

April 18 - April 22, 2011

# McKenzie Monitor

## E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

I hope you found the conference with your child's teacher to be both enjoyable and informative. As always, we welcome suggestions on ways in which we can best share your child's progress with you. For those parents who would like to offer their input on classroom placement for next year, please note the email sent out earlier today. All comment sheets must be returned to the office no later than Friday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. As stated in that email, this is an optional form, used only if you want to share new/pertinent information that would impact placement decisions.

In the upcoming week we will be celebrating Earth Day with a host of eco-friendly activities. Students are invited to draw a picture of something they enjoy doing outdoors. Drawings submitted to the office will be posted on the front bulletin board. See the McKenzie PTA website for more details on what's in store next week!

There's one week left to contribute to the Japanese Relief Fund. Student Council is sponsoring the Bakeless Bake Sale, encouraging McKenzie students to add up the cost of the ingredients needed to make a favorite recipe. The total cost of those items becomes their donation. Students can submit cash or check, along with a decorated chef hat to add to our lobby's bulletin board. We have collected over \$300 already and hope to have doubled that amount in the coming week.

On Wed., April 20<sup>th</sup>, all D39 elementary schools will host Kindergarten Orientation for incoming parents. The evening will begin in the auditorium at 6:30, followed by a building tour ending at 7:30. We look forward to welcoming our future McKenzie families to their new school. This is a parents-only event.

On the following Wed., April 27<sup>th</sup>, we are excited to host our first Technology Night right here at school. I encourage parents to click on the PTA website, under Parent Learning Network (PLN) and see the variety of mini-courses offered that night! Please join the McKenzie staff to learn more about the 21<sup>st</sup> century teaching and learning tools being used in our classrooms. Learn how you and your child might create a blog to communicate with family and friends this summer. Help us create a virtual tour of McKenzie through podcasting. Learn what easy apps your child can use to reinforce concepts taught in class! And that's just some of the FUN we'll have that night. Don't delay in online sign up, as seating is limited. All McKenzie students are welcome when accompanied by a parent.

Building upon the positive community support received during the recent campaign, District 39 has set up a 'subscribe' feature on their home page. This is a great way for community members who are not current D39 parents to get email updates about district happenings. We

want to get the word out to the wider community, so we are asking our parents to help spread the word to neighbors regarding this new feature.

Speaking of news, just click on the following link to get for your monthly update from our Spanish teachers, Sra. Kus and Senorita Whitman.  
<http://www.wilmette39.org/~whitmanl/lwhitman/Newsletter.html>.

I look forward to seeing you in the days and weeks ahead!

Dr. Welter

[welterd@wilmette39.org](mailto:welterd@wilmette39.org)

847.251.2295 x6300

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## From the P.T.A.

**Celebrate 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. The artwork and photos will be displayed in the front hallway and on the bulletin board for all to enjoy! Also, bring in your recyclables and plan to attend the book exchange after school on Wednesday! More information about activities during Earth Week are posted on the PTA web site.

**The McKenzie Gardens are Blooming!** If you have a 4th grader, check out the bulbs that they planted last fall. They are popping out! On Wed, 4/20 we will be doing a bird feeder project in the gardens and need volunteers for two shifts: 11:30-12:45 and 12:30-1:45. Please email [lara.waechtler@gmail.com](mailto:lara.waechtler@gmail.com) if you are interested. Outdoor Classroom at recess opens on Monday, 4/25. We need lots of volunteers for Mondays and Fridays! No gardening experience required. See [www.mckenziepta.com](http://www.mckenziepta.com) to sign up.

**Bike Safety for 4th Graders** – Get out those bike helmets and bring them to school on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for 4th grade Bike Safety.

**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 6<sup>th</sup>. A sign-up to donate food for this luncheon begins this week. To sign up, go to [www.mckenziepta.com](http://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](mailto:thethompson6@gmail.com).

**Register for Chess Club** - Registration for Chess Club Grades 1-4 is in progress and registration for Kindergarten Chess Club starts on Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup> for the spring session. Please register early to reserve a spot for your child. See the PTA website ([www.mckenziepta.com](http://www.mckenziepta.com)) for details.

**Save the Date!** On Tuesday, May 3, the D39 Educational Foundation is honoring Carole Dibo as the Citizen of the Year. Carole, the first WJHS Variety Show director and owner of the Wilmette Theatre, has greatly influenced the lives of many young actors in Wilmette. Please join us in honoring her contributions to the community and to the creative arts in Wilmette on May 3. Invitations should be arriving at your home soon and tickets can be purchased online at [www.d39foundation.org](http://www.d39foundation.org).

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents - Highcrest Middle School** will be using the convenient services of SchoolKidz, Inc. and their Teacher Tailored® back-to-school supply kit program. This program will save you time and is competitively priced, and all proceeds support the Highcrest PTO. All kits will be delivered to the school and ready for your child at the Meet & Greet in August. Look for the order forms coming home soon and also available on the Highcrest Middle School website. Orders will be accepted 4/27 through 5/04. Contact Angi Meyers for more information at [angimeyers@yahoo.com](mailto:angimeyers@yahoo.com).

**Mark Your Calendars for Technology Night!** Ever wonder how technology is used in your child's classroom? Now is your chance to learn more! PLN invites you attend McKenzie's *Technology Night: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning in Action*. McKenzie staff will lead two 45 minute sessions on various technologies that are used to facilitate learning in the classroom. Smartboards, Senteo clickers, document cameras, Kidpix, and educational applications focusing on literacy, math, and study skills will be featured among the many other topics. Come with your child (McKenzie students only please) and together experience firsthand, 21<sup>st</sup> century learning in action! Seating is limited. To register or for more information, visit [www.mckenziepta.com](http://www.mckenziepta.com) or contact Julie Johnson at [jujohnson007@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jujohnson007@sbcglobal.net)

**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](mailto:jdkonz@hotmail.com) or 847-256-3639.

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## **This Week...**

Click Here for the Lunch Menu:

[www.mckenziepta.com/Archives/FromsDocuments/LunchApril2011.pdf](http://www.mckenziepta.com/Archives/FromsDocuments/LunchApril2011.pdf)

### **Monday 4/18**

- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten: 11:35-12:20 p.m.; Grades 1-4; 3:20-4:20 p.m.
- **REMINDER:** Bike Safety Day, Grade 4

### **Tuesday 4/19**

- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten: 11:35-12:20 p.m.

## Wednesday 4/20

- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium
- **EARTH WEEK:** Book Exchange After School
- **REMINDER:** Incoming Kindergarten Parent Orientation, 6:30-7:30 p.m., McKenzie

## Thursday 4/21

- **EARTH WEEK:** Bring in Your Recyclables! See the PTA website for details.

## Friday 4/22

- **NO SCHOOL:** Good Friday

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**Reminder:** Submissions for the **McKenzie Monitor** are due by **Thursday 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](mailto:mruttner@brinkshofer.com).

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## On the Web...

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

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)