



Mustang Express

James McGee Elementary School
Robin Hay, Principal



November 2011

...From The Desk Of The Principal

Dear Parents,

Fall conferences are just around the corner, November 17, 18, 21 and 22. **School will be released early for those days at 12:30.** This is a recent change to the schedule, so please note it in your calendar. 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 Thursday, November 17. 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 Thursday and open early for Donuts with Dads on Friday, November 18 at 7:45 am. Stop on in to the cafeteria for a donut, juice and coffee then visit the Book Fair with your child. Moms are welcome if dad is not available to attend!

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 100% 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 new playground toy. See the office display.

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.

MTYR-Multi Track Year Round

The Pasco School Board has instructed the district to move forward with preparations for MTYR, but to use every available option before implementing this in any of the schools. No schools would move to MTYR before the 2013-2014 school year. For McGee this would mean additional portables to accommodate the students who were sent out on overload this fall. As our neighborhood continues to grow we will also need more classrooms. However, with our size, McGee will more than likely be a candidate to begin MTYR for the 2013-2014 school year.

I want to assure all parents that their child will have a solid academic experience in their classroom and that our growth doesn't affect the general classroom learning. The number of classrooms that we have makes access to some programs a challenge. We are impacted in our ability to serve students through specials, library, gym, cafeteria, etc... Also, the large number of students on the playground requires us to expand our toys, hence the fundraiser for a new playground toy that we have just run. Thanks to our great PTO for their wonderful support of McGee students.

Furlough Days

On Friday afternoon, October 14, I spoke with a couple of parents who had concerns about students being released early for the Furlough Day. I would like to clear up any confusion about why students were released early on October 14. The state legislature, in response to the state budget deficit, voted on a salary decrease for all school employees. The decrease works out to four half days decrease in pay for employees. These days were negotiated to be October 14, February 17, April 27 and May 25. All staff were sent home after 1/2 day of work with no pay for the afternoon. Teachers did not elect to take the time off. We all would rather have been here at school learning with the students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Hay



November 2011 Dates to Remember

PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m. in the library	1
Popcorn Friday	4
Veteran's Day Program 9:30 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 3rd grade to perform	10
Veteran's Day No classes held	11
End of 1st trimester	14
Picture Retake Day	15
Parent Teacher Conferences Early release 12:30 p.m. No kindergarten classes held	17 & 18
Donuts with Dads 7:45-9:00 a.m.	18
Book Fair	
Parent Teacher Conferences Early release 12:30 p.m. No kindergarten classes held	21 & 22
Book Fair	
Thanksgiving Early Release 12:30 p.m. No afternoon kindergarten classes held	23
Thanksgiving Break No classes held	24 & 25



Fall Parent Teacher Conferences

Fall conferences will be held on November 17, 18, 21, 22, 2011. **Kindergarten classes will not be held on November 17, 18, 21, 22, 2011 for morning and afternoon classes.** Grades 1-5 will be released early at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Friday, Monday and Tuesday. Conference slips should be sent home with your child soon with a time/date to meet with your child's teacher. Please return the slip to your child's teacher as soon as possible. We encourage everyone to attend their child's conference. This is a valuable time to talk with your child's teacher regarding their academic strengths and weaknesses.

Mustang P.T.O.

Supporting James McGee Elementary



PTO POPCORN FRIDAYS!

Students will be able to purchase a bag of popcorn for \$.25 on Popcorn Fridays. Teachers will collect money from students first thing in the morning. Popcorn will be delivered throughout the day to students. Kindergarten students will get their popcorn before the end of their school day.

POPCORN FRIDAY DATES

November 4
January 13
March 16
May 11

December 9
February 10
April 20

Monthly P.T.O. Meeting

The next monthly PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in the library.

Topics:

- *Discount Card Wrap-up
- *Book Fair—Donuts with Dads
- *Trunk or Treat Wrap-up
- *Boo Grams Wrap-up
- *Playground Update

Daycare will be available.

The December PTO meeting will be on Thursday, December 1, 2011.



Donuts with Dads

We will be having our Donuts with Dads event again this year. It will be on Friday, November 18, 2011 from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. in the cafeteria. Juice and donuts will be served.



Discount Card Fundraiser Results

Top Selling Classrooms

K—Mrs. Russell AM **55**
1—Mrs. Mattox (Mr. Piippo) **49**
2—Mrs. Palomarez **50**
—Mrs. Perkins **50**
3—Mrs. Bushey **41**
4—Miss VanderSchoor **55**
5—Mrs. Kopf **84***

***Top selling class—they will receive a pizza party**

Top Sellers Per Grade

K—Olivia Contreras **25**
Mrs. Russell
1—Kylie Lambert **34**
Mrs. Mattox (Mr. Piippo)
2—Grace Whitney **34**
Mrs. Perkins
3—Emma Robinson **11**
Mrs. Halverson
4—Dylan Fitchett **16**
Miss VanderSchoor
5—Jaden Robles **19**
Mrs. Naylor

Top Selling Teacher

Ms. Flannery **8**

Free and Reduced-Price Meals: Serving Washington's School Children

Olympia—Washington public schools play a vital role to all students in need by providing free and reduced-price meals. The application process is simple and confidential.

All households with income levels below certain amounts (see the tables in the full story) are encouraged to apply for any or all of the following programs, which are administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

- National School Lunch Program
- School Breakfast Program
- Special Milk Program

The USDA charges 40 cents per reduced lunch and 30 cents per breakfast. Washington, however, pays all reduced price lunch costs for public school students in grades kindergarten through third grade, and all reduced-price breakfast costs for public school students. The Special Milk Program may provide free milk, depending upon the school, for all eligible students.

(More ...)


Full story:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/PressReleases2011/FreeandReducedPriceMeals.aspx>

The Application for Free and Reduced Price Meals can be picked up in the office. Once completed, please return it to the office. The completed application will be forwarded to the Nutrition Services Department for processing. This is a confidential process.

Reminder

No classes will be held on Friday, November 11, 2011, in observance of Veteran's Day.

 Read
for
20
minutes daily

