



Hawk Talk

Michael Havens, Principal
September 25, 2015
(360) 596-8400 Office
(360) 596-8403 Student Absent/Late Line
Website: <http://mckenny.osd.wednet.edu/>

A Message from the Principal

Happy September!

We've had a great start to the school year. The students have been doing a fantastic job of following our school-wide behavior expectations of Be Safe, Be Kind, Be Respectful and Be Responsible. Last Friday, eight students were recognized in class with Golden Hawk Awards. The Golden Hawk Award is a high honor and it is one of the ways that we reinforce positive behaviors at our school.

This past Monday, approximately 10 students were recognized during the morning announcements with McKenny Life Skills awards. Daily, students are acknowledged for positive behaviors through the distribution of Life Skills tickets. Students turn these in to a bucket in the main office and each Monday, names are drawn for recognition during the announcements. Also on Mondays, we recognize excellent hallway behavior by honoring a deserving class with the Golden Shoe Award. Ms. Howe's first graders received the first Golden Shoe of the year for consistently moving safely through the halls with zero voice level and doing so without reminders. Finally, we recognize excellent behavior at assemblies by honoring a class with the Golden Trophy. We had a fabulous first assembly of the year on Wednesday. It was really challenging to pick out one class to honor. However, when we were singing our school song, Mrs. Johnson's second graders really provided a lot of volume and enthusiasm and they walked out with the first Golden Trophy of the year. These are just some of the ways that we work to honor students for positive behaviors. We have awesome students at McKenny and we want them to know how much we appreciate them.

McKenny Life Skills

Each month, we hold an assembly to highlight one or two Life Skills and staff members focus on identifying students who exhibit the characteristics of that Life Skill. McKenny Life Skills include: Friendship, Caring, Cooperation, Flexibility, Initiative, Perseverance, Courage, Responsibility, Common Sense, Problem Solving, Integrity, Effort, Patience, Organization, Sense of Humor, and Curiosity.

Mrs. Barre worked with nine fifth graders to develop a presentation for our first assembly of the year. The students did a fantastic job of presenting this year's first Life Skill FRIENDSHIP. Over the next month we will be keeping an eye out for students who show excellent friendship skills.

Volunteers at McKenny

Thank you to all our volunteers who day in, and day out, come to McKenny to volunteer with our students. In accordance with the Olympia School District Volunteer policy, all volunteers who work with students, help in the classroom, go on field trips, etc. must have on file a Volunteer Application form in the school office.

Early Release – Wednesday, October 7st

School releases at 12:05pm

No Preschool

Early Release Information

Beginning in October we will have 7 early release days for teacher collaboration, 8 early release days for parent/teacher conferences, 2 early releases for teacher grading and 1 early release for the last day of school. Early release is for Kindergarten through 5th grades. We will release at 12:05 and lunch will be provided.

Teacher Collaboration: October 7, November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 2 and May 4.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: October 27-30 and March 29 – April 1.

Elementary Grading: January 29 and June 3

Last Day of School: June 17 (barring no make-up days)

AM Kindergarten & Preschool Parents – Early Release Information

AM Kindergarten (9:00am to 12:05pm)

AM Kindergarten students will extend their school day to 12:05 and ride home with the rest of the students at our school. Lunch will be available for purchase. Kindergarten students who ride the bus home will still need to be met at the bus by a parent or sibling.

Preschool

Preschool students will not attend school on these 18 early release days.

Individual School Pictures

Smile big and bright! Wednesday, October 14th will be our individual school picture day. If you would like to assist with pictures, please contact Debbie in the office. We need 2 volunteers from 9:00am to approximately 12:30pm. Thanks.

The Great Washington ShakeOut

McKenny Elementary is joining millions of people worldwide practicing how to Drop, Cover and Hold on October 15th at 10:15am during the Great ShakeOut Earthquake Drill.

Teacher In-Service Day

Please mark your calendar for Friday, October 16th as a non school day for all students. McKenny teachers will be working on our School Improvement Plan.

Conference Week

Parent/teacher conferences will be held Tuesday through Friday, October 27th – 30th. Student release time is 12:05pm each day for Kindergarten through 5th grade. Please do not bring siblings (younger or older) in to the conference. Siblings may read in the pod area or look around at the book fair. Teachers do not have a lot of flexibility to make changes in conference times. We appreciate you making your appointment time a priority.

Also there will be no AM/PM Preschool held this week.

Scholastic Book Fair

Visit the book fair in the library before or after your child's conference on Tuesday through Thursday 11:00 to 6:00pm and Friday 11:00 to 4:00. There are some great books again this year!

Playground Rules

We would like to take a moment and share the McKenny Elementary Playground Rules with parents so you will know our expectations of students of the playground:

1. Playground Para Educators are in charge.
2. Stay within playground boundaries.
3. Use equipment in a responsible, appropriate and safe manner.
4. Recess is over when the bell rings. Walk immediately to your area. (When you reach your line, hands to self and voice at level 1)
5. Use only soft plastic bats and balls, no hardballs.
6. Rough play such as wrestling, kicking, play fighting or pushing is not allowed.
7. Inappropriate language or gestures are not allowed.
8. Ask an adult to use the bathroom. You may not leave the playground without permission.
9. If someone is bothering you or being unkind tell a Para Educator.
10. An orange cone next to equipment indicates that the area is unsafe and off limits.
11. Dirt, rocks, sticks and bark are to remain on the ground.
12. Walk in the walking zone.
13. Play in a non-competitive, fun and friendly manner to ensure safety.
14. Jump ropes to remain on blacktop only.
15. INCLUDE ALL STUDENTS.



Cell Phone Policy Reminder

Each year we see an increase of families who have their children bring cell phones to school. We understand the purpose and appreciate that families utilize this tool for the safety of students. Please remember that our school policy allows students to bring cell phones to school as long as they are turned off and left in a backpack during school hours. Teachers or our office staff can also hold them for students during the day if they did not bring a backpack. Students can access school phones during the day with permission of an adult. This policy reduces interruptions in the classroom and keeps our focus on learning. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

Community Flyers

Olympia School District will no longer be distributing hard copies of community flyers to all students at the elementary school level. Instead, OSD will post flyers electronically to the school district's website. You can find approved flyers in the "Community Events & Activities" section at:

osd.wednet.edu/community_events__activities.

Sending Money to School

Make sure the check or envelope is clearly marked with your child's name, teacher's name, amount (if cash) and indicate what the money is for (field trip, lunch, etc.) so that we can direct the check or cash to the correct person. Please send the exact amount. The office does not have petty cash to make change.

Planned Absence Request Form

Remember, if you are going on vacation or on a trip, please complete a Planned Absence Request form. These forms are available in the office or call us and we will send one home with your student.

Attendance & Absences

Prompt and regular attendance is necessary for successful school work. Anytime your child is absent from school, parents are required to call the attendance line at **(360) 596-8403** to report the reason your child is not in school. **Please call before 9:10am.** The attendance line is a 24 hour voicemail number that you can call anytime; or send a note to the teacher/office explaining the reason for your child's absence the next day. A student is marked **unexcused** if they are absent from school, and the office does not receive a phone call or email the day of the absence, OR if there was **no** written or verbal notification given to the office prior to the absence, Olympia School District Policies and Procedures Policy 3200 state: When a student reaches 10 or more total unexcused absences during the current school year, the District is required to file a court petition. Unexcused absences **cannot** be amended after **72 hours** from the date of the absence. Thank you for your cooperation.

Student Handbook and Monthly Hawk Talk Newsletter

The McKenny Student Handbook will be available by October online at mckenny.osd.wednet.edu. Students will also receive a copy for home. The McKenny monthly newsletters are also posted on the school's website.

Do You Have Family Access?

Family Access is a web based tool designed to allow parents/guardians to view all their children records, update student and emergency contact information, see attendance, test scores, health information and Food Service purchases and payments. For a form go to osd.wednet.edu go to **For Parents**, click on **Skyward Family Access** and download the form or you can pick up a form at the school office.

Food Service

Computerized lunch accounts are provided for each student in Full Day Kindergarten and grades 1st through 5th. Parents can add money to the lunch accounts at any time. Please send a check or cash in an envelope to school labeled with your child's name, teacher and the amount. Student Breakfast \$1.60; Student Lunch \$2.55; Reduced price K-3 - no charge; Reduced price 4-5 - \$.40; Milk \$.60 and Adult Lunch \$3.45.

Up-Coming Events

October

- 5 School Board mtg @ 6:30
- 7 Early Release @ 12:05
- 9 PTO Movie Night
- 13 PTO mtg @ 6:30
- 14 Individual pictures
- 15 Great Washington Shake Out (earthquake drill)
- 16 No School – Teacher in-service
- 19 School Board mtg @ 6:30
- 23 Kg pumpkin patch field trip 9:00 to 11:30
- 23 Hawk talk newsletter sent home

PTO

The McKenny PTO welcomes you to another year! For anyone who is new to McKenny Elementary or who has never had the opportunity to be involved in our programs, please take a moment to glance at what we do and why!

What We Do

The mission of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is to enrich the student experience at McKenny Elementary. To achieve this, we build relationships within the school and community, volunteer our time at the school and in the classroom, and support and organize programs and activities.

How We Raise Money

The McKenny PTO collects membership dues and sponsors fundraisers every year. In the 2014-2015 school year, we achieved the following:

- Track improvements
- School grounds improvements
- New chairs for the computer lab
- \$10,000 to continue funding for the Math Support position

How You Can Help

The PTO can always use volunteers. We currently have two Committee Chair positions open: Fund Run and Staff Appreciation. Please let us know if you are available for one of those positions, a particular event, or willing to be called upon as needed. If interested in volunteering please contact

Amanda Benjamin, PTO President at lakeman@hotmail.com or Kristen Stewart, PTO Vice President at kristencecil@hotmail.com .

Ready! Set! Shop!!

Box Tops for Education - Keep those scissors sharp and keep clipping those Box Tops for Education! For more information, contact Box Top Committee Chair Marny Howell at marny421@yahoo.com or read more about Box Tops for Education at www.boxtopsforeducation.com .

Do you have a Target REDcard? Every time you shop, not only do you save 5%, but McKenny can benefit with up to 1% of your purchase. Visit Target.com/TCOE or call 800-316-6142 to designate our school. Teachers, parents, grandparents, friends, neighbors – anyone who wants to support McKenny is welcome, so spread the word!

Shoparoo! Shop.... Snap.... Earn! Get started today by downloading the free app, selecting McKenny Elementary and snapping a picture of your first receipt! Whether you're shopping at a supercenter, dollar store, or local convenience store – it doesn't matter where you shop or what items you buy – Shoparoo will make a cash donation for every receipt! Check out www.shoparoo.com for more details.

Do you shop at Fred Meyer? The Fred Meyer Community Rewards program lets you earn rewards for your favorite organization just by shopping with your rewards card! Visit fredmeyer.com to sign into your account and designate McKenny as your organization of choice and start earning those rewards!

Movie Night:

Monsters University!

Our first movie night of the school year will be Friday, October 9th and will feature Monsters University. Movie Night is \$5 for the first student and \$4 for each additional student. Doors open at 6:15 pm and the movie begins at 6:30 pm. Price includes an intermission popcorn snack, drink, and licorice. Supervision is provided – but we'd love some company! Parents who stay to help supervise earn a coupon for free admission to an upcoming Movie Night. If you're interested in volunteering or have any questions, please contact Frank Durocher at etnpnys@gmail.com. You can go to mckennyppto.org to print, complete, and return your registration form by October 8th.

Ideas Needed!!

Every year the PTO sponsors a school wide enrichment event. In the past we have had presentations from authors and last year had a day long interactive program from the Pacific Science Center. We're always looking for new ideas and if there is something you know about or have seen done at other schools, we would love to hear about it! We will be voting on the enrichment event at our next PTO meeting on October 9th so please come share your ideas with us. If you're unable to attend the meeting, please pass along any information you would like shared to our PTO President, Amanda Benjamin at lakeman@hotmail.com.

Calendar Check:

Our next PTO meeting is Tuesday, October 13th at 6:30 pm in the school library. Thank you to everyone for the great turnout at our September meeting!