



The Lion's Roar

THE MCKINLEY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

What's Been
Happening in
February!

The McKinley 2018 Talent Show!



70 McKinley students shared their talent at 2 student assemblies and at an evening show for parents. The 32 acts ranged from poi ball flow art, to instrument playing, singing, comedy, skits, and dancing. Even the teachers got in on the fun showing off their dance moves. Thanks to the teachers who put together this wonderful event and the parent volunteers who helped out!



Events Coming up in March

March 7, 6:00pm, Auditorium Great Schools Forum

March 9, 8:45am, Auditorium AASG Meeting

March 12, 7:00pm Stairway to the Stars, Choir

March 14, 7:00pm Stairway to the Stars, Band

March 16, 7:00pm Stairway to the Stars, Orchestra

March 21, 6:00pm, Auditorium PTA Meeting

March 21-23 5th Grade Pali Camp

March 24-April 8 Spring Break (No School)





McKinley Recognized by the Board of Education for Black History Month Teachings

At the February 15th BOE meeting, under the commendations and recognitions portion of the agenda, Dr. Benjamin presented about the many unique things McKinley does for Black History Month. She shared about how International Day is special event that celebrates our diversity through dance, food, and cultural experiences. She also talked about how McKinley is one of only two elementary schools in SMMUSD that has an African American Support Group (AASG). This year McKinley has two African American related assemblies, we had an African drum and dance experience, and the other in the Spring is a dance performance that tells the history of hip hop. During Black History Month our librarian displayed and read aloud books by Black authors and of Black characters and themes, and during Friday Morning Announcements students shared about influential figures in Black history. Dr. Benjamin discussed how McKinley teachers use Responsive Classroom techniques and Morning Meetings to discuss social justice topics and build classroom community. Lastly she shared three classroom projects. The first project was by Ms. Kim (4th) and Dr. Moore (K), who read books and articles about a wide variety of individuals who have made an impact on American history and then transferred 3 facts and a photo to quilt. For a second project by Dr. Moore's class each student chose a quote from Dr. King that spoke to them, and created an art piece using the quote. Mr. Edwards (4th) began his project with a series of read alouds about specific figures and actions during the Civil Rights Movement. His students then conducted a family interview project on the legacy of MLK and perspectives on social change, that students then later shared with each other to determine common and unique experiences. Overall, the efforts above tie into both our school site focus of Academic Discourse, as well as the District's newly adopted Diversity Standards. Dr. Benjamin was proud to share the work we are doing to make our school a model school in both academics and social justice. We are teaching our students to uphold our PRIDE philosophy, and preparing them to be positive members of the community and the world.

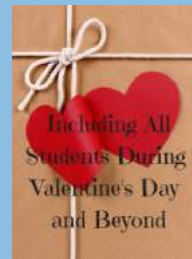


The McKinley Site Leadership Team (SLT) was subbed out for a daylong meeting to work on our school site focus of Academic Discourse. Stay up-to-date on happenings at McKinley and in SMMUSD by downloading the SMMUSD app on your phone.



The Orchestra of Santa Monica Woodwind Quartet performed for 3rd-5th graders.

TK/K Roundup consisted of a presentation, tours, enrollment packets, and excitement!



Student Council sold over 370 BuddyGram lolli-pops with messages which were delivered to students on Valentine's Day. All students received a gram from either a friend or a Student Council member.



This month all Instructional Aides and Paraeducators were trained in our school site focus of Academic Discourse. They are excited to facilitate students' discussions and increase their listening and speaking skills while deepening their understanding of concepts.



The School Smarts Parent Academy had 5 sessions on various topics about helping children succeed. The Coordinator of Parent Engagement, Bilingual Community Liaisons, along with special guest speakers, led the courses. The final session is March 8th at 8:30am Rm 100.

McKinley 2018 Jog-a-thon!

McKinley's annual jog-a-thon raised over \$30,000 (and still collecting)! The funds raised by the PTA will go towards stuff like classroom supplies, field trips, assemblies, school events, technology and more! Due to rain, the students had a Dance Party instead, and had a blast grooving with their friends and teachers. They did a great job being flexible, understanding, and positive, and they had still had a blast. This year McKinley contracted with the organization Apex to help facilitate the event, and to bring additional learning aspects like character building lessons. Thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped out and everyone who donated.





McKinley was selected to host a Teachers College Readers Workshop Training for teachers across the district. Dr. Moore (K), Ms. Ross (1st), Ms. Dempsey (2nd), Ms. Marshall (3rd), and Ms. Kim (4th) demonstrated lessons, and debriefed with the teachers. SMMUSD teachers reported they had a wonderful time and learned a lot from McKinley's teachers.



UCLA dental students talked about dental health to the 1st graders. Thanks to the Santa Monica Breakfast Club who gave bags of dental supplies to each student!



McKinley students, staff, and parents enjoy another outdoor monthly assembly. This time 1st grade presented about the Pillar of Character, Kindness. Each month a grade level presents one of the Pillars of Character, and the school rules (5 for Success) and PRIDE philosophy are reinforced. Students who have been awarded a Mac Slip get the chance to have their name pulled from a raffle; weekly raffle winners from each grade level get a prize and their picture taken with Mac to be put up in the main office. Check out some of our awesome McKinley students who uphold the pillars of character on the window in the office!