have been working hard to build their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. The Kindergarten students have been learning about plants and the name of their parts. First Grade is becoming introduced to animals and how they grow. They will become familiar with the life cycles of bees, flamingos, butterflies and walrus.

The Second, Third and Fourth Grade students have been learning about different genres. Students were exposed to different cultures with folk tales, had fun with trickster tales, and learned about many topics in realistic fiction and science articles.

All ESL students will begin preparing for their WIDA Testing in Mid-February. Students at Faust School and McKenzie School will be testing in Reading, Writing, Listening and Speaking.

First Grade

By Mrs. Errico, Mrs. Corsale,
Mrs. Traverso, Mrs. Machado



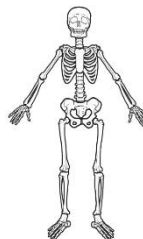
First graders have been very busy reading and writing all about winter. From sledding to cuddling up with a good book students have shared their thoughts about favorite things to do in winter. In math, students are exploring the relationship between addition and subtraction, and also learning about larger numbers and place value. First graders are also enjoying non-fiction reading in social studies and science. We have been learning a lot of new reading comprehension strategies like sequencing and comparing and contrasting. We are looking forward to our upcoming STEAM trips in February.

Fourth Grade

By Ms. Crowe, Ms. Thielker,
Ms. Scardino, Ms. DiPisa

Body Systems

The fourth grade students are "head over heels" about their current science project! Students have been investigating the brain, heart, lungs, stomach, skeleton, muscles, and their basic functions. While working in groups, through their research, students created a human body with an assigned body system on drawing paper. Each student has taken on a role within their group, collaborating to present their completed project to their class. Presentations were followed by a student created quiz. We think it is safe to say, the fourth graders gave this project "two thumbs up!"



Pre-K

By Mrs. Credico



We Love Winter "Snow" Much! The Pre-K students have been exploring winter and how the winter weather impacts various animals. To learn more about this concept we discussed animals and their winter homes. We created graphic organizers, identifying animals that hibernate, migrate and adapt. The students also visited the Science Area and explored icebergs and arctic animals. We read various non-fiction books and recalled facts about bears. Additionally, the students took part in several science experiments involving winter and ice while learning about the term "prediction." Via the "winter animal" theme, the students learned sorting, addition, and rhyming. During the upcoming months, the students will dive into the following Themes/Studies: My five senses, weather (seasons) and transportation.

Second Grade

By Ms. Bleich, Mrs. Carti,
Mr. Scelsa, Mrs. Gonzalez



Second graders are off to a great start in the New Year! All students are working in center rotations and practicing reading skills each day. Each student is making a lot of progress and developing into extraordinary readers and students. As our students begin to grow, we're establishing the value of education and literacy. Each day, we read different books from the classroom libraries both independently and aloud; however, reading in class is only a part of the process of developing the student's literacy skills. We need to further instill the importance of reading at home and to our children to create lifelong readers.

Kindergarten

By Mrs. Ferrell, Mrs. Narkiewicz, Mrs. Barone, Mrs. Foote



Brrrrr! It may be chilly outside but the Kindergarten classes are heating up learning beginning, middle and ending sounds. Students identify characters, setting and time frames for a story as well as whether or not a selection is fiction or non-fiction.

Ten-frames, identification of numbers through 20, comparison terms such as greater or less than keep our youngsters progressing towards First Grade!

The weather is getting colder! *Please practice* zipping, buttoning and snapping coats as well as how to actually put coats on. Please practice tying shoes also! 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.



Third Grade

By Mrs. Vecchione, Mrs. Nastro,
Ms. Meli, Ms. Tadiello

February is the annual observance of Black History Month, a time to recognize the contributions and culture of African Americans.

McKenzie School's third graders have been busy researching famous African Americans for their research projects. Students were able to choose from different African American civil rights activists, scientists, inventors, and leaders for their reports. Third graders will present their reports throughout the month of February in order to honor and celebrate African-American achievements throughout the years. Take time to discuss the different African American leaders your children will be learning about this month!

"Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

– Carl Sagan

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.

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.**

East Rutherford School District Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will begin on February 12, 2018. Children born by October 1, 2013 will be eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2018. **We will be registering students by appointment only.** You will be able to call the school at 201-531-1235 extension 4002 to set up a time to return your completed registration papers.

Parents will be able to access the forms they need to complete from the district web site (www.erboe.net), under the McKenzie School “For Families” tab, or they can pick them up at McKenzie School before February. **Registration forms may be picked up from the school by appointment only.**