

MCNIFICATS SHOW TALENTS

On Feb. 10 and 12, Mrs. Berthel, Mrs. Mathews and Mr. Scott held auditions for the Variety Show that will be in the auditorium March 10 at 6 p.m. All students were expected to have an act that would be ready for an audience at the time of audition. This entertaining McKinley tradition will be sure to keep the actors busy and hold the audience's attention.



Invent Iowa participants had a lot of fun creating new inventions to solve problems. Pictured here is Alexis Smith and her lighted umbrella. Her entry, and classmate Emily Hummel's, are moving on to regionals at the Bettendorf Museum. Third grader Natalie Thies is also attending regionals with her invention.

Students get innovative, learn to 'Invent Iowa'

These are the students who participated in the Invent Iowa Competition:

Victoria McNeal with her "Pet Dry" invention

*Alexis Smith with "Light Umbrella"

Katy Axel & Meg Nicknish with "Magic Melter Mat"

*Emily Hummel with "Kids' Caddy"

And third graders:

Rachelle Branch with "Safe from the Sun"

*Natlaie Theis with "Sell Smart"

(* indicates students who will go on to the Regional Competition on Feb. 21 at the Bettendorf Museum.)

FROM THE FRONT

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27 for the entire school prepared by the PTA. Thank you parents!

Positive Behavior Supports continues to expand. We will be issuing a positive behavior paw in the near future to recognize children who are demonstrating one of the three positive behavior expectations: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready! If your child comes home with a Positive Paw Print, be sure to let him or her share how they earned this Positive Paw Print. Children will be announced during the Friday lunch periods as a way to publicly acknowledge all the positive behaviors at McKinley. Great job students!

The lower level of our building has several spaces that serve the needs of our students: the cafeteria, after school program, BD programming, present instrumental programs and PTA. The renovations of the BD Room and the expansion of a second classroom will be part of a parent discussion on Feb. 19 beginning at 7 p.m. Please plan to attend to get the latest information around this exciting addition to our programming.

In another area, PTA members have been instrumental in creating a functional room for the mem-

bers to gather and store important documents or objects used in the variety of family activities they support each year. As the renovations come to a completion, a tour of the new areas will be provided after the March PTA meeting for all interested.

The planning meeting for the McKinley 70th Birthday Celebration, held on Jan. 27, provided some important input. As soon as the plans begin to formalize, a summary will be shared with PTA and the rest of the faculty. The celebration should highlight several of the outstanding programs here at McKinley and offer parents, staff and students an opportunity to share the day together. McKinley memorabilia has been added to the collection that will be shared that day as well – if you have something to add, please do so. If you have someone special that would enjoy attending please let us know so we can invite them, too.

We look forward to sharing this with day with each of you and celebrating 70 years of continuous education at McKinley.

Teresa Bechen, Principal McKinley Elementary

Pawprints

McKinley Elementary School | Davenport

ISSUE SIX | THURSDAY, FEB. 12, 2009



McKinley students perform "The Big Test" written by Thompson Teasdale and co-directed by Ben Greiner. The play focuses on the anxiety of taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS).

In this play, the test's the thing

The 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders recently saw their classmates perform in "The Big Test" – which focused on the worry that students may have prior to a large test like the Iowa Test of Basic Skills.

The show was written by Thompson Teasdale and co-directed by Ben Greiner. The students learned how to manage the stage, make backdrops, work together, memorize their lines, and appreciate a successful performance. The performers advised all the grades to put their best foot forward on the ITBS, noting that if you believe in yourself – you will succeed.

In addition the following fifth graders were part of the production of "The Big Test": Seang Dam, Justine Doyle, Madison Harriman, Sarah Hegetschweiler, Josh Janes, Connor McDevitt, Jack Moran, Meg Nicknish, Riley Tallman, Jevin Williams, and Kevin Wissing. Students in grades three, four, and five will be taking the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (or ITBS) beginning Tuesday, Feb. 17, through Thursday, Feb. 19. Testing will take place approximately 8:30 to 10:30 each morning. It is extremely important to have your child arrive on time and to not be absent for testing. Please make certain that your child is rested, eats a good breakfast, and is motivated to do their personal best.



TERESA BECHEN

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

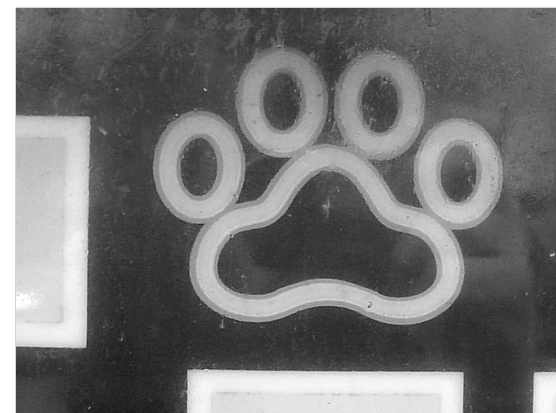
February has been filled with a variety of activities as we prepare for the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS). ITBS is one of the indicators we use at McKinley to gauge our instructional success, so it is very important that children come to school rested and ready to do their best.

The students have been working hard all year, but some special highlights have occurred at each grade level. Fifth grade students wrote and performed a school play called The Big Test.

Fourth grade students have focused on vocabulary development in an effort to expand their understanding of multiple meaning words, word strategies and comprehension of connected text. Third grade students have experienced timed tests so they know how to pace themselves since they are new to this experience.

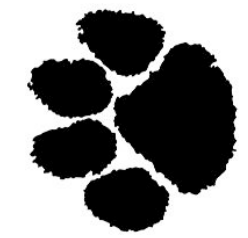
Teachers and students work daily to provide the best education for our children in so many ways, so when the ITBS have been completed, a popcorn day has been planned for Feb.

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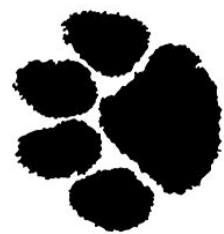
PAYING ATTENTION: IDENTIFY THE IMAGE AND WIN!

Last month we stumped everyone and had no right answers, so no awards were given. Give this month's a try and also see the answer to last month's mystery! Good luck next time. And thanks to all those who try to figure the photos out! Remember, bring your answer to Mrs. Moss in the office. The winner will be announced at the end of the day on Friday. (Last month's stumper was a picture of the snow inside the game that is right when you enter the playground from Middle Road – it has several red tubes on the pole where you throw a ball. Because the weather has been so cold, it hasn't seen any action and therefore was full of snow!)

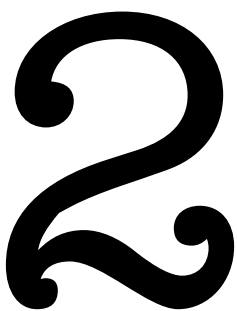


CONTRIBUTE TO PAWPRINTS

Anyone is welcome to make a submission to Pawprints. Keep us informed on the happenings of student groups such as Scouts or sports teams as well as classroom news. If you have information or photos, please send them to Ann Nicknish at apnicknish@mchsi.com or call 359-9242.



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You can help your child discover the wonderful world of...

{ART APPRECIATION}

Today, studies show that the arts are an important part of every child's education. Children who study the arts – music, dance, theater, or visual arts – usually do better in school. Here are some ways parents can help their children love the arts:

- ❖ Look for ways to bring the arts into your daily life. Sing when you're in the car. Keep a box of art supplies handy so a young artist can draw or paint.
- ❖ Watch programs about the arts on television, or listen to them on the radio. If you've never listened to an opera, look to see when one is broadcast on television.
- ❖ Check your local newspaper for arts events for kids. Many of these are free or cost very little. Attend some of these performances with your child. You may both discover that you love classical music.
- ❖ Visit local museums. Many have at least one day when they are open to the public without a charge. This is a good day to take children. If your kids get bored after a short visit, don't force them to stay.
- ❖ Find out what arts programs are offered in your child's school. Encourage your child to take part in these programs.
- ❖ Don't let money stand in the way. Your child may want to play in the band, but you are worried about buying an instrument. Ask the school—there may be a program that makes instruments available.
- ❖ Check out books about art and artists when you're in the library.

— Parent Institute

SHOW CHOIR NEWS

The Central and West Davenport High Schools are uniting to host the Great River Show Choir Invitational at the Adler Theater. The Middle Schools begin competition on Friday, Feb. 20, at 5 p.m. – tickets are \$5. The High School Show Choirs will compete Saturday, Feb. 21, starting at 8 a.m. Tickets for all-day (includes day and final performances) are \$14. You also can attend only the daytime OR finals for \$8 a ticket. Don't miss the opportunity to see some of the most talented teens dancing and singing their way into your heart. Information: greatriveronline.com.

ORCHESTRA NEWS

There are a number of events coming up for orchestra students. Please mark your calendars!

❖ The Jungle Bungle Practice Contest is in full swing. Students should be keeping track of their practice minutes on the practice sheet. The party is for 4th and 5th grade band and orchestra students who complete their practice sheet. The party will be held at Jungle Bungle on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 5-7:30 pm.

❖ 5th grade orchestra students will be participating in the Davenport Solo Festival on Saturday, February 21. The Festival is being held at Davenport North High School.

❖ 4th and 5th grade students will perform an evening concert at Eisenhower in the gym on Tuesday, March 3 at 7 p.m. Students should arrive by 6:40 and wear concert dress of white tops and black pants or skirts.

MUSIC NEWS

The McKinley fifth graders are preparing for a music program to be performed on Tuesday, March 17, at 6:30 pm. The program will feature all the fifth graders who have been learning to play the blues using mallet percussion and recorders. In addition to singing, the students will be doing performing a four-part musical canon on drums. Come to see the show on St. Patty's Day!

ROOMS WITH A VIEW

Here are seven simple steps to initiate kids in the arts and help them appreciate museum exhibits.

1. Adults should do some research before bringing their kids to a museum. Ask the museum guide or docent to give a briefing on the paintings. Perhaps use Google or the library to research on selected paintings, discovering before you go – who is the artist, where did he/she study painting, the influences which made the artist draw?

2. A first visit to an art museum should be fun, not rigid. Go around and view the paintings. Ask questions – “Which is your favorite painting? Why did you choose that?” If the child cannot select, you can choose one painting you like. Do you like it for its colors, subjects, the mood?

3. Very young children, ages 3-5, can stay for half an hour in an art museum. Be sure to select paintings that would appeal to them.

Choose a painting where you can see characters – animals, people, food – rather than an abstract painting. As they get older, you can discuss what the painting is all about. For example, Grant Wood liked to paint rural scenery – he would go out into the fields of Iowa and capture the rolling hills.

4. When the child draws, as when he tries to copy from a still-life painting of a tray of fruits, adults should encourage him instead of criticizing. Let him know that artists draw a lot and never give up.

5. Expose the child to many artists through books, CD's, and museums. Initially, the child may not like it, but eventually, if you make these moments interesting, the child may even want to take up art seriously.

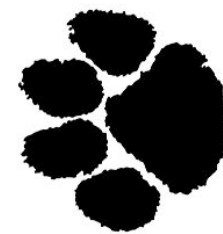
6. Provide art materials – any paper, even recycled – is good, as are crayons, colored pencils, and watercolor paint.

7. Most important, there is art all around us. We just need to look and interpret it.



ROUND UP THE YOUNG ONES

Kindergarten Roundup will be held at 5 p.m. on April 16. If you have child or know of one who will be 5 before Sept. 15, 2009, please call the McKinley office.



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MUST-SEE EXHIBITS

Now for that one big step to appreciating arts, here is a list of museums for your kids to check out, especially on weekends. Remember that art should be fun. Kids will appreciate art if it is an enjoyable experience, not a lecture.

River Music Experience

131 W 2nd St, Davenport
“A one-of-a-kind music center tracing the people, places, styles and movement of America's music”
More info: (877) 326-1333

Buffalo Bill Museum

199 N Front St, Le Claire
Open May 15 through October 15 Mon-Sat, 9AM-5PM and Sun Noon-5PM. Oct 16-May 14 Open weekends only.
More info: (563) 289-5580

Figge Art Museum

225 W 2nd St, Davenport
Galleries open Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Thursdays until 9:00 PM. Closed Mondays.
More info: (563) 326-7804

German American Heritage Center

712 W 2nd St, Davenport
Open Tuesdays and Sundays 1-4 PM, and by appointment.
More info: (563) 322-8844

Davenport Museum of Art

1737 W 12th St, Davenport
Open Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 4:30 PM, and Sunday 1:00 - 4:30 PM.
More info: (563) 326-7804

Deere & Company Administration Center

John Deere Rd, Moline
Tours of the company's world headquarters including antique and modern farm items.
More info: (309) 765-4235

Family Museum of Arts & Science

2900 Learning Campus Dr, Bettendorf
Interactive arts and science activities and exhibits. Summer hours: Open Monday - Saturday 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and Sunday 12:00 PM - 5:00 PM.
More info: (563) 344-4106

Fryxell Geology Museum

Augustana College, Rock Island
639 38th St, Rock Island
Rocks, minerals & fossils. Located in the Swenson Hall of Geosciences. Open Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM, and weekend afternoons during school term.
More info: (309) 794-7318

FEBRUARY/MARCH DATES

FEBRUARY

- 12 — PTA Meeting: note the time change – 2-3 p.m. in the Community Room. Due to lack of space, there will be no babysitting, but your children are welcome.
- 12 — Long Range Facility Meeting (LOSST funds), 7 p.m. Administration Building



Geneseo Historical Museum

205 S State St, Geneseo
Historic home and museum open weekdays or by appointment.
More info: (309) 944-3043

German American Heritage Center

Hwy 61 at the Centennial Bridge, Davenport
Museum, library and genealogical/historical research center.
More info: (563) 322-8844

Rock Island Arsenal Museum

Building 60, Rock Island
Rock Island Arsenal, Rock Island
Arsenal History and firearms collection, Children's Discovery room. Open daily 10 AM - 4 PM
More info: (309) 782-5021

Augustana Observatory & Planetarium

820 38th St, Rock Island
Free programs offered during the academic year by appointment only.
More info: (309) 794-7327

Putnam Museum & IMAX Theatre

1717 W 12th St, Davenport
More info: (563) 324-1933

Butterworth Center

1105 8th St, Moline
Historic home of Katherine Butterworth, granddaughter of John Deere. Tours available by appointment. Free admission, donations appreciated.
More info: (309) 765-7970

Quad City ArtsCenter

1715 2nd Ave., Rock Island
More info: (309) 793-1213

Quad City Botanical Center

2525 4th Av, Rock Island
Open Monday - Saturday 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, and Sunday 1:00 - 5:00 PM.
More info: (309) 794-0991

St. Ambrose University Galvin Fine Arts Center

The SAU Music House, 2036 Gaines Street, Davenport
563-333-6001 (Call for upcoming performances)

19 — Speaker Ethel Reynolds: 7 p.m. in Media Center. Reynolds will be discussing changes concerning BD program at McKinley.

MARCH

- 3 — Area Orchestra Concert 7 p.m., Eisenhower
- 5 — Skating Party in Eldridge 6-8 p.m.
- 6 — Spring Picture Day – Smile !