

McNeil Canyon Elementary

Magpie

December 15, 2017

Volunteer Opportunities

- Help in your child's classroom
- Help with after school Skiing beginning in Jan.
- Help with after school Skating beginning when we can make ice

Mini-Workshops

Mini-Workshops will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 20th, from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Thank you to everyone who is conducting a workshop. It is always great fun for the kids. Parents who haven't signed up to lead a workshop are always welcome to join us and help out.

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.

Celebration on Thursday

On Thursday, Dec. 21st, there will be a school-wide celebration from 1:15 – 2:00 pm in the gym. Students will be eating gingerbread cookies they will make earlier. We need some donations to help decorate our cookies that day so we are asking the following classes to bring something:

5th Grade – 1 can of white frosting

1st Grade – small decorations for gingerbread men such as raisins, M&M's, Skittles, red hots, mini marshmallows, chocolate chips, etc. We have plenty of sprinkles.

Thank you to Two Sisters Bakery for donating the sheets of gingerbread dough.

Happy Holidays!

Dec. 22nd is an Inservice/Work Day for staff and marks the end of Second Quarter. There will be NO SCHOOL for students from Dec. 22nd through Jan. 7th due to the Christmas Holiday. Classes will resume on Monday, Jan. 8th, 2017. We hope you and your family have a peaceful, restful, joyous holiday!

Helping Others

Thanks to everyone for your generous donations of gloves and toiletries to benefit local homeless children. The District Homeless Liaison will be picking them up for distribution. Bean Soup kits will be assembled on Monday and delivered to the **Homer Food Bank** next week. We are still 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.

After School Skating and Time for Tinkering

When we return from Christmas Break, we hope to begin After School Skating on Wednesdays.

Time for Tinkering! Students in grades 3-6 will have the choice to either work on creating and solving Lego Robotics challenges or build their own creations. In Maker Club, students will have a choice to either have a long-term project to work on each week or just have fun with K-Nex, Makey Makeys, etc. For project ideas check out <https://tinkering.exploratorium.edu> or <http://www.instructables.com> This group will also meet on Wednesdays after school.

Permission slips for these two activities will be sent home with students on Monday, Jan. 8th.

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

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.

We still need a parent who can help with snack during skiing. This would be every Monday starting January 8th and continuing until 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.

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.

Ski Clinic – CANCELLED

The Ski Clinic that was to be held by the HHS Ski Team on Sunday, Dec. 17th, has been cancelled due to lack of snow.

Supplies needed

We could use donations of containers with lids for use in the art room i.e. cool whip, sour cream, etc. Thank you.

Contests

BP Teachers of Excellence nominations are now open. Nominate at BPTeachers.com by February 1, 2018.

Junior Duck Stamp Art Contest entries are being accepted until March 15, 2018. Additional details can be found on the bulletin board in the main entry or visit www.alaska.fws.gov/jrduck or www.fws.gov/juniorduck.

National Anthem Singing Contest for ages 4-12 and 13-18 is being sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary Alaska. Details can be found on the bulletin board in the main entry.

2018 Justice For All Art Contest entries are due March 15, 2018. Entry forms and additional details are available on the bulletin board in the main entry.