



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal

May 2014

...From The Desk of The Principal

James McGee Elementary was recently honored with the State of Washington's highest honor for our continued growth in math, The Washington Achievement Award. This award is based on both state and national criteria. This accompanies our 5 consecutive School of Distinction Awards from the state as well. McGee is the only school in Washington State to achieve this honor for 5 years in a row. Congratulations to our students, staff and parents for all of their hard work to make this happen.

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. We are currently updating those plans to reflect the new standards that the state has adopted. These are called the Common Core State 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. 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.

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

Salmon Summit 9:10 a.m.—2:00 p.m. 4th gr.-Sacajawea Park	1
Teacher Appreciation Week	5-9
CBC Planetarium 9:45-11:15 a.m. Moss, Kopf, Perry 12:45-2:15 p.m. Salisbury, Guzman, Hollebeck	6
CBC Planetarium 12:45-2:15 p.m. Vincent/Mattox (Lam)	8
PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the Library	13
ATP Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the Library	15
Kindergarten Readiness Workshop 6:00-7:30 p.m.	15
BOGO Book Fair	16-22
Muffins (Donuts) with Mom 7:45-9:00 a.m.	16
Choir Play 1:30 p.m.—1, 2, 3 2:30 p.m.—K, 4, 5 6:30 p.m.—parents	20
Water Safety Program—3rd grade 9:30 a.m.	21
Popcorn Friday	23
Memorial Day No classes held	26
Musical Concert 1:30 p.m.—1, 2, 3 2:30 p.m.—K, 4, 5 6:30 p.m.—parents	29
Whitman Mission—4th grade 9:10 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	30

Open enrollment for fall Kindergarten classes is now!



Now through June 12, 2014
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. We are accepting registration packets for Franklin Elementary School.

May PTO Meeting

Tuesday, May 13, 2014
6:30 p.m. in the library

Topics

- 2014-2015 Board/Chairpersons Elections
- BOGO Book Fair
- Muffins (Donuts) with Mom
- Teacher Appreciation
- Yearbooks
- Fun Run Wrap-up
- Mustang Round-Up

Daycare will be available.

Popcorn Friday
is May 23, 2013



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

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

Sophia Zabilka
3rd Grade, Mrs. Howard

Mustang PTO

Supporting James McGee Elementary School

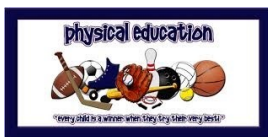
P.T.O. Board Officers 2014-2015

President.....	Open
Vice President	Open
Vice President Elect.....	Open
Secretary/Communications	Open
Treasurer	Open
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.....	Open
Popcorn Fridays Chairperson	Open
Movie Night Chairperson.....	Open
T-shirt Sales Chairperson.....	Open
Yearbook Chairperson.....	Open
Box Tops Chairperson	Allison King
Capri Sun Chairperson.....	Open
Coats for Kids Chairperson.....	Open

All positions are open for the 2014-2015 school year. If you are interested in a position, please call the office at 547-6583.



PE Monthly News

from Mr. Elliott

Please check Mr. Elliott's web page on our school website for up-to-date PE news.



Together with our PTO, we were able to send **\$676.73** to the Caps for Kids Organization. This included the money that our PTO donated from the popcorn sales on the same day.



We had a great turn out for our two McTeacher Nights at the Road 68 McDonalds. We were presented with a check for **\$1,446.88** from McDonalds this week. This money will be used for bus-ing for field trips.



Thank you to all students who raised money for the American Heart Association by participating in the Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. The final total donated from our school was **\$7,018**. Way to go McGee!