



# The Lion's Roar

## McKinley Monthly Newsletter

### It's Time for Parent Teacher Conferences!

Wondering what to expect at your first Parent/Teacher Conference? At this 15-20 minute conference your child's teacher will let you know about how your child is doing in school. Your teacher will not give you a report card yet; report cards will go home February 9<sup>th</sup>. Your meeting next week is all about checking in and discussing your child's progress. Your teacher will give you a typed Progress Report, that summarizes your child's strengths as well as some things he/she can work on. Your teacher will talk to you about your child's progress in academics, work habits, and behavior. If you want to know the general areas and standards your teacher will refer to, you can check out the following links:

<http://www.smmusd.org/edservices/reportcards/ParentGuide/index.html>

<https://www.cde.ca.gov/be/st/ss/>

These are some things you can do to help us have productive and positive conferences.

1. Arrive on time. Teachers often have conferences scheduled back-to-back, so we really appreciate it when you come on time so we can stay on schedule.
2. Let your teacher know ahead of time if you have a complex matter to discuss. Teachers typically reserve 15-20 minutes for you, so it's helpful for them to know ahead of time of any questions or concerns you might have so they can prepare student work or data to share with you.
3. Share information. It is helpful to teachers to know more about their students' home life, interests, and families so that they can tailor instruction to meet their needs. Please share any strengths, challenges, or information you think might be relevant for the teacher to know.
4. Ask questions. If anything doesn't make sense, please let the teacher know so he/she can clarify. Or if you leave the meeting and think of questions later, go ahead and email the teacher.
5. Parents as partners. Educating students is a team effort between home and school. Be sure to ask your teacher what things you can do at home to support your child's learning. Also check in to see what school activities or events you can be involved in.

### Upcoming Dates in November

Nov 1, 9:00am, Cafeteria- School Tour

Nov 3, 8:45am, Auditorium- ELAC Meeting

Nov 6- Pupil Free Day, Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 7-9, Minimum Days for Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 10- No School

Nov 16, 3:15pm, Auditorium- Site Governance Meeting

Nov 17, 8:30am, Yard- Schoolwide Assembly, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Citizenship

Nov 17, 8:45am, Auditorium- Special Ed Resource Group Meeting

Nov 19, 9:00am-1:00pm, Campus Beautification Day

Nov 22- Minimum Day

Nov 23-24- No School

Nov 29- Makeup Picture Day

Nov 29, 6:00pm, Auditorium- PTA Meeting and Construction Presentation

## Student Assemblies

**Thanks to your donations to PTA**, McKinley is able to provide wonderful music, dance, and cultural assemblies to students on campus during the school day. It's like taking a field trip without having to go anywhere! This year, the teachers selected the following assemblies for your children:

### **Grades of Green- August**

Students learn about how they can help the environment and lead a sustainable life.

### **LA Metro- Fall**

Students learn about transit safety and how to bike, walk, and ride the metro safely.

### **Santa Monica Symphony- Brass- February**

The musicians will use brass instruments to play lovely songs for students.

### **Elemental Music- Woodwinds Quintet- February**

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> students will hear a musicians perform with woodwind instruments.

### **Versa-Style Dance Company Hip-Hop Dance- Spring**

In a dynamic one hour show the performers unfold the history of Hip-hop culture. The group's goal is for students to gain a new perspective on the impact arts can have in their communities.

### **African Drum & Dance African Rhythms, Songs, and Stories- February**

African Drum and Dance presented by CHAZZ and Teresa is a colorful and exhilarating experience into the world of African rhythms, songs, and stories.

### **StorySpace Showcase Performs McKinley Student Stories- December**

A team of professional actors and musicians will perform stories submitted by McKinley students in order to build a generation of confidence and inspiration.

### **Pacifico Dance Company Mexican Folklorico Dances- April**

Pacifico Dance Company presents vivid interpretations of traditional Mexican folklorico dances. Their performance consists of complex rhythmic footwork, dynamic choreography, and authentic props and dress representing a colorful range of dance traditions and musical styles from various regions within Mexico.

Assemblies and schedule subject to change

## Parent Workshops and Education

Don't worry parents, there are some fun workshops and learning opportunities for you too! Be sure to check the mini-messenger and PTA eblasts for upcoming dates. We hope to see you at some of these parent education events!

### **Play it Safe by Pattie Fitzgerald- 10/30/17**

How to talk to your child about safety skills and empowering children to be safe.

### **Stages of Child Development- 11/27 8:45am**

Our school counselor and nurse will talk about the stages of child development, and strategies for how parents can talk to their children about puberty and related topics. Geared towards 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>.

### **Reflective Parenting Program- January TBD**

Our school counselor and counselor intern will lead a 10 week course of 10 1.5 hour workshops where parents will learn about being reflective about their own state of mind to help with parenting.

### **School Smarts Academy- Spring TBD**

Lead by our Community Liaison, parents will learn about how to navigate the school system and services, and how parents can provide academic support at home.

### **Closing the Achievement Gap- ELAC Meetings**

At this month's ELAC meeting the Literacy Coach and Director of Parent Engagement will be discussing EL services, as well as things parents can do to help support their child's literacy.

### **Computer Classes- November**

Our Literacy Coach will be leading computer classes in English and Spanish to help parents learn how to access the PTA website, set up a gmail account, and how to access student websites like Lexia.

### **Presentations on Selected Topics at ELAC, AASG, and Special Ed Resource Group Meetings- TBD**

Check the mini-messenger to see what will be on the agenda to be discussed at these monthly meetings. Topics and presentations are selected by the group members.

Workshops subject to change

## A Note from Dr. Benjamin



Dr. Benjamin holding Hubble, the McKinley Lab

My priority as your Principal is **students first**. So that means I continuously collaborate with teachers to support them and our students, and I attend a variety of team meetings before and after school to make sure all our students are learning and successful. Some of these meetings include Student Success Team (SST) meetings where a team of teachers, staff, and myself meet to brainstorm strategies to support a student who is struggling. You might also see me at an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meeting where parents, staff, and I meet to discuss goals and services for a student with special needs. I also meet with various school committees such as our Faculty Advisory Committee, Safety/Climate Committee, Technology Committee, Site Leadership Team, Professional Development Leader, PTA leadership and more! I am proud to be a part of a team of hard working teachers and staff who are so committed to student learning. I look forward to continuing to put students first and to working with teachers to make decisions in the best interest of our students. Go Lions!

## McKinley Receives District Recognition for Innovative Staff Professional



Ed Services gave a shout out to McKinley for our innovative professional development. They said: McKinley Math Coach and Blended Learning Cohort teacher Ms. Kim, facilitated a Rotational Blended Learning style professional development for McKinley teachers Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The Agenda reflected a menu of Math focused offerings where teachers had the ability to reinforce number talks strategies, the inclusion of sentence frames, creating intentional talk lesson plans and exploring digital tools. McKinley Elementary's Site Leadership Team selected Academic Discourse as their professional development focus for the year. Ms. Kim, who is also the PD Leader and part of the SLT worked with Sheri Hynding (EdTech TOSA and Blended Learning Coach) and was supported by Rosa Serratore (PreK-12 Math Coordinator) and McKinley Principal Dr. Ashley Benjamin as they work to create more engaging professional development opportunities for teachers.



## Fun Fact for Parents

**Adding just ten minutes of reading time per day will dramatically increase the number of words your child reads each year - especially for students who do not yet read proficiently.** For example, a student at the 30th percentile who spends an extra ten minutes a day on book reading will read around 700,000 words each year, surpassing the amount of reading currently done by students at the 70th percentile. (Adams, 2006).



## Save the Date! McKinley Construction Presentation

At the PTA Meeting Wednesday November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Auditorium, the SMMUSD Chief Operations Officer Carey Upton and district architects will be presenting about the school construction to occur the Summer of 2018 and 2019. Air conditioning as well as updated floor, paint, and windows are coming to McKinley and we're very excited!



## October Events- A Recap in Pictures!

October has been packed full of fun events for the McKinley Lions. Below is a picture collage showing some of the wonderful learning experiences and opportunities happening at McKinley.

### Theater has Begun!

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade classes are up first. Parents are invited to attend the final class informances on 1/23 and 1/24. TK-2 begin their theater in February.



### P.S. Arts Family Art Night!

With a packed auditorium of 86 participants, students loved making beautiful art pieces!



### Bike it Walk it Days

McKinley keeps its SMMUSD title for highest participation as students biked, walked, scooted, and skated to school!





## Halloween Parade, Haunted House, and Harvest Festival!

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped out! Because of you McKinley students and families had a wonderful time eating corn from ELAC and tamales from El Cholo, playing games and winning prizes, petting animals in the petting zoo, and being thrilled in the terrifying haunted house. It was a spooktacular event!





