



# The Lion's Roar

McKinley Monthly Newsletter

## What's Been Happening at McKinley



Our Back to School Nights were a great success. Parents began the evening with a volunteer Training, where they learned about how to support our students when volunteering at school. Then after an introduction by the Principal Dr. Benjamin, parents went into their child's classroom where they got to learn all about their teacher, curriculum, and exciting projects and events for the year.



We had a large turnout out our Back to School Picnic. Families and staff got to relax, snack on some food, dance to music, and get to know other each other.



43 McKinley students participated in our first Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge and read 280 hours!



A special thanks to SMMUSD for resurfacing our parking lot and playground, and installing new turf under our play structures. The outdoor area is now even more beautiful and safe!



We had our first schoolwide assembly of the year. Students performed skits about our PRIDE philosophy and school rules, and MAC the Lion made a visit to honor or students who have been awarded MAC Slips. We invite you to the next assembly on 9/29 when 2<sup>nd</sup> grade will perform about the pillar of character Respect.

Our students learned how to recycle and compost at our annual Grades of Green assembly. Our 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Green Team will help take leftover food scraps from the cafeteria as compost to the garden to help it grow and thrive. We at McKinley love to help our environment and live sustainability!

## Upcoming Dates in September

14, 3:15pm, Library-Site Governance Meeting

15, 8:30am, Auditorium- Special Ed Resource Group

21, No School

23, 9:00am-1:00pm, Garden- Garden Workshop

27, 6:00pm, Auditorium- Literacy Night for Families

28, 3:15pm, Library-Site Governance Meeting

29, 8:30am, Yard-Monthly Schoolwide Outdoor Assembly (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade- Respect)

29, 8:45am, Auditorium- PTA Meeting



## Staff Professional Development



As lifelong learners, McKinley teachers are excited for opportunities to collaborate and learn from each other's expertise. This month teachers participated in Professional Development on Academic Discourse. They discussed ways to use sentence stems and conversation starters to develop students' oral language and listening skills. They also collaborated about different discussion formats to allow students multiple opportunities for discussion so they can deepen their understanding of topics and learn from each other. Two brave teachers Ms. Kim and Ms. Marshall agreed to have their lessons filmed so that the staff could view, discuss, and reflect on real life Academic Discourse lessons.

Parents you can learn more about how you can support your child's language development at our Family Literacy Night on September 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the auditorium. Literacy Night will be a family event, where you and your child can walk around to various activity stations to participate in fun games and learning activities that you can later replicate at home. We hope to see you there!

Check out our new PTA Website!

This site allows you to see the McKinley events calendar, volunteer, donate, view the parent directory and more!

<https://mckinleyppta.membershiptoolkit.com/>

*Our Transitional Kindergarten (TK) class is off to a great start!*

Ms. Contreras, our TK teacher, has been leading a wonderful group of students. The TK program is Reggio inspired, and STEAM enhanced. In SMMUSD's TK classrooms the teacher serves as a listener, researcher, and designer of learning experiences that allow students to explore and inquire. Students are encouraged to tap into their curiosity and interests in order to understand their world and their place within it. Students have the chance to work in small groups at Exploration Centers, learn through art and music, and develop early literacy and numeracy. If you want to learn more please contact the SMMUSD Ed Services department.





# Attendance

September is Attendance Awareness Month! McKinley's goal is for all students to have 98-100% attendance! That means that each student misses less than three days over the course of the school year. Please help your child to arrive every day on time.

## Tardies

- The warning bell to line up is at 8:28am.
- Instruction begins at the 2<sup>nd</sup> bell at 8:30am.
- Any students arriving after 8:30am will be marked Tardy.
- Three Tardies (or early outs) equals an absence.

## Vacations

- We encourage parents to take vacations or other long trips during Thanksgiving, Winter, Spring, and Summer breaks.
- **There are only 180 school days, and 185 non-school days during the year, so each and every school day is crucial.**

## Why We Care About Attendance

- We feel that to get the most out of school, and maximize learning time and learning potential, children need to be in school every day on time.
- Children can make up an assignment but they can't recover what is most valuable: the questions, the activities, the explanations from the teacher and the interactions that bring learning to life.
- Research shows that attendance has an immense impact on student achievement and success.
- Students who attend school are more likely to get better grades, have higher self-esteem, have more friends, and are more likely to attend college and earn higher salaries while absent students miss lessons and fall behind and are more likely to drop out of school.

## What Parents Can Do to Help Improve Student Attendance





- Discuss with your child the importance of going to school every day and on time
- Develop a daily schedule with your child (like going to bed 10 minutes earlier)
- Encourage and help your child prepare for school each evening (choose clothes, prepare lunch etc.) so the morning is less stressful
- Teach your child to set and use their own alarm clock
- When your child is ready for school on time, give lots of praise
- Don't plan family vacations and non-emergency doctor/dentist appointments for times when your child should be in school

Note that the state mandates that **a student who has 9 or more unexcused absences is considered habitually truant and may be referred to a Student Attendance Review Board (SARB), a district attorney mediation program, or the county probation department.**

Email [loyenoki@smmusd.org](mailto:loyenoki@smmusd.org) or call within 3 days of the absence to verify the absence

## McKinley Elementary School Positive Behavior Support Plan

McKinley's Behavior System and rules were explained at Back to School Night, and are available on the school website, in the Parent Handbook, in the Volunteer Handbook, and are posted around the school. This information was also reviewed with students at the beginning of school Rules Assemblies, and is reinforced at monthly schoolwide assemblies, during Friday announcements, and on a regular basis by teachers and staff. Thank you for learning and understanding our Behavior Support Plan so you can reinforce it as home as well.

<u>PRIDE</u> <u>Philosophy</u>	<u>Pillars of Character</u>	<u>Five For Success</u> <u>(School Rules)</u>	<u>Anti-Bullying</u> <u>Rules</u>						
									
<p><b>We are:</b> <b><u>Peaceful</u></b> <b><u>Respectful</u></b> <b><u>Intelligent</u></b> <b><u>Diverse</u></b> <b><u>Enthusiastic</u></b></p>	<table><tr><td><b>Trustworthiness</b> Think True Blue</td></tr><tr><td><b>Respect</b> Think yellow for the Golden Rule</td></tr><tr><td><b>Responsibility</b> Think green like being responsible for a garden or finances, or being solid and reliable like an oak tree</td></tr><tr><td><b>Fairness</b> Think of a dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends</td></tr><tr><td><b>Caring</b> Think of red like a heart</td></tr><tr><td><b>Citizenship</b> Think of regal purple as representing the state</td></tr></table>	<b>Trustworthiness</b> Think True Blue	<b>Respect</b> Think yellow for the Golden Rule	<b>Responsibility</b> Think green like being responsible for a garden or finances, or being solid and reliable like an oak tree	<b>Fairness</b> Think of a dividing an orange into equal sections to share fairly with friends	<b>Caring</b> Think of red like a heart	<b>Citizenship</b> Think of regal purple as representing the state	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Keep hands, feet, and other objects to yourself</li><li>2. Running is only allowed on the grass or track</li><li>3. Use appropriate and positive language</li><li>4. Respect the rights and property of others</li><li>5. Use restrooms appropriately</li></ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>We will not bully others.</b></li><li>2. <b>We will try to help students who are bullied.</b></li><li>3. <b>We will try to include students who are left out.</b></li><li>4. <b>If we know someone is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.</b></li></ol>
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### Definition of Bullying

Bullying is defined as:

- **Repeated (pattern over time)**
- **Intentional (on-purpose)**
- **Power-imbalanced**

behavior that makes someone feel uncomfortable or threatened. It can be physical, emotional, or cyber.

Bullying is a very serious offense, so it's important adults know the correct definition of bullying so we can use the word accurately with students.

**Parents, teachers, and staff are part of the school community, so adults are expected to uphold these rules and expectations as well. We are role models for our students/children.**