



# Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School  
Wendy Lechelt-Polster, Principal



April 2015

## ...From The Desk of The Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Spring is here! We still have a lot of learning for our students to do in the next few months— learning that will prepare them for the next grade level. Every spring we have our state-level assessments and this year is no different. The following information is for our 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade parents:

### SBA Testing Information/Dates:

- Students will participate in the new state assessment called the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) which is aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards (formerly the Common Core State Standards). Every 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade student will take the English language arts assessment and mathematics assessments.
- The assessments for each subject area have multiple parts. There is a computer-adaptive test (CAT) which responds and adapts to the user to individually tailor the test to the student. Questions will be easier or more difficult, depending on if the student answers correctly or incorrectly. Additionally students will be given a performance task in which they will have to utilize a variety of integrated skills to show their learning. Performance tasks will require students to read information closely, analyze it and then create some kind of written product.
- All of the assessments are completed on-line utilizing the school laptops.
- There are two testing sessions per subject and the testing is completed on two different days. The entire SBA will take students four different testing sessions (days) to complete. It is estimated that each test will take 1-3 hours. Students are given as much time as they need on the testing day to complete his/her test.
- Students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will take the English language arts assessment on *April 14<sup>th</sup> and April 16<sup>th</sup>*. Results will be provided to the school by the end of the year. Beginning this year, any 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student who receives a score of **below basic** (Level 1) must have a meeting scheduled between his/her parent/guardian and the classroom teacher, and the principal or designee. The meeting is to discuss appropriate grade placement as well as recommended intensive strategies to improve the student's reading skills. The school district will be providing a summer school program for students who receive a score of below basic (Level 1). 3<sup>rd</sup> graders will also take the math assessment on May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 7<sup>th</sup> but results will not be reported to the school and parents until the fall.
- The testing window 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade English language arts and mathematics assessment is **April 20<sup>th</sup>-May 29<sup>th</sup>**. You will receive more specific information on the testing dates in the coming weeks. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade SBA results will not be reported to the school and parents until the fall of 2015.
- We do ask that you make sure your child attends school on the days he/she is testing.

You can access the practice test through the following address: <http://wa.portal.airast.org/>. We would encourage you to take the practice assessment—it is very eye opening!

### Boundary Updates:

The school board will be taking action on the west-side boundaries at the school board meeting on **April 14, 2015**. Once a decision has been made on the school boundaries we will communicate that information with our families.

### Paper Recycling Campaign

McGee students and staff are working hard to recycle no-longer needed/used paper beginning March 23<sup>rd</sup> through April 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will be collecting boxes of recyclable paper in our foyer and will take the boxes to a local recycling center following our 2<sup>nd</sup> grade performance on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Sincerely,

Wendy Lechelt-Polster



## Dates to Remember

<b>Spring Break</b> No classes held	1 - 3
<b>PTO Meeting</b> 6:30 p.m. in the Library	8
<b>Class Picture Day</b>	9
<b>5th Avenue Performance</b> 11:00 a.m. -P.H.S. 5th grade to attend	14
<b>A.T.P. Meeting</b> 8:30 a.m. in the library	16
<b>Spirit Day</b> Career Dress-up Day	17
<b>National Library Week</b>	13 - 17
<b>Administrative Professionals Week</b>	20 - 24
<b>REACH Museum</b> Flannery, Sullivan, Halverson 9:15-2:00 p.m.	21
<b>REACH Museum</b> Bushey and Howard 9:15-2:00 p.m.	23
<b>2nd Grade Performance</b>	23

Read for 20 minutes daily!



# Mustang PTO

Supporting James McGee Elementary School

April PTO Meeting  
April 8, 2015  
6:30 p.m. in the library

### Agenda Items

- \* Family Fun Night re-cap
- \* Staff Appreciation Update
- \* Book Fair

Every child whose parent attends the P.T.O. meeting will have their name put in a drawing for a book. Daycare will be provided by the Boys and Girls Club.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

mcgeevolunteers@yahoo.com




Us on Facebook "Mustang PTO"



**Purchase your yearbook today ~ the deadline is coming soon!**

Mr. Young and our Technology Club have been working very hard to put together a yearbook for our students to purchase. It will have individual student pictures as well as pictures from many of the events that we have had this year. Order your yearbook today. It is a great way to save childhood memories. The cost of a yearbook is \$25. You can pre-order a yearbook until April 10, 2015.



## Fall Kindergarten Registration is now!



January 2015 through  
June 15, 2015  
Monday-Friday  
9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

The McGee office staff will be taking kindergarten registration packets for fall classes.

A registration packet is available in our office. Immunizations must be current (booster shots after the age of 4). A copy of the state issued birth certificate must be provided or a copy of the child's Social Security Card. Verification of residency is also required with a current utility bill or loan/lease/rental paperwork.



James McGee  
Peace Pledge

I will be responsible for my actions.

I will respect others and myself.

I will treat others the way I wish to be treated.

I will think of others before I think of myself.

### Starship McGee

In March, we recognized the students in our school who exemplify the third expectation for our McGee Peace Pledge: "I will treat others the way I wish to be treated." Students selected by their teacher will receive the **Starship McGee Fairness Award**. Recipients of the award earn "Pizza with the Principal."

## Exchange Club Student of the Month

The Tri-City Exchange Club is a local group that supports our school. This group brings awareness about abuse and provides support to groups that help children who have been abused. The Exchange Club buys the small flags for our Veteran's Day assembly every year. They have been a huge part of our Valentine Workshop in past years. They recognize one student per month here at McGee as their Student of the Month. Students are selected for academic achievement. They will receive a plaque and a McDonalds gift card.

March Student of the Month  
**Caitlin Tolley**  
5th grade, Mr. Girard

## Dress Appropriately

Warm weather is on its way! It is very important that students wear the appropriate clothing to school. The Pasco Elementary Dress Code was recently sent home. Please refer to the dress code to see what attire is not acceptable at school. It is also important to have your child wear the appropriate clothes and shoes to PE class. Improper shoes can be a safety hazard to your child.