



*“Together, We Are Better”*

# THE MANATEE MESSENGER

McMullen Booth Elementary Newsletter

January 30, 2009



**Kathy Wickett, Principal**

**Sherry Aemisegger, Asst. Principal**

## Principal's Corner

We have been very busy the last few weeks completing our 2<sup>nd</sup> round of assessments for our students in grades 1-5. This is our mid-year measure to see all the progress our students are making. It is always great to hear about their academic growth. Looking ahead, our 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking the FCAT Writing test on February 10. This is an assessment that will give our students a chance to show their strength as writers. I know that our 4<sup>th</sup> grade authors will pour into this assessment all of the techniques they have learned about the craft of writing since Kindergarten. Parents of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, you can help your child be successful by making sure they have plenty of rest the night before the test, eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test and arrive to school on time.

Please be sure to complete our online survey by February 20. Our School Advisory Council (SAC) has been working on this, and your opinions are important to us. At our March SAC meeting, we will be looking at the data that we gather from this survey to see how we can best meet the needs of our school community.

I want to personally invite you to our next SAC meeting on February 9 at 7:00 pm in the school Media Center. The Student Assignment department has asked for each SAC to review the proposed 2009-2010 Elementary Zone Maps and to share any concerns. For McMullen Booth, this is a very “hot topic” because if the proposed maps are approved, our “walking” students who live on the north side of Union Street will **not** be zoned for McMullen Booth! I would encourage you to come and be a part of the discussion as we put together our statement to send to Student Assignment.

~ *Kathy Wickett, Principal*

### Dates To Remember

- Feb. 5 Market Day Pickup, 2:00-3:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Feb. 9 SAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
- Feb. 16 \*Important Change!  
Hurricane Makeup Day  
This day is no longer a Pro Ed Day.  
It is now an Early Dismissal Day.  
Dismissal will be 11:45 am
- Feb. 27 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast  
8:00-10:00 am Cafeteria
- Feb. 27 Report Cards Distributed, Grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Mar. 9 SAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
- Mar. 10-19 FCAT Testing, Grades 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>
- Mar. 12 Market Day Pickup, 2:00-3:00 pm, Cafeteria
- Mar. 24 Field Day, Kdg & 1<sup>st</sup>
- Mar. 25 Field Day, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>
- Mar. 26 Field Day, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Mar. 30-Apr. 3 Spring Break, No School
- May 9 Family Fun Day, 11 am – 2 pm (details to follow)

### 2009-10 School Calendar

If you are planning ahead...attached to this newsletter is the school calendar for NEXT school year.

### Early Dismissal Day February 16th

Monday, February 16 will be an Early Dismissal Day for students. Dismissal will be two hours earlier at 11:45 AM.

Please be sure that your child knows what they are to do after school on that day. Even though it is an early dismissal, a limited lunch will still be served on that day.

### Student Council News

Congratulations to our newly elected Student Council officers:  
President – Jacob Harris, Vice-President – Kevin Costello,  
Secretary – Ashlyn Frahn.

The Student Council will be selling Lollipop Valentines for \$1.00. Purchases can be made before school from February 2–12, or see Mrs. Taylor. The Valentines will be delivered on February 13.

# 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.

\*Dance & Cheerleading Classes, Clearwater Parks & Recreation Dept. For more information call (813)885-2292 or visit [www.AllAmericanYouth.org](http://www.AllAmericanYouth.org)

\*Boat & Bike Safety Day, Saturday, February 7<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-2 pm, Florin Roebig Bldg, 777 Alderman Road, Palm Harbor. For more information, call 786-5000.

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



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS



We are looking forward to celebrating **Volunteer Appreciation Month** in February. Please plan to “plant” yourself at our “Garden of Volunteers” breakfast on Friday, February 27 at 8:00 am in the cafeteria. This is our opportunity to express our gratitude to all of our wonderful volunteers. Mark your calendars now so you won’t miss it! Invitations will be coming home soon with your child.

February is the perfect month to recognize our **McMullen Booth Elementary Outstanding School Volunteers**. Each year we have the difficult task of selecting three volunteers to represent our school at the county recognition event held in the spring. The following have been nominated by school staff for the 2008-2009 school year.

Our Outstanding School Volunteer in the youth category is **Alexis Horton**. Alexis, who is a student at Safety Harbor Middle School, has been volunteering in the Media Center on Monday mornings. Alexis is responsible for a variety of tasks, which she accomplishes in a very conscientious manner. One of her most special qualities is her dependability. She is always smiling and is a joy to be around. We are so happy to have her with us each week.

**Tammy Mitchiner** has been selected as our adult Outstanding School Volunteer because of her hard work and dedication to our school and students. She has been a volunteer in our Kindergarten for the past three years and has been a Library Mom. This year our PTA is fortunate to have Tammy serve as President. In this capacity, she oversees all of the fabulous activities that take place here at McMullen Booth. Tammy spends countless hours on campus tending to the “business” of our school family. We are very blessed to have her!

This year’s Outstanding Senior Volunteer is **Jean Linne**. In April, 2007, Jean arrived at our front office looking for an opportunity to volunteer. As a retired teacher with many years of experience, we knew instantly what a valuable resource she would be to our school and students. She currently volunteers two days a week and comes for a morning session and again in the afternoon. In addition to tutoring, Jean has assisted at other school activities such as our Recreational Reading Manatee Marketplace. Her generous spirit makes her an indispensable member of our MBES team. Jean has become a very special member of our McMullen Booth family.

Congratulations to Alexis, Tammy & Jean and thanks to all of the 480 wonderful volunteers who are a part of our “Garden of Volunteers” here at McMullen Booth.

~ **Barbara Hajko, Family & Community Liaison**

“It’s not what you gather, but what you scatter, that tells what kind of life you have lived.”

## 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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## 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.

## Campbell's Labels Alert!!

Many of our families have participated in our Campbell's Labels & Boxtops for Education programs. Unfortunately, many of the labels sent in are incorrectly cut and need to be discarded. Please send the entire label and we will be happy to do the cutting. Thanks for your support of these programs!



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.





# GOOD MORNING!

# McMullen's Cafe

### Week of 2/2-2/6

- Mon 2/2** Omelet  
Cereal  
Breakfast Bar
- Tue 2/3** Breakfast on a Stick  
Cereal  
Grits
- Wed 2/4** Breakfast Pizza Pocket  
Cereal  
Oatmeal
- Thu 2/5** Chicken on a Biscuit  
Cereal  
Grits
- Fri 2/6** Cinnamon Roll  
Cereal

### Week of 2/9-2/13

- Mon 2/9** Honey Bun  
Cereal  
Oatmeal
- Tue 2/10** French Toast  
Cereal
- Wed 2/11** Cheese Grits & Sausage  
Cereal  
Oatmeal
- Thu 2/12** Pancakes  
Cereal  
Grits
- Fri 2/13** Max Stick  
Cereal  
Oatmeal

### Week of 2/2-2/6

- Mon 2/2** #1 Popcorn Chicken  
#2 Baked Potato w/Cheese  
#3 None  
#4 Chicken Caesar Salad  
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Tue 2/3** #1 Tacos  
#2 Maxstick w/Sauce  
#3 None  
#4 Chicken BLT Salad  
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich
- Wed 2/4** #1 Chicken Nuggets  
#2 Cheeseburger  
#3 Ravioli  
#4 Mandarin Chicken Salad  
#5 Turkey Sandwich
- Thu 2/5** #1 Spaghetti  
#2 Breaded Chicken  
#3 None  
#4 Farmer's Salad  
#5 Tuna Salad Sandwich
- Fri 2/6** #1 Pepperoni Pizza  
#2 Fish Sandwich  
#3 Cheese Pizza  
#4 Chef's Salad  
#5 P B & J Sandwich

### Week of 2/9-2/13

- Mon 2/9** #1 Chicken Patty on Bun  
#2 Yogurt & Cheese  
#3 None  
#4 Chicken Caesar Salad  
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- Tue 2/10** #1 Hot Turkey Sandwich  
#2 Macaroni & Cheese  
#3 None  
#4 Chicken BLT Salad  
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich
- Wed 2/11** #1 Asian Chicken  
#2 Chalupa  
#3 Ravioli  
#4 Farmer's Salad  
#5 Turkey Sandwich
- Thu 2/12** #1 Cuban Pork  
#2 Grilled Cheese  
#3 None  
#4 Mandarin Chicken Salad  
#5 Egg Salad Sandwich
- Fri 2/13** #1 Pepperoni Pizza  
#2 Fish Sticks  
#3 Cheese Pizza  
#4 Chef's Salad  
#5 P B & J Sandwich

## 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](http://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.

## IMPORTANT \*\*\* NOTICE \*\*\* All Menus Subject to Change

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.

