



PAC Newsletter

November 2023

Message from the Chair

We have had a great start to the academic year! It was wonderful to see so many families at the Meet the Teacher Evening, PAC meetings, and various events. We are focusing efforts this year to raise funds to replace the old playground and we appreciate all of your support. See fundraising opportunities in this newsletter.

Next PAC Meeting: November 6, 2023 at 7 pm

Upcoming PAC Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 06 | PAC Meeting 7 pm
at McKinney/Zoom |
| Dec. 04 | PAC Meeting 7 pm
at McKinney/Zoom |
| Dec. 21 | Winter Family
Skate 5 pm at
Minoru Arenas |

McKinney's Pumpkin Patch

Thank you to all that participated in McKinney's Pumpkin Patch! It was a huge success! Thank you to all the wonderful teachers and students that made time in the morning before school to help set up the pumpkin patch.

We look forward to bringing the pumpkin patch back to McKinney next year!



A very special shout-out to Johnny's Towing and Youns from Maple Bros Construction, without their help, the pumpkin patch would not be possible! They volunteered their time, equipment, and their goodwill to make sure we had everything we needed for this event to be a success!

Fundraising for New Playground Equipment

The “old” playground will be removed in the next few years. We are fundraising to build a replacement by Fall 2024.



Spirit Wear - Promote and share your school pride by wearing spirit wear and/or school colours!

See sample sizes in front of the office.

Available to order: Now to November 10

Delivery expected in December.

Order [here](#)



Purdys Chocolatier - We partnered with Purdys for all your chocolate needs.

Available to order: Now to November 18

Pick up December 1 at 2:45 pm to 4:00 pm at McKinney.

Order [here](#)



Hot Lunch Days - One less thing to pack. Available every Thursday.

Available to order: 7-days before the next Hot Lunch Day

Orders are delivered to your child’s class.

Order [here](#)

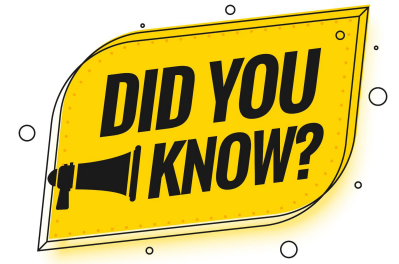


Neufeld Farm Market - Stock up on appetizers, meats, desserts, and baked goods for the family gatherings!

Look for an order link in the December newsletter.

What is the PAC and Who's on it?

WELCOME to the James McKinney Elementary community and congratulations on becoming a member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)! That's right, every caregiver of a McKinney student is automatically a member of the PAC.



The PAC is your opportunity to help shape your child's school experience. We are a group of caregiver-volunteers that organize events and projects to enrich the in-school experience. When we fundraise, and profits are made, you help decide how the money is spent for the betterment of the children and the school experience!

Why have a PAC?

Certain government grants are available for academic and cultural events, but only when applied-for by a Parents' Group. Many events like the Pumpkin Patch and special workshops like dance and drums are often not provided under current school funding. In addition, "extras" such as playground equipment, additional classroom resources, and even digital devices are not fully covered without the financial help that the PAC provides.

What has the PAC done?

In previous years, the James McKinney PAC has:

- Organized hot lunch days (including Dominos Pizza, Sushi, A&W)
- Organized fruit, veggie, and milk days
- Organized and sponsored annual events such as Welcome to Kindergarten, Parent and Staff Appreciation Lunch
- Spring Fling
- Raised money to build the south playground

... and that is just a small sample. The more caregivers that are involved, the more we do!

How can I contribute?

Contribute in any way you can: attend PAC meetings when you can, volunteer your time or special skills, or participate in fundraising efforts to name a few. We know you can't be everywhere, and we are so appreciative of your contributions no matter how big or small! To receive information about volunteer opportunities, please fill in this [form](#).



Why do we need a new playground?

In 2013, the PAC was told that our “old” playground would be removed shortly because it could no longer be repaired. We started fundraising for new playground equipment. In 2015, using all the funds we had fundraised, we built the new playground that is now located on the south side of the walking path. But it was just a portion of what the students requested. The students also wanted a climbing net.

Recently, we were reminded that our “old” playground has a very short lifespan and is likely to be removed within the next few years. With the rapidly growing school community and the ever-increasing cost of playground structures, the PAC committed to fundraising for new equipment to ensure our children’s physical, social, and emotional development.

What will we build and when?

Last year, the PAC asked students what playground equipment they wanted at McKinney. They chose a climbing net, just as students had requested 10 years ago! The PAC will fundraise for new playground equipment until June 2024 and then purchase and build whatever equipment we can with available funds by Fall 2024.

How much will it cost?

We are more than half-way to our goal of raising \$80,000 by the end of the 2023-2024 school year! We currently have raised nearly \$45,000. But we still need your help!

Would you like to donate and receive a tax receipt for 2023? Email us!