

November 8 - November 12, 2010

McKenzie Monitor

E-NEWS YOU CAN USE

From the Principal

Dear McKenzie Families,

How quickly the days and weeks seem to be flying by! It's hard to believe we are already in the month of November. We are looking forward to having you with us at the upcoming **Parent-Teacher conferences**. This is the first of two conferences conducted this year. Because conferences are scheduled back-to-back, 20-minute intervals, we ask that parents arrive on time, and honor the fact that another family is usually waiting to be next. If you should forget your assigned time, or need to cancel your appointment, please call our office. Our secretaries will be happy to assist you. All of our specials teachers will be in their classrooms during conferences. You are welcome to drop by or to email them to schedule an appointment.

Speaking of specials, be sure to see below for this month's edition of the **Spanish News**. On Nov. 15th, we will welcome back from maternity leave Sra. Kusnitzow and say a fond farewell to Sra. Alfaro, who has been with us since the beginning of the year. We have been so fortunate to have Karin with us and wish her the best in her next assignment!

The recent outbreak of stomach virus reminds us of the importance of teaching our students good hygiene. Simple, yet important, habits such as frequent hand washing and keeping hands away from mouths can help to reduce the spread of germs. Please remember the district policy regarding the safe return to school: students must be fever free and symptom free for 24 hours before they can return to school.

In other news.....

- CONTAGION Casting Call Information There will be an informational meeting for all parents who complied with the student work permit process to have their child appear as an "extra" in CONTAGION on November 23rd and 24th. Rich King, casting director, will be at Wilmette Junior High School at 4 PM on Monday, November 15th to go over all of the filming particulars (parent responsibility during filming, food services, clothing, hours, etc.). Rich is very excited to meet with you and says that the kids are going to have a great time! If you have questions, please contact Principal Melanie Horowitz (horowitm@wilmette39.org).
- Tonight is McKenzie Mingle, beginning at 6:00 pm at the Winnetka Women's Club. It's not too late to join the fun, as tickets are still available for sale at the door. I look forward to seeing many of you there!
- Tomorrow, Nov. 6th, McKenzie's blacktop is the place for you to drop off any bicycles or scooters your children may have outgrown. 4th grader, Bennett Basil, along with his family, will be accepting your donations between 9:00-11:00 am. This is the 3rd straight year that Pedal Power is being held at our school, with all donations being used as rewards for children earning good grades in Chicago Public Schools. This is a great way for you to make

room in your garage for the upcoming winter months, receive a tax deduction, AND contribute to a great cause!

Have a wonderful weekend, everyone.

Dr. Welter

welterd@wilmette39.org

847-512-6300

DID YOU KNOW???? Every Wednesday morning from 8:25-8:50, two students from each 1st-4th classroom gather for Student Council? They do projects to help the McKenzie and Wilmette communities. The representatives give a report to their classes on what they did that morning. Just this week they helped to care for our school gardens.

THIS WEEK...

Monday 11/8

- **LUNCH:** Citrus French Toast, Turkey Sausage, Carrots, Fresh Fruit, Milk
- **CHESS CLUB:** Kindergarten - 11:35-12:20 p.m.; Grades 1-4 - 3:15-4:15 p.m.
- **McCLUBS:** 8-8:45 a.m. - Scooters and More; 3:20-4:15 p.m. - After School Sports, Dance/Hip Hop, Legos

Tuesday 11/9

- **LUNCH:** Chicken Pasta Caesar Salad, Soup, WW Roll, 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
- **LECTURE:** 7 p.m. – “Team Bully Free” by Educator/Comedian Chris McBrien - Marie Murphy Community Room, 2921 Illinois Rd.

Wednesday 11/10

- **LUNCH:** Rotini & Meatballs, Salad, WW Roll, Fruit, Jell-O, Milk
- **STUDENT COUNCIL:** 8:25-8:50 a.m., Auditorium
- **ENRICHMENT:** 2nd and 3rd Grade (all); 2:15-3 p.m. Ensemble Espanol (Auditorium)
- **McCLUBS:** 3:20-4:15 p.m. - Intro to Nerf Football, Express Yourself, Cheerleading, Painting

Thursday 11/11

- **NO SCHOOL: Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Friday 11/12

- **NO SCHOOL: Parent-Teacher Conferences**

From the P.T.A.

Junior Great Books Coming Up - The McKenzie Junior Great Books (JGB) Program will begin in January for 1st through 4th graders. Once a week, discussion groups led by parent volunteers will meet at lunch/recess to discuss JGB readings specifically selected to encourage analytical reading and a love of literature. The cost of materials for the 8-week program is \$30. Please see http://www.mckenziepta.com/shop_pay.html to register before November 20th. Call Danae Melnick at 847-251-4703 with questions.

It's Time for the Yearbook Cover Contest! Encourage your children to enter their art work for a chance to appear on the cover of the 2010-2011 Yearbook. We'll also include as much art work as possible elsewhere in the book. Get contest rules and entry forms at www.mckenziepta.com or students can get them directly from Ms. Porter or the office. B&W drawings only, please. Entries due 11/16, with voting by the fourth graders on November 18. Questions? Contact Sara Kurensky at sara@kurensky.org.

Holiday Canned Food Drive – The Student Council is sponsoring a holiday canned food drive from Wed., November 10, through Fri., Nov. 19. The canned food will be donated to local food pantries. Look for the collection containers in the school lobby.

Share the Warmth Hat and Mitten Drive - The McKenzie Sharing Committee is collecting NEW hats and mittens for children in need at Carman-Buckner School in Waukegan. Keep your eyes open for these winter items when shopping for your own kids. Please bring your purchases to the McKenzie lobby and look for the Sharing box. Thanks for your support!

Share the Feast Grocery Dollar Collection - Put food on the holiday tables of the neediest families at Carman-Buckner School by purchasing grocery dollars. Purchase on-line by clicking on the link or drop-off a check to the Sharing Committee in-box written in an increment of \$25 (\$25, \$50, \$75, \$200, etc.) to the McKenzie PTA. Collection ends Tuesday, 11/30.

Team Bully Free Lecture - On Tuesday, November 9th, Chris McBrien, a.k.a. the Magic Storyteller, is speaking to parents at 7 p.m. at the Marie Murphy Community Room (2921 Illinois Road) on the issue of bullying in its many forms. Come hear a curriculum-based and character-building presentation by an educator and comedian who is known for teaching, inspiring and motivating. For more information contact the Avoca PTA at avocaptc@gmail.com or check out www.magicstoryteller.biz.

PLN Event Rescheduled - PLN invites McKenzie parents to view the documentary film, *Race to Nowhere: The Dark Side of America's Achievement Culture*, <http://www.racetonowhere.com/>, on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. at New Trier HS (Winnetka campus). McKenzie parents are invited to meet at the entrance of Gaffney Auditorium at 6:45 pm. Dr. Welter will facilitate an

informal discussion following the movie. Please RSVP to Julie Johnson at jujohnson007@sbcglobal.net.

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 mrittner@brinkshofer.com.

On the Web...

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

[McKenzie Elementary School Website](#)

[District 39 Website](#)



Spanish Newsletter- November 2010



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

Kindergarten

The kindergarteners have really blossomed into Spanish speakers! They are continuing on in their school unit where they are now learning how to say places and people around the school. They have continued playing games and singing songs to help them remember useful vocabulary words such as *baño* (bathroom), *gimnasio* (gym) and *biblioteca* (library). Their classroom teachers have even mentioned how they are using their Spanish vocabulary words throughout their daily routine at school! ¡Qué fabuloso!

First Grade

The first grade students have been learning about worms in Spanish to go along with their science curriculum. They are now able to label the parts of the worm and describe them using new Spanish vocabulary. Some of their favorite words so far have been *baboso* (slimy) and *ondulado* (curvy). Make sure to ask your child to tell you what worms need to survive en español! You may hear them saying words such as *comida* (food), *agua* (water) or *aire* (air).

Second Grade

The second graders have sure been busy! They started by learning all about *mariquitas* (ladybugs)! The students labeled the parts of the ladybug, described them, and even made their own *mariquita loca* (crazy ladybug)! Then, they continued on into a mini unit where they reviewed their colors from Kindergarten Spanish. It was amazing to see how much they remembered! After colors, the second grade students reviewed telling time in Spanish. They used phrases such as, "*Son las dos*" (It's two o'clock) and "*Son las cinco y media*." (It's five thirty). Make sure to ask them to show off their skills at home! Srta. Whitman is continually amazed by their conversational skills and enthusiasm for Spanish!

Third Grade

The third grade students have really taken off in Spanish! They began their plant unit by learning how to say different parts of the plant in Spanish. Words you may hear your child saying are *tallo* (stem), *pétalo* (petal) or *hoja* (leaf). The students also had the opportunity to create their own *planta loca* (crazy plant). For this activity, the students wrote an entire paragraph describing their plant – all in Spanish!! Now, they are learning how to say various foods/vegetables. They are participating in various games and singing songs to help them remember words such as *lechuga* (lettuce), *guisantes* (peas) and *apio* (celery). Make sure to ask them how to say their favorite vegetable in Spanish at the dinner table!

Fourth Grade

Fourth graders are officially ocean experts! They can name four oceans, 15 ocean animals such as “*la nutria*” (otter), as well as the distinguishing characteristics for each animal in Spanish. Amazing! They have worked in groups asking questions about each animal, such as “*¿Tiene agallas o tiene pulmones?*” (Does it have gills or lungs?) or “*¿Tiene sangre fría o sangre caliente?*” (Is it cold or warm-blooded?) They have also learned the difference between the forms “*tiene*” (has) and “*tienen*” (have) when talking about one or more animals. Ask them to sing all four parts of the ocean song for you!

As always, please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or comments! If you would like to conference with either one of us, we will be available on Thursday, November 11th and Friday, November 12th. Please email us to make an appointment.

¡Hasta pronto!

Señorita Whitman
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and

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