



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal

MAY 2013

...From The Desk of The Principal

Parents,

Recently I was asked to remind parents of the rules in the parking lot. We sent a flyer home on April 24th with that information. The rules of the parking lot are designed for the main purpose of keeping students safe. We also ask that you consider others as you move through the parking lot. When you park out front and leave your car unattended it causes distress to those who are blocked in behind you. Please be safe and courteous in the parking lot, many young eyes are watching you. Keeping students safe is a huge priority for us. You entrust with your children and we take that trust seriously. Thank you.

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents.

Below are the answers to some FAQs. We want parents to partner with us in their child's education. Please feel free to ask either myself or your child's teacher if you have questions about what your child is learning at school.

Teachers at McGee work in grade level teams. Our staff develops yearlong 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 to 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 afternoon 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, Mrs. Siemon 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 highly qualified. A teacher must complete at least 4 years of college to earn a BA. Many of our staff have also earned a master's 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 four 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. We email notices to parents and we also send flyers each Wednesday for upcoming events.

Please don't hesitate to send questions via email to any of us at school. We are here to help your child succeed.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hay



Dates to Remember

Starship McGee Assembly—Caring 9:45 a.m.—K, 3, 4, 5 3:00 p.m.—K, 1, 2	2	National School Nurse Day	8	Book Fair—BOGO Buy one get one	17 - 24	Papa John's Pizza Night	22
Teacher Appreciation Week	6 - 10	1st Grade Young Authors 8:30 a.m.		Muffins with Mom 7:45-9:00 a.m.	17	Kindergarten Readiness Night 6:00-7:30 p.m.	23
Band/String Concert 7:00 p.m.	6	MSP Testing Grades 3, 4, 5	9	MSP Testing 5th Gr. Science and Reading	20 - 31	5th Grade to McLoughlin to visit in the morning	24
National Teacher Appreciation Day	7	Popcorn Friday	10	Science Fair 6:00-7:30 p.m.	21	No classes held Memorial Day	27
MSP Testing Grades 3, 4, 5		MSP Testing Grade 4	14	3rd Grade Water Safety Program 9:30-10:30 a.m.	22	4th grade to Whitman Mission 9:05 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	31
P.T.O. Meeting 6:30 p.m.—library		A.T.P. Meeting 8:30 a.m.—library	16				
		4th Grade Salmon Release at Sacajawea 9:05 a.m.-2:00 p.m.					

Mustang PTO

Supporting James McGee Elementary School

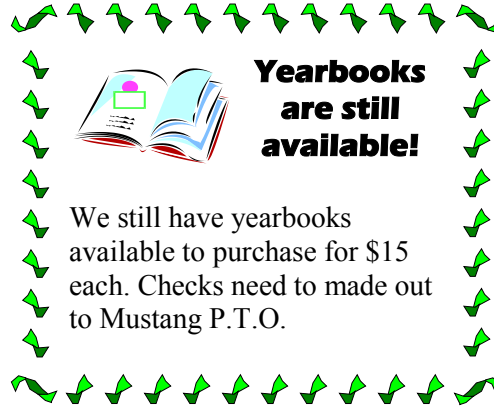
May PTO Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 2013
6:30 p.m. in the library

Topics

- 2013-14 Open positions
- Book Fair
- Muffins with Mom
- Teacher Appreciation
- Yearbook

Daycare will be available.



**Yearbooks
are still
available!**

We still have yearbooks available to purchase for \$15 each. Checks need to be made out to Mustang P.T.O.



**Popcorn Friday
is May 10, 2013**

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



Papa John's Pizza Night May 22, 2013

The March Papa John's Pizza Night winner is Mrs. Guzman's 1st grade class. They earned a pizza party for having the most students order pizza on March 27, 2013.

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

April Student of the Month

Carson Dooley
Mrs. Perry, 1st Grade

May Student of the Month

Daniel Sereda
Mrs. Borey, 5th Grade

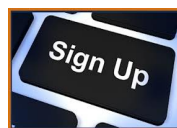
P.T.O. Board Officers 2013-2014

President..... Heidi Redfield
Vice President Gina Bartels
Vice President Elect..... Open
Secretary/Communications..... Raquel Martinez
Treasurer..... Heidi Bridges
Volunteer Coordinator..... Open

Committee Chairpersons

Book Fair Chairperson..... Open
Mustang Round Up Chairperson Open
Candy Grams Chairperson Open
Fall Fundraiser Chairperson..... Open
Trunk or Treat Chairperson..... Open
Valentine Workshop Chairperson Open
Spring Fundraiser Chairperson..... Open
Student Store Chairperson Heidi Bridges
Popcorn Fridays Chairperson..... Open
Movie Night Chairperson Open
T-shirt Sales Chairperson..... Open
Yearbook Chairperson..... Open
Box Tops Chairperson Open
Capri Sun Chairperson Heidi Bridges
Coats for Kids Chairperson Open

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



Open enrollment for fall Kindergarten classes is now! Call the office for details.

Kindergarten Readiness Night is May 23, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Once you have registered your child, you may reserve a spot for this information filled night. Reservations are limited. Please call 547-6583 to make reservations.

Nutrition Services Notice Attention!

Starting Monday, May 20, 2013 Nutrition Services will offer courtesy meals to students that do not have money in their meal account.