



Messenger



Oct. 2012
Issue 2

McKinley
Elementary
3045 Felton St.
San Diego, CA
92104

619-282-7694



Be Caring
Be Balanced
Be Reflective



Terra Cycle
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.

Jog-A-Thon, Thursday, October 25th

One of McKinley's biggest (and funnest) school fundraising events of the year is coming up **October 25th**. Information packets are going out this Friday. Help get sponsors to raise money for our music/dance, art, Spanish programs and field trips. Kids who raise enough money can get this year's special jog-a-thon t-shirt designed by one of our very own McKinley students, a pizza party with the principal, and even a limo ride with Ms. Ashton-Gray to In&Out Burger. Every child who gets a sponsor gets a ticket to win prizes such as a bike, gift certificates for rock climbing, museum passes, great restaurants and more. We're even helping parents/kids set up individualized web pages to help get out-of-town family and friends to donate.

Parents we'd love it if you came to help out and have fun the day of the event! Look for information about volunteering at the event in the Wednesday papers prior to event day.

A big shout of thanks to the following local businesses for underwriting our t-shirts this year:

- North Park Nursery by Mooch**
- De Luca's Pizza**
- Parkside Market**
- Alden Environmental**
- Community Housing Works**

If you have questions that aren't answered in the packet you receive on Friday, please contact Helen Newlin at tradgirl92109@yahoo.com or 619-865-9616.

Cardboard Challenge Day of Play, October 6

North Park Nursery by Mooch and the other businesses at T32 (Thorn & 32nd Streets) are hosting a Free Community Art event from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a bake sale that benefits McKinley. Learn more about the **Global Day of Play** and your chance to build your own cardboard arcade at the [Cardboard Challenge](#). Please note donating online DOES NOT go to McKinley, but to the Imagination Foundation.

3rd Annual SoNo Park Holiday Fest & CHiLiPALooZA

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual SoNo Park Holiday Fest & CHiLiPALooZA on **December 2, 2012 from 11 am to 5 pm**. The festivities will 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.

The event benefits McKinley's Spanish, arts and music programs, which help make for well-rounded students and enable us to keep our IB status.

Please support the event by attending with your family and friends... or, for even more fun, help 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 Steve Cook at steve.cook33@gmail.com if you are interested in helping.

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

October Dates

- 5th – Family Friday
- 6th – [Cardboard Challenge Day of Play \(RSVP on Facebook\)](#)
- 12th – Picture Day
- 18th – [Pizza Night](#) – DeLuca's Pizza Restaurant
- 23rd – Kids News Day
- 25th – [Jog-A-Thon](#)

McKinley Pizza Night, Thursday, Oct. 18 – DeLuca's Pizza Restaurant

Thursday, Oct. 18 kicks off the McKinley Pizza Nights. On the third Thursday of each month (through May), a designated local pizzeria will donate to McKinley 20% of that evening's proceeds from patrons who bring in a McKinley Pizza Night flyer with purchase. This is a great night to meet up with other McKinley families who are dining in or taking out. Flyers are sent home as part of the Wednesday packets the day before McKinley Pizza Night and they are also available online at <http://mckinleypc.com/events/mckinley-pizza-nights>.

Kids News Day, Tuesday, October 23rd

Tuesday, Oct. 23 is Kids News Day, when students, fire fighters and other volunteers sell San Diego Union Tribune papers for \$1 to raise money for Rady Children's Hospital. McKinley students will sell the papers in front of the school starting at 8am. If your child would like to participate, sign them up no later than Oct. 22.

Sign up to Receive Your Wednesday Flyers by Computer Only

In an effort to save money on paper and copying, the PTC is posting on its website the informational flyers the school and PTC send home on Wednesdays in your eldest child's backpack. If you choose to stop receiving the paper packets from the school, instead, each Wednesday you will receive an email with a link to the McKinleyPTC.com webpage where the notices are posted. You can print them from the website as needed. To sign-up, email barbara@bovee.net. Please Note: Parents who were receiving papers electronically last year will automatically be on the list to receive them that way again this year; there is no need to sign up again.

A Few Words from Principal Julie Ashton-Gray

Email: jashton-gray@sandi.net

Dear McKinley Families,

We had a great turnout for Back to School Night held on Thursday, September 20th. Mark your calendar now for parent conferences scheduled for November 26-30, the week after Thanksgiving break. These five days are minimum days and students are dismissed at 12:55 p.m. Every parent is expected to attend the conference where you will receive your child's report card and have the opportunity to review your child's progress toward meeting grade level standards in all areas. Our goal is to meet with 100% of our parents! Teachers will send scheduling notices in the near future.

This week, students started the "Wheel" where they receive instruction in Spanish, the arts, and visit the library with Ms. Kitty Mateo. During this instructional period, teachers meet in Professional Learning Committees at each grade level to plan instruction, review student achievement, and strengthen their implementation of the IB program. Students in grades K-5 are receiving Spanish instruction from IES Language Foundation. Please visit their organization online at www.ieslanguages.org. For the first half of the year, students will receive "dance" instruction with Viviana Alcazar, Visual and Performing Teaching Artist. We are thrilled to have her join our team where she will support grade level standards in dance, and components of the IB programme through music and movement. The PTC currently funds our Spanish instruction for grades K-5 and our dance/music program for students in grades K-3. We are very thankful to all of you who support the PTC/Foundation with your generous donations, partnership, and participation in the various fundraising events throughout the year. The school would not be able to fund these opportunities to create a well-balanced curriculum for our students.

Meet Viviana Alcazar, our teaching artist for dance!

Viviana is originally from El Centro, California. She began dancing at an early age of 7. Trained mainly in Hip Hop and Modern, she graduated from California State University Long Beach with a B.A in Dance. She studied Modern and Ballet under Keith Johnson, Susan McClain, Sophie Monet and Lorin Johnson. At CSULB she began choreographing various works. Viviana is currently a company member of The PGK project. While dancing with The PGK project she has performed in local San Diego venues, a 5 city tour in Florida, Boston Center for the Arts, and in New York city's APAP showcase at the Alvin Ailey CitiCorp theater. Viviana is currently a Dance Teaching Artist for Young Audiences, San Diego Unified, Rhythm Motion and San Diego Danceworks. We are thrilled to have Viviana join our team!

Joint Use Park

Our dreams of having a joint-use park at McKinley are coming closer to reality. A joint use park would mean expanded grass fields that would be open to the community during non-school hours. The City, thanks to Todd Gloria's office, has hired a designer to start drawing up the plans. We've met with the designer and key city staff to share the plans that we put together over the years (after numerous meetings with staff, kids, and neighbors).

Next, they will be holding two more community meetings to get more input. The first meeting is scheduled for October 22nd. It will be held either at McKinley or at the North Park Community Park Rec Center. We'll post signs to let you know. Even though they are drawing up the plans, this doesn't mean it's a sure thing. Make sure to sign the petition in the office or come to the meeting to let your support be heard. For more information, contact Janine Whitaker at jrwhitakerinc.net or Jen Sabo-Spence at jensabo@yahoo.com.

Attendance Counts!

As of September 30, we have been in school for 19 days. After 19 days, McKinley's portion of lost ADA (Average Daily Attendance) to our district totals, \$5,199.00. Please make sure your child attends on time every day! With cold and flu season approaching, I know you will take every measure to keep your child healthy for school! Each month, I will recognize classes and students who have perfect attendance and no tardies. Attendance data will be posted in our newsletter each month. For the month of September, Mr. Whitehead's class had the best overall attendance. They were treated to Otter Pops after recess on Monday to relieve the scorching heat. Daily, too many students arrive tardy to school. They need to be in line by 9:05 and in their seat by 9:10 a.m. Tardiness affects students' performance.

Family Friday

Friday, October 5, 2012, is our first Family Friday of the 2012-13 school year from 2:35-3:40 p.m. The purpose of Family Friday is to invite parents to visit their children's classrooms on a regular basis and participate in the instructional program. In addition, parents are invited to and meet with me in the Media Center for informal conversation. We begin the afternoon at 2:35 in the Media Center and parents are released to visit classes from 3:05 until the end of the day! Meaningful family engagement not only improves student academic achievement, but also boosts student self-esteem and improves attitudes toward learning. I look forward to seeing you this Friday!

Healthy Meals for McKinley Students in the Cafeteria Kid's Choice Café

Kid's Choice Café is an elementary healthy-choice breakfast and lunch program that encourages students to choose foods wisely and establish lifelong positive eating habits. Kid's Choice Café is in each of the district's 132 elementary schools and promotes the theme "It's Cool to Eat at School."



After making a selection from three entrées at breakfast, the salad bars are used to offer a selection of fruits. At lunch, students make a choice from three entrées and then go to a salad bar to make selections of salad, vegetables, and fruits. A monthly "Harvest of the Month" fruit or vegetable is offered to add a bit of excitement. When available, fresh, local fruits and vegetables are incorporated into the entrées and/or salad bar through the [Farm to School](http://www.sandi.net/school-meals) initiative. For more information, visit www.sandi.net/school-meals.

Volunteers are needed to help with lunch supervision! Want to spend lunch with your child and help supervise the playground? Kindergarten lunch is from 11:30-12:08. Grades 1-5 eat lunch and play from 12:15-12:55. Please call the office at 619-282-7694 with any times you have available to assist. Thanks!



Join other parents to discuss school issues at www.McKinleyPTC.com.

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