

December 6 – December 10, 2010

# McKenzie Monitor

## E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

---

### From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

Our Student Council has deemed the first Friday of each month **School Spirit Day**, with each having a special theme. Today was Sports Day had many of our students donning their favorite team wear. Our fourth graders are sparking building-wide interest in geography, as they prepare for the **National Geography Bee**. McKenzie has participated in this program for the past 15 years. After each classroom holds a preliminary competition, two finalists from each classroom will participate in a final round of questioning on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>. Our school winner will take a written exam in January to determine eligibility for the state contest. The questions include physical, political, cultural, and economic aspects of geography. We have found this to be a great motivator for learning about people and places in the world around us.

**CogAt Testing** results for our current third graders will be sent home in sealed envelopes via student backpacks on Thursday, Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Please contact me directly should you prefer to pick up the envelope or have it sent home in the mail.

It was wonderful to see so many McKenzie parents at the New Trier showing of *Race to Nowhere*. This thought-provoking documentary offers us many topics for follow-up discussions. I do hope you will take advantage of the remaining venues that our **Parent Learning Network** has planned for this year. In sync with this, the District 39 Community Review Committee (CRC) is studying the topic of Social Responsibility, one of the areas highlighted in the five-year "CONNECTED" Strategic Plan. As part of this project, the CRC is seeking parental input to help determine how important these areas are to you in general and how you think these concepts might be addressed in our schools. Please take the time to complete the survey **by December 13th**, as this is a critical initiative for the CRC. <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QLS7L87>

Please note that **Junior Great Books** registration has been extended through **Monday** (see below).

A special **THANK YOU** to all who opened your hearts and wallets to the families at Carman-Buckner School. Because of your generosity, cars full of presents and gift cards will be delivered tomorrow morning, making the holidays much **HAPPIER** for MANY!

Enjoy your weekend—rumor has it, winter is making her debut!

Dr. Welter

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

847.251.2295 x6300

## DID YOU KNOW?????

**National Board Certification** is an advanced teaching credential that a preK-12<sup>th</sup> grade educator can choose to pursue. It is designed to recognize effective and accomplished teachers who meet high national standards for the profession. As part of the certification process, candidates complete 10 assessments that are reviewed by trained teachers in their certificate areas. The assessments include four portfolio entries that feature teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge. McKenzie School now has **12** nationally board certified teachers, with the recent addition of **Ms. Rachel Gerber** and **Ms. Dana Gunderson**. Congratulations to them both!

## THIS WEEK...

---

### Monday 12/6

- **LUNCH:** Chicken Pasta Caesar Salad, Soup, WW Roll, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **McCLUBS:** 8-8:45 a.m. - Scooters and More; 3:20-4:15 p.m. - After School Sports, Dance/Hip Hop, Legos
- **REMINDER:** Junior Great Books registration deadline -- go to the PTA website

### Tuesday 12/7

- **LUNCH:** Tuna or Turkey on WW, Baked Chips, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **McCLUBS:** 8-8:45 a.m. - Smart Board; 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Bollywood Dancing, Hoops, Amazing Minds, Drum Club
- **ENRICHMENT:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Uhler, Lauer), Shedd Aquarium; buses leave at 9:15 a.m., return at 2:30 p.m.; bring sack lunch and drink

### Wednesday 12/8

- **LUNCH:** Hamburger or Cheeseburger on WW Bun, Baked Fries, Mixed Vegetables, Fresh Fruit, Milk

- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium
- **ENRICHMENT:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Bialk, Cedoz), Shedd Aquarium; buses leave at 9:15 a.m., return at 2:30 p.m.; bring sack lunch and drink
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Intro to Nerf Football, Express Yourself, Cheerleading, Painting

## Thursday 12/9

- **LUNCH:** Round Cheese Pizza, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **ENRICHMENT:** 4<sup>th</sup> Grade (Wooten), Shedd Aquarium; buses leave at 9:15 a.m., return at 2:30 p.m.; bring sack lunch and drink
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. – Flag Football, My Gym

## Friday 12/10

- **LUNCH:** Veggie Egg Roll, Brown Rice, Broccoli, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. – Baseball Club, Lego Club

## From the P.T.A.

**Registration Extended for Jr. Great Books** – Register now through Monday, December 6 for McKenzie Junior Great Books (JGB). This 8-week program starts in January and is for first through fourth graders. Once a week, discussion groups led by parent volunteers meet at lunch/recess to discuss JGB readings. The cost is \$30. Go to [http://www.mckenziepta.com/shop\\_pta.html](http://www.mckenziepta.com/shop_pta.html) to register!

**PTA Movie Night is Next Friday!** The PTA will be showing Disney's animated *Robin Hood* on Friday, Dec. 10 from 6:30-8 p.m. This event is open only to current McKenzie students -- no siblings please. Admission is \$4 cash or check at the door. Building doors open at 6:25 p.m. (no early drop offs!), and pick up is promptly at 8 p.m. While this is a kids-only event, we do need a few parent volunteers! Contact Elizabeth Ward ([dolceandward@yahoo.com](mailto:dolceandward@yahoo.com)) or Kristen Danielsens ([thedanielsens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thedanielsens@sbcglobal.net)) with questions or to volunteer.

**Sing, Dance, Set Design, Stage Crew?** Share what you can do! The 2011 McKenzie Variety Show Kick Off Meeting will be held this coming Tuesday, December 7<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 - 8pm in the McKenzie auditorium. All are welcome! Questions, please contact Wendy Parris at [parris@ameritech.net](mailto:parris@ameritech.net).

**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 (mimimum 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](#)