



Messenger



May 2014 Issue 9

McKinley
Elementary
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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.

Casino Night 2014 a "Roaring" Success and Raised Over \$11,200!

A fun night was had by all those who attended Casino Night 2014! Attendees enjoyed fabulous food by The Invisible Chef and Just Baked by Jessica, danced to the live DJs, and gambled their play money away. The high rollers of the night were: 1st place Jay Newlin, 2nd place Eric Harris and 3rd place Adam O'Conner. Our MC, Grant Ferrier, kept the night rolling and guests enjoyed swing dancing by Joel and Jackie Plys from Swing Dancing San Diego.

Check out the amazing photos for the night by Arlene Ibarra on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/McKinleyCasinoRoyale>.

Thanks to all who came and supported the school! The Facebook page also has a list of businesses who donated items and/or time to the event - please remember to thank these businesses for their support!

Also, thanks to our Casino Committee who worked so hard to make the night such a success: Arlene Ibarra, Jennifer Spencer, Shari Schlossberg, Maribel King, Michelle Beckhaus, Jennifer Hirsch, Samantha Cavitt, Amy Ahumada, Mickey Brown and Cheramic Raffield.

Mosaic Makers needed: May 31 and June 1!

Leave your artistic mark on McKinley campus by helping to create a mosaic masterpiece on the north/west side of McKinley's Cafeteria/Auditorium building! We're looking for enthusiastic "artists" who would love to be a part of the team to make a TREE MOSAIC MURAL with the guidance of ROB TOBIN, our garden muralist who created the fabulous Octopus' Garden Mural.

NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY! All you need is a willingness to try and a spirit of fun. Join us Saturday, May 31 from 9am-5pm and/or Sunday, June 1 from 9am to 2pm. Any and all kinds of help will be welcome and appreciated. See you there!

McKinley Joint Use Park

We're excited to announce that the McKinley Joint Use Park project is moving forward - and will include TREES and natural turf for the kids! Councilmember Todd Gloria, SDUSD and city staff came to a compromise on these issues as well as including the large existing tree into the kid's playground area. They are hoping to have the General Development Plan approved before the end of summer and then move straight into hiring a consultant to do the construction documents, which should be done by next year.

Thanks so much to Marney Jensen, Shannon Scoggins, Jen Spencer and Robert Barry who have all worked so hard on this; Principal Julie Ashton-Gray - for supporting our interests all these years; and Sandy Mattson and Janine Whitaker - for starting this process 7 years ago!!!

May Dates

- 9th – Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 5:30pm
- 15th – [Pizza Night at Leftys](#)
- 18th – [Coach's Adventure Club](#), 9:30am
- 20th – PTC Meeting, 6:30pm
- 22nd – Open House, 6:00-7:30pm
- 26th – Memorial Day, School Closed

Principal For A Day: \$1 per ticket

As a fundraiser for the 5th Grade promotion activities, the 5th graders are selling raffle tickets for a student to be Principal For A Day. Tickets are on sale May 14-16 with the winning ticket drawn on May 19.

Scholastic Book Fair

We invite you to visit our Wheel Classes and the Scholastic Book Fair, and experience a celebration of Reading, Language, and Dance. Check the dates and times for individual classes in the office.

And if you're all booked up during Book Fair week be sure to visit the **Book Fair online** May 11 –31:

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/mckinleyelemsch3>

Update from the Health Office

Spring is here and unfortunately so is lice. If you treat your child for lice, please notify the health office and bring them through the health office the day they return to school to be checked. Only one day is needed to be out of school for treatment.

Reminder to parents of 5th graders: there is a new requirement for 7th grade entry. They must have a Tdap booster, usually given after age 8. If your child has had a booster, please bring their immunization card to the office so we can mark you current and make your 7th grade entry transition easier. If your child has not had this yet, check with your physician now about obtaining the booster.

McKinley Library's Birthday Book Club

This is a fun way to commemorate your child's birthday while helping our library collection grow. Participation 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 already 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!

A Few Words from Principal Julie Ashton-Gray

Email: jashton-gray@sandi.net

“Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

IB Programme, Fifth Grade Exhibition, Student Led Conferences, and Spring Open House!

Spring Open House is scheduled for Thurs., May 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Join us for Student Led Conferences in classes where your child will share their work and IB Portfolios. The Fifth Grade Exhibition will be held in the auditorium and open to all families. The exhibition is the culminating project for students in the Primary Years International Baccalaureate Program. Students are working in small groups on the theme, How We Organize Ourselves. The IB Programme defines this transdisciplinary theme as: Students conduct an inquiry into the interconnectedness of human-made systems and communities; the structure and function of organizations; societal decision-making; the economic activities and their impact on humankind and the environment. Our students are using the **Central Idea “Working together we can make a difference within our communities.”** Please visit the **exhibitions on display in the auditorium on the 22nd from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** Also visit the **Scholastic Book Fair in room B-23!**

Smarter Balance Assessment

Students in grades 3-5 are finishing the first statewide online test called the Smarter Balanced Assessment. For this year only, there will be no assessments results for students or schools. The purpose of this new online assessment is to pilot the statewide online testing experience for students and technology. All grade 5 students will also take the CST Science test and receive results in the summer. A huge shout out to Smart & Final on 15th St. downtown who donated snacks for students along with the PTC!

Registration for the 2014-15 School Year Now Open

Don't forget to register your child for the class of 2027! Please pass the word to neighbors and friends, so we have an accurate count of students to plan classes for next year.

Honoring Our Own

May 5-9 is National Teacher Appreciation Week and May 6 is National Day of the Teacher!

Congratulations to Richard Kenyon, McKinley's 2014 Teacher of the Year!

I have been teaching at McKinley for the past 17 years. Growing up as a native San Diegan, I attended neighborhood public schools. I was served well by the public education system and still believe in it being the best place for receiving an education in a Democratic society where we believe in equality and excellence for all. Sharing my love for learning with children on a daily basis is a fulfillment of a lifelong dream. I am married to another teacher. We have been together for 32 years, of which 18 years we have been married. I attended UCSD for both my BA Degree in Economics and my teaching credential. My mom is an educator and inspired me to become a teacher. Teaching allows me to remain a student for life, as I never want to stop learning. I live near McKinley live in a historic 1924 Craftsman bungalow. I am a proud member of both the North Park and McKinley communities.

In my spare time, I love listening to music and playing music on the guitar. I am an avid believer in the power of the arts both in my personal and professional life. I also enjoy going to the gym and spending time outside walking. I am a huge baseball fan. The Padres have been my team since I was taken to my first game with my dad as a young child. I am a huge Beatles fan, as well. I collect and listen to everything “Beatles”. The children and families of McKinley make every day an amazing day!

Congratulations to Kitty Mateo, McKinley's Classified Employee of the Year! Thanks to Ms. Kitty for all she does to make the library a welcoming environment and get books in the hands of our students!

I grew up in Hawaii and moved to San Diego after graduating High School. My kids grew up in San Diego and to keep them connected to their Hawaiian heritage we were involved in many Hawaiian cultural events and dancing hula. We still go to many cultural events in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas.

I along with my 2 sons also volunteer for a non-profit Hawaiian group, which puts on a 3 day hula competition yearly. My eldest son is a Director for the event. I also enjoy watching my 4 grandsons 3 to 4 times a week.

I have been with the District since 1989, working at different schools and doing many different jobs. I have been a Library Assistant since 1994. I have been so fortunate to have met so many people from working to my volunteering. No matter where I am I will continue to spread the Aloha.

May 7th is School Nurse Day! A huge thanks to **Nurse Lee, Eloise Kooima!** She has been a wonderful addition to our site.

Nurse Lee is on campus every Tuesday and Wednesday. Jenny Stable, our Health Technician, is on campus Monday, Thursday, and Friday.

Attendance Counts

The chart below shows the attendance for our school up to April as compared to our attendance last year. Absences do cost our district. To date, the district has lost **\$66,404.47** with our absences! Yikes!



Student News Section

Kindergarten Update:

The Kindergarten classes are finishing up our Sharing the Planet IB planner. We've explored what it means to be a good citizen and what rules are and why we have them. We've explored why we have rules in our homes, in our schools, and in our world and what life would be like without them.

Second Grade Update

The amazing 2nd graders have accomplished so much lately! We just finished our Sharing the Planet IB unit on heroes. We learned about people from a variety of cultures who worked to make the world a more peaceful place. They

created projects about a hero who inspires them to make positive change in the world. In science we are studying balance and motion. On May 2nd we are going to Legoland to learn more about how this all works in the real world.

Fifth Grade Update

How We Organize Ourselves: Students are now working on their exhibition project as our cumulating elementary school project. Students form groups and select a community organization, research it and then find a way a 5th grader can help. Their final results will be on exhibit at Open House on May 22, 2014, 6-7pm in the auditorium. Please stop by to see our work!