

## McNeil Canyon Elementary

# Magpie

December 9, 2016

### Volunteer Opportunities

- Help in your child's classroom
- Help in the Art Room
- Help with Mini-workshops
- Help with After School Skiing
- Help with After School Skating – on the ice or serving hot chocolate & snack

### Skate Night

Student Council is sponsoring Skate Night on Friday Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Admission is by donation. Hot chocolate and cider plus baked goodies will be available for sale by donation. Light sticks and bracelets will be available to buy. Please plan on bringing your whole family for a night of fun!

### Helping Others

The Student Council is sponsoring “**The Helpful Holiday Tree.**” Through December 16th, they are collecting socks to be given to homeless kids in our district. Please bring socks (with tag or packaging so they can tell the size) and hang them on the Helpful Holiday Tree 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 Friday, December 9th. Thank you for your generosity!

### Skating

We will begin our after school skating program after winter break on Wednesday, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup>. Permission slips are available in the office.

We need parent volunteers who would be willing to make/serve hot chocolate and snack to the kids when they are done skating. Please contact the office or Melon Purcell if you can help. Extra help from parents out on the rink is always appreciated. Come join us! Thank you.

### Date Change – Spelling Bee

The date for the Spelling Bee has been changed to Friday, Jan. 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **Information from District Health Services**

There are always illnesses circulating in the community. In our District we currently have some reported cases of pertussis, mononucleosis and strep throat.

- Make certain students as well as other family members are fully immunized
- Be vaccinated for the flu
- Wash hands
- Practice cough etiquette
- Avoid direct contact with saliva from another person through sharing of utensils, touching tissues, etc.

Some of the reasons to consult your healthcare provider include:

- the child has difficulty breathing or swallowing,
- the child has a sore throat with a fever or rash
- the child has a sore throat that is not improving or a sore throat with spots in the back of the throat
- the child is not taking in enough fluids,
- the child is lethargic, irritable, does not want to be held
- the child has paroxysms (fits) of many rapid coughs followed by a “whoop” sound that is high-pitched
- the child throws up during or after coughing
- the child is exhausted from coughing

If your child is ill, keep him/her home. Children with fever must be fever free for 24 hours, without Tylenol or Advil, before returning to school.

Children who are prescribed antibiotics need to take the antibiotics for 24 hours before returning to school.

Here are some resources:

CDC – Handwashing – there are a number of resources on the CDC website. You may find one you prefer for the age of your student population. Here are two:

<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/wash-your-hands-factsheet.pdf>

<http://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/pdf/hand-sanitizer-factsheet.pdf>

CDC – The Flu: A Guide for Parents

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/fluguideforparents.pdf>

CDC - Cover Your Cough

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/idepc/dtopics/infectioncontrol/cover/gen/cybcgeneng.pdf>