



The weather's still plenty warm for a good bicycle ride to school each morning. But, wearing a helmet and obeying the rules of the road make for a safer trip. Getting ready to head to school are, from left, Meg Nicknish, Emily Axel, Lily McKay and Katy Axel. For more on bicycle safety, see Page 4.

10 YEARS OF FUN COUNT ON A GREAT FALL FEST!

McKinley Fall Festival is a tradition that gives students, families, friends, and staff a reason to gather – letting students show off their school, play a few games, and give families an opportunity to dine in the Café!

Mark your calendars for Friday, Sept. 19, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fall is a great time to enjoy caramel apples, pumpkin bowling, eat chili and participate in a wonderful night. Fall-themed activities will fill the gym and the Harvest Hallway inside the school.

There will be outdoor fun as well, including rides on a tractor driven by Farmer Roger Peet, games, or an inflatable Paw pounce. Your kids look forward to this evening, where they can visit the Toy Store, decorate cookies, get temporary tattoos, and even get a meal. We serve chili, Fritos, chili dogs, apples with caramel, and pumpkin juice (orange drink).

The Dunk Tank has become a popular tradition at Fall Festival, giving students a chance to learn

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Welcome from the principal

Our mission is to provide a caring environment that enables students to discover their talents and begin to plan their future. As life-long learners and good citizens, our teachers and support staff model the behaviors

we look for in our students. I hope that as your child or children enter our building each day, they will feel the positive spirit that is at the core of learning at McKinley. We recognize that each child is a unique and individual person. We will strive to provide instruction that meets the individual interests, learning styles or readiness of our students. Our students will leave McKinley having had the opportunity to learn, explore, and grow in self-knowledge while engaging in cross-curricular activities. We look



TERESA BECHEN

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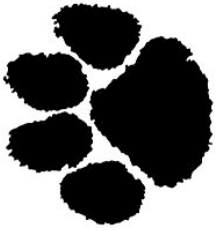


PAYING ATTENTION: IDENTIFY THE IMAGE AND WIN!

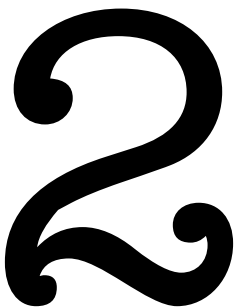
It's simple, really. With each edition of Pawprints (your source for McKinley Elementary School news) we will challenge you to know your surroundings. The photograph at left was taken outside, on school grounds. All you have to do is figure out where and what it is. Bring your answer to Mrs. Moss in the office. If you are the first student to correctly identify the image you'll win a \$5 gift certificate to our neighborhood partner, Schnuck's. Winners will be announced at the end of school Friday.

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.



pawprints



Playground gets some new parts

The long anticipated first phase of the playground project was successfully completed in June through the help of a dedicated and talented group of parent volunteers and local businesses as well as neighborhood assistance. Two slides that no longer met the district's safety guidelines were replaced with a new slide and "bongo-climbers" which are stepping poles that swing in place. The kids tested out the new equipment once the work was complete and judging from the pictures, declared it fun.

A special thanks to everyone who made the project a success. Matt and Julie Johnston, Angela and Chad Lewis, and Jen and Whitney Moon organized the project and brought many of their own tools and equipment (and snacks!) They spent countless working hours on the playground. Todd and Trista Bernauer greatly assisted in the layout and final installation of the new equipment. The community spirit was evident through the support of many local businesses. Quad City Port Services helped by storing the new playground equipment and arranging for its delivery by Forward Air. W.G. Block provided low-cost concrete. K&K Hardware offered discounts on a hole digging equipment and an impact wrench. Chris Townsend loaned a generator and many needed tools, and Shawn Terrell of Terrell Landscaping donated the use of a backhoe.

While the project went as planned, it required many days of work. Despite a torrential rain the night before, the group started out on Friday, June 12th, removing the old corkscrew slide and tunnel slide. After cutting away the concrete fittings, the engineers in the group had to devise safe ways to remove the equipment. It was exciting to watch, with ropes and all-hands on deck, the pieces come down.

Saturday brought about the harder work of removing some unanticipated concrete and setting the new equipment in place. It was clear there were professionals in the group, as discussions were occurring with levels in place. The following weekend, the new concrete footings were poured and after allowing for cure-time, the group re-assembled to spread mulch and open the playground back up for business.

The new equipment was chosen to fit with the existing set-up and is the first phase of updating the playground. The second phase will be to ring the mulched play area in pervious concrete to improve water run-off and drainage and minimize the mud. After taking care of the first two phases, it is hoped that the district will provide McKinley with the rubberized tile surfacing that is found at many of the other elementary schools

THANKS TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS!

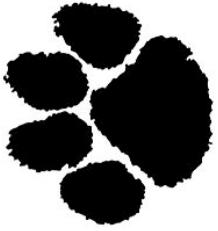
Mary Rossmiller
Mark Houston
Sue & Matt Alberts
Andy & Elizabeth Axel
Kathy Walsh
Chad and Angela Lewis
Whitney Moon
Scott Teasdale
Cynthia Weeks
Todd & Trista Bernauer
Matt and Julie Johnston
Glen Hummel
Meredith Terry
Marcus Terry
Matt Terry
Yolanda and Jason Roberts
Brent Shanahan
Chad Burke
John & Julie Moran
Paul Nicknish
Tim Chen
Tom Jones
Nate Walker
Ben Davis
Conan and Lori Doyle
John Tucker
Justin Peeters
John & Cynthia Tobin
Casey and Leilani Smith
Lance and Kelly Ray
Glen Hummel
Debbie Hotz
Tami Mahl
Bill Wagschal
John Kiley
Amy Campanile
Jim Young

KEEP IT CLEAN!

Watch for the installation of two dog clean-up stations on the north and south side of the playground. This is another part of the planned playground improvements and will help cut-down on unwanted dog waste in the field. The City of Davenport has agreed to donate the dog stations and the PTA has committed to keeping them stocked with plastic bags. Parent volunteers will be in charge of installing them.

ONE STOP SHOP AT K&K

When you go to K&K Hardware (1818 Grant St. in Bettendorf), mention McKinley Elementary when you are paying and the McKinley PTA will receive 10 percent of the value of your purchase. It's easy and we all benefit!



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SCOUTING NEWS

- Blast Off into Scouting on September 18th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the McKinley Cafeteria. This is a registration for NEW scouts of all ages.
- First Pack 3004 Meeting on September 25th 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the McKinley Cafeteria
This is first meeting for entire pack 3004, which includes experienced scouts and newly registered scouts and their families. For questions, contact Tina Wagschal, Committee Chair for Pack 3004, 441-9872.



As school began, old and new families are able to enjoy these plantings from the Spring Gardening Day – kids and adults worked hard to plant marigolds, salvia, and these lovely sunflowers!

Put a shine on McKinley with annual Fall Cleanup

Fall Cleanup, set for Sunday, Sept. 28, from 1-3 p.m., is a family event that offers a fun way to keep the school grounds looking great and meet McKinley families. You may be tired of working in your own yard, so consider helping beautify McKinley.

Bring gloves and trowels for planting fall bulbs and rakes for spreading mulch. Cold drinks will be provided. Contact Julie and Matt Johnston at 326-2009 with questions or email mjandjwj@gmail.com.

McKinley is fortunate to have its own volunteer Beautification Committee and welcomes new volunteers at any time. If you have an interest in gardening OR a green thumb, consider helping out. There are new projects that need to be reviewed, such as the areas at the north and south sides where bushes were removed. Please contact the Johnston's and beautify!

Camps bring music to our ears

Summer gave many students a chance to try out an instrument and spend two weeks with semi-private lessons. Band and Orchestra camps were available to any interested student in July and August.

Many of those fifth-grade students who started playing an instrument this summer are invited to join the Area Band or Orchestra this fall. These groups are comprised of fifth-grade students from Sudlow area elementary schools, including McKinley, Garfield, Washington, and Eisenhower. Area Band practices weekly for one hour at Sudlow starting in October. Area Orchestra, open to fifth graders only, starts Tuesday, Sept. 26, after school 3:10 until 4 p.m. in the music room at McKinley.

Students who are just beginning their band or orchestra study this fall will have an opportunity to join Area Band or Orchestra when they have progressed far enough according to their instructors. The band director at your school – Mr. Guss – will let you know when your student is ready to join Area Band.

Students can gain experience playing their instruments in a group setting and have fun doing it! They will enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and play in larger groups than their elementary school offers. Come join us!! If you want to sign up or have questions, contact McKinley Band Director – Al Guss at gussa@mail.davenport.k12.ia.us McKinley Orchestra director Judy Booe says 4th grade students can join school orchestra, choosing instruments like the violin, viola, cello, and bass. They will meet for one group practice and a 15-minute private/semi-private lesson each week. Fourth grade students will demonstrate their musical progress at school events and a district wide festival in the spring. Instruments may be rented from an area music store. If you have questions, you may contact Ms. Booe by phone at 332-0747 or e-mail to booej@mail.davenport.k12.ia.us.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER DATES

SEPTEMBER

- 11 – PTA Meeting #1 6:30p.m.
- 12 – Smile! Fall Student Pictures
- 17 – Constitution Day
- 19 – FALL FESTIVAL 5:30-7:30
- 28 – Fall Cleanup

OCTOBER

- 3 – Visting Artist Child's Play at 2 p.m.
- 7, 8, 9 – Parent Teacher Conferences
- 9-10 – No School

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

If you have not done so, please fill out and send your child's Emergency Health Information Form back to school. If you no longer have the form, they are available in the Health office at McKinley.



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Be safe riding your bike to school

While the weather is nice, kids can ride their bikes to McKinley. Any student who is a capable bike-rider may ride to school with permission from a parent or guardian. To ensure a safe and enjoyable ride, please follow the McKinley Bike Rules. They are:

- Wear a helmet (store them in lockers during school hours)
- Walk your bike across the crosswalks, on any McKinley sidewalk and through the blacktop area
- Lock your bike to the bike rack located at the Northwest corner of the school (by the dumpster)
- Be kind to other bike riders and wait your turn putting your bike in the rack or leaving for the day.

Please remember that the school cannot be responsible for the bikes during the school hours so proper locks are important. Biking to school is a fun tradition—it's a healthy alternative to walking and let's the riders learn about being responsible in the neighborhood and around school property. Cycle on!

Let's get fired up for a new PTA year

PTA is a community of parents, staff, and friends of McKinley that advocate for the children. Don't forget to

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Trista Bernauer
Co-President: Tina Wagschal
Vice president: Jean Stephan
Co-Vice President: Tammy McKune
Treasurer: Cynthia Weeks
Secretaries: Mary Gabel & Holly Mammen

sign up – an annual signup form and membership fee of \$5 gives you the right to vote and attend all the meetings.

The PTA primarily supports activities that enrich the learning environment at school, assisting parents in rais-

ing their children, and encouraging parental and community involvement in issues involving children. The PTA helps to pay for activities such as field trips, programs such as Visiting Artists, and services that help the school.

Parents, teachers, staff and community members are encouraged to join the PTA to contribute their ideas, thoughts, time and resources to making sure the group's goals are met. The first PTA meeting is on Thursday, Sept. 11 at 6:30 p.m.

FROM THE FRONT

<< *Fall Festival*

about voting and help to choose those lucky winners who will be dunked. Votes are tallied (from coins in jars) and those with the most pocket change (preferably pennies, nickels and dimes – quarters are not recommended) will be get a refreshing dip in the tank!

The Fall Fest would not be possible without great volunteers to help run games, bake for the Pumpkin Walk, create chili or serve it. If you want to be part of this decade of tradition, please contact Julie Moran 359-3238 (email jmoranfam@mcsbi.com or Ann Nicknish 359-9242 to talk about your role!

<< *Principal*

forward to integrating the arts within our core curriculum and sharing these productions with you. McKinley will continue the tradition of educational excellence!

Whether you are returning to McKinley, or are a newcomer, I hope you will find this school year to be a meaningful and productive one. We have several new teachers and welcome them to the McKinley Family as well. Should you have questions about our school, do not hesitate to call (324-0403), email to bechent@mail.davenport.k12.ia.us or visit us. Thank you for your support in our pursuit to educate your child to his/her full potential. We welcome your input!

Teresa Bechen, Principal

Bechen Biography

McKinley's new principal has lived in three states that start with the letter "I"—Illinois, Indiana, and now Iowa. The Bechen family, including 6 children, moved to Davenport four years ago. Mrs. Bechen's husband, Dr. Bechen, is the music director at St. Ambrose University. Mrs. Bechen, pronounced "Beshen", has much experience working with students, including Reading Teacher K-3 and classroom teacher in 1st, 2nd, and 4th grades as well as teaching Intermediate school science and university level courses. She continues to offer workshops for graduate credit through Drake University. She has held a district position in Davenport Schools for the past 3 years and is excited to be back at the building level where she can touch the lives of children and teachers directly once again. Teaching is her passion and she is honored to be a part of McKinley Elementary School.