

PACK 4 READIES FOR CAMPING

McKinley Pack 4 Cub Scouts aim to earn their Polar Bear badges at the upcoming HALT (Halloween At Loud Thunder) event this weekend (Oct. 16-17). Close to 500 scouts and their families camp. If the temperature falls below 32 degrees, then scouts earn their Polar Bear badge.



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FROM THE FRONT: FALL BOOK FAIR

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“One for Books.” Scholastic Book Fair will match the monetary donations that a school can generate from bringing pocket change and putting in a container marked by their grade level.

The classes that tally the most coins will help to decide which classrooms get special prizes. One for Books provides an easy and effective way to unite the school community and provide more books for kids and teachers. All funds collected through One for Books are used to buy more books from the Book Fair. Funds can be used to:

- ❖ Give more students a chance to participate in the Book Fair.
 - ❖ Add books to the school library.
 - ❖ Help teachers add more books to their classroom shelves.
 - ❖ Donate to another school or community organization that could use more books.
- Here’s how the Change Challenge works: Each classroom is given a collection bucket.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

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about his work, and his lodging when away from home. The children seemed especially fascinated by how spacious the area behind the driver’s seat was and the vantage point when up so high. They also loved hearing the two different horns. How wonderful to provide such experiences for our children!

Similar to this was the visit Mrs. Mathews sets up every year when the Davenport Fire Department visits our school with a direct connection to our reading curriculum. The students are able to experience firsthand not only the size of a real fire engine and all the equipment, but to learn about possible career pathways.

If you would like to share your work/career with students, please call or send a message and I will find out if we can integrate this into the curriculum learning at some point in the school year, for one or more than one grade level. I also want to extend an invitation to explore these types of enrichment, which are being investigated by several lead parents who want to make the home/school connection stronger.

If you are interested in learning more, please attend a Town Meeting session on Thursday, Oct. 22, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at McKinley. Just bring ideas and an open mind. I will be sharing curriculum themes and parents will brainstorm ideas to create links between home/community and school. See you there.

We have begun our year-long training in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP). All staff at McKinley will be trained to recognize,

Starting Monday, Oct. 26, children will bring in pennies to their classroom. Then, Tuesday, it’s nickels. On Wednesday, dimes. And, on Thursday quarters are collected.

BUILD-A-BOOK

Another exciting Book Fair event is the Klutz Build-A-Book family experience slated for Friday, Nov. 6, in the community room from 5:30-6:30 p.m. You can preorder a kit payable to McKinley PTA which includes one blank 10-page wire bound book, assorted foam shapes and papers, glue, and a mini pen.

Questions, contact Traci Swanson at 355-8866 or Heidi Hume at 514-1456. Volunteers are still needed for the Book Fair Nov 2-6.

There are four shifts available Monday-Friday: 9-11, 11-12:30, 12:30-2 and 2-3:30. Please call Traci at 355-8866 or e-mail: tshanahanswanson@gmail.com.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

respond and report in a consistent manner any suspicious behavior that either looks like or clearly is some form of bullying. Full implementation will begin in fall 2010. For now, according to district policy, our goal has always been to immediately respond to children involved in situations or to assist children who may not understand their behavior by providing intervention with our counselor, or other techniques so children learn socially acceptable interactions with peers.

Olweus is a building-wide system where everyone uses the same language and strategies to make sure our teachers and children recognize their role and the role of the adults. The building Bullying Prevention Coordinating Committee (BPCC) will be administering a survey to our students, to learn more about our school climate and what we can do to ensure all students feel safe and secure. This program will fit right into our Positive Behavior Supports (PBS) which has a focus on recognizing all the positive behaviors we see every day from our children when they demonstrate Being Respectful, Responsible and Ready.

We will continue the practice of writing positive recognition “Paw Prints” to all students who demonstrate the 3R behavior expectations. Our focus continues to be positive, because so much of what occurs at our school reflects that McKinley is a great place to learn and grow.

Finally, our Halloween Parade will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30. Please watch for details and a gentle reminder to only send healthy snacks. Thanks for all you do!

Teresa Bechen, Principal McKinley Elementary

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McKinley Elementary School | Davenport

ISSUE TWO | THURSDAY, OCT. 15, 2009



McKinley’s fall Book Fair kicks off with Change Challenge on Oct. 27 and ends with Build-A-Book on Nov. 6. The fair runs from Nov. 2-6.

ARE YOU READY FOR A BOOK FAIR ADVENTURE?

“Destination Book Fair” will bring the adventure of reading to McKinley and your child. The dates are Nov. 2-6 with Change Challenge being held the week prior (Oct. 26-29).

As a reminder, Change Challenge is a great way to raise additional money for extra books for the school as well as an opportunity to help benefit one of three children’s charities. This is possible due to the support of Scholastic, who matches our school’s donations dollar for dollar. Last year more than \$1,300 was raised through the fall season’s Change Challenge. Save the date for the Fall Book Fair scheduled for Nov. 2-6.

As usual, many exciting programs like the classroom Wish List, great books, the Change Challenge and a special Klutz Build-a-Book night are on the slate of exciting events coming soon!

CHANGE CHALLENGE

Each year, thousands of schools across the country participate in >> *Continued on Page 4*

Planetarium boosts science interest

“Science isn’t going to be easy this year,” said third grade teacher Mrs. Rock.

But she said her students don’t seem to mind. Instead, they’re doing extra research that supplements what they are learning in class.

Her classroom sat in the dark on the floor of the John Schalk Community Room under a the dome of a portable, inflatable planetarium called

the “Star Lab.” It is the property of the

Mississippi Valley Area Education Agency, and any school can borrow it. Mrs. Rock did in the middle of September to teach her class the first science unit of the year. Sun, Moon and Stars.

Students volunteered to tell some things they had learned from the Star Lab experience. >> *Continued on Page 3*



TERESA BECHEN

FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

A chill in the air briskly ushers out summer and welcomes autumn to our school doors.

We really enjoyed the end-of-summer days of September with little worry about even wearing jackets, but now that frost has touched the ground we need to think about dressing in warm jackets, hats and gloves.

The children will be out daily, unless it rains, so please be sure to dress your child appropriately for the cool weather. If it is raining, children now have options to play games, draw, or read during indoor recess.

Only on rare occasions, when we do not have enough staff to monitor these types of activities, we will have the children view a video. We also have four new parent volunteers who were trained using the video “Effective Supervision” to assist whenever possible with recess duty. We really appreciate the extra parents on board.

Fall Festival was a great hit with many families in attendance and some new experiences for all. A big “THANK YOU” to the PTA parents and teachers who organized, set up, and volunteered to run all the events that evening.

Also, a special note of recognition goes to Mr. Lebs, who showcased his semi cab for the children (and parents) to learn more

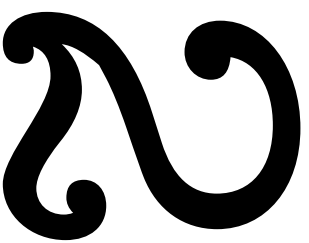
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CONTRIBUTE TO PAWPRINTS

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 Kathy Kuhl at familykuhl@earthlink.net or call 355-3977.



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CURRICULUM COUNTS

Third-graders multiple their math skills

The third grade teachers are focusing on helping their students gain fluency in mastering their addition and subtraction facts.

By January, we will be focusing on fluency in mastering multiplication facts. The students spend 20 minutes a day in the computer lab working on a math fact program called "Fast Math." Each student works at his or her own pace, practicing facts and then playing a game to check for mastery.

In addition to using Fast Math, the teachers at McKinley administered five-minute time tests to their students to determine proficiency in 100 addition and subtraction facts. Students that have not mastered addition and subtraction facts will participate in a 30-minute daily intervention block to reinforce facts.

This intervention will run for three weeks and the students will be reassessed. At intervention time, students will participate in math games that will help them develop fluency in addition and subtraction facts. Knowing addition and subtraction facts is necessary for students to build a good math foundation.

Home/School Connection: Please create flash cards with the math facts and practice them daily. There are also web sites that reinforce math facts. The following are a list of possible web sites:

- ❖ www.aaamath.com
- ❖ www.aplusmath.com/Games/index.html
- ❖ www.coolmath4kids.com

Pizza Pals a good friend to have when you're hungry

McKinley families can get a discount on pizza and support our school at the same time by purchasing Pizza Pals coupons. They are good for one large (up to \$22 value) pizza at Old Chicago. Cost is \$11. Of that, \$6 goes to Old Chicago and \$5 goes to McKinley.

NEWS FROM THE NURSE

By Mrs. Bisbee, RN



FLU VACCINE CLINIC NOV. 2-13

Seasonal flu vaccines will be administered to students at Davenport Schools with parental consent the weeks of Nov. 2-13.

All students should have received the information and consent form to take home. If you didn't see this come home and would like your child to receive the flu vaccine, please let us know or stop by the school office as soon as possible. We would like all consents turned in by the end of October.



HAPPY FOOTWEAR, HAPPY FEET

Please give special consideration to your child's footwear as you send them off to school. As winter approaches, make sure he/she has weather-appropriate footwear to wear outside as well as inside. It is not appropriate or healthy for your child to wear wet or hot boots all day in class or to be without proper shoes for gym class. It would be a good idea to keep a pair of indoor shoes at school that they can also wear to PE.

I know flip flop season has come to an end, but I have been seeing a lot of injuries in the health office as a result of students' feet being stepped on, doors opening over them, and children tripping and or twisting their ankles when trying to run in flip flops.

Happy feet contribute to a healthy, happy child who is ready to learn, so please send your child to school in sturdy shoes that protect their feet!

REGISTER FOR BASKETBALL

Registration is open through Thursday, Oct. 22, for Dad's Club basketball season.

Please place registration form with payment in the Dad's Club box in the school office.



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FROM THE FRONT: PLANETARIUM

"Mercury is the closest planet to the sun," said Lily Chen.
"Earth is the third planet from the sun," added Taylor Foley.
"The sun's part of the Milky Way," offered Adair Narvaez.
"Our galaxy is called the Milky Way," said Luke Hummel.
"Stars are all made of gas," Jessica Brown said.
"We've learned about constellations, like the Big and Little Dippers," Spencer Jones said.
Hearing her students, Mrs. Rock observed, "You guys are all doing research at home!"

She said that many students had voluntarily submitted extra reports after seeing what the Star Lab could do. The projector comes with discs that show the continents of Earth, the constellations of the Milky Way and the phases of the moon. Watching the moon disc, kids cried out "Awesome!" among the oohs and aahs.
Mrs. Rock was on the Davenport School District's science committee, so she helped formulate the new third-grade science curriculum, which will also include a unit called "The Structures of Life," during which the pupils will study plants and animals.



Mrs. Rock's third-grade class' science project used a portable planetarium called "Star Lab" at McKinley to learn about our solar system, including the planets.

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER DATES

OCTOBER

16 – Popcorn day

21 – 1 p.m. dismissal, beginning of second quarter

22 – Town Meeting, 5:30-6:30 p.m., John Schalk Community Room. Come join Principal Bechen, faculty, PTA members and other parents to talk about making a stronger home-to-school connection and adding enrichment to school programs.

26-29 – Book Fair change challenge. See details in article.

30 – Halloween Parade at 2 p.m. followed by classroom parties.

NOVEMBER

2-6 – Scholastic Book Fair, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on MTThF, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, additional evening hours on Friday. See story for details.

6 – Dinner and a Movie, "Hotel for Dogs." Spaghetti dinner at 5:45 p.m. in cafeteria; cost is \$2.50 per person. McKinley water bottles will be raffled. Showtime is 6:30 p.m. in auditorium

12 – PTA meeting, 6:30 p.m. in lunch room