



# Messenger



Feb. 2012  
Issue 5

McKinley  
Elementary  
3045 Felton St.  
San Diego, CA  
92104

619-282-7694



Be Caring  
Be Balanced  
Be Reflective



Terra Cycle  
[www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net)  
Our school  
recycles! Bring in  
drink pouches,  
glue sticks, corks,  
chip bags, ink  
cartridges, old  
pens and  
crayons!



Please sign up  
with the office to  
get flyers and  
notifications  
through email.

## McKinley School Foundation Update

All funds raised by the McKinley PTC are overseen by the McKinley School Foundation, which is a 503(c) 3 non-profit organization. The current officers of the Foundation are:

**President:** Amy Miller  
**Vice President:** Steve Cook  
**Secretary:** Staci Keller  
**Treasurer:** Barbara Bovee  
**5th Seat:** Aine Lutes

The President, Vice President and Secretary positions are open for 2012-13 and 2013-14 (positions are for 2 years). If interested, you can see a summary of each position at <http://mckinleyptc.com/ptc-committees>, then contact Amy Miller, [mckinleyPTC@yahoo.com](mailto:mckinleyPTC@yahoo.com), by March 1 to submit your name for consideration.

At the Jan. 23 Foundation meeting, two new Board positions were approved. One is for the Chair of the Fundraising Committee, to be filled by Sarah Scalo. The other is for the Immediate Past President of the Foundation, to be filled by Amy Miller when she is replaced as President. All Foundation Board meetings are open to the public and minutes are available at <http://mckinleyptc.com/ptc-committees>.

## McKinley Variety Show, Friday, March 16

This year's show promises to be an amazing event. We've got a great crew of parent coaches, now we really need a parent or two to help out with videoing the show and helping to produce a DVD. If interested, please contact Janine [jr@whitakerinc.com](mailto:jr@whitakerinc.com) or Sandy [rhusmom@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rhusmom@sbcglobal.net).

## Help Birney Elementary Recover from Fire

Birney Elementary (our sister IB school) suffered over \$600,000 in damage as the result of an arson fire on Jan. 16. To raise funds, the community is hosting a Food Truck Rally on Friday, Feb. 3 from 3:30-7:00pm in The New Vision Christian Church parking lot (across from Birney field on Park Blvd).

## Rosetta Stone Spanish Program Available For Use at Home

This is a reminder that McKinley students can use the Rosetta Stone program to learn and practice Spanish at home. The program is accessible online at <https://mckinleyes.rosettastoneclassroom.com>. In the box for "Username", enter the student's cafeteria lunch number (PIN). If you don't know it, ask your teacher. The Password for all students is "rosetta". Rosetta Stone can be used until August 2012.

## SoNo Park Holiday Fest Earns \$16,605

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual SoNo Park Holiday Fest earned a record \$16,605, more than double the money raised last year. A big thanks goes to Kouta Shimazaki, Paula & Steve Cook, Brooke Evans, Jen Byard, Staci & Mark Keller, Sarah Scalo, Amy Victor, Rachel Rath, Jenny Moore, and many others who donated their time to this successful community event.

## Fresh & Easy Fundraiser Earns \$3,134

This year's Fresh & Easy Fundraiser brought in \$3,134, nearly \$1,000 more than last year! A very special thanks to Amy Victor to led this fundraiser for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year!

## February Dates

**Variety Show Practice** – Mondays from 4-5pm and Wednesdays from 4-5:30pm  
**3rd** – Family Friday, Topic: Writing and Open Discussion, 2:40pm  
**7th** – SSC/SGT Meeting, 4pm  
**8th** – Casino Royale Planning Meeting, 7pm  
**15th** – PTC Meeting, 6pm  
**16th** – [Pizza Night](#)  
**17th** – Lincoln B-Day NO SCHOOL  
**20th** – Washington B-Day NO SCHOOL  
**22nd** – Casino Royale Planning Meeting, 7pm  
**23rd** – After School Classes Begin, 1-2pm  
**26th** – Max & Jake's Big Race  
**27th** – Pasta for Pennies Begins

## Fundraiser Tip of the Month!

**Pizza Night for the Month of February**  
Paesano's is hosting our Feb. 16 Pizza Night. They will donate 20% of all sales (take out or eat in) for that night, when they receive a McKinley Pizza Night flyer. In addition, they have agreed to donate 10% of all TAKE OUT orders for the entire month of February! Customers simply need to mention McKinley when ordering their take out order (no flyer needed). Paesano: 3647 30th Street, 291-4090.

## McKinley's Birthday Book Club

The **Birthday Book Club** offers a unique way to enrich our school while recognizing your child's special day. A tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more will be used to purchase one or more hardcover books in the category of your choice. A permanent bookplate identifying your child will be placed in the book(s). During their birthday month, your child will be the first person invited to check out the book. His or her name will be added to the Birthday Book Club Banner. Children with summer birthdays will be recognized in the month of their choice. More details will be sent home in February.

## Casino Royale Planning Meeting – Feb. 8

Please help plan this year's Casino Royale event, themed "Old Hollywood". The meeting is Feb. 8 at Sunset Temple (3911 Kansas St.) at 7:00pm. All volunteers welcome.

## Award-Winning Author Gary Soto to Visit McKinley on Feb. 24

Thanks to Pat Taylor, a volunteer at McKinley, we have received a literacy grant from the Rotary Club of San Diego. It is being used to bring Gary Soto to McKinley to talk about his books and the writing process with 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. He will also sign copies of his books for the students in attendance.

## Pasta for Pennies: Feb. 27 - March 12

This annual fundraiser supports the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Students donate pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, or more. New this year, we are even taking working or non-working cell phones. Information will be sent home with students in February.

# A Few Words from Principal Julie Ashton-Gray

Email: [jash-ton-gray@sandi.net](mailto:jash-ton-gray@sandi.net)

Dear McKinley Families,

How lucky are we that we live every day in a responsible, growing, and thriving school as McKinley Elementary IB World School? Daily, I count my blessings to be among such joyful children, involved families, generous PTC/Foundation, and committed staff! Despite the challenges and uncertainty in the state and district budget for next year, McKinley IB World School is extraordinary. Staff continues to focus on increasing student achievement in all areas and hone their skills during monthly professional development sessions. As principal of McKinley IB World School, I am committed to use our resources to support our International Baccalaureate Program and services to students. On Friday, February 3, I will receive a draft of the budget allocations for the 2012-13 school year, which I will share at our Family Friday session scheduled for February 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:40 in the Media Center and hear your input as to what are your priorities at McKinley IB World School. The School Site Council will meet on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> to review and approve the use of categorical funds to provide supplemental support for student achievement. The minutes from the School Site Council and Site Governance Team are posted on our websites each month. Budget cuts have colored our schools in California for the past several years and we are all very weary of facing another year of cuts for the 2012-13 school year. Our students deserve more. It is never too late to contact your legislator and ask for funding support of K-12 education.

## Family Math Night

Family Math Night was a huge success for parents and students in grades K-3. Parents who attended received materials to play math games at home to build mathematical reasoning and number sense. Students' ability to understand mathematical concepts at a young age are necessary building blocks for later success in algebra and higher level math courses required in secondary school. Our next Family Math Night is scheduled for March 28, 2012, at 6:00 p.m. Stay tuned for more information!

## Student Safety

The east parking lot on Redwood is for staff only. The gates are locked to keep students safe and control any visitors to our campus. Thank you for your cooperation and working together to keep a safe and secure campus.

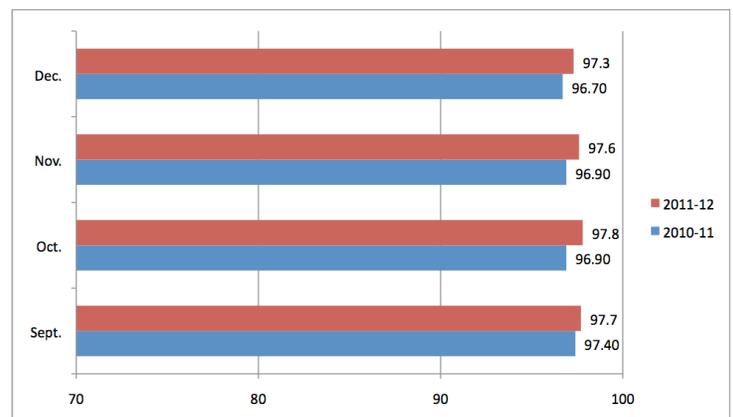
## Saturday School

McKinley is hosting Saturday School for students in grades 1-5 who have unexcused absences and excessive absences since September. Students with many tardies are also invited. Students who attend the four hour academic session on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> from 9-1 will make up one absence. Students attending with excessive tardies will make up four tardies. Saturday school will be taught by McKinley teachers and students will have a rotation of reading, writing, mathematics, and time in the computer lab. Please contact the office at 619-282-7694 if you have any questions.

## Attendance Counts

Thank you for making sure your child/children attend school on time every day. As of Jan. 27, 2012, McKinley's portion of lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance) to our district totals, \$30,751.00. At the end of December, our attendance was 97.80%. We are ranked 19th in the district out of 117 elementary schools! This ranking has decreased from 12<sup>th</sup> as of November. I am rewarding classes with the best attendance each week with a certificate and a healthy snack from the principal. The chart below shows our attendance compared to last year. Our attendance is improving from last year; however, absences do cost our district. Please make sure your child's absence is only due to illness. Thank you for helping our children develop responsibility by being on time and ready to learn every day.

### ATTENDANCE PERCENTAGE BY MONTH



## Student News Section

### Feeding the Homeless

On December 23, 2011, some students from the McKinley Student Council took time off of their winter break to make PB&J sandwiches. We made around 150 sandwiches! We gave them all to St. Vincent de Paul's. They were all very happy!

Anjeli Fitzgerald, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

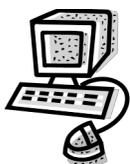
### Hanukkah

Many years ago, the Greek King, Antiochus, invaded Israel. If the Jews practiced their religion, they would get killed. A man named Judah Maccabee led the Jews in a battle to fight Antiochus, and they won. When they went to their holy temple after the battle, they found it had been destroyed, and there was only one drop of holy oil for the menorah. The menorah was important, because it was supposed to be an everlasting light.

The Jews thought it would only last for one day, but it lasted for EIGHT days! It was a miracle!

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah for 8 days, by giving presents, eating food cooked with oil (like potato latkes) and most importantly, lighting candles on our menorahs.

Michael Hirsch, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade



Join other parents to discuss school issues at [www.McKinleyPTC.com](http://www.McKinleyPTC.com).

Or visit us on the School District website at <http://new.sandi.net/schools/mckinley>