



Messenger



Jan. 2014
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
Our school
recycles! Bring in
glue sticks, glue
bottles, pens,
markers, tape
dispensers and
ink cartridges!
NOTE: We are no
longer recycling
crayons.



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

Birthday Book Club

The McKinley School Library's Birthday Book Club is a fun way to commemorate your child's birthday while helping our library collection continues to grow. Participation in the program involves a \$20.00 donation per book (per child).

During the month of your child's birthday (or half year for summer birthdays) he/she will get to choose a new book from our wonderful selection of new books that have been purchased for this purpose.

The following is included with your enrollment:
- A special book plate placed inside the front cover of the donated book with your child's name and birthday.
- Your child will be the first to check-out the book that he/she donated!

This is a very special honor and a gift that keeps on giving to all who use the McKinley library.

Order forms will be sent home with students. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Kitty.

Jog-a-thon Final Recap

Thanks to volunteers, staff, teachers and, of course, students, this year's Jog-a-thon was a huge success. Over \$32,000 was raised and will be used to fund Spanish, Arts, and Music, as well as field trips.

Ms. Rose-Weber's class raised the most money with a total of \$3,174.50. Her class also had the most money raised per student at \$113.38. Ms. January's class had the high percentage of students raising money with 65.4% of her students participating.

Raffle prizes, trophies, T-shirts (designed by 5th grader Meghan Bovee) and a pizza party with the principal were some of the rewards for participating students.

The top 10 money raisers were treated to a trip to In-N-Out Burger in a Hummer Limo! The students who joined Principal Julie Ashton-Gray for this special outing were: Anneke Yee, Owen Newlin, Austin Koumas, Liliana Mendoza, Angelo Scalo, George Carabet, Michael Hirsch, Elliot Fournier, Joaquin Gaos-Yanez, and Joshua Yee (see photo below). These students each raised between \$525 and \$1,000.



January Dates

- 10th – Family Friday, 2:40pm
- 14th – SSC/SGT Mtg, 4pm
- 16th – PTC Meeting, 6:15pm
- 20th – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,
NO SCHOOL
- 23rd – [Pizza Night](#)
- 25th – [Saturday Adventure Club](#)
- 25th – Saturday School, 9am-1pm

First Grade Update

Solids, liquids, and gasses. Oh my! First graders are beginning to look at matter and discover the world around us through the eyes of scientists. We will be observing properties of matter and experimenting to see how matter can change.

Student Council Update

The McKinley Student Council collected over 200 jackets and blankets, which were sent over to the Philippines. Thank you McKinley Cougars for taking action to help those in need!

A Few Words from Principal Julie Ashton-Gray

Email: jashton-gray@sandi.net

Dear McKinley Families,

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great vacation and spent some quality time with your growing children. I was most fortunate to have my three sons home for the holidays along with friends and extended family. With this New Year, I certainly count my many blessings including my health, family, friends, and being surrounded by your children every day! Thank you for your incredible support and active involvement both at school and at home!

Our Quality Neighborhood IB Middle School, Roosevelt!

McKinley will be hosting a presentation by the Roosevelt staff on **January 8, 2014, at 6:00 p.m.** in the Media Center. McKinley's fifth graders will visit Roosevelt on Thursday, January 23rd. They will spend the morning visiting the campus, classes, and hearing presentations about expectations and the Middle Years Program at Roosevelt! Fifth graders will receive more information in January before their field trip to Roosevelt. The presentation at McKinley on the 8th is open to **all families** as you begin to think about life after McKinley!

McKinley's Got Talent!

The Jungle Book performance was absolutely incredible! Congratulations to the many students and parents involved in the performance, which was a tribute to our quality neighborhood school! I would like to thank the many parent and student volunteers who helped make this presentation a reality! The talents of our students and parents are truly amazing! Thank you for bringing such joy and fun to the entire school community! Many folks worked tirelessly behind the scenes during the performance and at practices to make the show such a huge success! The student performers were incredible and certainly reflect the qualities of students who take risks, use their many talents, and are balanced! Thank you to the McKinley Elementary Theatre Company for this wonderful event and supporting the goals of our IB Program, which focuses on the development of the whole child!

McKinley Visitors and IB Evaluation Visit on Feb. 10th & 11th

McKinley welcomes many visitors during January and February! On January 16th we will host a group of 20 teachers from Korea! We are excited to welcome them to our IB World School and learn about the schools and educational programs in Korea. On Friday, January 24, McKinley will host the principal's conference for Area 5. We are excited to showcase our school for a morning of learning. On February, 10th and 11th, two evaluators from IB North America will be on campus to review our implementation of the IB Program! They will meet with students, parents, teachers, and district administrators to determine progress we have made since our authorization in 2010 and make recommendations for next steps for continuous improvement.

Please visit www.ibo.org to review all aspects of the International Baccalaureate Program. During the next few weeks, each grade level is working on the following transdisciplinary themes:

- K - How the World Works 12/2-1/24*
- Grade 1 - Who We Are 1/6-2/21*
- Grade 2 - Where We Are in Place and Time 12/10-1/31*
- Grade 3 - Who We Are 12/16-1/24*
- Grade 4 - How the World Works 12/9-1/31*
- Grade 5 - How the World Works 12/9-2/13*

Each theme is explored using knowledge and skills derived from core subject areas with a powerful emphasis on inquiry-based



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>

learning. For more information on each unit and to view the Program of Inquiry or POI, visit <http://www.sandi.net/mckinley/curriculum>.

Program Improvement Letter?

Part of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, "Program Improvement" occurs when a school does not meet its goal targets two years in a row. Last year (the last year of the CST), McKinley did not meet English Language Arts targets in two of our four subgroups, and therefore we have entered Program Improvement. You may have received a letter with a Choice Application over the Thanksgiving Break. You need not do anything with the application if you prefer to stay right here at McKinley. The district is obliged by federal law to offer you an alternative school placement, which you can find by contacting Enrollment Options. We are still the great school you have chosen for your child, and we continue to work hard to improve for ALL students.

Planning for 2014 and beyond!

As we enter 2014, in addition to preparing for our IB visit, we are studying the Common Core Standards in literacy and mathematics. To access information on the Common Core Standards, visit www.sandi.net. Follow the link to departments, instruction and curriculum, and California Common Core Standards.

As I receive budget information from the district for the 2014-15 school year, I will keep you abreast of site impacts. Thank you for your involvement and generosity as a parent community. The fundraisers support the many enrichment opportunities we have for our students!!!

Bell Time Survey

A survey will be coming home in the near future regarding bell times for McKinley. There have been several requests to explore the possibility of changing our bell time or school hours in future years. School beginning and start times each day are assigned by the district and cannot be changed by the school. However, in case there is an opportunity in the future for us to provide input to the district on school hours, we need your feedback. This is just an interest survey since there are no current plans to change the bell times. Please check your child's backpack daily for important information. Completed surveys need to be turned in to your child's teacher.

Attendance Counts

Thank you for making sure your child/children attends school on time every day. At the end of October, McKinley's attendance was 97.981%. We were ranked 3rd in the district out of 117 elementary schools! This ranking has increased from September where we were 20th out of all elementary schools in San Diego Unified. The chart below shows the attendance for our school compared to our attendance 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. Saturday school is designed to help students clear up absences and recoup some of the lost revenue due to absences. Mark your calendars for the next Saturday School on January 25, 2014 from 9am-1pm.

