



# The Lion's Roar

## McKinley Monthly Newsletter

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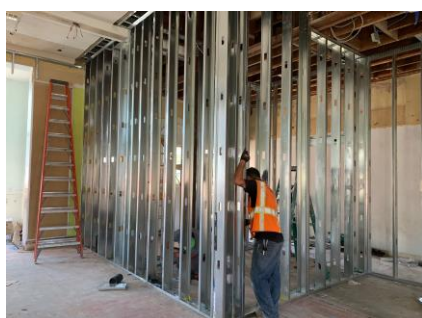
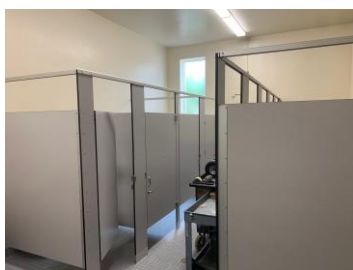
## Welcome Back McKinley Lions! Check out our Upgrades!

When you return to campus for the first day of school on Thursday August 22<sup>nd</sup>, you'll notice that the campus had a lot of construction this summer! We're very excited about our many upgrades:

- The Kindergarten bathrooms have been rebuilt and are new and ADA accessible.
- The girls' restroom by the library has been upgraded.
- A new adult bathroom has been added by the parent meeting room 100.
- The staff restrooms have been upgraded.
- The South Building (TK/K, 5<sup>th</sup>, other classrooms, lounge, rooms) has new floors, paint, doors, ceilings, and HVAC!
- The front office received HVAC.
- The wall has been removed between the K hallway and 5<sup>th</sup> stairwell, making 1 hallway for safer egress.
- The South Building upstairs had its corridor hallway reinstated for fire exit safety and so our students in wheelchairs can more easily access our classrooms.
- B1-B3 and B10-B11 have new floors.
- An ADA accessible ramp was built by the south side of the Auditorium entrance.
- Courtyard pathways were repaved.
- The Auditorium has new paint and HVAC (refinished flooring to come).



Please excuse us if some of our campus isn't quite as beautiful as usual on the first day. Construction will continue up until the first day of school, and throughout the school year. Our teachers will be doing their best to make their rooms as organized and welcoming for their students as possible. Thank you for your understanding and patience.





# Welcome Our New Staff

## **Kelsey Barger- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

Ms. Barger comes to us from San Jose, California, where she taught 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade for three years at a diverse low-income school. Ms. Barger was also a teacher internationally, teaching English in Thailand and teaching in summer programs in China and Belgium; these experiences developed her expertise in using effective teaching strategies for English Language Learners. Ms. Barger's passion for math and science lead her to take on numerous instructional leadership roles at her school and in her district. She was a member of her district's Math Leadership Team, where she developed rigorous creative inquiry-based units of study and created a district-wide 5<sup>th</sup> grade online math benchmark assessment with questions of varying depth and complexity levels that align to the state test. She also developed grade level curriculum maps to incorporate English Language Development (ELD) standards for English Learners into Math instruction. In addition, she was a pilot teacher for the district's new Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) standards-aligned curriculum and was tasked with providing feedback to the district on the potential program. She was also on her school's Technology Training Team, leading the way in integrating coding, robotics, and technology into instruction. She provided trainings and workshops to teachers in google classroom, Ozobots, VR, Cubelets, Little Bits, and digital citizenship. Ms. Barger also led afterschool Tier III intervention groups to support struggling students. Ms. Barger is trained in McKinley's effective instructional practices such as Responsive Classroom, Thinking Maps, and Academic Discourse strategies. She received her credential and her BA in Liberal Studies from CSU Chico. We're happy to have her at McKinley!

## **Melanie Levitt- 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) Special Education Teacher**

Ms. Levitt returns to her hometown of Santa Monica from Vermont. She began her career as a Paraeducator working with medically fragile students. For the past three years she was an SAI teacher for grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> at a diverse low-income school. In addition to teaching individual and small groups of students in special education, she co-taught 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade math in the general education classroom, collaborating with the teachers to provide adapted instruction so that students with special needs could achieve their IEP goals in the general ed classroom setting. In 2016 Ms. Levitt was awarded her school district's prestigious Education Recognition Award for her teaching. Ms. Levitt has a unique in-depth expertise in the Orton-Gillingham approach to reading instruction after spending several years as part of a rigorous post-graduate practicum. With this knowledge she served as the school's Literacy Specialist, providing support to teachers in Tier II and III reading instruction. Ms. Levitt also served on her school's Student Success Team, facilitating Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and conducting Functional Behavior Analysis to guide positive behavior intervention plans rooted in ABA. She is Crisis Prevention Intervention (CPI) trained. She also utilizes the Making Action Plans (MAPS) Personal Futures Planning Model to collaborate with students and families to identify each student's unique values, strengths, and needs. She also supports students in analyzing and developing alternative solutions to challenges by using the Collaborative Problem Solving Model (CPS). She attended the University of Vermont, where she received her MA in Special Education and BS in Early Childhood Education. We are excited to welcome her to the team!

## **Kristen L'Heureux- School Psychologist**

Ms. L'Heureux comes to us from within SMMUSD, having served as Psych Intern at Malibu High School and Webster Elementary School. During the challenging time of the Woolsey fire Ms. L'Heureux was an important member of the Malibu Crisis Response Leadership Team, providing psychological and counseling support to students, families, and staff, in addition to hosting trauma related trainings and workshops. During her internship she did a voluntary additional specialized training with a Bilingual Psychologist Mentor in a multilingual setting to gain experience in conducting culturally and linguistically relevant assessments and support to students. In addition, while at Malibu High School she collaborated with the STEP program, developing curriculum to provide social skills and emotional supports to students with high needs behavioral challenges. Prior to SMMUSD, Ms. L'Heureux was a K-8 School Psychology Fieldworker in the Las Virgenes School District. She has also provided services for families and youth in community-based settings for over 5 years. She is Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI) trained, and trained in the special education methodology used at McKinley such as the strengths based Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) model, Dehn's PSW, discrepancy, and neuropsychological models, and Functional Behavior Analysis. Ms. L'Heureux has a MS in Counseling with a specialization in School Psychology from Cal State Northridge, and a BS in Psychology for Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. We welcome her to McKinley!

## **Keylee Cubillas- Life Skills Special Ed Teacher**

Ms. Cubillas has a passion for working with students with functional, adaptive, and social skills needs. She worked as a Behavior Interventionist for 3 years at a charter school organization, and is trained in ABA. She has field work experience as a behavioral aide and as a student teacher in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Inglewood Unified working with English Learners and using Responsive Classroom techniques. She is also bilingual in English and Spanish. Welcome!



# McKinley Scores Big on the State Test

## Schoolwide Growth

Percentage of Students who Met and Exceeded the Standard on the State Test



### ELA

An Increase of **15%** in Two Years

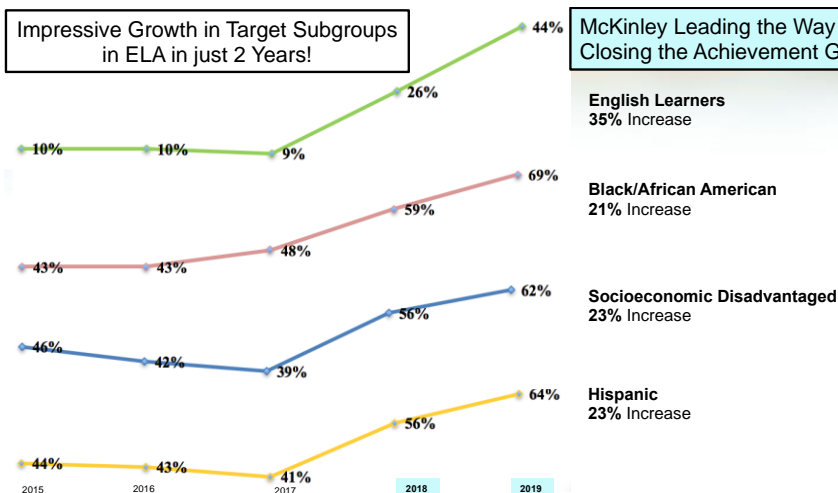


### Math

An Increase of **7%** in Two Years



Impressive Growth in Target Subgroups in ELA in just 2 Years!



McKinley Leading the Way in Closing the Achievement Gap

**English Learners**  
35% Increase

**Black/African American**  
21% Increase

**Socioeconomic Disadvantaged**  
23% Increase

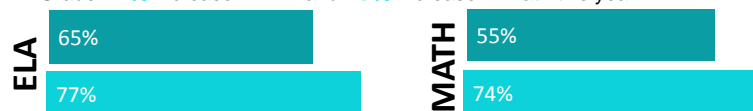
**Hispanic**  
23% Increase

## Grade Level Highlights

3<sup>rd</sup> grade had 70% of students meet or exceed the standards in Math

3<sup>rd</sup> grade increased the percentage of students who exceeded standard by 10% in ELA

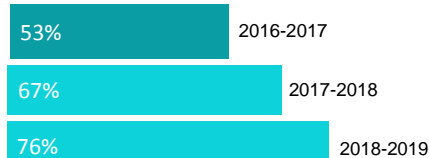
4<sup>th</sup> Grade **12%** increase in ELA and **19%** increase in Math this year



4<sup>th</sup> grade surpassed the district average in both ELA and Math

In ELA from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> grade, 4<sup>th</sup> grade not only maintained the cohort's overall scores but also moved over 12% of 4<sup>th</sup> graders up from met to exceeded the standard

5<sup>th</sup> grade made continual growth each year in ELA - **23%** over two years



5<sup>th</sup> decreased the percentage of students not meeting standards in Math by half, moving those students up to Nearly Met

In ELA, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade cohort grew each year from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, making a big jump this past year by 11%



## McKinley a CA Honor Roll School

The Educational Results Partnership (ERP) recognizes public elementary, middle and high schools that demonstrate high levels of student academic achievement, improvement in achievement over time, and reduction in achievement gaps. The ERP said, "After an extensive analysis of student data for every public school in California, McKinley Elementary was a clear leader in getting students to grade level and beyond and has been named to the 2018 – 2019 Honor Roll."

# At Back-to-School Night

## Learn about the Upcoming Innovations for 2019-20!

Math Co-Teaching 3-5!

Deep Learning Projects!

Social-Emotional Learning!

A Cotsen Grant!

### Back to School Nights

August 27<sup>th</sup> Grades TK-2 (Minimum Day TK-5<sup>th</sup>)

September 3<sup>rd</sup> Grades 3-5 (Minimum Day 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>)

#### 6:00-6:30pm, Cafeteria- New Volunteer Training

- All family members who want to volunteer in the classroom, on field trips, or at school events/activities are required to attend a Volunteer Training. At this training you will learn about school and district policies, and tips for how to support students' learning.
- At this training you will be given a Volunteer Application to complete that will include a TB Risk Assessment.
- If you have already attended a training in the past, you do not need to attend again.

#### 6:30-7:00pm, Auditorium- Introduction

- The Principal will share information about state test data and innovations for the upcoming school year.
- PTA, Ed Foundation and other school groups will provide important information about the school and SMMUSD.
- If you attend this presentation on the TK-2<sup>nd</sup> Back to School Night, you do not need to attend on the 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Back to School Night as it is the same presentation.

#### 7:00-8:00pm, Classroom Presentations

- Your child's teacher will explain about their classroom expectations, grade level curriculum, and communication plan.

**This is an adult-only event. Students will not be permitted on the playground as there is no supervision. Please arrange childcare. Thank you for your support!**

**Parking will be available on the playground for this event.**

### TK/K Meet and Greet

Meet and mingle with fellow families, McKinley staff, and PTA at this casual event on the K Yard.  
August 21<sup>st</sup>  
10:00-10:45 TK  
11:00-11:45 K

### Save the Dates

**August 22-** First Day of School, 8:30am Info Fair, Minimum Day Early Dismissal TK-5

**August 23-** Minimum Day TK/K Only 12:30pm

**August 27-** Minimum Day TK-5<sup>th</sup>, TK-2 Back to School Night!

**August 30-** Outdoor Assembly 8:30am, K Yard

**August 30-** PTA Meeting, 8:45am, Auditorium (room 100 is still being finished)

**September 2-** No School

**September 3-** 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Minimum Day, 3-5 Back to School Night!

**September 6-** Room Parent Meeting, 8:30am, Room 100

**September 6-** **Back to School Picnic 4-6pm**

**September 12-** Site Governance Meeting, 3:05pm

**September 13-** AASG Meeting, 8:30am, Room 100

**September 20-** Spanish Book Club and ELAC Meeting, 8:00am, Room 100

**September 26-** Reflective Parenting Training Course (New!), 8:30, Room 100

**September 27-** Outdoor Assembly 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Respect; PTA Meeting 8:45am