



Hawk Talk

Michael Havens, Principal
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Happy Holidays!
from your McKenny Staff



A Message from the Principal

It's has been a great first few months of the McKenny school year and I want to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy and safe Winter Break and an enjoyable start to the new year. Thank you so much for the support you give to your children and to our staff members.

Many of our students are really excited for winter break. However, don't let newly acquired academic skills go to waste. Please review the list below for nine ideas for activities you can do with your children over the next couple of weeks to keep their brains engaged and spend time together.

- 1. Play Board Games** - There are many educational games out there today that are also fun. Plan a family game night for at least one evening during the winter break. Play games such as Scrabble, where children can learn new words, or Trivial Pursuit, where they can learn new facts.
- 2. Work on a jigsaw puzzle together** - On Thanksgiving, my extended family and I worked on a jigsaw puzzle (a map of the world) throughout the day. People worked in shifts when they wanted. It was very enjoyable and all participants felt a sense of accomplishment when we finished just before Turkey time. This activity could stretch over the entire two weeks with specific times set aside for group work.
- 3. Read a book, then watch the movie** - You and your child could read a book that has been made into a movie. Have a conversation about the best parts of the book and what you expect to see in the movie. After you watch the movie together, have your child tell you the differences between the book and the movie. Ask questions such as: What scenes were in the book that were not in the movie? What were some things that were in the movie that did not show up in the book? Why do you think that is? This will help your child with verbally explaining himself/herself, and determining similarities and differences.
- 4. Read for Pleasure** - Book reports and required reading have their place, but that place is not during winter break. Let kids read what they want and watch their reading skills improve. Read aloud to kids or take turns reading from favorite stories as a family. Afterwards, ask kids comprehension questions to deepen their learning. Encourage reading by giving books as gifts.
- 5. Keep a winter break diary** - Have your child keep a winter break diary where all activities during winter break can be recorded. This will help your child keep finely honed writing skills and, down the road, it may serve as a great way to recall wintertime memories from childhood.
- 6. Visit an Online Museum** - Too snowy (or rainy) during winter break to get out and visit your favorite museum? Don't fret. You and your child can visit many museums across the U.S. virtually over the Internet. Some high-quality choices are the Online Titanic Museum, Olga's Gallery Online Art Museum, Smithsonian Online, and Museum Stuff which is a clearinghouse of thousands of online museums.
- 7. Explore Ms. Barre's Library Web Site** - Ms. Barre has spent many years pulling together tons of valuable resources onto her portion of the McKenny web site. Spend some time over break discovering links such as Moviemaking: Animoto, and Learning Style Online Quiz.

8. Write Thank-You Notes - Writing within authentic contexts is a great way for kids to sharpen writing, spelling and penmanship skills. Have kids write notes of thanks or friendship to family members, teachers, and friends. Help kids brainstorm what they want to write. Writing thank-you notes is also a great way to teach kids about addressing envelopes.

9. Keep a Rain Record - It's likely that we will get some rain during this winter break. Have your child keep a record of the date and time when it rains, and how much rain we get. Perhaps we'll get lucky and kids will also have the chance to record snowfall. This can help students with making scientific observations.

All of these ideas (and I'm sure you have some of your own) will keep your child's mind sharp over the winter break. When it's time to go back to school, he/she won't have missed a beat.

Have a Wonderful Winter Break!

Michael Havens,
Principal

Winter Break

No school December 21st 2015 – January 1st 2016. School resumes on Monday, January 4th, 2016 at 9:00am.

Popcorn Volunteer Needed

We are looking for volunteers to pop popcorn for our students to sell every other Friday through March. We would need you to be here from 11:00 to approximately 1:00pm. Call Debbie in the office for more information. Thank you!



Releasing Students Early at the End of the Day

It is becoming more problematic for teachers and the office staff to release students after 3:10. If you could refrain from picking up your child early, it would be greatly appreciated.

Early Release – Wednesday, January 6th

School releases at 12:05pm

No Preschool

Technology Fair Saturday, January 23, 2016 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Second Annual at Olympia High School – Commons Area. Come out and join teachers and students as they showcase how they use technology for teaching and learning. Admission is FREE!

Lost and Found

Our racks are full; please check our lost and found for any missing items. We will be donating the left over items to The Little Red School House during winter vacation. **Please write your students name in his or her coat.** We can return any lost coat to the correct student if a name is visible.

Contact Information

Has your phone number, work phone number, address, or e-mail changed? Please remember to let the office staff at McKenny know and we'll update your information. We use this information to contact you in case of an illness or emergency with your student.

Special Invitation – International Night

Please join us for McKenny's International Night on January 29th from 5:30-7:30 pm. It is a celebration of our diverse McKenny cultures. If you'd like to have a table or a performance time, please let us know as soon as possible. We all look forward to seeing you during this wonderful night of cultural celebration.

2nd Grade Service Project

A huge thanks goes out to everyone who donated supplies to the comfort bag project. The generosity of our McKenny community allowed us to assemble 50 bags containing soap, shampoo, toothpaste and brush, deodorant, lip balm, lotion, a comb, a razor, band aids, hand sanitizer or wipes, tissue, and candy or gum. Some bags also contained conditioner, floss, mouthwash, a small first aid kit, a hat and/or gloves. We also assembled bags with fewer items. The bags will be distributed by Emma Goldman Youth and Homeless Outreach Project, an agency associated with Interfaith Works which coordinates homeless services in Olympia. We donated items that were left after assembling the bags to the Interfaith Works Emergency Shelter. They received soap, toothpaste and brushes, miscellaneous first aid items, and other leftover items. Each bag assembled by the second-grade students also included a small card with a hand-drawn decoration and the words "Kindness Matters" and "We Care." Thanks to our caring McKenny community, many of our larger community members will be more comfortable during this cold and wet season.

Fifth Grade Outdoor School

Our fifth grade students will be attending Outdoor School at the Cispus Environmental Center in Randle, Washington. The Center has been developed specifically for students environmental studies and has excellent facilities for both study and research.

Cost is \$150.00 per student. If you need to make payments, please call Debbie in the office to set up a payment plan. Also, if your student needs to take a prescription or over-the-counter medicine, the medicine and doctors permission form must be at school by Monday before they leave for outdoor school.

Early Release Information

Teacher Collaboration: January 6, February 3, March 2 and May 4.

Parent/Teacher Conferences: 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 to purchase for \$2.55. 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.

Bridges Math Games

Parents have you seen our front table with the Bridges Math Games. Please feel free to take home game instruction and play with your kids. Each game has been played in the classroom, so the students can teach their family how to play. Please contact me with any questions or ideas at mmorill@osd.wednet.edu.

School Bus Rules - Reminders

1. **Sit properly in your seat.** (This includes facing forward with back against seat, feet flat on floor, backpacks not in aisle.)
2. **Keep hands, feet and objects to yourself.**
3. **Talk in level 1 voice.**
4. **Respect the environment.** (This includes not eating or throwing papers on the ground.)

Up-Coming Events

January 2016

1	Winter break	18	NO SCHOOL - MLK Day
4	School resumes	19	OSD Board mtg @ 6:30
	OSD Board mtg @ 6:30	22	Passport check
6	Early release @ 12:05	29	Hawk Talk sent home
12	PTO mtg – Library @ 6:30		Early release @ 12:05

PTO

Attention Amazon Shoppers!!

Love to shop on Amazon?? Love to support your favorite PTO? Well, we have the program for you! McKenny PTO is now available to designate as your favorite organization on AmazonSmile. Each time you make a purchase on Amazon, they will donate a portion of the purchase to our PTO! Simply visit smile.amazon.com and designate "McKenny Parent Teacher Association" as your organization of choice.

Keep Clipping Box Tops for Education

Keep on clipping!! It might not seem like much, but those box tops add up. Last year the box tops added another \$1300 for the PTO budget. Every little bit helps! Contact Box Top Committee Chair Marny Howell for more information at marny421@yahoo.com or read more about Box Tops for Education at www.boxtopsforeducation.com.

Read-A-Thon Update

Thank you McKenny students, families, and staff for help in making this year's annual Read-a-Thon a success. We were off to a slow start, but finished strong and met our school-wide goal! During the last week of November McKenny students logged a total of 52,552 minutes read which brought the school wide grand total for the month to 195,855 which was over the month long goal of 193,760! We also improved over last year's total minutes read! Finally, pledges and sponsorship help our students raise over \$4500 for the school which will enable the PTO to continue to fund the Math Support position and other school enrichment events!!

The six donated Kindle readers were raffled off to the students during the school assembly on 12/9 by Mr. Havens. The reward for meeting the school-wide goal will be a surprise given out on the last day of school before winter break!

Special thanks to Marny Howell and Mary Kate Perry for their endless work at making this fundraiser a huge success!

Movie Night: Friday January 15th Featuring: ****to be announced****

Our next movie night will be Friday, January 15th. Movie Night is \$5 for the first student and \$4 for each additional student. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the movie begins at 6:30 p.m. and runs for 1 hour and 42 minutes. 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. Go to <http://www.mckennypto.org> for more information.