

April 11 - April 15, 2011

McKenzie Monitor

E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

On behalf of the entire staff, I want to express our appreciation for your support of the District 39 referendum. Your individual and collective efforts led to Tuesday's "yes," enabling us to continue providing your children with an educational experience that is second to none! Your ongoing support over the past several months lifted our spirits, affirmed our work, and reminded us of how fortunate we are to work in a community that holds their children's education as their most valuable resource. We look forward to a bright future!

While we have begun the process of re-hiring our recently released teachers, we are also beginning to make some staffing adjustments based on the permanent reductions approved by our Board of Education this winter. The reduction of part-time nurse positions in some of our schools brings a new face to McKenzie's Health Office. Beginning April 25th, Andrea Oinyug will become McKenzie's school nurse. Some of you may know Andrea, as she has worked at the Jr. High for the past five years. As we welcome her to our staff, we bid a fond farewell to Kathy Moran. Over the past three years, Kathy has provided us with outstanding service and will be truly missed! We wish her the best in her new job at Children's Memorial!

Today is the last day to use the electronic sign-up for parent-teacher conferences taking place on April 14-15. If you miss the deadline, please contact our school office and they will help arrange a time for you.

The term "21st Century Teaching & Learning" is frequently used, but not always understood. To help bring this expression *to life*, McKenzie's PTA is sponsoring a Technology Night on Wed., April 27th, from 6:30-8:30. Our teachers will facilitate workshops on podcasting, blogging, and the use of apps—just to name a few! Parents are invited to come learn, 21st century style, along with their child(ren). What fun we're going to have! Electronic sign-up at www.mckenziepta.com will begin on Monday morning---I look forward to seeing you there.

Next week: On Tuesday, New Trier Superintendent, Linda Yonke, will be the guest speaker at this month's PTA meeting. Please join us at 9:15 in the cafeteria. On Thursday, there will be an early release of students so that teachers can begin parent-teacher conferences. Kindergartners will dismiss at 10:20 and Gr. 1-3 at 12:15. Our

fourth graders will eat lunch at school, then be bussed to Highcrest to learn more about the instrumental music opportunities available to them next year. Afterwards, students will either be picked up by their parent, walk home, or be bussed back to McKenzie.

Have you heard about McKenzie's **Bakeless Bake Sale**?? Our student council is sponsoring this creative way to raise funds for Japanese Relief, following last month's terrible disaster. Your child should have brought home an explanation of how he/she can contribute to this fund. For more information, please check out our school's website. The deadline for contributions is April 22nd.

Upcoming Orientations:

April 13th 4th Grade Parents @ Highcrest, 6:30 pm

April 20th Incoming Kindergarten Parents @ McKenzie, 6:30 pm

For parents who would like to offer their input on classroom placement for next year, watch for those forms coming your way next week.

Reminder from the Health Office: Dental forms for current kindergarteners and second graders are due May 15th. The forms are on the McKenzie website under " For Parents" (scroll down to "forms"). The appointment should be from the last year and a half. Any questions contact Kathy Moran at 847-512-6302 or email: morank@wilmette39.org.

Enjoy a wonderful weekend, everyone.

Dr. Welter

welterd@wilmette39.org

847.251.2295 x6300

From the P.T.A.

PTA Meeting on Tuesday - The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12th at 9:15 a.m. in the cafeteria and will include a presentation by Dr. Linda Yonke, Superintendent, New Trier High School. At this meeting, we will also be voting on the slate for next year's Executive Board as follows: Kristen Wilson, President-Elect; Karen Dekker, VP of Room Parents; Heidi Bucklew, Asst. Treasurer; and Ginna Cowan, Asst. for Enrichment.

Get Ready for Earth Week: April 18-21 - Students are encouraged to bring to school art projects made from your recycling, and pictures or photos of themselves enjoying the outdoors. Starting on April 11, the artwork and photos will be displayed in the front hallway and on the bulletin board for all to enjoy! More information about activities during Earth Week will be posted on the PTA web site.

Teacher Appreciation Lunch Sign-Up - It's that time of year where we have an opportunity to show our appreciation for everything our wonderful McKenzie staff has done for our children. A week of events will culminate in a Teacher Appreciation luncheon on May 6th. A sign-up to donate food for this luncheon begins this week. To sign up, go to www.mckenziepta.com and look for the Teacher Appreciation luncheon link. If you have any questions, please call or email Monica Thompson at thethompson6@gmail.com.

Don't Forget to Register for Chess Club - Registration for Chess Club Grades 1-4 Spring Session has started. Please register early to reserve a spot for your child. See the PTA website (www.mckenziepta.com) for details.

CHANGE to Monitor Deadline - Due to the shortened school week and Dr. Welter's schedule, the deadline for McKenzie Monitor submissions for next week is changed to **Wednesday, 4/13 at noon**. Please make sure to have your submissions in early. Thanks for your cooperation! Go to <http://mckenziepta.com/communication.html> for the submission form.

Learn More About Substance Abuse in Adolescents...by attending the FAN event on Wednesday, April 13 from 7-9 p.m. at New Trier H.S. Winnetka/Gaffney Auditorium. During the presentation, "Substance Use in Adolescence: The Mechanisms of Motivation and Change," Dr. Petros Levounis, Director of The Addiction Institute of New York, will differentiate between substance use and abuse, and local experts will join him to offer a focused look at prevention and treatment strategies. Please visit www.fan-ntts.ntnow.org for more information.

Technology Night PLN Event Rescheduled! Come join the fun and experience 21st century learning firsthand! It's our last PLN event of the year and we hope you and your child(ren) (McKenzie students only, please) will be able to attend McKenzie's *Technology Night: 21st Century Learning in Action* - an exciting interactive evening of technology taught by our very own McKenzie teachers. Registration is limited. Note that the event has been **rescheduled** to Wednesday, April 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. For more

information, contact Julie Johnson at jujohnson007@sbcglobal.net or visit the PTA website.

The PTA Needs a Few Good Men or Women - The PTA is already planning next year's fantastic line-up of enrichment activities, service projects and fun events. We still need volunteers to co-chair several of our committees. It is our wonderful group of volunteers that enable us to provide the McKenzie kids with their field trips and special presentations by guest authors and scientists. If you are interested in learning more about open positions or other ways to volunteer next year, please contact PTA President-Elect Jennifer Konz-Alt at jdkonz@hotmail.com or 847-256-3639.

Variety Show DVDs Available - Celebrate the 2011 Variety Show for years to come. Order the commemorative DVD at the PTA website. For only \$15 you can treasure "McKenzie Celebrates Holidays." Order your very own copy today!

This Week...

Click Here for the Lunch Menu:

www.mckenziepta.com/Archives/FromsDocuments/LunchApril2011.pdf

Monday 4/11

- **ENRICHMENT:** Kindergarten – Emerald City Theatre in the McKenzie Auditorium, 10 a.m. and 1 p.m.
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten: 11:35-12:20 p.m.; Grades 1-4; 3:20-4:20 p.m.

Tuesday 4/12

- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten: 11:35-12:20 p.m.
- **ENRICHMENT:** 2nd Grade – Mad Science: Water Wonders (Malmquist, 9:15 a.m.; Siegel, 10:25 a.m., Schroeder, 1:15 p.m.), McKenzie Auditorium
- **REMINDER:** PTA Meeting at 9:15 a.m., Cafeteria

Wednesday 4/13

- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium

- **ENRICHMENT:** 2nd Grade – Mad Science: Water Wonders (Bourisaw, 9:15 a.m.; Weil, 10:25 a.m.), McKenzie Auditorium
- **LECTURE:** “Substance Use in Adolescence: The Mechanisms of Motivation and Change,” 7-9 p.m. at New Trier H.S. Winnetka/Gaffney Auditorium
- **REMINDER:** Submissions for the McKenzie Monitor due at 12 NOON

Thursday 4/14

- **EARLY RELEASE:** No AM Kindergarten; PM Kindergarten, 8:55-10:20 a.m.; Grades 1-3, 8:55 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.; Gr. 4 to HMS

Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday 4/15

- **NO SCHOOL:** Parent-Teacher Conferences

Reminder: Submissions for the **McKenzie Monitor** are due by **Wednesday at 12:00 pm.** Go to <http://mckenziepta.com/communication.html> for the submission form. Questions? Contact Mindy Rittner, McKenzie Monitor Editor at mruttner@brinkshofer.com.

On the Web...

[McKenzie P.T.A. Website](#)

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)