



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal



February 2013

...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 12** regarding the Bond Election. As you may know, McGee was built for 500 students 30 years ago. Those who were around at that time chuckled, because this area was mostly sagebrush! Fast forward to today; we have 918 students and continue to grow. We have 14 classes, a computer lab and Boys and Girls Club in portable classrooms behind the building. We also have 2 special education classes in the Pod areas surrounded by portable walls. Next year we are expecting another double portable with students to fill it already enrolled in school! This will put McGee at approximately 960 students. As an elementary school that is extremely large. We are larger than most middle schools in Kennewick and Richland. Please remember to vote!

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.

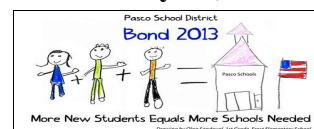
Sincerely,

Mrs. Hay

Dates to Remember

P.T.O. Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the library	5
Remember to Vote	12
Popcorn Friday	15
President's Day No classes held	18
A.T.P. Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the Library	21
Class Picture Day	22
Brandon Dorman, Author visit	26
Papa John's Pizza Night Must mention McGee & teacher name for McGee to receive 20% of sale	27
Reading Rocks 6:00-7:30 p.m.	28

Remember to Vote February 12, 2013



Reading Rocks

A Family Reading Night

February 28, 2013
6:00-7:30 p.m.



Enjoy reading a good book with a parent or adult in the library

*Sing Karaoke *Make a bookmark

*One free book per James McGee student

Open enrollment for fall Kindergarten classes is now!



Now through June 13, 2013
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.

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 as well. They also recognize one student per month here at McGee. Students are selected for academic achievement.

January Student of the Month

Kenzie Salisbury
Mrs. Borey, 5th Grade



Mustang PTO
Supporting James McGee Elementary School

Take care to prevent illness due to colds and flu this



Valentine Candy Grams

POPCORN FRIDAY!

Students will be able to purchase a bag of popcorn for \$.25 on Popcorn Fridays. Classroom teachers will collect the money and turn in a count in the morning. Students will their popcorn at lunchtime. Kindergarten students will get their popcorn before the end of their school day.



POPCORN FRIDAY DATE
 Friday, February 15, 2013

January PTO Meeting
 Tuesday, February 5, 2013
 6:30 p.m. in the library

- Topics**
- ◆ Candy Grams
 - ◆ Spring Fundraiser
 - ◆ Movie Night Wrap-up

Daycare will be available.

You can treat your child, grandchild, or friend to a special Candy Gram delivered to their classroom on February 14, 2013! The candy gram forms have been already sent home. You may send your money and greeting to the office in an envelope by February 11, 2013 for delivery of Candy Grams. There will be a special collection box in the office. Additional grams can be picked up in the office.



Papa Johns has partnered with McGee with a special promotion. You must mention James McGee Elementary School and the name of your child's teacher for our school to receive 20% of sales. They have carry out, delivery and on-line ordering. You can order all day long from one of the locations listed below. You must be on the James McGee Parent email list to receive coupons and information about this special promotion. The class with the most orders, will win a pizza party.

2400 W. Kennewick Av.—374-8400	2187 Van Giesen St.—943-2020	125 W. Gage Blvd.—619-0707
February 27, 2013	March 27, 2013	April 24, 2013
		May 22, 2013

Tips to Stay Healthy This Winter

Take care to prevent illness due to colds and flu this winter. Remember to cover coughs, wash hands frequently (or use alcohol based hand sanitizer), avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth, and stay home if you are ill. The Benton Franklin Health District is recommending flu vaccine for those who have not yet had a flu shot, especially for young children, chronically ill children, pregnant women and elderly who are at high risk for complications from flu. Children should stay home if they have fever 100 degrees or higher, vomiting or diarrhea. They are welcome back to school after they have been symptom free (without medication) for 24 hours.



Winter Art News

Wow! Winter break flew by, and McGee's artists are back making new, creative projects! Two bulletin boards of student art are going up near the library, and I will be taking some of our best examples from 4th and 5th grade's oil pastel projects over to the administration building for a display at the end of January. This display will be available for viewing through March. Several student artists also created excellent examples of ancient cave and rock paintings (using charcoal and chalk on brown grocery bag backgrounds) and gave these to Yoke's on Road 68 as a "thank you" for their generous donation of grocery bags for our art program. These are on display, as well, but they're in the staff lounge at the store. Thank you to Yoke's for their kindness, and thanks to the students who offered such great art. It's so nice to see our students have the opportunity to display their art in the community!

Presently, we're writing and illustrating story "quilts" and story "trees." Students are narrating their personal stories and using a variety of media to illustrate them. Most students are using a variety of markers to write and draw their artwork. A limited number of classes are painting, as we have some special circumstances due to our crowding here at McGee. Since art is taught from a cart, some classes are taught in the cafeteria and some are taught in the classrooms; that greatly influences our lessons. Using buckets for water, etc. and lacking much storage space, I only teach painting with small groups of students. However, it certainly doesn't limit our students' creativity! They come up with some wonderful ideas.

Other classes are cutting and gluing winter animals such as reindeer and bears (our primary grades) and practicing clay skills using modeling clay.

We will continue to practice clay skills using modeling clay throughout the year. We do not fire clay projects at McGee for now. Our kiln is not available for firing until the kiln room has been approved for use by the operations department, and it has needed work for several years. We also do not have any room to store clay projects at this time, due to our crowded conditions. Perhaps when we have room for an art room again, this will change. For now, we practice making small temporary projects using reusable modeling clay in class.

Look forward to more drawing and some upcoming collage (mixed media cutting and gluing) projects in art this season. We continue to incorporate materials such as oil pastels, markers, and decorative papers, since these are the types of materials I can work with from the art cart. For sculpture projects, we will work most with origami paper folding and other paper projects, but we must keep our sculpture projects on a small scale, due to lack of storage space.

What can you do from home with your artists? It would be wonderful if you could pick up some of the clay or painting at home that I cannot do here at school. There are some very fun, creative projects and simple lessons available at the following websites. Check them out:

www.artsonia.com, www.crayola.com, www.deepspacesparkle.com, www.incredibleart.org
<http://elementaryartroom.blogspot.com>

Have a wonderful, art-full winter, and feel free to bring those creative projects in to share with me! Call if you'd like to volunteer, or just have questions about art at McGee ---

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