

Wildcat News

McKenzie Elementary School

November 2021 Volume 1



A Note From Mr. Barrow

Dear Parents/Guardians:

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 three months to ensure there is a dynamic and safe learning environment for our students this school year. I also would like to take the time to thank all of the parents and families for all of your collaboration and support during this school year. As I have communicated at Back to School Night, McKenzie School is excited to continue some past initiatives during the fall:

- Celebration of "Red Ribbon Week" and School Spirit Week
- McKenzie students celebrated October as the "Month of Respect"
- Stomp Out Bullying Program and Activities (Thank you ER Municipal Alliance)
- Halloween Parade and Classroom Activities
- Staff and student wore Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness

- Continuation of Wildcat of the Month & Golden Ticket initiative (highlighting well rounded students and exemplar behavior)
- McKenzie School Honored Local Veterans on Veterans Day

Furthermore, we have emphasized in previous communications, public health is a shared responsibility, and we all play a critical role in protecting our students, staff, and community from exposure to this virus. The choices we make moving forward will directly impact the functioning of our school.

We require your continued assistance in reminding and encouraging your family members and friends to observe the following guidelines without exception:

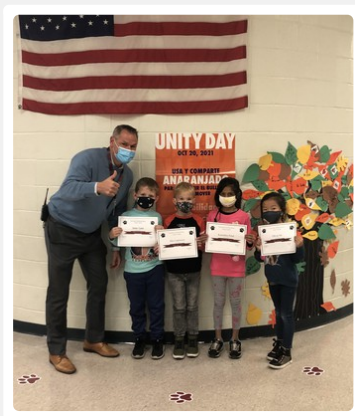
- Staying home when you are sick;
- Washing hands often with soap for at least 20 seconds;
- Covering coughs and sneezes and properly disposing of tissues;
- Limiting close contact with people who are sick and not sharing food, drinks and utensils;
- Continuing to monitor your health for symptoms;
- Please review our [Trip Guidance](#) before and after you travel;
- Keeping excellent communication with classroom teachers, office staff, and school nurse

In closing, please visit our website at www.erboe.net to view progress reports and 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 Mrs. Mosquera at cmosquera@erboe.net or Mrs. Velez at cvelez@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.

In a time of appreciation, I thank you for sharing your child with us every day at McKenzie School. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,

Brian Barrow
McKenzie School Principal



The word "HOLA!" is written in a colorful, blocky font. The letters are: H (red), O (green), L (orange), A (purple), and ! (blue).

Spanish

Miss Martinez

¡Bienvenidos a español!

What a great start to a great year! I am **amazed** at how much students remember from last year and how much Spanish they are using both in and out of the classroom! In Kindergarten, we are learning the basics of Spanish such as greetings, emotions, and numbers. In first grade, we are learning about birthdays and the calendar. In second grade, we are learning about families and physical descriptions. In third grade, we are learning about travel and geography. Last but not least, in fourth grade we are learning about sports. Throughout all of these topics, students will learn how to hold conversations, ask and answer questions, and read and write in Spanish. Thank you for all of your support! Looking forward to a fantastic year supporting your learners in this beautiful process of language learning.



Basic Skills

Mrs. Gaggis & Mrs. Kelly

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". Foundations is an intensive phonics program that helps students achieve success in reading. The program focuses on tapping out the sounds of words in order to decode and encode.

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!

Mrs. Kelly- Title 1/BSI teacher

The district had provided the 3rd and 4th grade teachers a new math series to pilot titled *Envisions* for math. For the past month, this new platform helped "guide" my Basic Skills Instruction for students to

achieve personal goals and stay focused. As their BSI teacher, I was able to determine student growth and observe their progress in mathematics. This immediate feedback was critical to keep our learners on track.

The program/platform engaged students' interest level, transformed into high quality math practices that fueled growth, extended student learning, and built skills mastery to align to state-specific learning standards.

I was eager to collect this data to plan for future lessons.

Mrs. Gaggis-Title 1/BSI teacher

BSI Math students should practice their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts using the **Think Central** site "**Do The Math, Independent Practice, Quiz**", and/or **IXL, Freckle**.



Pre-K

Mrs. Credico, Miss Kristen, Mrs. Schmidt, Mrs. Farley

Apples, Apples, Everywhere!

Over the past month, students have explored the world of apples by conducting an Apple Study. We discussed facts we already knew about apples and created a list of questions we wanted answered. The classes explored the parts of apples by taking part in labeling activities as well as learning the names of various types of apples such as Granny Smith, Red and Golden Delicious.

Our preschool friends also conducted math lessons by counting groups of seeds, comparing groups of apples and measuring our classmates using apples. The students explored the life cycle of an apple by sequencing picture cards. Students read various nonfiction books about apples and we turned our Dramatic Play Area into an Apple Orchard where they picked and sold apples to classmates.

Last, students learned about the term "predict" as they guessed what would happen when one slice of apple was placed in water and the other in lemon juice. In the upcoming months, students will explore additional fall related activities as well as a new Creative Curriculum study about buildings!

DOUBLES

First Grade

facts

$0+0=0$

$1+1=2$

$2+2=4$

$3+3=6$

$4+4=8$

$5+5=10$

$6+6=12$

$7+7=14$

$8+8=16$

$9+9=18$

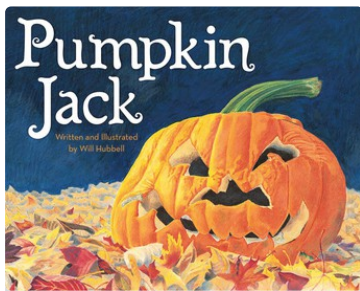
$10+10=20$

Miss Meli, Mrs. Traverso, Ms. Bleich, Miss Garcia, Miss Krawczyk

Falling into November

1st grade is falling into November! We are currently in our 1st Unit of English/Language Arts Curriculum, Benchmark Literacy. The students are excited about learning story elements. They are now experts at identifying the characters, setting, problem, and solution. Speaking of excitement!...The first graders are excited about their spelling lists each week. They have been doing a great job practicing and learning their words. In math, we are tackling "doubles" and "count on strategies."

We had a great time celebrating Halloween and we are looking forward to remembering all that we are thankful for as Thanksgiving approaches. Take the time to enjoy the wonderful colors that are appearing in our trees! Also, remember to use the amazing websites that we have access to so your child can review their skills at home.



Third Grade

Mrs. Vecchione, Mrs. Nastro, Mrs. Machado, Miss Tadiello

Third grade students are making daily observations in their classrooms as we explore the decomposition of a pumpkin after reading, "Pumpkin Jack". Third grade students will witness the life cycle of a pumpkin. In math, third graders have been modeling multiplication through equal groups and arrays.

2021-2022 Calendar

EAST RUTHERFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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31						

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	H	R	27
28	29	30				

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	R	25
26	R	R	R	R	R	

Student Days			
September	14	February	17
October	20	March	23
November	18	April	15
December	17	May	21
January	20	June	18

H=Holiday; T=Teachers Only; R=Recess; L = 1/2 Day Recess		
September	1&2	New Teacher Orientation
September	6	Labor Day - Schools Closed
September	9	First day for Staff
September	10	Proff. Day Teachers - No School for Students
September	13&14	1/2 day students AM-Teacher PD in PM
September	28	Faust&PreK, "Back to School Night" 1/2 day students
September	30	McKenzie "Back to School Night" 1/2 day students
October	11	Proff. Day Teachers - No School for Students
November	4&5	NJEA Convention - Schools Closed
November	11	Parent Conferences-1/2 day students
November	24	Start Thanksgiving Break - 1/2 day
November	25&26	Thanksgiving Break - Schools Closed
December	23	Start Holiday Recess - 1/2 day school
December	24-31	Holiday Recess - Schools Closed
January	1	New Years' Day - School Closed
January	13	1/2 day students AM-Teacher PD in PM
January	17	Martin Luther King Day-Schools Closed
February	21-23	Presidents' Day Recess
March	10	1/2 day students AM-Teacher PD in PM
April	14	1/2 day prior to Spring Break
April	15	Good Friday - School Closed
April	18-22	Spring Recess - Schools Closed
May	30	Memorial Day - Schools Closed
June	21-24	1/2 day students AM, Teacher PD in PM
June	24	1/2 day students AM-Teacher Last Day
183 Student Days		
186 Teacher Days		

School Calendar is subject to change if deemed necessary

Board Approved on September 23, 2021

PLEASE NOTE:
Excess snow days taken from Friday of Spring Recess
and continuing backwards from April 22, 2022

Check District website for updates at www.erboe.net

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30	31					

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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	H	H	R	24	25	26
27	28					

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27	28	29	30	31		

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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10	11	12	13	14	H	16
17	R	R	R	R	R	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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