

April 2020

Issue #3

McKenzie School

Principal's Message by Mr. Barrow

I hope that you and your families are safe and healthy during this time. As your proud Principal, I could not be more appreciative of our teachers and staff who have been working hard throughout the last month to ensure there is a dynamic remote learning environment for our students.

On Thursday, April 16th, Governor Murphy announced that the decision for schools to be reopened will not be revisited until at least May 15th. As a result, we will remain in our virtual learning environment until further notice. As we enter the week of May 4th of our remote instructional plan, our Preschool - 1st Grade students will move towards an online learning format to provide greater opportunities for student engagement and meaningful learning. These grade levels will complete daily instruction in Math, ELA, Science and Social Studies via platforms such as: Reading Eggs, Math Seeds, Freckle, Reading A-Z, Mystery Science, and Boom Learning. Parents/Guardians will be contacted with a username and password for each platform and what activities need to be completed daily. Please note that similar to Google Classroom, the teachers will be able to track students' progress via these platforms. This means that teachers will be able to tell which students are completing the work on a daily basis. Any parents/guardians in Preschool - 1st Grade requiring a device for your child, please communicate via email with your child's classroom teacher as soon as possible. McKenzie School will be arranging an appointment with a safe pick-up location via email with parents on Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Furthermore, 2nd Grade - 4th Grade students will continue with their online learning via Google Classroom. After May 1st, please visit the district's website and click on the "McKenzie Home Instruction" tab to access lesson plan information.

In closing, please visit our website at <u>www.erboe.net</u> to view report cards in the Genesis Parent Access link, located under the McKenzie "For Families" tab. If you need any further assistance with your Genesis username and password or are having any difficulties viewing the report card, please email Ms. White (rwhite@erboe.net) or Ms. Lavornia (blavornia@erboe.net). To find out about more of our school's activities, I would like to continue to invite you to see McKenzie School's and the East Rutherford School District's website. Our website has been designed to be a valuable source of school news, timely information, and easily found contact information for parents, students, and visitors to the site. If you have not already, please download our mobile app that accompanies our website to receive notifications and follow us on Twitter to see all of our Wildcats' school spirit and great work being done.

Once again, thank you for all that you are doing for your children and for the manner in which you are collaborating with our faculty.

Stay well and positive!



Mrs. Speer is so proud of all the students who volunteered to take part in the Doodle for Google contest. I just put up a poster outside of room 106 and many students requested the information, and even better many students handed in quality work. The work was sent to Google on time. Google did not cancel the contest. The judges are working remotely to choose the winners. The judges are selecting the 54 State and Territory Winners. This 2020 contest is closed, but the Doodles live on!

Pre-K 3 & 4 by Ms. Martinez & Mrs. Farley

Read Across America

Class mother and author, Diana Perez stopped by Ms. Martinez's Pre-K class during Read Across America Week to read her latest book, "Landon Meets the Food Trucks!"



Mrs. Farley's class celebrated Read Across America Day with an activity, and in front of our Cat In The Hat bulletin board.



Technology by Mr. Higgins



Students in Technology class are learning about how to use Google Slides. The current lesson will have students creating a Digital Time Capsule using Google Slides. Some of the digital items that will be included in the Time Capsule are: A picture of themselves and a list of their family members, images of some of their favorite things, images of items that represent the current time we are living in, and goals for their future.

Pre-K 3 & 4 by Mrs. Credico & Ms. Markovich



Prior to school closures, students were exploring the works of child author, Laura Numeroff. Students read various texts such as "If you Give a Mouse a Cookie" and "If you Give a Moose a Muffin". During small group and center based instruction, students matched beginning letter sounds using cookie and mouse cut outs and helped Moose count his blueberries during a Mathematics lesson. Students even conducted Science experiments based on the authors silly characters and taste tested many of the character's favorite foods, then, graphing the results! At the end of our author study, the students hosted an "Author Study Tea Party" where families and their child took part in station activities that pertained to the characters Mouse, Moose and Cat. Families created a mouse puppet, helped cat decorate a cupcake and supported Moose with counting various "berries" for his muffins. At the completion of the event, families enjoyed some "tea" and snacks as well as received a bookmark for their future reading. We look forward to continuing these experiences during our remote learning.

First Grade by Miss Garcia, Ms. Bleich,

Mrs. Machado, Mrs. Traverso,

Miss Meli

Hello Spring!



First graders have been refining previously learned concepts and skills as they work diligently on remote learning activities. We recently celebrated April Fool's Day with our families for good fun and laughs. First graders spent time playing outdoors with their families during spring break. In math, first graders have been working on their addition and subtraction fact fluency through XtraMath and reinforcing their knowledge of place value through daily practice. In reading, first graders have been accessing online resources, such as Raz-Kids, to read and answer questions to support their comprehension.

"You can't have a rainbow without a little rain."

Physical Education

by Miss Fontana & Mrs. Schneider



Before remote learning began, our students were improving their jump roping skills, learning jump rope games, measuring their horizontal jumps on the Standing Broad Jump Mat, and challenging themselves to jump or leap over hurdles that were different heights. They displayed their hoop knowledge by demonstrating many hoop skills including using the hoop like a jump rope. The children increased their agility and footwork using floor ladders, movement polyspots, and participating in the 15 second sprint which included changing direction. Thank you for having your children prepared for class and now thank you for having them be active through our remote learning activities.

Third Grade by Mrs. Vecchione, Mrs. Nastro,

Mrs. TenKate, Miss Scardino

Our third graders got creative using materials from home to create a colorful rainbow for their neighbors to enjoy. Students used pom-poms, construction paper, paint, markers and crayons for this project. The purpose of this activity was to send a message of positivity to our wonderful community: In a storm, there is still something to look forward to. The students had a blast working on this with their families.



Guidance Office by Mr. Wagner

The end of the school year is always an exciting time! Over the past few weeks, all of our students have been working and learning from home. Our teachers have been so great about posting pictures of students working hard and completing all of their work. I hope our students have enjoyed the spirit days as much as I have enjoyed seeing the pictures posted to Twitter.

As we are all learning to adjust to this new normal I am still available to any student, or family looking for more support to get through these challenging moments. If any student would like to speak with me, please feel free to send me an email and we can set up a time to chat.

Mr. Wagner is available to the parents as well, to discuss any concerns. Please feel free to call him at 201-531-1235 (Ext. 4004) or email at jwagner@erboe.net.

ESL by Mrs. Forte & Mrs. Fallon



The ESL students have been hard at work and having a great time while they are working from home. Mrs. Forte and Mrs. Fallon have been watching and monitoring the progress while they are using the Reading Eggs Program. We want everyone to know that we are so proud of you and we miss you and hope to see you soon!

Important Links

Report Cards

Please visit our website at <u>www.erboe.net</u> to view report cards in the Genesis Parent Access link, located under the McKenzie "For Families" tab. If you need any further assistance with your Genesis username and password or are having any difficulties viewing the report card, please email Ms. White (rwhite@erboe.net) or Ms. Lavornia (blavornia@erboe.net).

Parent Access Link:

https://parents.genesisedu.com/erboe/sis/view?g ohome=true

April Wildcats of the Month

https://drive.google.com/a/erboe.net/file/d/1 LP38KaTdcIzlrIXFa9rAcInuRM4u8c94/view? usp=drive_web

McKenzie Family Message

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pdQEIZ1PIo cVtkY-vAqIoQpQXGwnQyhy/view

Nurse's Office by Nurse Joann



As the weather begins to warm up keep in mind some bicycle safety guides. Make outdoor time a safe time – wear a helmet when riding bikes, skateboards, and scooters. Knee pads and elbow pads are easy to wear and add more protection.

Myths and Facts for Bicycle Safety

<u>Myth</u>: My child doesn't need to wear a helmet on short rides around the neighborhood.

<u>Fact:</u> The majority of bike crashes happen near home. Wearing a helmet at all times helps develop good habits.

Myth: Any helmet will work just as well as a bicycle helmet.

<u>Fact:</u> Only a bicycle helmet is made specifically to protect the head from any fall that may occur while biking.

<u>Myth:</u> I should buy a bicycle that my child will grow into.

Fact: Oversized bikes are especially dangerous. Your child does not have the skills and coordination needed to handle a bigger bike and may lose control.

Myth: It's safer for my child to ride facing traffic.

<u>Fact:</u> Your child should always ride on the right, with traffic. Riding against traffic confuses or surprises drivers.

<u>Myth</u>: Children shouldn't use hand signals, because signaling may cause them to lose control of their bikes.

<u>Fact:</u> Hand signals are an important part of the rules of the road. Children should be taught before they begin to ride.

Myth: Bike reflectors and a reflective vest will make it safe for my child to ride at night. **Fact:** It's never safe for your child to ride a bike at night.

Stay Safe and Well!

