



# Messenger



Nov. 2012  
Issue 3

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  
glue sticks, corks,  
chip bags, ink  
cartridges, old  
pens and  
crayons!



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

## 2012 Jog-a-Thon Breaks All Records!

This year our kids ran a total of 851 miles (up from 770 last year) to raise \$25,489 (up from \$17,348 last year). Major thanks to all who participated!

### Shout outs go to:

- Most laps: Sam Deckhut (2<sup>nd</sup> year in a row): 25 laps
- Our co-chairs: Helen Newlin and Sandy Weiner-Mattson and all the other committee folks who helped make the event a great success.
- Mike Wallace for all his work on the school's jog-a-thon website and personalized website trainings.
- The 70+ parent volunteers the day of the event!
- Our amazing Business Partners from Ascent Real Estate: Kim Hawley & Brian Lacklen, who helped out the entire day of the event!
- Fourth grader Ixchel Tapia who designed this year's t-shirt and Elizabeth Newlin who produced them.
- Local businesses who sponsored t-shirts: North Park Nursery by Mooch; DeLuca's Pizza; Parkside Market; Community Housing Works; and Alden Environment.
- And, of course, our Principal Julie Ashton-Gray and our amazing teachers and staff!

### Important Dates:

- **Nov. 8:** Awards Ceremony (Students get 1 raffle ticket for each sponsor on their sponsor sheet. We write out the raffle tickets for them.)
- **Nov. 15:** T-shirts given to students & Pizza Party with Ms. Ashton-Gray
- **Dec. 14:** Limo Ride to In-&-Out Burger

## SoNo Park Holiday Fest & CHiLiPALooZA

Mark your calendars for McKinley's 3rd Annual SoNo Park Holiday Fest & CHiLiPALooZA on **December 2, 2012 from 11 am to 5 pm**. The festivities include chili tasting in hand-thrown ceramic bowls, great holiday gifts and crafts from local artisans, live music, kids' activities, a craft beer and wine garden, and much more.

**Please support the event by attending** with your family and friends **or, for even more fun, be a part of it. We need volunteers** to assist in the planning and for 2-3 hour shifts on the day of the event. Email Stacy Birney at [stacybir@gmail.com](mailto:stacybir@gmail.com) if you can help.

For more information, **Like us on Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/SoNoParkHolidayFest> and/or visit [www.sonoparkholidayfest.com](http://www.sonoparkholidayfest.com).

## Ascent Real Estate Offers a Unique Way to Raise Money for McKinley

For any referral from McKinley parents, teachers, family or friends that turns into a closed sale, Ascent Real Estate agents Brian Lacklen and Kim Hawley will donate a percentage of the final sale amount to McKinley, with a minimum donation of \$500.

So use these agents yourself or refer them to your co-workers, friends or family! They do business almost anywhere in San Diego County and have been long-time, dedicated supporters of McKinley, not only financially but with their time. Please keep their information handy and pass it along to anyone you know who is looking to buy or sell real estate.

**Brian Lacklen**

619-814-3439 or [blacklen@ascentrealestate.net](mailto:blacklen@ascentrealestate.net)

**Kim Hawley**

619-890-3447 or [kimhawley@cox.net](mailto:kimhawley@cox.net)

## November Dates

- 7th – Cookie Dough Sale Starts
- 12th – Veteran's Day - School Closed
- 13th – Picture Make-Up
- 13th – PTC Meeting, 6:15-7:30pm
- 14th – Fresh & Easy Shop Night 4-8pm
- 15th – [Pizza Night](#)
- 19th-23rd – Thanksgiving Break
- 28th – Cookie Dough Sale Orders Due
- 26th – Joint Use Park Meeting
- 26th-30th – Parent Conferences Min. Days
- 29th – Make Toyland Parade Costumes

## Fresh & Easy Shop Night, Nov. 14

During our Shop Night at the North Park store, Fresh & Easy will donate 5% of their total sales from 4-8pm. On top of that, we earn an additional \$1 for every \$20 spent when we collect the receipts at the door. We need volunteers to greet customers, collect receipts and help bag groceries from 4-8pm.

Please urge your friends and family to shop during McKinley's Shop Night. This is the week before Thanksgiving week. Last year many shoppers stocked up on Thanksgiving foods as well as donating goods for our Thanksgiving Food Drive. To volunteer, contact Amy Victor at 619-540-6675 or [amyivictor@gmail.com](mailto:amyivictor@gmail.com).

Remember we are still collecting all Fresh & Easy receipts until Dec. 31, 2012.

## Joint-Use Park at McKinley

Our dreams of having a joint-use park are coming closer to reality. It would provide improvements to the school grounds as well as make the southern end of the campus a city park that would be open to neighbors after-school and on weekends. The City is holding two community meetings to get more input. The first is on Monday, Nov. 26 at 6pm at McKinley. Please attend the meeting to let your support be heard. For more info, contact Janine Rochelle Whitaker at [jr@whitakerinc.net](mailto:jr@whitakerinc.net) or Jen Sabo Spencer at [jensabo@yahoo.com](mailto:jensabo@yahoo.com).

## Be in the North Park Toyland Parade

Students (and their parents) are invited to march in the McKinley entry to the Toyland Parade on Sat., Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> from 11am-1pm. We need the following help:

- Parents to help out on the day of the event
- Help making "costumes" on Thurs., Nov. 29th @ 5:00 p.m. in the Community Room.
- Big cardboard boxes that would fit around a grade-schooler
- Costumes of kids' favorite toys

Contact Cheramie Raffield to volunteer or sign up at [cheramieraffield@hotmail.com](mailto:cheramieraffield@hotmail.com) or 504-617-5900.

## Nurse's Office Needs Clothing

Please bring in any gently used children's clothing for students whose clothes get soiled during the day. Especially needed: underwear, socks, pants and shorts in sizes 5T, 6T and 7T.

# A Few Words from Principal Julie Ashton-Gray

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

Dear McKinley Families,

It is hard to believe November is here! Since our last newsletter, McKinley received our results for the Academic Performance Index from the State of California for the 2011-12 school year. The statewide target for academic achievement is 800. We increased our number by 23 points from 853 to 876. Our new target for the 2013-14 school year is to join the 900 club by increasing student achievement on the CST for all students in grades 2-5. Our goal is to continue to improve the performance of all students and close the achievement gap for students who are English Learners. For more information visit [www.cde.ca.gov](http://www.cde.ca.gov).

For the 2013-14 school year, students in grades 2-5 will continue to take the California Standards Test. As the entire state of California moves to implementation of the Common Core Standards, the assessment system will change for the 2014-15 school year. I have included a brief description of the Common Core Standard below. Superintendent, Bill Kowba, sent this out in his weekly newsletter for Oct. 26<sup>th</sup> ([www.sandi.net/fridaynotes](http://www.sandi.net/fridaynotes)).

## [Common Core Standards Build Foundation for Student Success](#)

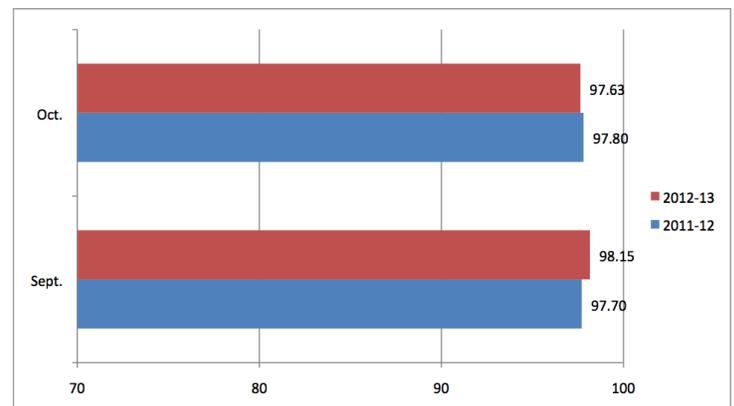
The Common Core State Standards provide a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn, so teachers and parents know what they need to do to help them. The standards are designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. So far, 45 states, including California, have adopted the Common Core Standards. Full implementation is expected in 2014-15. Learn more by [watching a short video](#) and visiting [www.sandi.net/commoncore](http://www.sandi.net/commoncore).

As an IB World School, the IB programme provides the overarching framework for McKinley, including our philosophy, organization, curriculum, and assessment. It is our responsibility to ensure we address and connect the IB programme standards and practices with the expected scope and sequence of the California grade level standards. In the next few months, the entire school community will be involved in studying our programme with the IB expectations for our re-evaluation. At the conclusion of our self-study, we will develop an action plan to continually improve our programme to be a first class IB World school where all students thrive and achieve. To learn more, visit [www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org). Grade levels are constantly involved in an IB Unit of Inquiry. To access the Program of Inquiry, which includes themes for each grade level and the timeline, visit [www.sandi.net/mckinley](http://www.sandi.net/mckinley). Follow the link under academics.

**Parent conferences** are scheduled for Nov. 26-30. The entire week will be minimum days and school is dismissed at 12:55 p.m. Parents will receive a copy of their child's report card at the conference. The District uses the Standards Based Report Card at each grade level to measure how students are making progress toward meeting grade level standards. To best prepare for the conference: talk to your child beforehand to find out about his or her perceived areas of strength and challenge; ask your child if there are any specific questions he/she would like you to ask the teacher. We believe children are active participants in their learning so invite students to attend their conferences as appropriate and convenient. We believe that a strong partnership between the home and school will significantly benefit your child's progress in school!

## **Attendance Counts**

Thank you for making sure your child/children attends school on time every day. As of Nov. 1, McKinley's portion of lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance) to our district totals \$14,285. At the end of October, McKinley's attendance was 97.63%. We are ranked 18th out of the 117 district elementary schools! This ranking has decreased from September when we were 9<sup>th</sup> out of 117 schools. The chart below shows our attendance compared to last year. 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 and job readiness skills by being on time ready to learn every day.



A friendly reminder that the play equipment is off limits in the morning before school. Parents and students are encouraged to get their blood circulating by walking around the field. Those not participating may wait at the lunch tables or sit on the steps. Thank you for your assistance to keep our students safe and healthy starting off first thing in the mornings.

## Student News Section

### **McKinley's Student Council**

Led by 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher Mrs. Zdunich and 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher Mr. Pike, the McKinley Student Council is made up of two representatives from each 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade class, plus a few "ambassadors." They meet before school every Tuesday.

One of their main functions is to share important information about school news and events with the rest of the students. During their weekly meetings, they discuss and make notes about the information that needs to be shared with the rest of the school. When the school day starts, they spend a few minutes sharing their information and answering questions.

Another function of the Student Council is being what Mr. Pike refers to as an "idea factory" for how to improve the school. One recent project had the students making weather-proof signs to hang on the playground equipment to remind students and

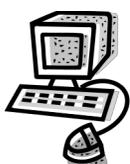
their families that no one is allowed to play on the structures before or after school, even if a parent is present.

The Student Council also runs a Student Store at recess on Fridays. The student store sells low priced items such as pencils, erasures and stickers. Running the Student Store teaches the children about free enterprise and business skills.

### **Class Updates**

**Mr. Rittko's Kindergarten Class:** We are displaying our art at the North Park Library. The exhibit includes an explanation about IB and the learner profiles and how we incorporate them into lesson plans. This lesson was about expressing creativity and building confidence, and it is an opportunity for the kids to see their art in a public venue and obtain a library card.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes:** They have just completed their first IB Unit "How We Organize Ourselves" that centers around Native Californian tribal cultures and how they organized themselves. Students are comparing and contrasting tribal groups, their cultures and customs. They are depicting cultural diversity in the form of a diorama.



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>