



Mustang Express



James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal

February 2012

...From The Desk of The Principal

Dear Parents,

Thanks to all who attended our Family Math Night, "Math Mardi Gras"! I hope that it was not only fun, but also educational. It is great to see families working together to solve math problems, as well as watching our students put their math skills to work. Our intention with Family Math Night is to remind us all, that math is around us every day. It is not just in our checkbook or family budget. Job forecasters tell us that our children will continue to need more math and science skills for their jobs in the future and we want to prepare them to 'think outside the box'.

Box Tops for Education—each year we collect and send in thousands of Box Tops for Education for money. We recently received a check for over \$1800 for the second half of last year! Thanks so much to everyone who is collecting them for us. It is definitely a worthwhile endeavor. That money goes into our ASB account to help with field trips, Field Day and many other important things for our students. Please keep up the great support.

A final reminder to **vote on or before February 14** regarding the Maintenance and Operations Levy! McGee benefits in many ways from this money. To name a few programs that we could possibly lose; Librarian, Nurse, Counselor, Art, Music, PE and Technology Specialists. We also are enjoying the heating and lights in the building right now and we totally appreciate the work that 'Mr. Pat' and 'Mr. Tien' do as building custodians. There are so many things that the citizens of Pasco can be proud of in their support of children, thank you!

In February, we begin to think about Parent Teacher Conferences and reporting student progress. I ask that teachers are in communication with you about the progress that your child is making before we reach conference time. Our job is to work with you to make sure that all students are learning not just to report how they have done. We need to work together to make adjustments in the curriculum to ensure that kids 'get it'! Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you notice concerns with his/her learning.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hay

Dates to Remember



PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the library	7
Popcorn Friday	10
Family Movie Night Dolphin Tale Seating—6:45 p.m. Starts—7:00 p.m.	
Kelly Milner Halls, Author All day visit	13
A.T.P. Meeting 2:00-3:00 p.m. S.I.P. Meeting 3:00-4:00 p.m.	15
3rd Gr. to A.C.T. Treasure Island at Chief Joseph in Richland 11:15 - 2:00 p.m.	16
Furlough Day Early release at 12:00 p.m.	17
No classes held for Presidents' Day	20
Starship McGee "Fairness" 10:35 a.m.—K, 3, 4, 5 1:30 p.m.—K, 1, 2	23



2012-2013 Maintenance & Operations Levy

On **February 14**, Pasco citizens will vote on the 2012-2013 School Maintenance & Operations Levy. This is not a new tax. It is a renewal of the expiring levy approved in the 2010 election. The advertised assessed rate is \$4.51 per \$1,000. The actual assessed rate in 2010-2011 was less per thousand than the advertised rate. Check out the Levy presentation at <http://www.psd1.org/>.



McGee A.T.P. and the Mustang P.T.O. presents Family Movie Night



Friday, February 10, 2012
6:45 p.m.—seating starts
7:00 p.m.—movie starts

Admission is free! Now showing . . .

Warner Brothers Dolphin Tale

Rated PG— 113 minutes



Mustang PTO

Supporting James McGee Elementary School



Valentine Candy Grams

Popcorn Friday is February 10, 2012

Students will be able to purchase for a bag of popcorn on Popcorn Fridays for a quarter.



February PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 7, 2012
6:30 p.m. in the library

Topics

Spring Fundraiser
Valentine Candy Grams
Movie Night

Daycare will be available.

Parents and students,
You can treat your child, grandchild, or friend to a special Candy Gram delivered to their classroom on February 13, 2012! The candy gram forms have been already sent home. You may send your money and greeting to the office in an envelope by February 10, 2012 for delivery of Candy Grams. There will be a special collection box in the office.

Additional grams can be picked up in the office.

Music Notes from Mrs. Smith

Our Kindergarten classes began the new year learning about musical instruments of the orchestra through the story of "Peter and the Wolf." This month we will be playing percussion instruments, and learning new singing games.

First and second grade classes have been learning about Chinese New Year through songs, instruments and a ribbon dance. This month we will be working on singing skills, reading rhythms and playing new singing games.

Grades 3-5 are playing marimbas and xylophones. Fourth graders will continue to learn new recorder music, while the fifth graders will incorporate guitars with marimbas. The fifth grade will also prepare for the statewide Curriculum Based Performance Assessment (CBPA) in rhythm reading and performance, which will be administered in March.

Our performing groups, "Kids on Stage," Band, Orchestra and Mad Mallets had a great time performing for the Winter Concert, and are preparing new music for the spring.

What can you do to help your child enjoy and learn music? Listen to many styles of music. Learn to play an instrument. Piano skills are great! Go to concerts. Sing a lullaby. Teach them the songs that you knew when you were their age. You don't need to be a rock star-just have fun with music and your children will too.



Open enrollment for fall Kindergarten classes is now!



Now through June 20, 2012

Monday-Friday

9:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.



A registration packet is available in the office. Immunizations must be current (booster shots after the age of 4). Verification of residency is also required.



Box Tops for Education

Remember to save Box Tops for Education coupons from all participating products. We recently received a check for \$1,785.90 for redeemed coupons. Keep clipping!



Read for
20
minutes daily



Exchange Club Student of the Month

The Tri-City Exchange Club is a local group that supports our school. This group of local people 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 have been a huge part of our Valentine Workshop as well. They also recognize one student per month here at McGee who is living the McGee Peace Pledge. Students are selected for a variety of reasons.

January Students of the Month

Thalia Birrueta

Mrs. Sullivan's 3rd grade

Leonides Birrueta

Mr. Lugo's 2nd grade