



The Lion's Roar

McKinley Monthly Newsletter

Exciting News: Performing Arts Theater Instruction is Coming to McKinley!

I am thrilled to announce that starting at the end of October, all McKinley students will get to participate in performing arts theater classes!

Here at McKinley, we are fortunate to receive extracurricular instruction in **Science** (funded by P.S. Science and the Santa Monica Malibu Education Foundation), **Music** (funded by the District and the Ed Foundation), and **Visual Arts** (funded by the Ed Foundation and P.S. Arts). McKinley teachers, the administration, and Site Governance discussed how theater was the one area missing from our wonderful instructional program, and felt that it would be a great way to engage students and develop the Whole Child. We also analyzed 16-17 state test (CAASPP) data, Fastbridge, and other assessment data, and determined that developing students' oral language skills and providing students with opportunities for academic discourse and engagement would benefit all our students; performing arts would help to achieve this goal. Other schools similar to McKinley who have brought theater to their schools have seen benefits such as increased language development, social/emotional growth, and engagement.

So we have contracted with P.S. Arts to provide **Performing Arts Theater instruction** (funded by the Education Foundation)! The theater teachers will be collaborating with McKinley teachers, to ensure that their lessons are tied to our ELA State Standards and to our ELA Curriculum. This way the instruction will build upon and extend the learning that is happening in classrooms. For example, in 2nd grade students are learning about folktales, and theater lessons may involve acting out folktales from different cultures.

All students will receive 11 sessions of theater, 3rd-5th in October-February, and TK-2 in February-May. Classes will be 50 minutes for grades 1-5, and 30-45 minutes for TK-K. The 11th class will be an "Informance" when parents will be invited to attend so you can see how the theater class instruction and format looks.

We are proud and excited to bring this special learning opportunity to our students.

Dr. Benjamin, Principal



Upcoming Dates in October

5, 6- Bike it Walk it Days

6, 8:45am,
Auditorium- ELAC Meeting

7, 9am-1pm- Garden Training Workshop

11, 6:00pm,
Auditorium- P.S. Arts Family Night

13, 8:45am,
Auditorium- AASG Meeting

18, Auditorium- Picture Day

19, 10:19am- Great CA Shake Out Drill

19, 3:15pm,
Auditorium- Site Governance

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

25, 6:00pm, Cafeteria- PTA Meeting

27, 8:45-10:00am
Halloween Parade Assembly and 4:00-7:00pm Fall Festival

Other News and Updates

Our School Beautification Committee (SBC) is now part of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

At the PTA meeting on Friday, the PTA members voted to have the SBC join the PTA. As primarily a group of parent volunteers, this shift will have many benefits such as allowing more parents opportunities to provide input as well as support. It will also consolidate fundraising efforts, and will streamline publicizing of school events. With the best interest of the students and school in mind, McKinley parents, teachers, and administration are excited to continue to work together to bring wonderful safe and family-friendly learning events to our children. Some of our SBC/PTA events coming up this school year are our Bike It Walk It Days, Bike Festival, Campus Beautification Days and more!

Be sure to check out the new PTA website to get updates about when PTA meetings are, and what fun events are happening at school. By registering on the website, you can get calendar reminders on your phone! Need help registering? PTA will soon be offering a class (in English and Spanish) to help. <https://mckinleypa.membershiptoolkit.com/>

Thank you to the families who came to our September Campus Beautification Day! You helped make our garden a beautiful outdoor learning space for our students.



4th and 5th Grade Student Committee Elections and Green Team

Many of our brave 4th and 5th graders ran for Student Committee this year. First students ran for Class Representative, preparing and giving a speech in front of their classmates. Then elected Class Reps ran for Officer positions in front of all the 4th and 5th graders in the auditorium. After giving compelling speeches about how they would positively impact the school, all the 4-5 students voted. Congratulations to the elected members and all the students who participated.

4th and 5th grade Green Team members were also selected by their teachers based on their behavior and effort. Our Green Team helps us with our composting and recycling during lunchtime, and help us to keep our school and environment beautiful and sustainable. Congratulations to our Green Team.



Save the Date for our annual Halloween Costume Parade and Fall Festival!

Get ready for an awesome Halloween Parade Assembly and Fall Festival! More detailed information to come, but for now, save the date of **Friday October 27th. At 8:45am** on the grass field off Santa Monica Blvd., we will have our annual parade of costumes. Students may remain in costume that day so they are ready for some fun at the Fall Festival after school, **4:00pm-7:00pm**. At the Fall Festival we will have our scary Haunted House in the auditorium, as well as tasty food, and fun activity booths on the yard. We can't wait to see you all in costume that day!



A Great Family Literacy Night!

This year we decided to try something new. Instead of a presentation for parents, we wanted to make Literacy Night an interactive event where parents could bring their child and participate in a family-friendly engaging learning experience. Coordinated by our Literacy Team (Literacy Coach, 2 Reading Teachers, and

Literacy and Language Interventionist) and Administration, and with the help of teachers and parent volunteers, this event was a huge success. We had a turnout of over 150 families! Students had a wonderful time participating in a variety of activities such as bingo, make-and-take games, word sorts, a reading nook, and photo booth. Of course they enjoyed the pizza and cookies too! Thank you to everyone to helped make this such a fun and successful event.



Another Fun Monthly Outdoor Schoolwide Assembly

Our second outdoor assembly of the year was a blast. Our 2nd graders performed about our pillar of character Respect, and danced to show how fun and cool respect for ourselves and others is. MAC the Lion was excited to make a visit to participate in the weekly MAC slip raffle. We also had Kindergartners review the school rules, and some of our Student Committee members lead the pledge and sing the National Anthem. Parents are invited to attend our outdoor assemblies. Our October Assembly will include 3rd grade presenting about Responsibility, as well as the Halloween Parade. Our November assembly will be 4th grade presenting about Citizenship.

