

August 28 – September 4, 2009



# McKenzie Monitor

E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

## This Week...

### Sunday 8/30



New-To-McKenzie Family Picnic, 5pm

### Monday 8/31



Hot Dog on ww Bun, Baked Fries, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk

### Tuesday 9/1



Chicken Pasta Caesar Salad, Soup, ww Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk



Grocery Dollar Subscription Drive begins. [Click here for order form.](#)

### Wednesday 9/2



Rotini w/wo Meatballs, Breadstick, Salad, Fresh Fruit, Milk

### Thursday 9/3



Pizza – Round, Veggies & Dip, Fresh Fruit, Milk



Introduction to PTA Website, Calendar and Monitor for K & 1, 7:30pm & 8:30pm. [Click here for interactive calendar.](#)

### Friday 9/4



Tuna or Turkey on Wheat, Baked Chips, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk

### Monday 9/7



NO SCHOOL  
Happy Labor Day!

## From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

Community spirit is alive and well at McKenzie, as our custodial and maintenance staff, district technology team, support staff, teachers, and parents joined forces throughout the month of August to prepare for opening day. Many hands do make light work. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We are off to a wonderful start!

Our enrollment is currently at 537, approximately 25 more students than last year. I am happy to announce that Mrs. Becky Littman, the part-time assistant principal at Central School, will be helping out at McKenzie each Monday. Becky is a familiar face to many of you, when she previously served as McKenzie's assistant principal. I know you will join me in welcoming her back!

We will continue to count on your cooperation and support as we work to educate your children for the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Please be sure to mark your calendars for our Curriculum Nights on Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>. These important evenings will provide you with an educational road map for the year ahead. I look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,  
Dr. Denise Welter  
Principal  
[welterd@wilmette39.org](mailto:welterd@wilmette39.org)  
847.251.2295 x6300



[click here to go to:  
McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

## From the P.T.A.



New-To-McKenzie Picnic: 8/30 @5pm. Come meet, greet and eat together at our New-to-McKenzie Picnic! All families of kindergartners and new students are invited to this McKenzie Picnic! Come to Vattman Park with your dinner and drinks. We'll provide the popsicles. [For more information, click here.](#)



Curriculum Night Grades K & 1: 9/3 @ 6:30 pm Kindergarten (AM sections); 7:30 pm Kindergarten (PM sections) and Grade 1. This is a once a year, parent-only event you won't want to miss. Teachers give classroom specific overviews of curriculum, schedules and policies as well as provide opportunities for parents to sign up for classroom events.



Introduction to the McKenzie Monitor, PTA Website and On-Line Calendars: 9/3 & 9/10 at 7:30pm or 8:30 pm following ALL curriculum nights in the AUDITORIUM. Please join us for a ten-minute overview of your PTA's newly designed electronic communication systems.



McKenzie September PTA Meeting: 9/8 at 9:15 am. Please attend our first PTA meeting for the 2009-2010 school year. Principal, Dr. Denise Welter, will be the featured speaker. Come meet other parents, learn what's planned for this year and volunteer!



Curriculum Night Grades 2, 3 & 4: 9/10 at 6:30 pm Grade 2; 7:30 pm Grades 3 & 4. See description above for Grades K & 1.



PTA Membership/Directory Purchase: Don't forget to join the PTA! You'll support school programs, and receive your school directory. Please note that joining the PTA is the only way to get your school directory. The membership form is available at [www.mckenziepta.com](http://www.mckenziepta.com) or by e-mailing Sonja Iribarren at [sonjabeals@gmail.com](mailto:sonjabeals@gmail.com).



Ice Cream Social: 9/13, 1pm- 3pm at the McKenzie Blacktop/Playground/Gym. Come join us for this welcome back to school event. A great place to reconnect with old friends and meet new ones. [For more information, click here.](#)



If you did not receive an electronic copy of the McKenzie Monitor, please e-mail or contact Mary Condon at [mcondon@mckenziepta.com](mailto:mcondon@mckenziepta.com) or 847-920-9194.



SCHOOL SUPPLIES CO-CHAIR: Are you interested in learning about the School Supplies Program and then Co-Chairing this school year? This job includes working with grade level teachers to coordinate school supplies lists for our vendor, publicizing the program and distributing orders. Please contact Maria Miller at [rerunmiller@yahoo.com](mailto:rerunmiller@yahoo.com) for more information.



SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE: Don't forget to pick up extra school supplies for the McKenzie School Supply Drive! All supplies will be donated to needy children at schools in Chicago. Look for the drop box in the front lobby thru September 11th. [Click here for more information.](#)



ICE CREAM SOCIAL: Volunteers needed for this great community builder. Contact Margaret Drier at 920-9394 if you are interested.



Welcome to the first edition of The McKenzie Monitor! This new format will allow us to e-mail you once a week with up-to-date information about McKenzie School events and issues. To learn more about the McKenzie PTA website, on-line calendar and The Monitor, join us for a ten minute overview AFTER any classroom Curriculum Night in the Auditorium.



Paper copies of the McKenzie Monitor will be sent home via Back Pack Express on Mondays for the first four weeks of school. Beginning September 28th, paper copies will be available at the McKenzie front office, but will not be sent home via Backpack Express.



[click here to go to:  
McKenzie P.T.A. Website](#)

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## From the Superintendent

The Scoop...  
...August 2009

Dear District 39 Families,

Welcome back! I hope parents and kids alike had a relaxing summer and found some time for family fun. And I trust everyone is ready to kick off the 2009-2010 school year. The slower pace of summer is always welcome, but the returning excitement of students and staff is energizing. The hallways come alive as soon as the students stroll back in for "Meet & Greet." It doesn't take long for the daily routine to get established, even for our youngest students. Then, our 3700 students get down to the business of becoming tomorrow's leaders.

As I visited our schools on opening day, students were reconnecting with old friends, finding their place in a new classroom, and organizing a new stash of school supplies. Faculty and staff were warmly welcoming new students. The cafeterias were bustling with lunch preparations, the computers in the classrooms were "glowing," and the school buses were "rolling." All was right in D39.

You may be wondering what is changing in the 2009-2010 school year. As you know, new progress reports were in place for all grades last year. This year, the schedule for parent-teacher conferences will be modified to better coincide with the new progress reporting schedule. Our new teachers will benefit from one-to-one mentoring as the school year begins, furthering the mentoring model that began last year. We have updated our guidelines on H1N1 based on new recommendations from the CDC: [www.wilmette39.org/hottopics/H1N1Aug09.html](http://www.wilmette39.org/hottopics/H1N1Aug09.html). We are happy to report that the CDC has scaled back its concern at this point. We will continue to be proactive and will let you know if there are any more changes as the flu season progresses.

Based on great success last year, and with the support of our PTO/As and our Educational Foundation, we have more SmartBoards throughout the District. We have had great feedback from teachers and students who have used this interactive technology. SmartBoards are now in all six schools and I encourage you to see one in action if you have the opportunity.

As the new school year begins, we are starting a review of our science curriculum. A committee of teachers will look at current research in science education, assessment results, best practices in other districts,

and the Illinois Learning Standards for science. We look forward to hearing the recommendations of this committee at the conclusion of this process. Also, we are taking our first steps in exploring a significant addition to WJHS that would include new science labs. More information will follow on this as our plans progress.

Thursday, September 17th will be "Olympic Day" in District 39. As we get close to the date when we learn whether Chicago will host the 2016 games, our students will get to hear from Olympic athletes firsthand. Thanks to the efforts of D39 parents Tony and Terri Lorenz and Bev Kruger, each of our schools will host an Olympic athlete who will talk about Chicago's Olympic bid, provide an athletic demonstration, and talk to students about overcoming great odds. They will help our students understand the importance of six key values – hope, respect, harmony, celebration, excellence, and friendship.

So you can see that our school year is off to an exciting start. I will continue the practice of regular communication with parents – you will see this "Scoop" every other month via email with updates in between as needed. I want to hear from you with any comments, suggestions, concerns, or thoughts and am always available by email ([lechnerr@wilmette39.org](mailto:lechnerr@wilmette39.org)) or phone (847-256-2450 x6030).

Your partner in education,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray". The signature is stylized with a large, looped 'R' and a cursive 'ay'.

**[click here to go to:](#)**  
**[District 39 Website](#)**