

THE LION'S ROAR

The McKinley Monthly Newsletter



We're on Twitter! @McKinleyLions

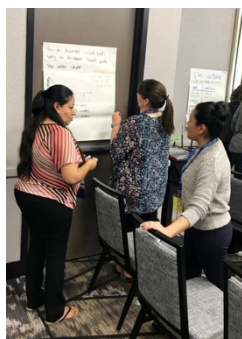
Want a peek into what your child is doing at school each day? Check out our new Twitter page @McKinleyLions where you will see photos and videos of all the great things happening at McKinley every day! You can download the app to your phone, or see the scrolling Twitter feed on our school website.

Also, on pages 4-5 of this newsletter you will see all our methods of home-school communication from broad based to 1:1 so you can stay informed.



McKinley in the National Spotlight

Twice last month McKinley's exceptional staff were recognized at national conventions. Our 3rd grade teacher Ms. Kirven was invited to speak about teaching and learning at the national UNICEF summit in Washington DC. She spoke to over 500 UNICEF donors and advocates about her class and the program Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF where kids help kids across the world as global citizens. Then our Assistant Principal Ms. Cedillo, assisted by 2nd grade teacher Ms. Dempsey, presented at the national CUE technology and education conference in Palm Springs. They led teacher participants through an experiential workshop focused on helping K-8 students learn through inquiry. We're so proud of them!



UPCOMING DATES

April 9- **First Day Back** to School after Spring Break

April 13, 8:45am- **AASG Meeting**, Auditorium

April 16, 7:45am- **Parent Info Meeting about STEM Fair** (morning session option)

April 17, 6:00pm- **Parent Info Meeting about STEM Fair** (evening session option)

April 18- **5th Grade Panoramic Photo Day**

April 18, 6:00pm- PTA hosted **Parent Workshop about Cyber Safety**, Auditorium

April 19, 3:15pm- **Site Governance**, Auditorium

April 20, 8:45am- **Special Ed Resource Group Meeting**, Auditorium

April 22, 9:00am-1:00pm- **School Beautification Day**

April 22, 5:00-8:00pm- **Comedy Night and Live Auction**, at Senator Jones

April 24- **Spring Music Concert**, 6:30pm 4th, 7:30pm 5th

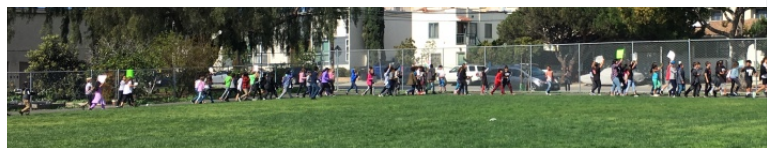
April 27- **Outdoor Assembly**, 5th grade, Trustworthiness

April 27, 8:45am- **PTA Meeting**, Auditorium

National School Walk Out



March 14th was the National School Walk Out event. SMMUSD elementary schools chose to use this opportunity to have age-appropriate discussions about peace, kindness, and diversity. At McKinley classes discussed PRIDE and the Pillars of Character. While these discussions aren't new for our students as they regularly think about and model our PRIDE philosophy, students had valuable and meaningful conversations about peace at McKinley and in the community. We had also intended to take a school picture spelling out PRIDE but we couldn't fly our drone due to an unexpected no-fly order. However, a few days later our drone took off, and our 500 students and 100 staff came together to show our McKinley PRIDE! On March 14th our 5th graders also participated in a "walk out" experience led by Student Council. After a thoughtful and inspirational speech by the Student Council President, the 5th graders marched along the inside perimeter of the school. The students carried signs about peace, love, acceptance, and kindness, and they enjoyed hearing cars honk in support of them. It was wonderful to see our students experiencing a peaceful form of social justice activism.



Fun for 5th Grade: Ballroom Dance and Pali Camp

It was a big month for our 5th graders! First they had an evening ballroom dance performance where they danced the swing, waltz, tango, fox trot, and a traditional Hawaiian dance. Thank you to the instructors from SMC Dance Academy, and to all of you who have donated to the Santa Monica Malibu Education Foundation which funds the Ballroom program in addition to programs like visual arts and theater. Then the 5th graders were off to Pali Camp in Running Springs. The students had a blast climbing the ropes course, dissecting squid, hiking, and even karaoke singing! They got to play in a bit of snow, and brave a little rain, and came back with new confidence and friendships.



2nd Grade Wax Museum

The 2nd graders participated in a project-based learning experience that culminated in a "Wax Museum" event. Students selected and researched an influential figure in history or present time. Then parents and students were invited to come to the museum (the auditorium) to view all the 2nd graders dressed up as and embodying their character. Viewers would press the students' buttons to "activate" them, and they would come alive to tell the viewer all about themselves. Nice job 2nd graders!



3rd-5th State Testing April 30-May 23

In one month the 3rd-5th graders will take the state test called the CAASPP. You can find information about the assessment and practice tests at www.caaspp.org and www.smarterbalanced.org/parents/

You can help our students be successful by:

1. Having them go to bed at least an hour earlier
2. Making sure they arrive to school on-time or early (we start testing first thing in the morning and go until recess)
3. Eat a healthy filling breakfast
4. Encouraging your child and telling them to relax and not be nervous; the students are going to do great!
5. You can also donate healthy snacks and fun rewards (pencils, stickers etc.) to your child's classroom.



Dashboard: Last Year's State Test Scores




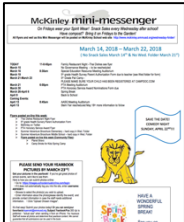
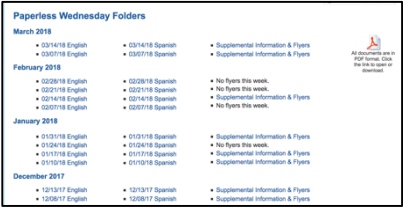










Did you know there is no longer an API, AYP, or Program Improvement? Now there is a more detailed and complex state accountability system called Dashboard. You can see McKinley's rankings at www.dashboard.org which are based on last year's state test scores. You can also see an explanation about our ranking from last year by viewing the Great Schools Forum summary handout (see article to the right). You can also read https://www.caschooldashboard.org/assets/pdf/california-school-dashboard_English-v2.pdf and <https://www.caschooldashboard.org/assets/pdf/fast-start-guide-v2.pdf> Scores that reflect this year's state test scores and efforts will be posted in August.

GREAT SCHOOLS FORUM






We had a wonderful information session and McKinley community discussion with over 20 teachers and 35 parents. Dr. Benjamin shared information about schoolwide data, what McKinley is doing to close the achievement gap, and strengths of the school. Staff and parents chimed in sharing positives and strengths, and offered ideas for how they could help support the school community. It was wonderful to see adults coming together with our PRIDE philosophy to support a positive school climate. Since the forum was such a success our goal is to have a similar forum each Fall and Spring. If you missed the forum, a brief summary handout of information is available at our school website at http://www.mckinley.smmu.sd.org/monthly_news/McKinley_GreatSchoolForum.pdf



McKinley Home/School Communication

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| <p>School Website www.mckinley.smmusd.org</p>  | <p>Twitter @McKinleyLions</p>  | <p>Monthly Principal's Newsletter, The Lion's Roar (eblasted each month and on the school website)</p>  |
| <p>Weekly Mini-Messenger (eblasted on Wednesdays and on the school website)</p>  | <p>Weekly Digital Wednesday Folder (eblasted on Wednesdays and on the school website)</p>  | <p>Hard Copy Weekly Wednesday Folder (hard copies of important flyers) (hard copies of Mini-Messenger and forms at request)</p>  |
| <p>Eblasts from McKinley</p> <p>A message from MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY McKinley Elementary <mckinley-bc@smmusd.org></p> | <p>Phoneblasts from McKinley</p>  | <p>Postings on the Marquee and the Fence</p>  |
| <p>Flyers on the Bulletin Boards and Rounder at the Front of the School</p>  | <p>Emails to/from McKinley Staff (all staff emails on the school website)</p>   | <p>Individual Calls Home as Needed</p>  |
| <p>In-Person Conferences (scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences, SSTs, IEPs, as-needed meetings etc.)</p>  | <p>First Day Packet (McKinley Handbook, Volunteer Handbook, calendar of events, forms etc.) (also available on the school website)</p>  | <p>School Information Events (Back-to-School Night, Open House, K Roundup, Bagels with Benjamin etc.)</p>  |

PTA Communication to Support the School

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| <p>PTA Website <u>https://mckinleypta.membershiptoolkit.com/</u></p>  | <p>PTA and Committee Meetings, Eblasts, and Postings (ELAC, AASG, SBC etc.)</p>  | |
| <p>Room Parents</p>  | <p>PTA Facebook Page</p>  | <p>Eblasts from PTA</p>  |

School/Parent Partnership: What Parents can do to Help

Parents often ask us how they can help. We love when parents/guardians want to help support the school and work with us partners! Here are 5 things every parent/guardian can do that make a significant impact on your child's school experience and the school as a whole.

1. Be informed

- Know your child's strengths and areas of need so you can support the school's efforts at home. Talk to your child's teacher and read notes/grades sent home.
- Know what is happening at school. Read the mini-messenger and Wednesday Folder weekly.

2. If you have a question or concern contact the person directly

- Don't wait; we want to help. Contact the teacher directly, or if you still have a question/concern or have something more serious, contact an administrator.

3. Read at home with your child

- Research shows that reading at least 20 minutes a day with your child significantly improves their success in school. This is even more important than homework!
- You can read aloud, have your child read to you, or have your child read silently and after ask comprehension questions.
- You can read in any language. Bilingualism deepens students' knowledge and thinking skills.

4. Donate to PTA and the Santa Monica Malibu Education Foundation

- Your donation impacts our students' educational experience. Your Ed Foundation donation pays for staff like our theater and visual arts classes as well as instructional aides. Your PTA donation pays for stuff like supplies, assemblies, technology, and field trips.

5. Support a positive school climate

- Attend meetings like PTA, ELAC, and AASG.
- Coordinate, volunteer, and/or attend school events like the Fall Festival and International Day.
- Share your enthusiasm and positivity! Students thrive when the adults around them display positive attitudes and flexibility. Particularly in today's challenging political and cyber climate, we want our elementary students to feel safe and confident by seeing their adults modeling the PRIDE philosophy. And of course respectful constructive feedback with suggestions and offers of help are welcome.

