

Wildcat News

February 2020

McKenzie School

Issue #2

Principal's Message

by Mr. Barrow

Educators everywhere recognize the important contributions that parents make toward 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.

Another important component of a great 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. Remember, if you have questions about your child's performance you may contact your child's teacher at any time.

Please see below for some of the phenomenal events happening at McKenzie School:

- Our magnificent 1st and 2nd Grade Winter Concert performances
- Winter Wonderland Laser Show (Thank you ER PTA)
- 1st Grade Trips to ER Library
- Alex's Hot Cocoa Stand Fundraiser
(Over \$2,000 donated for childhood cancer)
- McKenzie School Fun Game Night (Thank you ER PTA)
- Bergen County Animal Shelter Collection
- Continued STEAM Trips to SBJC
- SOUP-ER Bowl Food Drive (Donations for local food pantry)
- Kindergarten Registration at McKenzie School (Appointment Only)
- Pre-Kindergarten Registration (Date TBD in March)
- Continued Brain Power Wellness lessons within the classrooms



We appreciate Officer Lucas!



Thank you to all the students, staff members, and parents involved in all of these performances to all of our talented students who continue to make us proud to be Wildcats!

We hope that you are pleased with what your children have accomplished and learned in the first half of the school year. For many reasons, January and February continue to be special months in East Rutherford and McKenzie School. This past week with the support of the East Rutherford Community, the District School Referendum was passed. Thank you for all of your continued support for our students and schools.



Spanish by Mr. Friedberg



¡Hola, familias, y bienvenidos! (Welcome!) I hope everyone has had an *excelente* start to the year 2020, and I hope to keep the momentum moving forward with all of my Spanish classes, grades K-4! I am *absolutamente* thrilled to be your child's/children's World Language teacher at McKenzie School in the wonderful district of East Rutherford, and I hope to continue their immersion with a foreign language throughout these formative years!

We are exploring a wide range of different topics throughout the school, and from time to time I like to bring my musical skills to the forefront of our lessons. I am a self-taught guitarist and enjoy putting many of the topics we talk about to music. I strongly believe that music should be a vital part of all children's lives, as well as a bilingual education.

Currently, my kindergarten classes are starting our unit on the weather! We will explore our outdoor surroundings and learn how to identify the weather by looking outside and feeling what it's like. In addition to talking about the current weather, the students are learning about the four seasons and will be participating in many in-class activities and watching/performing various tasks and videos through the SMART Board.

My first graders have finished our unit on the calendar and will begin our new unit on the shapes and colors. We will identify many different shapes around the classroom and identify the colors of the shapes as well as how many sides each shape has. There will be a lot of verbal exercises, in-class activities, and musical moments to learn each of the subjects!

In second grade we have finished our unit on the seasons by completing seasons booklets over a two-week period. In addition, the students have learned about when the seasons begin and end, and how they transition into one another. We are now beginning our discussion on objects around the classroom. The students will participate in scavenger hunts to label the appropriate classroom objects in Spanish, they will be able to identify specific items in their backpacks, and they will be able to identify the objects in Spanish on sight.

My third and fourth graders are both moving along on similar paths, and I hope they continue to use their strong communication and conversational skills to stimulate our classroom environment and keep the Spanish immersion strong! We have finished our unit on the adjectives and rules of agreement, and we are beginning our family unit! We will talk about the different members of a family, identify key vocabulary, and the students will have a lot of flexibility to discuss their own family dynamic and participate in classroom activities.

I hope everyone continues along on this wonderful journey with me as I educate your children on the intricacies of learning Spanish. Please reach out to me with any questions at any time at my McKenzie School email

Music by Miss Jones



On January 28th First and Second Grade students performed in the Winter Choral Concert. The First Grade program was titled "A Cold and Snowy Winter's Day", and the Second Grade show was titled "All Aboard the Winter Express!" The theme was created to tie in to the Alex's Hot Chocolate Stand, a fundraiser for Children's Cancer Research. Both programs sang about the winter experience and of course, Hot Chocolate! At the end of each program, a special tribute called a "Moment of Song" was given in honor of our beloved Mrs. Alvarez.

Both the concert and the fundraiser were a huge success. At the end of each program, a special tribute called a "Moment of Song" was given in honor of our beloved Mrs. Alvarez.

Kindergarten

by Mrs. Narkiewicz, Ms. Hagel,
Mrs. Barone, Mrs. Foote,
Mrs. Cacchiola

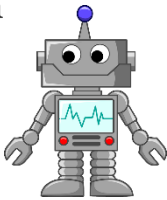


Kindergarten Kisses

We are kissing half the year good-bye. With the 100th day quickly approaching, our students are working diligently to read and write. They are perfecting their counting, adding, and subtracting skills. Through discussion and hands on experiments, Kindergarteners can identify weather concepts and will soon build upon understanding community helpers. Please continue to practice zipping, snapping, and buttoning along with tying shoes with your Kindergartener. Keep encouraging your Kindergartener to read every night!

Fourth Grade

by Mrs. Corsale, Mrs. Affortunato,
Mrs. Feldman



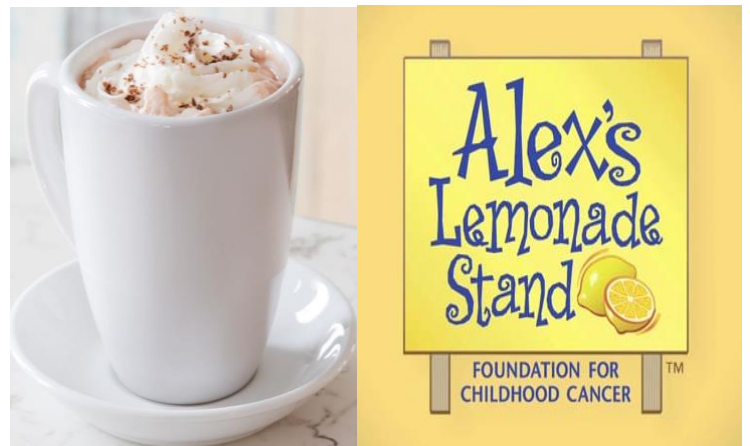
In fourth grade our students have been diving into the Next Generation Science Standards in many ways. They have been working on exciting labs that help to encourage a deeper understanding of science. In our upcoming lab, the students will discover the mechanism by which their muscles control their bones to move their bodies. Through our activity, Robot Finger, students will construct a model of a human finger and observe how pulling on a string, a model for tendons, causes it to bend at the joints. Our students enjoy hands on labs like these as they help to bring topics to life and create a true love of science.

Second Grade

by Miss Castro, Mr. Scelsa,
Mrs. Carti, Miss Tadiello



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.



Thank you for your donations!

Nurse's Office

by Mrs. Saab



Important Dates



February

2/11/20- 100th Day of School
2/14 & 2/17/20- School
Closed/President's Day Recess
2/27/20- Board of Education Meeting -
7:00 p.m. @ Faust

March

3/4/20- PTA Meeting @ Faust 7:00 p.m.
3/10/20- MP3 Interim Progress Reports
sent home
3/18/20- One-Session Day for
students/Professional Day for staff
3/26/20- Board of Education Meeting -
7:00 p.m. @ Faust
3/30/20- Kindergarten Screening

April

4/1/20- Kindergarten Concert
4/1/20- PTA Meeting @ Faust 7:00 p.m.
4/9/20- MP3 Report Cards sent home

We have come to the time of year to expect cold and flu symptoms. Some of these are unavoidable but there are several things you can do at home to help prevent illness and keep everyone feeling healthy. Here are some tips to remember:

WASH, WASH, WASH YOUR HANDS! This is still the best defense against illness. Encourage your children to wash, especially before meals, using soap and warm water.

Get plenty of rest. School age children should get 9-11 hours of sleep each night. Grownups should try to get 8 hours.

Drink lots of fluids and eat a balanced diet - especially breakfast!

Dress appropriately for cold weather. Please help your child choose warm, comfortable clothing for school each day, including socks. Make sure they are wearing a coat and you may want to consider a hat and gloves as well.

Unfortunately, even with the best care, a virus can make us sick. Cold symptoms are best relieved with rest and fluids. Please keep in mind the guidelines below when deciding if your child should come to school. Any child with the following symptoms should stay home:

-A fever 100 degrees or higher. A child should not come back to school **until the temperature is normal for 24 hours without medication.**

-vomiting or diarrhea

-a frequent cough

-any rash accompanied by a fever

-ear pain and/or eye drainage

-sore throat with a fever and/or rash

Please call if you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's illness. If you have a change in address or phone number, remember to contact the school office. It is very important to be able to reach you in the event your child becomes ill at school. Have a safe and HEALTHY winter!