



# Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School  
Robin Hay, Principal



## MAY 2012

### Survey Questions Answered Below.

**We will continue to answer more questions for you in future flyers.**

With the advent of spring each year we begin to put together class lists for next year. We will develop our class lists and have a fly up day in June before the students leave. This year, however, students will just be flying up to a grade level, rather than a specific teacher. With the need for some changes that have come in August we don't want to have students disappointed if their teacher changes.

This year the MSP (Measure of Student Progress) Testing will be on May 1, 8, 10, and 15 for Reading, Writing and Math. Science will be taken by our fifth grade students on the computer. They will do this the week of May 21-24. Please see the schedule below. Please make sure that your child is in school each day that they will be testing, as the outcome of the test determines whether McGee makes Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) or not. Please see that your child is rested and arrives at school on time. Students who test with their class seem to do a better job and take their time over taking a 'make up' test outside of the classroom.

During conferences we had approximately 150 parents complete our on-line survey. The results are in and we have looked them over. There were some excellent questions, suggestions and thoughts. I will attempt to answer some of the questions in this newsletter.

Teachers at McGee work in grade level teams. Our staff develops year long plans for every subject based on the state standards. Everything that we teach is based on those standards. Teachers have planning time together, so that they can talk and discuss what they are teaching, how the students are learning and what do if some students are not learning.

Teachers pass out Curriculum Guides to parents at our Ice Cream Social in the fall, so please plan to attend. These Curriculum Guides let parents know what their children will be learning and how parents can help them at home. We will also send them home with the final report card this year. They are always available on our website as well.

Our goal is for all students to have access to the same curriculum, no matter the teacher. This is called a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. We understand that students are all at a different point in their learning, so our teaching strategies allow for differentiation in teaching. Our teachers are very aware of where each child is in their learning and the teachers work hard to make sure that each child is challenged with the right level of expectations.

Teachers try to keep parents informed of how children are doing in a variety of ways. They send home homework charts that the students complete each night to let you know what they need to complete. Most teachers send a weekly notice about what they will be teaching. We have mid trimester reports and report cards. Attending your child's conference is one of the best ways to see how they are doing.

Three grade levels per week meet with Mrs. Brown and I to discuss how students are progressing. We talk about progress on the yearlong plans, individual student needs and material needs for teaching. Students who are considered below level in literacy work with a paraeducator on selected strategies. Teachers meet with the paras every two weeks to discuss progress on students and new strategies.

Teachers are great with email. We hope that we have yours! Your child's teacher would not be able to email each parent every night, but they are able to email and respond to your concerns. Please communicate with them in this way if you have email.

The question arose of each teacher's educational background. I can assure that our teachers meet the qualifications for the state and federal government for being well qualified. A teacher must complete at least 4 years of college to earn a BA. Many of our staff have also earned a masters degree. Teachers then must continually attend classes to maintain their certificate, on their own time and at their own expense. This professional development encompasses all academic areas as well as lesson design and classroom management.

The McGee website is a great place to find the answers to several other questions that were asked. McGee did not meet AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) for the state and federal government last year, however our scores do continue to improve. We have also been recognized for the past three years as a Distinguished School. This recognition is directly related to our test scores. See the School Report Card for more detailed information. It is linked to the website.

A request was made to be more informed of activities at McGee. Please check the McGee website calendar. We will make it as up to date as possible and with as much lead time as we can.

Thank you again for your input in the survey. We will continue to study the results and try to answer your questions. Please don't hesitate to send questions via email to any of us at school.



**BOYS & GIRLS  
CLUB**

### Boys & Girls Club Registration Week

May 7-11, 2012

50% off registration fee during this week only!  
Contact the Boys & Girls Club at 547-6583 X-3228

### MSP testing at McGee

- Monday, May 1st - 4th grade
- Tuesday, May 8th - 3rd, 4th & 5th grades
- Thursday, May 10th- 3rd, 4th & 5th grades
- Tuesday, May 15th - 4th grade
- May 21st-24th - 5th grade (Science on the computer)

**\*PLEASE! Don't schedule appointments or vacations on these dates.**

**\*Encourage your children to get plenty of rest and eat a good breakfast.**

**\*Testing will begin right away each morning, so please have your child arrive on time!**

McGee has been a School of Distinction in the State of Washington for the 08-09, 09-10, and 10-11 school years. Lets try to make it 4 years in a row!

**Thank you for all of your support!**



### Dates to Remember



<b>PTO Meeting</b> in the library	<b>1</b>
<b>MSP Testing</b> 4th grade	
<b>Starship McGee—Caring</b> 9:30 a.m.—K, 1, 2, 3 1:30 p.m.—K, 4, 5	<b>7</b>
<b>Teacher Appreciation Week</b>	<b>7-11</b>
<b>National Teacher's Day</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>MSP Testing</b> 3rd, 4th, 5th	
<b>Nurse Appreciation Day</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>3rd Gr. Water Safety Program</b> 9:30 a.m.	
<b>MSP Testing</b> 3rd, 4th, 5th	<b>10</b>
<b>Popcorn Friday</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Salmon Summit</b> Sacajawea Park 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.	
<b>PSD Elementary Chess Tournament at McGee</b> 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.	<b>12</b>
<b>Krispy Kreme Fundraiser Kick-off</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>McNary Wildlife Refuge</b> Bushey/Sullivan 9:10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	<b>15</b>
<b>MSP Testing</b> 4th	
<b>McNary Wildlife Refuge</b> Dooley/Palomarez 9:10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	<b>17</b>
<b>Kindergarten Readiness Workshop</b> 6:00-7:30 p.m.	
<b>Book Fair</b>	<b>17-25</b>
<b>Muffins with Mom</b> 7:45 a.m.-9:00 a.m.	<b>18</b>
<b>Educational Bosses Week</b>	<b>21-25</b>
<b>MSP Testing</b> 5th gr. Science	<b>21 - 24</b>
<b>McNary Wildlife Refuge</b> Flannery/Halverson 9:10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	<b>22</b>
<b>Science Fair</b> 6:00-7:30 p.m.	<b>24</b>
<b>Furlough Day</b> Afternoon Kindergarten Attends Release at 12:00 p.m. No lunch served	<b>25</b>
<b>Memorial Day Observed</b> No classes held	<b>28</b>
<b>Krispy Kreme Orders due</b>	<b>30</b>

# Mustang PTO

## Supporting James McGee Elementary School

### March PTO Meeting

Tuesday, May 1, 2012  
6:30 p.m. in the library

#### Topics

- Playground toy
- Muffins with Mom
- Book Fair
- Fun Run
- Teacher Appreciation Week

Daycare will be available.

Popcorn Friday is May 11, 2012



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

### Butter Braid Fundraiser Results

#### Top Sellers

**Kinder** Mackenzie Grubenhoff—McMullin  
Donny Reddout—McMullin

**1st gr.** Kylie Lambert—Mattox

**2nd gr.** Taryn English—Perkins

**3rd gr.** Izayah Trevino—Bushey

**4th gr.** Bailey Stark—Hammer

Rylee Carlon—Vanderschoor

**5th gr.** Ismael Rodriguez—Clark

Zachary Swanson—Kopf

#### Top Individual Seller

Kylie Lambert—Mattox (44 braids)

#### Top Class

Mrs. Stern (101 braids)

#### Top Class per Grade

**Kinder** Mrs. McMullin

**1st gr.** Mrs. Stern

**2nd gr.** Mrs. Perkins

**3rd gr.** Mrs. Bushey

**4th gr.** Miss Vanderschoor

**5th gr.** Mr. Girard

### 2012-2013 PTO Board Members

President ..... **Jamie Southworth**  
 Vice President ..... **Haidi Redfield**  
 Secretary ..... **Gina Bartels**  
 Treasurer ..... **Bob Galston**  
 Volunteer Coordinator ..... **Tonya Steele**  
 PTO Webpage ..... **Stacey Harbour-VanHoy**  
 Book Fair Chairperson..... **Open**  
 Fall Fundraiser Chairperson..... **Open**  
 Trunk or Treat Chairperson..... **Open**  
 Candy Grams Chairperson..... **Open**  
 Spring Fundraiser Chairperson ..... **Open**  
 Student Store Chairperson ..... **Open**  
 Popcorn Friday Chairperson ..... **Gina Bartels**  
 Movie Night Chairperson..... **Open**  
 Mustang Round-up Chairperson .... **Lisa Scott**  
 Valentine Workshop Chairperson... **Open**  
 T-shirt Sales Chairperson..... **Open**

If you are interested in an open position, please contact the office at 547-6583.



### Sundog Washington State Contest Top Ten Winners

**1st Place**—Zelda Vaeila (Girard) 19,403 correct answers

**6th Place**—Ocean Van (Bushey) 13,277 correct answers

### McGee Yearbook Cover Contest Winner

The Technology Club voted and selected Daniel Sereda from Miss Vanderschoor's classroom to have his drawing on the cover of our yearbook. Congratulations Daniel! Yearbooks are still available to purchase until April 20 for \$21.00.



### Coin Drive Results

Thank you to everyone that donated coins for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society coin drive. \$1,006.35 was collected. The top two classes collecting the most money were: Mrs. Sullivan—\$111.75 and Mrs. Stern—\$99.08.



### McGee Chess Club

Tournament Results  
March 24, 2012

#### K-2

3rd Place

#### 5-6

2nd Place

The following students have qualified to play in the State tournament on April 21, 2012. Good luck at State!

Evan Ellis  
Damian Silva  
Tito Rodriguez  
Jesse Romero  
Jadon Popp  
Frankie Camarillo  
Ismael Garcia  
TJ Gruver

Micah Pritchard  
Nicholas Mendoza  
Ben Cook  
Israel Romero  
Julian De Los Santos  
Isaac Chidester  
Marcus Hernandez

### 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.

### Tri-Cities Exchange Club Student of the Month April 2012

**Tyler Cooper**  
Mrs. Gomez's 4th grade class

Read for  
20  
minutes daily

