

**SAFETY
AFTER SCHOOL**

Safety Guidelines for children playing after school on the playground:
 Adults must supervise their children on the playground (not from their car).
 If an injury occurs, the nurse is no longer on duty so please seek medical assistance from a doctor.
 No toys from home are allowed on the playground until after 5:30 p.m. when Stepping Stones after school program ends.

The Tiger wall adds interest to every McKinley meal. From left, Zoe Irwin, Keyonshe Houston, Maeka Jackson, and Kai Houston show their respect for the new artwork.



Students make respectful, responsible choices

The Positive Pawprint Program was established to recognize students in a positive way for demonstrating one of the three McKinley Expectations: Respectful; Responsible; and Ready.

The students get really excited to receive a pawprint and look forward to hearing their name called out during lunch each Friday. It seems to make the cafeteria a more inviting place especially with the McNificat mural that was designed by student

teacher, Kevin Graham. It's not just for the kids, though students from K to 5th are excited about seeing their names on the wall, "The best part of the program is how it encourages the adults focus on what a child is doing RIGHT instead of what a child is doing wrong...and that in turn makes the other students motivated to do the right thing and make good choices," say coordinators Mrs. Berthel and Mrs. Mathews.

FROM THE FRONT

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accentuate the 3 R's: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, and Be Ready throughout the building. This month the PBIS team will begin to examine the recess experience, too. Since the main responsibility of recess duty falls on our para-educators, we want to stress the importance of providing on-going training for them.

In December, the first training was held for the para-educators on playground supervision. Our goal is to train those who are consistently involved with the recess duty on a daily basis. We have also been collecting informal data around the behavior problems connected with outdoor recess to guide our next steps.

Since the focus of PBIS is positive behavior supports, we incorporated Positive Paw Prints first. These are hung all over the cafeteria wall around our newly painted mascot. I invite you to come and see all the evidence of positive behavior happening everyday at McKinley.

Now we are ready to examine behaviors that can stop learning, or in this case playtime so important to our children's development. Some parents have voiced an interest in participating in the training. Look for further updates in the e-blast mailings.

Red Ribbon Week, "Just say NO to drugs!" will be held April 21-24. The committee has planned special activities for each day. This will also be a time to

remember a very special parent, Salli Canfield, with the planting of a tree in her honor. We will be celebrating Earth Day, April 22, alongside Red Ribbon Week by caring for both our environment and our bodies, keeping each pure and ready to serve others.

Students and teachers are invited to walk the McKinley campus on Earth Day to dispose of or recycle any debris, insuring our school grounds remain clean and beautiful for all. Watch for a note home in your Thursday folders.

Many of our students have been fortunate to participate in some wonderful experiences around music this month. The Fourth Grade Symphony Day and First Grade Ballet, funded by Great Minds, were very successful programs. Sudlow hosted a band concert April 7 for Grades 3-5 as both entertainment and recruitment for their band programs.

Our own Mr. Guss performed with the QC Brass Quintet at St. Ambrose University, Allaert Auditorium recently. And finally, the faculty Fun Night Band led by Mr. Gus, will perform Friday, April 24, at 2:30 p.m. in the McKinley Auditorium for all interested. Come and enjoy the fun as we begin our Fun Night celebration.

Thank you for all you do, and if we don't see you at the concert, make sure you make it to Fun Night that evening!

Teresa Bechen, Principal McKinley Elementary

pawprints
 ISSUE EIGHT | THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009
 McKinley Elementary School | Davenport



ABOVE: Students from Mrs. Robertson's third-grade class celebrate being the halfway point winners of the Raffle contest. **BELOW:** Emily Hummel and Justine Doyle help promote the beach theme. (More on Page 2).

Have a Fun Night on the 'Beach'

You've heard of the cake walk ... but the Fun Night "Book Walk" is a modified version that is sure to add fun and education to the night!

Organizers have put an educational spin on a favorite game, so kids can take home a book versus a plate of cookies or cupcakes! McKinley families are asked to donate new or gently used books to a box in the office for the "Book Walk."

On Fun Night, April 24, the Community Room will feature music and fun, just books as prizes versus cookies and sweets.

Carrie Hummel, Fun Night Chair, says the cake lovers need not worry, newly installed for the Beach Bash Fun Night will be a Cake Raffle.

Guests will be able to buy tickets from raffle sellers during the event, then choose to put their tickets all in one basket if that's the

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

April showers may bring May Flowers, but it also means that our children will be having indoor recess when it rains. A parent group has met to examine some alternatives to our present recess structure – both indoor and outdoor.

One of the programs, Peaceful Playgrounds, incorporates a structured recess complete with activities for all age groups. Jodi Smiley, our wonderful PE Teacher has volunteered to investigate and report on the feasibility of implementing this program at McKinley. The PTA is committed to providing funding toward this type of project as well. Ms. Smiley led a similar project at Buffalo Elementary.

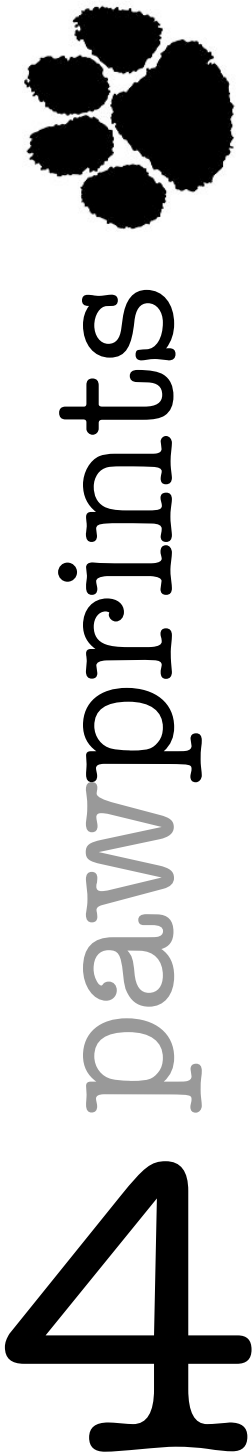
Conversation will continue and a possible visit to one of the elementary schools in the Chicago area that have been using this program is in the works. Please watch for more updates. Everyone at McKinley continues to

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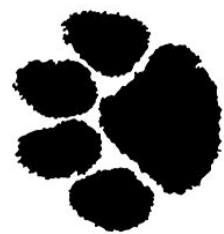
PAYING ATTENTION: IDENTIFY THE IMAGE AND WIN!

Last month's Mystery Photo was the rock climbing board that's part of the playground equipment. This week's photo has an Easter theme to it. You'll need to be observant to spot where it's located. But, once you do, remember, bring your answer to Mrs. Moss in the office. The winner will be announced at the end of the day on Friday. The first person to correctly guess the image will win a \$5 gift card to our neighborhood grocery partner, Schnuck's. So, put on those thinking caps and focus. We'll keep trying to make the photos a little more easy as long as you keep playing. Last month's winner: **XXXXXXXXXX**



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



Another successful Book Fair brought many smiles to Ian Hegetschweiler, Zaida Calderon, Kevin Song and Annie Callaway. This year's success means more books for students and teachers.

Book Fair gets two thumbs up!

Lights, Camera, Book Fair got rave reviews. In keeping with the movie theme that carried our Spring Book Fair from beginning to end, this year's version is a wrap. And, it was a wonderful success.

In all, the Book Fair had total revenues of more than \$6,000. Contributing to that total was our Change Challenge. All of your pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters brought in \$1,200. This total allowed each classroom teacher to choose \$67 worth of new books for their classroom libraries.

Of course, the main ingredient to any blockbuster is the stars. We'd like to thank all of the volunteers who took time from their lives to help our students shop for their new books.

A special thank you goes out to Mary Gable, Heidi Hulme and Angela Lewis who went above and beyond to make sure the sequel was as good as the original.

Treat Old Chicago right!

You can purchase an Old Chicago Pizza Pal coupon for \$11 (\$22 value) and \$5 of the \$11 goes to McKinley PTA and \$6 goes to Old Chicago. Basically, you're getting a large pizza at 50 percent off! And the pizzas are LARGE!

Old Chicago has donated all the pizza for Fun Night for the past 4 years and this year will be No. 5! They also donate pizzas for classroom parties throughout the year.

Traci Swanson is the coordinator of the Pizza Pal coupons, and she is available year round providing coupons for your convenience.

Her contact info is: tshanahanswanson@gmail.com or 563-355-8866 home or 563-210-5514 cell. Please support Old Chicago as they continue to support our school.

Wrapping up a great year

A tradition for more than 20 years, McKinley fifth graders work on mini biographies as a reminder of their days at McKinley.

Each year, through the coordinated effort of students, teachers, and parents, a yearbook is created which is filled with student's views of their past, present, and future. Families are asked to send in photos or photo copies of their children for the student biographies – to make photo collages for the yearbook. The keepsake book is one that is treasured for years to come.

TIME TO CUT AND PASTE

Yearbooks include personalized biographies of each student, as well as additional pages with different themes with photo collages. The collages are much more interesting when photographs from everyone are submitted to cut and paste to make the theme pages. Students love to see themselves in the yearbook, so the more pictures to choose from, the better.

Several fifth grade parents will be cutting and pasting photos to create special theme pages of activities at school for the McKinley 5th Grade Yearbook. If you have photos that you are willing to give to the cause, please do so as soon as possible. The books must be assembled, proofed, and printed prior to its presentation on June 2 – Fifth Grade Day. If you have copies or digital images of photos of fifth graders, please contact Ann Nicknish 359-9242. Photos may be forwarded by email to apnicknish@mchsi.com or egaxel@gmail.com If you would like to help in any way, please contact Ann.

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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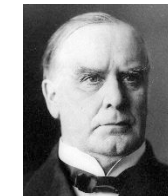


It's a birthday BASH

Our school – named for the 25th president of the United States – will be celebrating 70 years in the community. Many special components will make up the McKinley 70th Birthday Celebration, scheduled for Friday, May 22.

Look at these highlights:

Historical Research: Fifth grade students are researching and making a PowerPoint presentation about McKinley's history to date, interviewing a retired McKinley staff member, and creatively sharing their findings. They will make a timeline and incorporate photos of McKinley by looking



through old newspaper clippings and archives.

Cultural Ties: ESL Teachers are coordinating a "Multicultural experience" in the gym by incorporating our McKinley Children from Around the World. Mrs. Wells is the leader of that group.

For Your Viewing Pleasure: Mrs. Campbell has volunteered to assist with creating a "Classroom from the '50s" and a "Classroom from the New Millennium" to be on display in the community room with other memorabilia. If you have or know of someone who might loan memorabilia for this display, please contact Mrs. Campbell.

Mural Unveiled: The McClellan Heights historical mural will be unveiled to the public on May 22nd in celebration of the 70th birthday year of McKinley. The mural (on the second floor landing) is already beginning to take shape and it is BEAUTIFUL!

Speaker and Picnic: To mark this as a celebration day, a local writer and artist will be presenting in the auditorium. A lunchtime cookout for all students, teachers, parents and community members, is planned for the 22nd. Lunch orders will be taken prior to the event for all those who want to attend.

Birthday Cake! Cupcakes made by volunteers will be provided so that an official "Happy Birthday" may be sung in unison at the picnic. Sign up with the PTA if you are a cupcake maker!

BAKING CHALLENGE

Do you love to be creative and love to bake cakes? We know a few McKinley families that love the chance to be challenged by a baking task. The new Fun Night Cake Raffle will be your time to shine! Please contact Carrie Hummel if you would like to bake a specialty cake with a beach theme for the raffle on April 24.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER?

In a few short weeks, the halls of McKinley will be transformed into a beach paradise with games galore and non-stop action. There are two shifts available for volunteering, you can specify your time preference by contacting Tina Wagschal at 441-9872 or tinatown@msn.com. The shifts for games, cake raffle sales, ticket sales, or food assistance are Shift #1 from 5:15 to 6:30 pm and Shift #2 from 6:30-7:45 pm. Remember, the night is always a fun one and by helping out, you can double that fun by doing a good deed!

RAFFLE REMINDERS

Fun Night is surfing right up and raffle tickets are riding the wave of success. Students had sold more than 1,200 tickets just after spring break. Mrs. Robertson's class was the mid-way class with the highest participation of students who had sold 10 tickets each. They received a popsicle and got to wear beach hats and/or sunglasses to class on April 7th. The class with the highest participation by Fun Night wins a Pizza and Pop Party. The winning class will be announced at the Fun Night Assembly.

*Please remember that the raffle tickets need to be filled out with the buyers name and phone number as well as the STUDENT SELLER'S Name and Homeroom. If these items are not on the tickets, it is hard to give proper credit toward participation (and winning the Pizza & Pop Party!) Fill out your stubs as completely as you can. Thank you!

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cake they would like to win.

Specialty cakes with beach themes will be on display in the front hall for all to bid on and drool over! (see sidebar for volunteer opportunities).

You need to be present to win your cake, which will be announced at the time of raffle winners, in the auditorium.

APRIL/MAY DATES

APRIL

- 13 – No school
- 17 – Great Strides Walk with Mrs. Hoffman
- 20 – No school In-service Day
- 23 – Get your Raffle Tickets In!
- 24 – Fun Night from 5:30-7:30
- 30 – Last Day to submit 5th grade photos

MAY

- 4-8 – Teacher Appreciation Week
- 8 – Teacher Appreciation Luncheon
- 11-15 – Kindness is Cool Week
- 17 – Spring Cleanup
- 25 – Memorial Day, No School