



James McKinney Newsletter

News From the Eagle's Nest!

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Date: October 3, 2018

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Important Dates Coming Up at McKinney

Oct. 4 Individual Photo Day
Oct. 4 R.A.M. Meeting @ 6:00 p.m.
Garden City School
Oct. 4 Outdoor Education Meeting
for Gr. 6/7 @ 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 11 P.A.C. Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Oct. 17 P.A.C. Hot Lunch Day
Oct. 17 Cross Country Fun Run at Garry
Point @ 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 18 Fruit and Veggies (Apples)
Oct. 19 **Pro D Day (no school in session)**
Oct. 24/25 **Early Dismissal for Conferences**
@ 2:00 p.m.
Oct. 30 P.A.C. Popcorn Sale
Oct. 31 Pumpkin Carving Event
Nov. 1 Photo Re-Take Day
Nov. 1 Fruit and Veggie (Apples)
Nov. 2 **Pro D Day (no school in session)**
Nov. 7 P.A.C. Hot
Nov. 9 Remembrance Day Assembly
at 10:15 a.m.
Nov. 14 Kindergarten Hearing and Vision
Screening
Nov. 15 P.A.C. Meeting @ 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 21 P.A.C. Hot Lunch Day
Gr. 6 Immunizations
Nov. 23 **Curriculum Day**
(no school in session)

Administrators' Message

October is here and fall is in the air! Students and staff are feeling settled in the routines of the new school year and are looking forward to many events this month.

Last Friday we gathered at our Outdoor Learning Space for an official opening. Many thanks to all who contributed in so many ways to make this beautiful space come to fruition. It will greatly enhance the learning opportunities for our students and staff.

We are looking forward to our annual school-wide pumpkin carving event later in the month. This long standing McKinney tradition takes place on October 31st. Please check for more information in this newsletter.

Thank you for your ongoing support of your child and our school.

Ms. Roy and Mr. Rollins



Pro-D Day—Friday, October 19th, 2018

Friday, October 19th is a Province-wide Professional Development Day. Teachers will be attending a variety of professional workshops and conferences around the lower mainland. **There will be no school in session.**

Parent Teacher Conferences

Parent Teacher conferences will be held throughout this month. **There will be a 2:00 p.m. dismissal on October 24th and 25th to accommodate conferences.** Parent Teacher conferences provide an opportunity to discuss student progress and to share information about your child. We value this opportunity to communicate with parents.

You will be receiving information from your child's classroom teacher regarding how to arrange appointment times for conferences.

Our band teacher, Mrs. Khoo, will be available to meet with parents of band students on October 25th between 3:15 and 6:00 p.m. Please drop by the Blue Circle in front of the office if you have any questions about the band program or would like to meet with her.

Morning Arrival at School

A reminder to our parents that school begins at 8:45 a.m. daily and that there is **no supervision for students prior to 8:30 a.m.** Students who arrive before 8:30 must wait at the blue circle in the main foyer of the school.



Pumpkin Carving Event—Oct. 31st

During the morning on October 31st, students and staff will gather in the gym for our annual pumpkin carving event. Students will be working with their buddies to create fun and spooky jack-o-lanterns. These will be put on display in the hallway for the day.

We ask students to bring a hollowed-out child-sized pumpkin (that they can carry themselves) and a small pumpkin carving tool (available at the dollar store). *Please do not send other kinds of paring knives as these are not allowed at school.* Jack-o-lanterns will be sent home at the end of the day so families can enjoy them for Halloween eve.

Social Responsibility at McKinney

Teaching students about how they can be responsible, contributing members of our school community is very important to us at McKinney. You have probably heard your child speak about S.O.A.R. and about being a “Soaring Eagle.” This is the acronym we use to communicate our expectations for behaviour. S.O.A.R. stands for:

- S-Safe
- O-Ownership
- A-Accepting
- R-Respect

Four times each year we meet in our multi-aged S.O.A.R. teams in various nests (classrooms) around the school. During each meeting or assembly, students explore different aspects of social responsibility. Our S.O.A.R. activities give students the opportunity to work with others from different classes and age groups as well as various staff members in the school. This is one way we promote connectedness in our community.

Last Friday, students participated in their first S.O.A.R. activity where they heard a story related to Orange Shirt Day. The story recounted the experience of a young girl in a residential school. Students then reflected on how we can show other people that they matter.

Our next S.O.A.R. team activity will take place on Friday, November 30th.



October P.A.C. Meeting—Oct. 11th

Please join us for the October P.A.C. meeting this Thursday, October 11th at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All parents/guardians are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pick Up Procedures for Daycare Providers

Recently, we have had a number of new caregivers and daycare providers arriving to pick up young students from school. Parents must contact both the teacher and office to provide information of who will be picking up students from school, especially if there is a change in routine. Thank you for helping us ensure students leave the school safely.

P.A.C. Hot Lunches

Our P.A.C. provides opportunities for parents to order a hot lunch for their child approximately twice each month. Thank you to parent, Dora Groumoutis, and her crew of parent volunteers who make this program such a success!

Parents may order through the Munch a Lunch link found on the school website.

Kindergarten Registrations & District Options Applications for 2019/20

Registrations for Kindergarten for the 2019/20 school year will begin on **November 1st**. Children must be born in 2014 and turn 5 years old in 2019 to register for Kindergarten for 2019/2020.

Families are strongly encouraged to register during the Priority 1 registration period (November to January) for the best chance at attending their catchment school. All registration applications received during the Priority 1 registration period will receive placement decisions on February 8, 2019.

Parent Information Evenings for Kindergarten

The school district will hold several parent information meetings during October. These meetings are for parents who will be registering a child for Kindergarten for the 2019/20 school year. Information will be shared about the Kindergarten Program, as well as program options of Montessori and French Immersion. Dates and locations are as follows:

October 16 6:30-8:00 p.m. Westwind Elementary
October 17 6:30-8:00 p.m. Anderson Elementary
October 23 6:30-8:00 p.m. Thompson Elementary
October 25 6:30-8:30 p.m. Mitchell Elementary

Purdy's Chocolates Fundraiser

Purdy's Chocolate orders are coming soon! All Purdy's Chocolates orders must be completed on-line by **Sunday, October 29th**. Please check instructions on the notice that comes home. Orders will be available for pick up in the morning at drop off or after school at dismissal time on **Thursday, November 29th** at the school kitchen.

If you have any questions, you may contact Dora Groumoutis at theodora.groumoutis@gmail.com. Thank you to Mrs. Groumoutis and our PAC for organizing this fundraiser.

Stay Safe Course—November 23rd

James McKinney PAC is organizing a course for students on **November 23** (Pro D Day). The course, **Stay Safe**, will be held at McKinney school from 9-3pm. The cost for the day will be \$50 and students will return home with a completion certificate.

Stay Safe! is a course designed for youth Grades 4-7, in order to provide skills and knowledge to increase their confidence in staying safe on their own within their community. The program offers age-appropriate first-aid knowledge and skills to reduce injury to self or others, should an emergency occur. Often, due to other commitments in the family, youth may be unattended for a period of time. The course provides the tools to build resiliency for children to stay safe on their own. **Registration information will be available later in October.**

Early Warning System for Absences

When students are going to be absent from school or significantly late due to an appointment, etc., we ask that parents call the Early Warning number (604-668-6691) and leave a message with their child's name, division, and information about the absence. If students are absent from school and we don't know why, office staff will call home to check with the parents.



Follow Us on Twitter

Follow us on twitter for news and updates on what's happening at McKinney. Our account is: [@McKinneyEagles](https://twitter.com/McKinneyEagles).

