



“Together, We Make a Difference!”

THE MANATEE MESSENGER

McMullen Booth Elementary Newsletter—727-669-1800

January 8, 2010



Sherry Aemisegger, Acting Principal

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Dr. Carol Thomas, Region II Associate Superintendent, 727-725-7996

Principal's Corner

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family had a wonderful and relaxing winter break which energized you to “hit the ground running” as we approach the close of the first semester of learning at MBES. Our teachers and students are currently working to complete our second round of learning assessments and will be communicating their learning gains and new goals to you shortly. Look for this information by the end of February along with our second report cards.

With the growth of information and communication technologies comes new opportunities and sometimes challenges. It has recently come to our attention that many of our students have experienced situations that may be considered cyber-bullying. What may have started as a banter or joke, can end up in a much more serious place. We were surprised to learn from our students how many of them had been recipients of an unkind message or chain letter, some of which caused students to feel fearful.

What is cyber-bullying? Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm others. A 2003 Florida Legislation amended the states “stalking Statute” to include “cyber-stalking,” which equates to electronic bullying in cyberspace. Penalties for acts under this statute range from a first degree misdemeanor to a third degree felony.

We have held class meetings in several intermediate classrooms to address the topic of cyber-bullying and discussed with students suggestions for appropriate actions in response to these situations, as well as encouraging them to share these situations with parents and adults who are close to them.

The following are just a few safety tips that parents may want to consider in the use of computers and cell phones:

- Create rules for the use of the internet or texting
- Educate yourself and your child in the safe use of these technologies
- Know what your child is doing online and with their phone
- Learn the language
- Don't allow solitary/unmonitored surfing or texting
- Don't rely solely on technology safeguards to protect kids
- Know your child's email accounts, profiles, IM screen names, etc

Please talk to your children about technology safety. Relationships and education are the best way to assure that our students are prepared to handle the great wide world of technology that awaits them. Working together, we can make a difference for our students!

~ Sherry Aemisegger, Acting Principal

Dates To Remember

- Jan. 12 SAC Meeting, Media Center, 7:00 pm
Math Night at Sunset Pt. Publix
5:30-7:00 pm (Last names A-M)
- Jan. 13 Class Pictures
Math Night at Sunset Pt. Publix
5:30-7:00 pm (Last names N-Z)
- Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
- Jan. 22 Pro Ed Day, No School for Students
- Feb. 4 C2C Assemblies
9:15-9:45 Primary
10:00-10:30 Secondary
- Feb. 9 Market Day Pickup, 3:00-4:00 pm
SAC Meeting, Media Center, 7:00 pm
- Feb. 15 Pro Ed Day, No School for Students
- Feb. 19 Principal's Chat, Media Center
8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Reading Under the Stars, 6:00 p.m.
- Feb. 26 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast
9:00 am
Report Cards Distributed

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Please donate any unwanted sweaters to assist our students in their Earth Day projects this year. Sweaters of any size and in any condition will be utilized. Please mark “Attention Stacey Peters” somewhere on the sweater. Thank you.

~ Stacey Peters, Behavior Specialist



Community Happenings

The following flyers are located in the school office, and you are welcome to stop by and pick up any papers that interest you.

*Flag Football/Cheerleading/Soccer League Sign-up for children 3-14 years of age; register online: www.li9sports.com or call (813)805-8742.

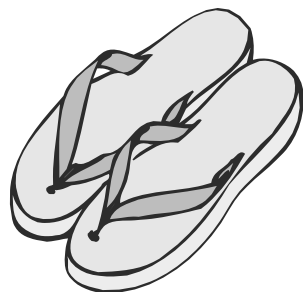
*C.A.S.A. Afterschool School Program at Countryside Rec Center, Kdg-5th, PM transportation available from McMullen Booth Elementary. Call the Rec Center for details, 669-1914.

*Homework Help provided by High School Volunteers, Wednesdays, 3:00-5:00 pm, Countryside Library

*Taller de Internet en Espanol para Adultos, Biblioteca de Clearwater, 5:30-7:00 pm, 1/20, 2/17, 3/17, 4/21 & 5/19; Por favor haga su reservacion contiempo. Llamando a Amparo Gonzalez, 771-2109.

**"Becoming a Love and Logic Parent", 7 week Parent Training, Sunday evenings starting January 17, 5:00-6:30 pm, \$15 per family, Heritage United Methodist Church, 2680 Landmark Dr., Clearwater. Register by email: Suei@heritageumc.com or call: 796-1329 ext. 44

The school is neither endorsing nor sponsoring the events nor approving or endorsing the views of the organization sponsoring the activity.



FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Happy New Year to you and yours! The next few months should be busy and enjoyable. Plans are already underway for our "Step Into Action...Volunteer" Appreciation Breakfast to honor all of our wonderful volunteers.

Please mark your calendars now so you can attend our fun event on Friday, February 26, at 9:00 am in the cafeteria. More information will follow. Hope to see you there!

Please remember to log all of your volunteer service hours in the volunteer computer before January 21. I will be submitting our 1st semester report to the County and want to be sure all of the hours you have so generously given to McMullen Booth are reflected accurately. If you are unable to come in, please call the office and we will enter the hours for you.

Thanks for your attention to this very important task!

Application Process for Magnet, Fundamental, and Career Academy Schools

- All Magnet, Fundamental, and Career Academy applications will be made online through the Student Reservation System this year. Additional information is available at www.pcsb.org/schooloptions/
- Parents must have a ParentCONNECT User ID and Password to make an application.
- The application period runs from January 9 through January 29 with the Information Fair on January 9 at Northeast High School from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm.
- Discovery Nights have been scheduled for all schools, and the schedule is available online at www.pcsb.org/schooloptions/



C2C - Respect, Honesty, Responsibility, Self-Motivation

Our character word for the month of January is **Self-Motivation**.

As we begin the New Year, it is a perfect time to renew our commitment to character. Our key words are Respect, Responsibility, Honesty and Motivation. Here are some tips to help you motivate your child.

Setting goals and reaching them is one of the best ways to motivate children. Sometimes, just reaching the goal is enough. But other things call for a special celebration. So when your child reaches a tough goal, let everyone share in her success. Here are some fun ideas:

- **Take a picture.** Photograph your child as she achieves the goal. Get a picture of her crossing the finish line. Or snap a shot of her holding the science fair project. If you don't have a camera, ask your child to draw a picture. Frame it and put it by your child's bed. That way, every time she wakes up, she'll see an image of herself as an achiever. When you replace the picture, put it in a special photo album.
- **Keep a journal.** Buy your child a special goals journal. As she works toward each goal, have her write it in the book. She might list the goal, the date she achieved it and any thoughts.
- **Plan a special surprise.** Write a note offering your child some small reward. It might be a trip to the ice cream parlor or a chance to invite a friend over. On the other side of the paper, write the goal your child wants to achieve. Now roll up the paper and put it into a balloon. Tell your child that when she reaches her goal, you'll pop the balloon together.
- **Make a victory dinner.** Get out your good dishes. Cook your child's favorite foods. Decorate the table. Have a special family dinner to celebrate your child's success.

Counselor's Corner

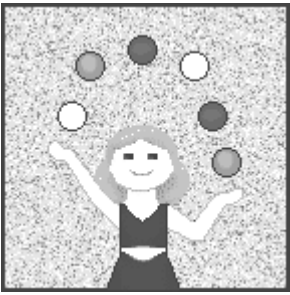
It's only January and already your calendar is filling up. How can busy families find time for studying, playing, sports and other activities? Here are some tips on how to make the most of your child's after-school time.

- **Set a study schedule.** Children need to spend some time studying every day. Talk about what time of day works best. Some children want to get their work done right after school. Others need some time to play.
- **Limit television during the week.** One family uses the VCR to record their favorite programs. During the week, the TV stays off and the children use their time for studying and other activities. On the weekend, when the schedule is more relaxed, children can watch their shows.
- **Don't feel your child has to do everything.** Some children spend every afternoon at a sports practice or a special class or lesson. They may be stressed, and their parents may be frazzled just getting them to and from all those activities. This year, pare down. Choose one or two things for each child.
- **Have a regular reading time.** Children who get into the reading habit will do better throughout their school years. Set aside some time each day when you can read to and with your child. Long after your child can read by himself, he'll still love to hear you read to him. If you make reading time just before bed, you'll also have a quiet time to catch up on other important news of the day.

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~Marilyn Taylor, Guidance Counselor

Parent Quiz



Can children juggle so many activities and still have time to be children? Here's a quiz to see if your child is overscheduled. Give yourself five points for something you usually do, zero points for something you never do, 1-4 points for the frequency in between.

1. My child sometimes has trouble remembering where she's supposed to be on a given day.
2. My child often has to stay up late to finish homework.
3. I'm always taking my child to one activity or another.
4. Every afternoon or evening has something scheduled.
5. My child takes part in more than three different activities each week.

Above 20 means your child may be overscheduled. 15 – 19 is average. Below 15 means you're giving your child some time just to be a child.

Publix.

Family Math Fun Night!



Join us for a special family activity at Sunset Point Publix where children will participate in a Math Scavenger Hunt. The hunt will have many hands-on-math activities for all Kdg-5th grade students and their families.

This special event will be held on two nights, Tuesday, January 12, for families with the last name beginning with A-M and Wednesday, January 13, for families with the last name beginning with N-Z from 5:30-7:00 pm. Children must be accompanied by an adult for this event.

Join our fun!

www.mbes.com



GOOD MORNING!

McMullen's Cafe



Week of 1/11-1/15

Mon 1/11 Sausage & Cheese Frittata
Cereal
Breakfast Bar
Oatmeal

Tues 1/12 Pancake Sausage Sandwich
Cereal
Grits

Wed 1/13 Breakfast Pizza Pocket
Cereal
Oatmeal

Thurs 1/14 Chicken on a Biscuit
Cereal
Grits

Fri 1/15 Cinnamon Roll
Cereal

Week of 1/18-1/22

Mon 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL

Tues 1/19 Ham & Egg on Muffin
Cereal
Grits

Wed 1/20 Cheese Grits & Sausage
Cereal
Oatmeal

Thurs 1/21 Pancakes
Cereal
Grits

Fri 1/22 ProEd Day
No School for Students

Week of 1/11-1/15

Mon 1/11 #1 Popcorn Chicken
#2 Baked Potato w/Cheese
#3 None
#4 Chef's Salad
#5 Turkey Sandwich

Tue 1/12 #1 Tacos
#2 Honey BBQ Nuggets
#3 Yogurt Parfait
#4 Veggie Dip Salad
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich

Wed 1/13 #1 Cheeseburger
#2 Pasta & Sauce
#3
#4 Chicken BLT Salad
#5 Tuna Salad Sandwich

Thur 1/14 #1 Breaded Chicken
#2 Spaghetti
#3 None
#4 Farmer's Salad
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich

Fri 1/15 #1 Pepperoni Pizza
#2 Fish Sandwich
#3 Cheese Pizza
#4 Mandarin Chicken Salad
#5 PB & J Sandwich

Week of 1/18-1/22

Mon 1/18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL

Tue 1/19 #1 Roasted Chicken
#2 Macaroni & Cheese
#3 None
#4 Veggie Dip Salad
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich

Wed 1/20 #1 Shepherd's Pie
#2 Hot Dog
#3 None
#4 Farmer's Salad
#5 Egg Salad Sandwich

Thur 1/21 #1 Cuban Pork
#2 Grilled Cheese
#3 None
#4 Chicken BLT Salad
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich

Fri 1/22 Pro Ed Day
No School for Students

*** IMPORTANT NOTICE ***

All Menus Subject to Change

Cafeteria News

Have you wondered how much money is left on your child's lunch account? Well, now you can find out, and it's free! Go to www.mealpayplus.com. You will need your student's ID number (located on their negative balance letters). Enter the number as the ID and PIN number. You can check the status of the account, see what they have purchased and get e-mail alerts when the account falls below a certain amount (\$5.25 is a good number, that's 3 lunches left). All of this is available at no charge to you!

You can also, for a small fee, add money with a check, debit or credit card. When adding to the account, if there is a negative balance in the meals, make sure you add money to zero that out, as well as adding to the "general" account if your child is able to purchase ala carte items.



The School Board of Pinellas County, Florida, prohibits any and all forms of discrimination and harassment based on race, color, sex, religion, orientation or disability in any of its programs, services or activities.