



DRAGON TALES

Countdown to the Holiday– 25, 24, ...

01 Dec 17

The only way we can keep up with all the activities and great things that are happening at McNeil Canyon over the next three weeks is to make a list and check it regularly. So many special traditions and learning opportunities will occur in the next fourteen days of school that checking the list twice may not be enough to make sure you do not miss out.

Students across all the grade levels have been preparing diligently for their individual and collective parts they have in the Winter Music program that kicks off this flurry of activities next Thursday evening. The very next day is Writer's Workshop, an opportunity for all students to share some of their great writ-

ing with peers. Add to that the excitement of gingerbread cookies, soup-kit making and mini-workshops and you have all the makings of some great fun and wonderful opportunities for getting into the holiday spirit.

In just 20 calendar days, the first semester of this school year will be over and students will be headed home for two weeks of well earned vacation. McNeil students have really been working hard on all of the assignments and activities that teachers have been planning and guiding them through.

Happy Holidays and thanks to all of you for your wonderful support of McNeil Canyon School.

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Special points of interest:

- Winter Program
- Mini-Workshops
- Cookie Decorating & Soup Kit Making
- Winter Break

Dates to Note:

Winter Program	7 Dec
Mini-workshops	20 Dec
Pajama Day	21 Dec
No School for Students	22 Dec
Winter Break begins	23 Dec

Christmas Break

There will be NO SCHOOL for students from Friday, December 22, 2017, which is an inservice day for teachers, through January 7, 2018 due to the Christmas Holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, January 8, 2018. We hope you and your family have a peaceful, restful, joyous holiday!

Congratulations to 6th Grade!

We're excited to announce that McNeil Canyon Elementary has been named a state finalist for Alaska in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest! Congratulations to the 6th grade class for the idea on reducing our carbon footprint. We can't wait to see how the project unfolds! With the proposal, Joanna's class has won a Chromebook! Next phase is working on an activity plan. Good luck!

North Pole Musical—next Thursday Dec. 7th

Our Winter Program, North Pole Musical, will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 6:30 pm here at McNeil. In planning ahead for this great event, students are asked to dress as follows:

Corise's K—Elves—Black Bottoms (skirts, pants, tights) and Red or Green tops
(no words or pictures)

Anne's 1st—Elves—Black Bottoms (skirts, pants, tights) and Red or Green tops
(no words or pictures)

Melon's 2-3—Reindeer—Brown or Black bottoms and Brown or Tan tops (no
words or pictures)

Kendall's 3-4—Snowflakes—Blue Jeans (without holes) and white tops (no words)

Timothy's 5—Snowman—Black bottoms, white tops

Joanna's 6th—Party—Dressy party clothes/Sunday best (including shoes)

NOTE: Drama Club students will have costumes already so do not need
the clothing listed above.

Drama Club Students need to be here by 5:45 pm for costumes and make-up in the art room. **Band Students** need to be here by 6:00 pm and go to the gym for set up. **All other Students** should be here by 6:15 pm and go to their classrooms to put on their costumes.

Helping Others

The Student Council is sponsoring "**The Helpful Holiday Tree.**" Beginning Monday and continuing through December 15th, they are collecting gloves and travel size toiletries (like you get in hotels), to be given to homeless kids in our district. Please bring these items and hang them on the Helpful Holiday Tree or place them in the boxes under the tree that is in the school lobby.

We are collecting non-perishable food for **Share the Spirit** to use in the holiday food and gift baskets they provide to local area residents in need. Canned items or other non-perishable food can be brought to school and placed in the boxes under the Christmas tree.

Once again we will be making dry bean soup kits for the **Homer Food Bank**. We are asking each student to bring two cans of stewed, diced, or whole tomatoes, (14.5 oz. size), to include in these soup kits. Please bring them to school by Monday, December 11th. Thank you for your generosity!

After School Cross Country Skiing

We are hoping to start our Skiing program on Mondays after Winter Break. We need parent helpers every Monday once the ski program starts. How many helpers we have will determine how many skiers we can have. Currently we have 5 parent helpers so that means only 25 students will be able to sign up for skiing. Permission slips will be sent home next Friday.

We also need a parent who can help with snack during skiing. This would be every Monday starting January 8th and continuing till March 5th (weather dependent).

Please contact Joanna at jgreene@kpbsd.org or call the school office if you can help with either of these things.

Coffee with Superintendent Dusek

On December 7th at K-Bay coffee Superintendent Dusek will be available to share some coffee with Homer community members from 9:00am to 10:00am. This is an opportunity for the community to meet with him and discuss their perceptions of the schools and school district along with any input on budget, programs, and/or priorities.

He plans on having regular coffee available in carafes (not going to be able to spring for lattes or espressos, just sticking with the old school coffee...).

Bottled Water Available at McNeil

McNeil Community Council is selling Ohlson Mountain Mineral Springs bottled water as a fundraiser. The cost is \$10 plus a \$10 refundable deposit per bottle. You can buy your water on Thursdays from 2:30—4:00 pm at the first shed. Please bring exact change or pay by check. Thank you.

This is a new project so we would appreciate your feedback on what days or times you think might work better. If you would like to volunteer to sell water on a certain day/time every week, please contact the school office.

Amazon Smile

Have you ever heard of Amazon Smile? You shop, Amazon gives. Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice. (Pick McNeil Canyon Elementary School Community Council.) Amazon Smile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Support McNeil Canyon Elementary by starting your shopping at smile.amazon.com



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We're on the Web!!
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Next
Site Council Meeting
05 Dec 17
3:30 p.m.
McNeil Canyon Elementary Library

Agenda:

- Review Pupil Activity Funds
- McNeil Site News
- Set meeting date for year

Pajama Day

Join the fun! Wear your PJ's and bring your favorite stuffed animal on Thursday, Dec. 21st. Please be sure your PJ's are appropriate for school and will keep you warm enough.

Mini-Workshops – WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

On Wednesday, Dec. 20th beginning at 1:15 pm, we will be conducting mini-workshops. If you would like to help with one of the workshops or conduct your own, please let us know by Thursday, Dec. 14th so that we can plan accordingly. These workshops are something that the students and staff look forward to and we hope to have parents involved, as well. If you would like to conduct a workshop with a few students but don't know what to do, we are full of ideas! Just ask! Please complete the form below and return it to the school office or give Laura a call if you can help. Thanks much!

Mini-Workshop Sign-Up

Parent's name _____

Workshop description-- _____

Grade level(s) of students you'd like to work with _____

Desired number of students _____

Materials you need _____

Contact phone _____