

December 13 – December 17, 2010

# McKenzie Monitor

## E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

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### From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

This week's snow, ice, and frigid temperatures have raised some parent questions that I would like to address.

**What temperature keeps students indoors?** We use the temperature recorded at 11:00 a.m. to determine whether or not students can spend lunchtime recess outdoors. When the temperature drops below 10 degrees with the wind chill, we remain inside.

**What outdoor clothing should my child wear/bring to school?** Students are required to have snow pants and boots to play in the snow. Those students who do not wear this gear are required to remain on the blacktop to keep their clothing dry. We do expect all children to come prepared with hats, gloves, and scarves, as we try to go outside everyday.

**Are there exceptions to these rules?** Even when the temperature allows us to be outdoors, there are other factors that can prevent us from doing so, such as the black ice that covered our blacktop earlier this week.

The winter weather seems to have increased the number of parents who are driving their children to/from school. This added traffic reminds us of the need to follow McKenzie's **Traffic Guidelines**—for both the ease and safety of dismissal. I am attaching the guidelines that can also be found on our school's website, and will be sending home a paper copy for you to share with friends, neighbors, or relatives that may be picking up your child at the end of the day. We **MUST** work together to solve the ongoing problems that surround our building. It takes patience and following the rules. Please remember that no one is allowed to park in the pick up lane, block the parking lot driveway, or double-park on any of the streets surrounding our school. Also, please note the changes that have gone into effect regarding one-way traffic on streets west of the school. PTA's **Civics & Safety Committee** will be meeting after winter break for the purpose of reviewing our current practices and recommending future improvements to our drop-off/pick-up procedures. Interested parties should contact chairperson, Ken Snedegar at [snedlink@mindspring.com](mailto:snedlink@mindspring.com).

**CogAt** results were sent home in **third graders'** backpacks yesterday. If your child did not bring home an envelope, please contact our school office.

Don't miss this month's **Spanish Newsletter**, attached below!

As our holiday festivities come to a close, I look forward to seeing you at school in the week ahead.

Best regards,

Dr. Welter

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

847.251.2295 x6300

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## **THIS WEEK...**

### **MONDAY 12/13**

- **LUNCH:** Baked Chicken Breast on WW Bun, Baked Chips, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **ENRICHMENT:** 3rd Grade In-Class Program, High-Tech/High-Touch – Simple Machines, (9 a.m./Flondro; 1 p.m./Martin)
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten -11:35-12:20 p.m.; 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grades - 3:20-4:20 p.m.

### **TUESDAY 12/14**

- **LUNCH:** Salad Bar, WW Roll, Soup, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **ENRICHMENT:** 3rd Grade In-Class Program, High-Tech/High-Touch – Simple Machines, (9 a.m./Torf; 1 p.m./Brighty)
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten -11:35-12:20 p.m.

### **WEDNESDAY 12/15**

- **LUNCH:** Turkey Nachos, Brown Rice, Mixed Veggies, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium
- **ENRICHMENT:** 3rd Grade In-Class Program, High-Tech/High-Touch – Simple Machines, (9 a.m./Safran)
- **REMINDER:** First Grade Music Program - Auditorium, 2:30-3:15 p.m.
- **OPEN GYM NIGHT:** McKenzie Gyms, 6-8 p.m.

### **THURSDAY 12/16**

- **LUNCH:** Square Pepperoni Pizza, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten -11:35-12:20 p.m.

### **FRIDAY 12/17**

- **LUNCH:** Hot Dogs on WW Bun, Baked Chips, Corn, Fresh Fruit, Milk

## **From the P.T.A.**

**McClubs Winter Session Update:** The fall session of McClubs is over and the winter session begins January 24, 2011. Thank you to the 100 parents who participated in the survey and

voted for future McClubs! Several of the ideas you voted for will be implemented in the next offering of McClubs, and other ideas are being evaluated for future sessions. Registration for the winter session begins January 8 at 8 a.m. and ends January 12 at 10 p.m. Please go to <http://www.mckenziepta/mcclubs> for schedule.

**Come out and play at Open Gym Night...** on Wednesday, December 15 from 6-8 p.m. in the McKenzie Gyms. Open Gym is open to all McKenzie students and their families. School entry is available through the back doors near the cafeteria. Please help keep our gym floors clean by bringing a clean pair of shoes if the weather outside is messy. Student lockers are not accessible during Open Gym.

**Promote Your Thing at Variety Show 2011!** We are offering YOU - the McKenzie Community - a chance to advertise your business in the 31<sup>st</sup> Variety Show Program. Ad rates are the same as last year, with ad sizes including full page, 1/2 and 1/4 pages. Reserving space is easy; simply contact Erin Lyons at [erin-john@att.net](mailto:erin-john@att.net) or 847-251-3762 for more information or to confirm your space today. Thanks for your support!

**Save the Date For Chix Mix!** The McKenzie Chix Mix will take place February 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Tickets will be going on sale after the Winter Break.

**Looking for the Perfect Holiday Gift?** Give the gift that gives back to District 39 schools -- honor a faculty or staff member or anyone else with a Certificate of Appreciation from the District 39 Education Foundation. Make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation (minimum online donation \$39) and we will create and deliver a beautiful keepsake certificate for the honoree. For more information, or to order a certificate, go to [www.d39foundation.org](http://www.d39foundation.org) and look for the Wall of Honor/Certificate of Appreciation links.

**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).

## On the Web...

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

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)

## MCKENZIE TRAFFIC GUIDELINES

**If you drive to school,** you must *either* use the drop-off/pick-up lane on Prairie Avenue *or* park your car legally and walk.

### **Drop-off/pick up lane on Prairie Avenue:**

- Enter the lane *ONLY* from the rear of the pick-up lane (the last slot of the lane is just south of the entrance to the north faculty parking lot). Do no cut in line.
- If the lane is full, circle around the block and try again. Do not double-park.
- Use turn signals when entering or exiting the lane.
- *Stay in your car* and move forward as space opens up ahead of you.
- Your child should get in your car *ONLY* while you're in the pick-up lane (*not* in the street, crosswalks, illegal parking spots, alleys, or parking lots). Tell your children to:
  - ~ Wait in front of the school until they see your car in the lane;
  - ~ Remember that you might be circling the block;
  - ~ Give you a chance to move your car forward in the lane before getting in.

**Legal Parking** is available on:

- Prairie Avenue, north of the staff parking lot
- Central Avenue, east of Prairie
- Washington Avenue, west of Prairie
- 15th Street
- Highland Avenue

**Staff Parking Only:** Limited spaces in the North and South parking lots are for McKenzie staff **ONLY**.

**If you walk to school,** please review the **Preferred Walking Route** and consider forming a "walking school bus" with your neighbors. Kids love to walk, and it is great exercise.

**No Dogs Allowed:** The Village of Wilmette prohibits dogs (even leashed) on school property. Violators are subject to a fine.

**Everyone Benefits!** This system works if everyone cooperates.

The pick-up lane opens up by 3:22 p.m. and is almost always finished (except in bad weather) by 3:25 p.m. When drivers block traffic, cut in line, double-park, or don't move up, children are endangered, traffics snarls and tempers fray. Thank you in advance for contributing to safety and smooth traffic flow!

**Please share this information with anyone who picks up your children ~**  
babysitters, grandparents, neighbors, and friends.



# Spanish Newsletter

## December 2010



Concept of the month: "Dieci" group (Numbers: 16,17,18,19)

### Kindergarten

The Kindergarteners have begun their unit on parts of the body. They are playing games, which help them practice words such as *pies* (feet), *nariz* (nose), and *piernas* (legs). The students have Spanish twice a week and it's amazing to see how much they remember everyday! Make sure to ask your child how to sing, "Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes" in Spanish!

### First Grade

First grade students have completed an entire unit on habitats. They are able to say various animals in Spanish and identify the habitat in which they live. They also spent time learning about their own backyard. Students have learned to say words such as, *grass* (hierba) and *flor* (flower). Students even completed a conversation activity where they explained items found in a backyard. Have your child be the *professor/a* and teach you some words at home.

### Second Grade

Before Thanksgiving break, the second graders culminated their ladybug unit by performing the play "La Mariquita Malhumorada" (The Grouchy Ladybug by Eric Carle). Not only did they practice their Spanish, but they also discussed what it takes to become an effective actor/actress. They did a fantastic job on their performance! Now they have moved onto their culture unit for the year. Students are learning about the country of Perú and studying the lifestyle of the Inca tribe. Some concepts they have studied are their lifestyle, forms of communication and education. Ask your child how life in Perú is similar and different than life in Wilmette.

### Third Grade

The third graders have transformed themselves into world famous chefs! After learning how to say different types of food, they went on to study various cooking terms such as *mezcla* (mix), *corta* (cut), and *calienta* (warm-up). The students then created their own soup recipe using all their Spanish knowledge. To show-off all they know, they performed their recipe on "Food Network en Español." They were so proud of themselves to be able to perform an entire presentation in Spanish. Make sure to encourage your child to perform it for you at home!

### Fourth Grade

Sra. Kus is back from maternity leave and thoroughly impressed with all the fourth graders' knowledge of ocean animals! We have used their knowledge and extended it to learn about animals from the fascinating and exotic Islas Galápagos. Students prepared for a research "trip" to the Islas by reading an article about the "Auturosaurus" and answering questions about it. Upon returning from the Islas next week, we will share facts about the rare animals we learned about. Certainly, the students will be eager to share their findings with you at home.

¡Hasta luego!

Señorita Whitman

and

Sra. Kus

[www.wilmette39.org/~whitman/](http://www.wilmette39.org/~whitman/)

[www.wilmette39.org/~kusniza/](http://www.wilmette39.org/~kusniza/)