

"Together, We Are Better"

THE MANATEE MESSENGER

McMullen Booth Elementary Newsletter

December 5, 2008



Kathy Wickett, Principal

Sherry Aemisegger, Asst. Principal

Principal's Corner

It was wonderful to have some time off at Thanksgiving, and now we are geared up for the last few weeks of 2008. Our kids have been working hard on building their reading stamina, and it is really paying off. It is exciting to watch our children grow as readers! Keep encouraging them to read at home for sustained periods of time.

Our scheduled construction will be starting while we are out of school for Winter Break. The construction crew will begin prepping the area, and the fencing will be put up around the construction zone. Because of this, on January 5, 2009, the car circle from Union Street will be re-routed to the front of the Pre-K building. The buses that currently load and unload in front of the Pre-K building will be re-routed to the bus circle. A more detailed notice will be sent home before Winter Break. As we progress through the year, construction update information will be communicated in the newsletter.

The Grand Opening of our school store is December 9. The store will be open from 7:20 a.m. to 7:40 a.m. every Tuesday and Friday morning. Our school store is located in the computer lab. There is additional information in this newsletter about this exciting addition to McMullen Booth Elementary.

Have a great weekend!

~ Kathy Wickett, Principal

Dates To Remember

- Dec. 8 SAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
- Dec. 17 Kdg Report Cards Distributed
- Dec. 22-Jan. 2 Winter Holidays, No School
- Jan. 5 School Resumes
- Jan. 12 SAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Media Center
- Jan. 15 Market Day Pickup, 2:00-3:30 pm Cafeteria
- Jan. 16 Pro Ed Day, No School for Students
- Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Jr. Day, No School
- Jan. 28 Class Picture Day
- Feb. 5 Market Day Pickup, 2:00-3:30 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



Canned Food Drive

Thanks to everyone for helping with the Holiday Canned Food Drive for the Salvation Army.

Our school collected 889 food items. Congratulations to Mrs. Chemnitz class for collecting the most cans in the entire school. They donated 90 cans to our drive!

Way to go!

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.

*Holiday Nature & Science Camp for ages 6 – 11 at Moccasin Lake Nature Park, 8 days during Winter Holiday Break, call 462-6024 for more information.

*i9 Sports 2009 Winter & Spring Season Registration for Flag Football, Lacrosse & Cheerleading, for details visit their website at www.i9sports.com or call (813) 982-9583.

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



FAMILY & COMMUNITY RELATIONS



The Great American Teach-In was a great success again this year! We welcomed 99 guests who gave over 200 presentations that day. Staff and students alike really enjoyed the time our speakers shared with us.

Thanks also to the many volunteers who helped make this day possible. I am so grateful to all of you. We are so fortunate at McMullen Booth to have the support of our volunteers and community. Without you, none of these special events would be possible.

As the Holidays approach, many of our students will be having celebrations in their classrooms. Please remember you must be a registered volunteer to assist in your child's room. You can stop by the office to complete the necessary paperwork anytime. Remember to bring your photo ID. Don't miss out on the chance to join in the fun!

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

"A single wildflower given in love is worth more than a dozen perfect roses given with indifference." ~ Anonymous

We extend a special thank you to "Flowers by Elizabeth" for their donation of a beautiful centerpiece for the Teach-In. We appreciate your generosity!

Attention 5th Grade Parents!!

It is time for 5th Grade Honors Chorus auditions. Each year, Pinellas County music teachers join their students with other 5th Graders to present a concert for the community. This year our performance will be March 6, 2009. **One of the requirements is perfect attendance at all evening rehearsals.** (Feb.5 – Feb.19 – Feb.24 at Eisenhower Elem. and March 5 at First Baptist Church, St. Petersburg)

I will be auditioning any 5th Graders who are interested in this opportunity beginning Dec. 1 through Dec.12, 2008. **I can select ONLY four students for the chorus.**

The audition piece is the first verse only of America (My country 'tis of thee) and a few select vocal exercises. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

~ **Beverly Butler, Music Teacher**

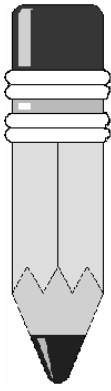
R.E.A.D.

Radical.....Exciting.....Affordable.....Delightful.....

We, the teachers at MBES, are excited about an opportunity to recycle good, quality books for young and old alike. Starting on January 5, we will begin collecting appropriate books, DVDs, CDs, and/or videos for all ages. The books will be available to purchase at a LOW cost during the PTA "Reading Under the Stars" event to be held on January 23, 2009. The funds collected from this sale will be used toward our media assistant/technology fund. So, when you and your children receive new books during the holidays, please box any older ones you are not using and donate them to assist our staff in this worthwhile project.

~ **Tina Carr, Kindergarten Teacher**

School Store Opening December 9, 2008!



5th Grade students together with our students with autism will be running a school store. All proceeds will be donated to the *Walk Now for Autism* campaign this spring. The store will be open on Tuesdays and Fridays, 7:20-7:40 am in the computer lab. Items for sale will include: pencils, erasers, bookmarks, notepads, pencil sharpeners, stickers and stamps.

Contact Stacey Peters with any questions at 669-1800, ext. 121, or petersst@pcsb.org.

URGENT: Community Member Needed for School Advisory Council (SAC)

If you are a member of the local business community and able to attend and participate in the McMullen Booth Elementary School Advisory Council, please contact Principal Kathy Wickett at 727-699-1800 to volunteer.

The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a team of people representing various segments of the community – parents, teachers, students, administrators, support staff, business/industry people and other interested community members. The purpose of a SAC is to assist in the preparation and evaluation of the results of the school improvement plan and to assist the principal with the annual school budget.

We meet for just one hour on the second Monday of each month during the school year. Meetings are open to the public.

Next SAC meeting: 7:00 pm Monday, December 8, in the Media Center.



SECRET PAL PROGRAM



Thanks so much to all of the wonderful families at McMullen Booth Elementary who are participating in the Secret Pal Program.

We know that times are tough for all right now, but the “little” treats given to the staff are definitely appreciated.

Please remember your Pal during this special Holiday time. Candy, a Holiday plant, an ornament, a gift card or any other present is sure to be a hit. Remember, the gift does not need to be large, but a little something once a month is appreciated.

Thanks again for your participation, and happy Holidays to all!

~ Karen Carlin, PTA Chair

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

During the Holiday season, we spend time reflecting on our blessings. Your PTA Board is thankful to be part of such a solid organization. We have great kids, dedicated staff, involved parents and strong community ties. To illustrate our strength, we will begin to assemble a membership tree that will be placed in the large office window at the front of the school. All current and newly-added members will have their names proudly placed upon its leaves. For those who have not yet joined, it is not too late! We will add names until March when our final numbers must be submitted. Not only does your \$5.00 fee go a long way to support many wonderful programs at MBES, it also sends a powerful message to our children that their school community matters.



Happy Holidays to all and stop and look for your leaf soon!

~ Stacey Brinson— PTA V/P-Organization

Memory Book Update

Ad Sales: If you have purchased a Memory Book, now is the opportunity to reserve your Personalized Message space in the yearbook. An order form went home with your child and another reminder order form was sent this week. Originally the Memory Book Committee had established a reduced price for purchasing a Personalized Ad early. However, due to the lack of orders received, and the state of today's economy, we are going to honor the reduced pricing until ad sales end on December 19. Personalized messages are a wonderful way for your child to remember your thoughts and good wishes for years to come. Teachers can also be remembered in your ads. Order forms, including Ad pricing, are on the MBES website. If you have any questions regarding Ads, call Jenny Vonhof at 727-799-1577.

Pictures: If you have taken pictures at school, including field trips, please put them on a CD and send them to the office so we may use them in the Memory Book. If you would like us to return the CD, write your name, your child's name and teacher's name on the CD cover.

Thank you for your involvement!

~ Jenny Vonhof—Memory Book Chair
~ Laura Pohl—Special Events Chair



1.08 Policy against Bullying and Harassment

In response to a new state law, *the Jeffrey Johnson Stand Up for all Students Act*, the School Board recently adopted a policy that prohibits bullying and harassment. The policy ensures that all students, employees, and volunteers learn and work in an environment that is safe, secure, and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. Florida is now one of 32 states with a law regarding bullying in schools.

The Policy defines Bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees and may involve, but is not limited to: teasing, social exclusion, threat, intimidation, stalking, including cyber stalking, physical violence, theft, sexual, religious, or racial harassment, public humiliation, and destruction of property.

The policy defines harassment as any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or employee that: Places a student or employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property, has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits, has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

McMullen Booth Elementary is committed to providing a safe learning environment and will not tolerate bullying or harassment of any kind. Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported to the principal or reported online at http://www.pinellas.k12.fl.us/SDFS/bullying_report.html. Anonymous reports can also be made by calling the Campus Crime Stoppers Hotline at 1-800-873-8477.

For more information about the policy or bullying prevention and intervention, visit the Safe and Drug Free Schools' website at www.pcsb.org/sdfs/bully.html. To learn more about bullying and find out what adults can do to help prevent it, visit the Stop Bullying Now website at www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov.



GOOD MORNING!

McMullen's Cafe



Week of 12/8-12/12

Mon 12/8 Peanut Butter Graham
Cereal
Poptart

Tue 12/9 Max Stick
Cereal
Grits

Wed 12/10 Breakfast Pizza
Cereal
Oatmeal

Thu 12/11 Breakfast Turnover
Cereal
Grits

Fri 12/12 Cheese Toast
Cereal
Oatmeal

Week of 12/15-12/19

Mon 12/15 Honey Bun
Cereal
Grits

Tue 12/16 Egg Patty/Sausage
Cereal
Oatmeal

Wed 12/17 Breakfast Burrito
Cereal
Grits

Thu 12/18 Waffle Stick
Cereal
Oatmeal

Fri 12/19 Yogurt
Cereal
Cinnamon Biscuit

Week of 12/8—12/12

Mon 12/8 #1 Beef Dippers
#2 Lasagna Roll-Up
#3 None
#4 Chicken Caesar Salad
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich

Tue 12/9 #1 Roasted Chicken
#2 Pork Choppette
#3 Veggie Burger
#4 Chicken BLT Salad
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich

Wed 12/10 #1 Cheese Burger
#2 Hamburger
#3 Bean Burrito
#4 Mandarin Chicken Salad
#5 Turkey Sandwich

Thu 12/11 #1 Breakfast for Lunch
#2 Rib-B-Que
#3 None
#4 Farmer's Salad
#5 Tuna Salad Sandwich

Fri 12/12 #1 Pepperoni Pizza
#2 Fish Sandwich
#3 Cheese Pizza
#4 Chef's Salad
#5 P B & J Sandwich

Week of 12/15—12/19

Mon 12/15 #1 Chicken Nuggets/
Honey BBQ Nuggets
#2 Pasta w/Marinara Sauce
#3 None
#4 Chicken Caesar Salad
#5 Ham & Cheese Sandwich

Tue 12/16 #1 Meatball Sub
#2 Mexican Lunchables
#3 Vegetable Chili
#4 Chicken BLT Salad
#5 Bologna & Cheese Sandwich

Wed 12/17 #1 Shepherd's Pie
#2 Hotdog
#3 None
#4 Farmer's Salad
#5 Turkey Sandwich

Thu 12/18 #1 Sloppy Joe
#2 Pizzatas
#3 Yogurt Parfait
#4 Mandarin Chicken Salad
#5 Egg Salad Sandwich

Fri 12/19 #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. 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.