



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal



November 2013

...From The Desk Of The Principal

Dear Parents,

Fall conferences are just around the corner, November 12th-15th. **School will be released early for those days at 12:30.** There will be no kindergarten during conferences as kindergarten teachers have twice as many conferences to hold. I want to encourage you to make every effort to meet with your child's teacher during conferences. We will have one late night, which will be Tuesday, November 12th. If you are not able to schedule for that night, then you may have to take time off of work to attend. (I know that I did when my boys were in elementary school.) Conferences are so valuable to both teachers and parents. Please think of questions that you have for the teacher before you attend. Nothing on the report card should be a surprise to you, from academics to behavior.

In 3-5 grades at conferences, each parent will receive a report on their student's scores on the MAP test. We want to encourage you to then go to our website under the families tab and have your child practice specific math activities for 'MAP Math'. The students are doing this on our computers during their Technology time.

Don't forget to visit the Book Fair during conferences. We will be open late on Tuesday and open early for Donuts with Dads on Friday, November 15 at 7:45 am. Stop on in to the cafeteria for a donut, juice or milk, then visit the Book Fair with your child. Moms are welcome if dad is not available to attend! We may even have some 'surprise' guests for students who don't have an adult in attendance.

Fundraising is always an issue for schools. With the tough economic times we have looked more and more at how to offer really useful items as fundraisers. The Mustang PTO does a fantastic job of supporting our students and school, so thanks to all of you!

Fall Fundraiser

Again this year our main fundraiser will be 'discount' cards with local businesses. The cards contain many great deals for you as a shopper and 90% of the profit will go to the Mustang PTO to help support McGee. We have had our big fundraiser push, but cards are still available in the office for purchase. We are raising money towards a few technology items, such as computer programs and a set of laptops on a cart.

Box Tops for Education

Many foods from General Mills come with a \$.10 coupon that you may cut out and send to school. We collect those coupons and send them in to exchange for money. This money goes to our Associated Student Body account and helps to pay for field trips, assemblies, etc.... The web address is www.boxtops4education.com. You can find a detailed list of items that carry the coupon at this website. When you enter the website you have the opportunity to sign up as a McGee supporter. You can earn free coupons and rewards for yourself and McGee by doing this.

E-scrip



We are partnering with Yoke's Fresh Market to earn money. If you are interested, please ask for a Community Partner Card at Yoke's the next time you are in shopping. It does not cost you, the consumer, anything.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hay



November Dates to Remember

Vision/Hearing Screenings	1 & 4
Popcorn Friday Veterans Day Program 9:45—K, 1, 2 2:30—K, 4, 5 3rd gr. performs	8
Veterans Day No classes held	11
Book Fair	12-18
Conferences Early Release at 12:30 p.m. No Kindergarten classes held	12-15
Picture Retake Day	21
A.T.P. Meeting 8:30 a.m. in the library	
Thanksgiving Break Early Release at 12:30 p.m.	27
Thanksgiving Break No classes held	28-29
	
	
Remember to vote on November 5, 2013	

PEAK!: Partners in Educating All Kids!

Working together to support Pasco's children.

We would like to thank our two PEAK Partners for their support and sponsorship for the 2013-2014 school year.

Advanced Pediatric Dentistry
HDJ Design Group



Purpose Statement

Pasco School District's **PEAK! Program** is a two-pronged approach that brings families, schools, and community organizations together to cultivate mutually beneficial rela-

Mustang P.T.O.

Supporting James McGee Elementary



Donuts with Dads

November 15, 2013

We will be having our Donuts with Dads event again this year. It will be on Friday, November 15, 2013 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. Juice and donuts will be served.

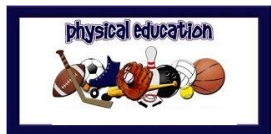
Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

The next monthly PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 19, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the library.

Topics:

- Mrs. Hay will discuss MSP scores and Bullying along with Mrs. McLaughlin
- Boo Grams Wrap-up
- Book Fair
- Donuts with Dad

Daycare will be available.



PE Monthly News

from Mr. Elliott

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



Discount Card Fundraiser Top Sellers

Top Class by Grade Level

Received coupon from Dairy Queen

K—Aldrich PM—25

1—Hollenbeck—25

2—Perkins—28

3—Bushey—26

4—VanderSchoor—25

5—Naylor—28

Individual Top Sellers

Received a Kindle Fire

K-2—Emma Walruff—23

3-5—Anastasia Simpson—45

Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser!

Technology & Learning

Parents have feared technology since the Stone Age. Plato was afraid that the written word would make people forgetful. Today, parents are concerned that too much time in front of a computer screen will stunt their children's growth, maturity and social development.

The first step in helping your children interact with computers in a safe, healthy way is to embrace technology rather than fearing it. Develop a computer usage policy that reflects your family values and understanding of your child's maturity level and needs.

As a parent, you are your child's first and best teacher. Show your children how to tweet, blog, chat and use the computer in a safe, healthy way by setting clear expectations about where, when and what they can do online in your home.

Where

Establish technology-free zones in your home. Decide and discuss with your children where they can use the computer. Place the computer in the most public room in your home and restrict usage to that location. Discuss where the computer shouldn't be used, such as at the dinner table or in the child's bedroom.

When

Equally important to where is when your children can use the computer. Software programs such as getnetwise.org offer tools that help you monitor what your children do online. These programs allow you to turn off your child's access to the Internet and email during certain times of the day or night.

What

Finally and most importantly, discuss with your children what they can and can't do on the computer. Children use computers to play educational games, chat with friends and even read textbooks for school. Computers are incredible tools for conducting research and learning new information. However, they can also be used to harm others.

Talk with your kids about the dangers of connecting with strangers online. Talk candidly about the reality that everything they do or say on social networking sites can be kept and used against them later in life. Discuss how what they do and say online can either help or hurt others. Talk about the types of websites you do and don't want them visiting.

If your children are preschool-age, stay with them while they use the computer to prevent them from stumbling across content that might frighten them. Limit their usage to educational games.

Make sure your children know you're watching them. Talk often with your children about what you notice, and ask questions about what they do and who they interact with online. Remember that keeping an open line of communication builds trust. It shows your children that your goal is not to restrict their freedom, but to protect and prepare them for adulthood.

Mr. Young
Technology Teacher

