

August 30 - September 3, 2010

McKenzie Monitor

E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

The 2010-2011 school year has set sail under sunny skies with smooth water ahead! How quickly our students have found their way to new classrooms and have already discovered a new/old friend or two! I hope we now have your correct email address, as most of our home-school communication will come to you via your inbox. Please let us know immediately if you are experiencing difficulty in receiving our messages.

The McKenzie School website is filled with important information for your reading pleasure. I realize that with all the Back-to-School frenzy, you may not have had a chance to read each link; however, please take a few extra minutes this weekend to catch up on what's in store over the next few weeks.

Special **THANKS** to the McKenzie Cub Scouts from Pack 1 who led us in a before-school flag-raising ceremony to dedicate the new flag they have donated to our school. The beautiful new RED, WHITE, and BLUE flying proudly outside our school doors, will help remind us daily of fortunate we are!

Curriculum Night for students in Kindergarten and 1st Grade will take place on **Thursday, Sept. 2nd**. AM Kindergarten and 1st Grade parents (only) are invited to their child's classroom from 6:30-7:15. PM Kindergarten parents will begin their evening at 7:30-8:15. Our school nurse, Mrs. Kathy Moran, will host a brief presentation on food allergies from 7:15-7:30, in the school auditorium. All parents are invited to attend. **Curriculum Night for Gr. 2-4** will take place on **Sept. 16th**.

School Pictures will be taken on **Tuesday, Sept. 14th**—more information arriving soon.

Thank you for giving our new McKenzie Staff members such a warm welcome. They feel so fortunate to part of the McKenzie family. You can learn more about each of our new staff by reading their bios posted on our website. I am happy to announce that **Sra. Kusnitzow** and her husband, Josh, are now the proud parents of little Jacob, born July 23rd. Alisia is enjoying some mommy time with Jake, but is looking forward to returning to her McKenzie *amigos* in November. Also joining the McKenzie family is little Isabelle Garry, born just yesterday to her parents, Julie and Tony. We share in their joy and look forward to welcoming **Mrs. Garry** back to our Technology Lab in November.

We had a wonderful response to our **New Family Orientation** this week. We hope our newcomers will join in the fun at the **New Family Picnic**, taking place at Vattmann Park from 5-7 on Sunday evening.

Mark your calendars for **McKenzie's Ice Cream Social**, on Sunday, Sept. 12th. There will plenty of treats and activities for all!

Lastly, attached to the end of this newsletter is an introductory letter from our **Spanish Department**. Please be sure to read all they have in store for the news ahead.

On behalf of McKenzie's 80 staff members and 543 students, welcome aboard!

Dr. Welter

welterd@wilmette39.org

847.251.2295 x6300

THIS WEEK...

Monday 8/30

- **LUNCH: Hot Dog on WW Bun, Baked Fries, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk**
- **REMINDER: First Day of Kindergarten** – AM 8:55-11:30 a.m.; PM 12:40-3:15 p.m.
- **REMINDER: PTA Coffee and Volunteer Fair for Kindergarten Parents** – from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. outside the kindergarten classrooms

Tuesday 8/31

- **LUNCH: Chicken Pasta Caesar Salad, Soup, WW Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk**

Wednesday 9/1

- **LUNCH: Rotini w/wo Meatballs, Breadstick, Garden Salad, Fresh Fruit, Milk**

Thursday 9/2

- **LUNCH: Round Cheese Pizza, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk**
- **REMINDER: Kindergarten (AM) and First Grade Curriculum Night – 6:30-7:15; Kindergarten (PM) Curriculum Night – 7:30-8:15.**

Friday 9/3

- **LUNCH:** Tuna or Turkey on WW, Baked Chips, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk

From the P.T.A.

Coffee for Kindergarten Parents: The PTA is having a mini version of the Coffee and Volunteer Fair for the kindergarten classroom parents on Monday, August 30, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. outside the kindergarten classrooms.

The Sharing Committee will be collecting new or gently used school supplies for Carman-Buckner Elementary, our sister school, located in Waukegan. Please consider donating crayons, markers, glue sticks, pencils, scissors and any other useful supplies to the donation boxes in the school lobby. Carman-Buckner's students greatly appreciate your help!

Chess Club: It is already that time! Please register online for Session 1 of kindergarten chess club and chess club grades 1-4 now! Space is limited and it is on a first come first served basis. If you have any questions please contact Yijia Geohas at yijiaxu@hotmail.com for chess club grades 1-4 and Amy Fox at amybfox@me.com for kindergarten chess club.

Ice Cream Social Committee 2010: Delicious ice cream and family, friends, crafts, and an afternoon of all sorts of entertaining fun. Does that sound like a great time to you? This annual event will be held on Sunday, September 12th from 1-3pm at McKenzie. If you are interested in volunteering the day of the event, please contact Rachel Arend at rachel.arend@gmail.com.

Help Reinvent McClubs! This year McClubs will be new and improved. We're looking for a few fun volunteers to jump in and help with our re-introduction of this McKenzie favorite. We need YOU to help decide which clubs to feature and include, poll the McKenzie community and streamline registration. Be part of the team that reinvents McClubs! Contact Saloni Desharnais at desharnaiss@sbcglobal.net to volunteer.

Thank You From Gardens Committee: We'd like to thank all the McKenzie Summer Garden Keepers who helped water and weed the garden all summer long: Pam Roehles & Merrilees children, Nugent family, Goldstein family, Dekker family, Julia DeVos & family, Pelzek family, Irvin family, and Girl Scout troop 495! --Lara Waechter and Kirsten Stadheim, Gardens/Outdoor Classroom Co-chairs

New Time of Year for the Book Fair: The McKenzie Book Fair, "Reading Saves the Day!" is being held Tuesday, September 28 through Thursday, September 30. Volunteers can sign up at the PTA Coffee and Volunteer Fair.

School Pictures are scheduled for September 14.

Save the Date for PLN Lecture: The McKenzie Parent Learning Network (PLN) will

be hosting a lecture on the topic of 21st Century Learning, Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 7:00 pm in the McKenzie auditorium. More information to follow. Questions? Contact Julie Johnson at jujohnson007@sbcglobal.net or (847) 251-4828.

Reminder: Submissions for the **Monitor** are due by **Thursday at 12:00 pm**. Go to <http://mckenziepta.com/communication.html> for the submission form. Thanks!

On the Web...

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

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)

News from the Spanish Department

Dear McKenzie Parents:

¡Hola! We are so excited to have a great year in Spanish. In Wilmette, Spanish instruction begins in Kindergarten. Classes are 20 minutes long every day for grades 1-4 and twice a week for Kindergarten. As a general rule, classes are conducted in the Spanish language and the curriculum is content-based, meaning that students learn vocabulary and topics that are centered around their regular classroom instruction.

We have many exciting projects and units of study planned for the coming year. Students in Kindergarten will learn colors and weather. Students in first grade will have fun learning about habitats and the community. Second graders have a blast learning about ladybugs and Arctic animals while third graders study explorers and geometry. Fourth graders have a challenging curriculum that, while introducing some grammar, includes topics such as the solar system and the Galápagos Islands.

Students will be assessed throughout the year according to their comprehension of vocabulary and the amount of language they are able to produce. Each grade level has content-specific assessments, which will challenge the students to practice their language in these areas. Their performance on each assessment item will be recorded and sent home for further review. If you have any questions about these items as they are sent home, feel free to contact your child's Spanish teacher who will explain it in more detail for you.

For more information on assessment and curriculum highlights (along with other fun things!), refer to the Elementary Foreign Language website at www.wilmette39.org/files. As always, if you have any questions or comments about Spanish, please feel free to contact your child's Spanish teacher. Our names and e-mail addresses and the classes we teach are listed below:

Lynsee Whitman (Srta. Whitman)

Email: whitmanl@wilmette39.org

Classes:

Kindergarten (Gunderson)

1st grade: Luskin and Moroschan

All 2nd grade

3rd grade: Brighty, Safran, Torf

Website: www.wilmette39.org/~whitmanl/

Karin Alfaro (Sra. Alfaro)- Maternity leave sub for Alisa Kusnitzow (Sra. Kus)

**As Señora Kusnitzow's sub, I look forward to working with your children this fall. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.*

Email: alfarok@wilmette39.org (Karin) kusnitza@wilmette39.org (Alisa)

Classes:

Kindergarten (Tabas)

1st grade: Aten, Dolkart and Krumholz

3rd grade: Martin and Flondro

All 4th grade

Website: <http://www.wilmette39.org/~kusnitza/>

We look forward to meeting you at curriculum night and to getting to know you throughout the year!

The McKenzie Elementary Spanish Teachers

District 39 Elementary Spanish

In District 39, we are happy to have Spanish as part of daily instruction in first through fourth grades and two times a week in Kindergarten. There will be no homework assigned for Spanish classes because it will be communicatively based and most of the learning takes place in the classroom. However, here are some things you can do at home to practice Spanish with your child.

Ask your child daily about what he/she is learning in Spanish class. This will help your child maintain enthusiasm and interest throughout the year, and it will give you an update as to the classroom activities.

Be the student! Have your child teach you some of the new vocabulary he/she is learning in class. Because the class will be taught 95% of the time in Spanish, he/she may not be able to directly translate some things for you, but if you ask about things in a general sense (weather, colors, etc.) they should be able to teach you vocabulary!

Label things around the house. Use a Spanish/English dictionary to find the names for things in the house, or ask your child's teacher for a list of objects in the house in Spanish. This will help both of you use the names for these items in Spanish.

GO to the many places in the community where your child can practice his/her Spanish or hear native Spanish speakers. Great places to go are the many museums and cultural events in and around Chicago where your child can learn about the many cultures where Spanish is spoken.

Books are a great resource for learning Spanish. The Wilmette Public Library has a section of Spanish books, many of which your child should recognize from Spanish class. CDs and videos in Spanish are also great resources!

Use Spanish daily. Key phrases like "Buenos días" or "Hola", if used on a regular basis at home and at school will serve to reinforce instruction and maintain enthusiasm for speaking and learning the language.

Visit the website! The District 39 website has a foreign language section with song lyrics and recommended books/websites to use at home for further practice.

http://www.wilmette39.org/files/District_39_Elementary_Foreign_Language.html

****Srta. Whitman's website:** www.wilmette39.org/~whitman/

****Sra. Alfaro's website:** www.wilmette39.org/~kusnitza/ (Maternity leave sub for Sra. Kus):