

October 11 - October 15, 2010

McKenzie Monitor

E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

Our Green Committee helped us promote the importance of caring for our environment in many different ways this week. Thank you to all **386 students** who participated in the Walking School Bus on International Walk to School Day, as well as all who helped with composting, our recycling collection, and poster making. We hope these simple activities help us all to build habits for a lifetime. Together, we can make a difference! I hope many will continue to walk to school, even after this week, as traffic around our school, especially at dismissal, continues to be one of our greatest challenges! I would ask you to review the school traffic guidelines posted on our school website if you are unsure of the common rules. Please remember that drivers in the pick-up lane **MUST** remain in their vehicles at all times, moving forward as children are either dropped off or picked up. This keeps the traffic flowing. Parked cars along the curb, double parked vehicles, and those blocking the entrance to the school parking lot create very hazardous conditions for drivers and more importantly risk the safety of our children. Should you need to come into the building, please park away from the traffic lane. While these rules are sometimes inconvenient and require additional time, we thank you for your cooperation!

Please note that as of July, 2010, a new law was enacted, stating that: **Pedestrians statewide have the right-of-way in crosswalks. The new state law requires that vehicles must STOP and yield to a pedestrian in a crosswalk rather than yielding the right-of-way by slowing down or stopping if need be. Fines for violation of these laws will start at \$75.00, with higher fines expected for the most serious infractions. Obviously, no fine can ever compensate for injuries or loss of life.**

For budgeting purposes our district's school lunch program is intended to operate as a self-supporting program. A financial analysis conducted for the 2009-2010 school year indicated a \$108,542 deficit. In order for this program to continue to operate as a self-supporting program, it will be necessary to increase the revenues this year. An **increase of \$.25** in the school lunch fees, along with an increase to various a-la-carte items, will allow the school lunch program to continue to operate as a self-supporting program. This change will become effective on **December 1, 2010**.

School funding issues continue to serve as a primary topic at district and school meetings. Dr. Lechner, our superintendent, will be sharing District 39's financial forecast at Tuesday's PTA meeting. We hope many of you will be able to join us. As always, the meeting begins at 9:15 am in our school cafeteria. For more information on this topic, please see:

http://www.wilmette39.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=723:oct-18-board-mtg-budget&catid=1&Itemid=31

I am VERY happy to report we have had over 250 enrollments in our Fall **McClubs** program! This is a 45% increase from last year. In the weeks to come, the committee will begin to solicit ideas as well as volunteers for the second session. Your input and help will be appreciated!

A special thanks to McKenzie's **Parent Learning Network** for hosting this week's informative presentation on **21st Century Learning**, as well as the follow up discussion that was held this morning. A lively exchange of ideas left parents and staff both amazed and excited about the possibilities for "futurizing" our schools! Watch for information on **PLN's** next event on November 17th.

As you continue to read on, you will find attached information regarding **Parent-Teacher Conferences**, curricular highlights in the **monthly Spanish newsletter**, and information about a free-of-charge class for adults wanting to **Improve their English Language Skills**.

Reminder: **Monday** is a day of non-attendance for students.

Enjoy the long weekend!

Best regards,

Dr. Welter

welterd@wilmette39.org

847.251.2295 x6300

THIS WEEK...

Monday 10/11

- **COLUMBUS DAY:** No School

Tuesday 10/12

- **LUNCH:** Tuna or Egg Salad on WW, Baked Chips, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten - 11:35-12:20 p.m.
- **McCLUBS:** 8-8:45 a.m. - Smart Board; 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Bollywood Dancing, Hoops, Amazing Minds, Drum Club

Wednesday 10/13

- **LUNCH:** Nachos w/Cheese or Turkey Meat, Brown Rice, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium
- **ENRICHMENT:** Heller Nature Center - Buses leave at 9:10, return at noon; dress for outdoors (Grade 3; Flondro, Martin, Brighty)
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Intro to Nerf Football, Express Yourself, Cheerleading, Painting

Thursday 10/14

- **LUNCH:** Round Cheese Pizza, Fresh Veggies w/Dip, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten - 11:35-12:20 p.m.
- **ENRICHMENT:** Heller Nature Center - Buses leave at 9:10, return at noon; dress for outdoors (Grade 3; Safran, Torf)
- **McCLUBS:** 8-8:45 a.m. - Breakfast & Books; 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Flag Football, My Gym

Friday 10/15

- **LUNCH:** Mini Turkey Corn Dogs, Mixed Veggies, Brown Rice, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Legos, Baseball

From the P.T.A.

Fall Frenzy Needs You! Many hands make light work and lots of Fall Frenzy fun! Please sign-up to work a shift on the evening of October 15th via the PTA website: <http://mckenziepta.com>. Available shifts are also posted in the school vestibule. We need YOU to help make the evening a success! Questions? Contact FF Volunteer Chair Sonja Iribarren at sonjabeals@gmail.com.

4 More Days to PreOrder Pizza & Tickets for Fall Frenzy! Have your pizza ready-&-waiting for you! Avoid ticket lines and let your kids jump right into the fun! Place your order at the PTA website: <http://mckenziepta.com> by Tuesday, October 12th. Tickets and pizza vouchers will be delivered via Backpack Express prior to the event. Questions? Contact FF Chair Karen Dekker at ckdekker@comcast.net.

Student Council Starts Up! Led by Jessica Torf and Lynsee Whitman, the Student Council will be starting its first session on October 13. Student Council members from grades 1-4 will meet every Wednesday from 8:25-8:50 a.m. McKenzie parents involved with community service projects or those with ideas for Student Council projects are encouraged to contact either leader to discuss possible opportunities for Student Council participation.

Please Bring Your Boxtops to school and drop them in the collection boxes in the lobby in the next week or two. We are getting ready to send our boxtops to General Mills by end of October. Remember to cut them out as neatly as possible. Last year we raised over \$700 for the PTA and hope to collect even more this year.

McKenzie Mingle Tickets Now on Sale! Purchase your tickets now for our annual holiday shopping bazaar on Friday, November 5 at Winnetka Women's Club. Shop early, play late. Shopping starts at 6 p.m. For those who like to roll the dice, bunco will start at 9:30 p.m. (No skill is necessary, but space is limited for bunco, so be the first to sign up.) Go to the PTA website (http://www.mckenziepta.com/mckenzie_mingle.html) for details and tickets.

Birthday Books Has Gone Paperless! During your child's birthday month (or half-

birthday month for summer birthdays), look for an email about birthday books from birthdaybooks@mckenziepta.com For more information, see the PTA website at: http://www.mckenziepta.com/birthday_book.html."

10% Back to Schools - Grocery Promotion: Don't forget to check the bottom of your Dominicks receipt for a BACK TO SCHOOL redemption code that allows McKenzie to earn 10% of your total bill. Visit <http://backtoschools.escip.com/> and enter in the redemption code, or turn in your receipt directly to McKenzie. McKenzie's Group ID is 500013854.

\$9,400 from Book Fair! Thank you to all the volunteers and participants who contributed to the success of this year's Book Fair! We raised over \$9,400 in books for our school's library and classrooms. We also collected over \$565 for Coins for Carman-Buckner, which will be greatly appreciated.

It's Not Too Late to Join the PTA - Don't be caught without *your* 2010-2011 McKenzie Directory - get your copy today by joining the PTA at www.mckenziepta.com. While you are there, buy your Yearbook too!

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 mrtrittner@brinkshofer.com.

On the Web...

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

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)

It is time to start thinking about parent-teacher conferences. I want to provide you the schedule and a few details.

Please be aware that conferences will not be scheduled outside of the dates and times outlined below. Parents who are unable to meet during these designated times will have the opportunity for a daytime phone or email conference with their child's teacher.

- Conference sign-up will take place for all D39 schools beginning in mid-October. You will be notified prior to the date.
- The link for sign-up will be provided on the District 39 website.
- Sign-up will remain available for approximately three weeks after it begins.
- There will be no school for students on November 11 or 12.

Early Childhood and Grades K-4 Fall Conferences

November 11 8:20 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

November 12 8:20 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Note: As needed, full-time kindergarten teachers will have an additional day of conference time on Wednesday, November 10 from 8:20 a.m. – 3:20 p.m.

Grades 5-8 Fall Conferences

November 10	5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
November 11	9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. 5:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
November 12	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Looking ahead, early childhood and grades K-4 will also have spring conferences. They will take place on April 14 and April 15 with an additional day of kindergarten conference time on April 13, as needed.

Our teachers look forward to meeting with you at conference time, so please save the date!

**Wilmette School District 39 Residents,
Would you like to improve your English skills?
Please join us! All levels of English are welcome!**

All interested parents of District 39 are invited to attend a free ten- week English class. These classes are designed to improve your speaking, listening, reading and writing skills. If you are a beginning English speaker or would just like to improve on your current level, please come join us. Each night we will work on different English skills. There are 10 classes that will be held at the library at McKenzie Elementary School, located at 649 Prairie Avenue in Wilmette. Classes will be from 6:00-7:00 pm:

Tuesday, September 28, 2010
Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Tuesday, October 12, 2010
Tuesday, October 19, 2010
Tuesday, October 26, 2010
Tuesday, November 2, 2010
Monday, November 8, 2010
Tuesday, November 16, 2010
Monday, November 29, 2010
Tuesday, December 7, 2010

If you plan to attend these classes or have questions regarding the classes, please call or email Jamie Zeller at 1-847-251-3252 x6187 zellerj@wilmette39.org.

Thank you,
Jamie Zeller



Spanish Newsletter- October 2010



Concept of the month: "Ce" group (Numbers: *Once, doce, trece, catorce, quince*)

Kindergarten

Kindergarten Spanish has begun and we meet twice a week at McKenzie. Each week the students have been learning how to say their names in Spanish and answer the question *¿Cómo estás?* (How are you?) Their enthusiasm for the language is contagious! After their introduction unit, the kindergarteners started a unit on *La escuela* (School). They are learning to say words such as *lápiz* (pencil) and *papel* (paper). Every time we meet, the students are learning new games and songs all in Spanish. We're looking forward to a great year ahead!

First Grade

The first grade students have been extremely busy! They began the year with an introduction unit where they learned how to describe themselves with words such as *alto* (tall), *bajo* (short), and *rubio* (blonde). They also had a blast when they continued onto their family unit and begun to use words such as *hermano* (brother) and *abuelo* (grandfather). A great conversation topic would be to have your child describe your family for you en español! It has been so much fun getting to see these students everyday now that they are in first grade!

Second Grade

Second grade Spanish has started with a bang! During our first few weeks together, the students reviewed questions such as *¿Cómo te llamas?* (What's your name?), *¿Cómo estás?* (How are you?), and *¿Cómo eres tú?* (What are you like?). Señorita Whitman was so impressed with what they remembered from Kindergarten and first grade! Afterwards, they began their unit on school items. During this time, the students expanded upon their vocabulary and even used some new phrases such as *Necesito* (I need) and *Yo tengo* (I have). Make sure to ask your child to sing you their favorite *escuela* song in Spanish!

Third Grade

The third grade students began their year by asking and answering seven different questions in Spanish. They astounded their Spanish teachers by their impressive ability to answer questions such as *¿Cuál es tú clase favorita?* (What is your favorite class?) in complete sentences! The third graders are currently in their culture unit for the year... ¡*España!* (Spain). Each classroom has been studying major cities in Spain such as Madrid, Barcelona and Seville. The students have had the excellent opportunity to be able to look at artifacts and short video clips about the lifestyle in each city. Don't forget to ask your child all about this cultural experience!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders have been demonstrating amazing growth. The year began with a review of 9 conversation questions such as *¿Qué te gusta?* (What do you like?) and *¿Cuántas personas hay en tú familia?* (How many people are in your family?). Fourth graders also completed a unit in which they learned the entire alphabet in Spanish! The Alphabet March became one of their favorite songs and they marched around the room daily as they recited the alphabet. They also showed off their spelling skills in an exciting Spanish Spelling Bee- *Una abeja alfabética*. They can now spell any word in Spanish so put them to the test at home and ask them to spell a word for you!

¡Hasta luego!

Señorita Whitman

and

Sra. Alfaro

<http://www.wilmette39.org/~whitman/>