



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Wendy Lechelt-Polster, Principal



December 2014

...From The Desk Of The Principal

Dear Parents,

Thank you all for your support during parent-teacher conferences in November! The staff at McGee is committed to quality education for all children, and we know that parents are a vital part of a child's education!

Our annual Scholastic Book Fair was a huge hit and we love that we are getting high-interest books into the hands of our students! Profits from our book fair benefit our library, and allow us to purchase more books for our students.

This month we will kick off the **James McGee Coat and Non-Perishable Food Drive**. All donated coats and non-perishable food items will be given to families in need during this cold weather/holiday season. Items must be brought in to the school by December 16th.

We hope you will join us for our Christmas concert on Monday, December 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the McGee Cafeteria. Special musical performances by our orchestra, band, choir, and Mad Mallets will be sure to delight you!

Photo identification will be required for anyone who is checking a student out through the office. This is an expectation of the Pasco School District and has been put in place to ensure student safety. Please make sure that the information we have on file for who is allowed to pick up your child from school is accurate and up to date.

Please do not bring/send any food items to school to celebrate birthdays. We have so many issues with food allergies, and often treats arrive at school, unbeknownst to the teacher. This can be disruptive to the learning environment and also excludes students who have allergies. **If treats are brought in we will not be able to distribute them.** If you would like to recognize/celebrate your child's birthday, talk with his/her teacher and arrange to celebrate with non-food items. We do allow for each classroom to hold several parties/celebrations during the year, and at those times, teachers will contact parents about sending in food items. This allows teachers to plan according to the needs of their students and ensure that all students will be safe and able to participate in any celebration.

Thank you all for your continued support. We have had a great year so far and look forward to a great 2015!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Lechelt-Polster



December 2014 Dates to Remember

McTeacher Night at Road 68 McDonalds 5:00-7:00 p.m.	1 - 2
P.T.O. Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the library	3
Parent Preview for Human Growth and Development 4th/5th gr. 6:00-8:00 p.m. at C.L. Booth Building	4
Tears of Joy Puppet Theatre 20,000 Leagues Under The Sea 9:45 a.m.	11
Random Acts of Kindness Ends	19
Winter Break—no classes held	22-Jan 2



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 provide support to groups that help children who have been abused. This group buys the small flags for our Veteran's Day assembly every year. They also recognize one student per month here at McGee. Students are selected for academic achievement.

October Student of the Month

Evan Ellis
5th grade, Mrs. Borey



Winter Weather

Winter weather is here again. Please make sure that your child is dressed appropriately. Coats, hats and gloves along with the appropriate shoes or boots will keep your child warm and dry. The office doesn't have extra clothing, if they get wet. Please listen to KONA 610 AM radio on snowy/icy mornings for delays or closures. The radio station regularly updates school information. You can also subscribe to the School Messenger System by going to <http://psdapps.psd1.org/schmess/index-parent.php> to register. Updates are also posted on the District webpage www.psd1.org.

Mustang P.T.O.

Supporting James McGee Elementary

Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

The next monthly PTO meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the library.

Topics:

- *Food Drive
- *Coat Drive
- *Book Fair Wrap-up
- *Christmas Grams

Childcare provided by Boys & Girls Club.

Christmas Grams

A Christmas Gram is a message you write to someone that comes with a holiday pen attached. You can purchase a Christmas Gram for 50¢ each. The order forms will be sent home soon. Christmas Grams can be ordered from December 3-17, 2014 with delivery the on December 18, 2014. If you need additional gram message forms, they will be in the office. Once completing the gram message, cut it out and put it in an envelope along with the money. Bring it to the office and put it in the special collection box.



Pumpkins on Parade Winners

Sponsored by McGee A.T.P.

Kindergarten	Traigh O-Reilly
1st Grade	Parker Close
2nd Grade	Thomas Lamb
3rd Grade	Mark Beknazarov
4th Grade	Logan Deaton and Damien Flores
5th Grade	Anika Walter

Thank you to everyone that participated in this fun event!

Fun Run 2014 Results

First Place

K-2 - Peyton Cooper in Mrs. Moreno AM

3-5 - Spencer Kasma in Mrs. Marquez

Each student will receive a Kids Edition Kindle Fire

Second place

K-2 - Sierra Johnson in Mrs. Kopf

3-5 - Shianne Booker in Mrs. Halverson

Each student will receive a bicycle with a helmet

James McGee Art Program

Artists at Work

Art students at McGee began the year exploring the new art room, learning appropriate “studio habits” for using the tools and materials in the room, and getting to know their teacher, Ms. Hendrickson.

Next, we jumped right into the most basic element of design, LINE. Students used line to create original art with their names. The variety of designs was wonderful, including ideas from students’ interests, such as sports and families, as well as seasonal themes.

Also using the elements of LINE and SHAPE, students have been “doodling” abstract designs to fill a square block in a collaborative project which will be combined to create a mural – a “Megadoodle.” This will be on display soon near the library/C pod.

From there, classes have branched out to explore COLOR with watercolor painting and oil pastels. Students are mixing colors using these media, learning how to use paper towels to blend and smudge oil pastels and layer colors, or how to use the paint palette to mix watercolor paints. Classes are creating fall images such as leaves, pumpkins, and scarecrows, many of which will be on display during parent-teacher conferences on one of our bulletin boards near the library.

Next up: Native American art, masks, and working with modeling clay!

If this sounds interesting to you, give me a call and we can set up a time for you to stop by the art room to observe or volunteer. Please remember to check in to the front office first, or to fill out the volunteer forms if you’d like to help in the art room.

We welcome donations to the art program, as well. We love to recycle and repurpose, so if you have items you believe would be useful, please give me a call/email, and let me know. My email is lhendrickson@psd1.org. You can reach me by calling the main office at 547-6583 and asking for the art room or Ms. Hendrickson.

Thanks so much for all you do to support your children at home! When they have the opportunity to draw, color, sculpt, paint, and sew at home, it shows in their creativity, problem solving, and critical thinking here at school ---