

DRAGON TALES

McNeil Start Exciting

26 Aug 16

If you spent any time at McNeil Canyon Elementary this week you probably saw and heard the excitement of children as they got back to the familiar rooms and halls of school. One of the most exciting parts of this week for me has been meeting the 19 new students we gained in grades 1-5 and the 16 new Kindergarten students.

With our newest teacher, Anne Love taking on the First grade class, Melon Piper with a Second/Third grade combination class, Kendall Dellasperanza a Third/Fourth combination class and Mrs. Swanson teaching Second Math, Science and Health,

there have been some changes to what some students were familiar with in the past.

As we look forward with the students to another great year of school, it is good to note that in addition to some of our exciting traditions we will also be adding some other activities that should provide some great opportunities for learning and fun. Have a great year and get involved.

Great schools like McNeil exist because they have great teachers, great parents and great students. Thank you for your commitment to making that happen. Keep up the great work!!

Vol. 33, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- Fall Harvest Fair
- Open House
- Volunteer Training
- Garage Sale

Dates to Note:

Picture Day	1 Sep
Open House	6 Sep
Harvest Fair	Sep
Early Release	14 Sep
Family Game Night	16 Sep
Garage Sale	1 Oct

Family Game Night

Family game night will be held on Friday, Sept. 16 from 7:00-8:30 pm. Bring snacks and board games to share. Our school goal is 3,000 minutes of Game Playing fun and cooperation!



Open House and Fall Harvest Fair by Melon

On Tuesday, September 6, 2016 we will hold a Fall Harvest Fair. Parents will be able to enjoy looking at the Fair during Open House which begins at 6:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you here.

Students and community families are invited to bring fruits, vegetables and flowers to the Harvest Fair. Bring your entry to display at school on the morning of Tuesday, Sept. 6th. Consider which category suits your entry best:

- Largest . . . vegetable, fruit, grain, leaves, and flowers
- Smallest . . . vegetable, fruit, grain, leaves and flowers
- Unusual Looking. . . vegetable, fruit, grain and flowers
- Harvest Hat . . . Decorate one or make one with fruits, vegetables or flowers
- Tiniest flower arrangement
- Most colorful flower arrangement
- Smelliest – good or bad
- Creations: (children attempt to create characters or objects with vegetables i.e. stick a carrot on a potato face for a nose)
 - Funniest
 - Dragons
 - Unique Setting or Scene
 - Camouflage Creatures
- Family Project (any category)
- People's Choice (students will vote for the entry they consider most outstanding)

McNeil Canyon Community Council by Theresa E.

What is it? We are a group of parent volunteers who work together to encourage and support our community of McNeil staff and students.

What does it do? The McNeil Community organizes two primary fundraisers: The McNeil Fall Carnival in late October, and The McNeil Family Talent Show in the Spring. These are wonderful, community building celebrations that have traditionally provided funds for our Artist in the School program, Swim lessons for the kids, the Robotics program, Scholarships, etc.. We also seek to support our staff members when they need additional classroom materials, and show our appreciation for their tremendous investment into our children's lives.

What can I do to support the Community Council? We all lead busy lives, but the good news is that there are many ways you can support the Community Council at McNeil without doing it all!

If you are a planner/ organizer with time off on Friday afternoons: Attend a Community Council meeting. Our first meeting will be Friday, September 2 @ 1:00.

If you don't have time during the day but are able to make phone calls: Become a room parent. You can be in charge of calling the parents in your room 3 times during the year to let them know about upcoming events and how they can participate. There will be a sign up sheet in your child's classroom the evening of the Open House/ Harvest Fair, September 6th.




Picture Day

Please mark your calendar – Picture Day is Thursday, September 1st. Two parent volunteers are needed to help the photographer that day. Parent helpers will receive one free packet of pictures for their assistance. Call Laura in the office if you can help. All pictures will be taken in the morning with preschoolers invited to have their picture taken at 11 am..

Background Checks for Volunteers—2 WEEKS!

The KPBSD requires that **all** volunteers have a criminal background check **before** working with students. A letter was sent home on the first day explaining this process. If you were a volunteer last year, you should have received an e-mail this summer asking you if you would like to continue to volunteer. Please say “YES!” Background checks can take up to 10 working days so please complete yours as soon as possible. If you have any questions, call the school office.

After School Learning Lab



After School Learning Lab will begin Tuesday, Sept. 13th. There is **ASLL** every Tuesday and Thursday that school is in session. There is an activity bus that will bring your child home afterwards. It leaves the school at 4:00 p.m. and transports the students who live farther out East End Road before heading back to town and dropping those students off. Students will be referred to stay for **ASLL** by their teacher. A permission slip is required to stay after school and they are available in the classrooms and in the office.

Early Release

The KPBSD School Board has approved an early release (1.5 hours) for all schools on one day of 6 months per school year. The first one will occur on Wednesday, September 14, 2016. McNeil Students will be released at 12:50 pm and buses will leave at 1:00 pm. Your child will arrive home 1.5 hrs. earlier than usual.

Parent Volunteer Training

The McNeil Canyon Elementary School **Parent Volunteer Workshop** will be held Monday, Sept. 12th at 12:30 pm. We will be covering the Parent Volunteer Handbook, how to run most of the school equipment, and safety issues such as Blood-borne Pathogens and the Emergency Action Plan. Any parents who have not previously had this training here need to be here. If you can not make it at this time please contact Laura to set up another time.

Talk and Look Like A Pirate Day

Monday, Sept. 19th, is Talk and Look Like a Pirate Day. Aaaargh. Join the fun!



Important Borough Meeting Saturday, Oct. 1

At McNeil Canyon Elementary in the Library at 9:30 am on Oct. 1st, the Borough will meet with our community about capital projects and Revenue Sharing. Make your voice heard.

Free and Reduced Meal Program (NSLP)

Preparing for the 2016/2017
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District
STUDENT NUTRITION SERVICES
FREE & REDUCED MEAL PROGRAM (NSLP)

Student Programs Applications for 2016-2017 SY

Households with income: Households with income are encouraged to submit a KPBSD Student Programs Application (even if income is over the Income Eligibility Guidelines), because certain Federal programs base funding on the total number of students applying for benefits. Parents can submit an application (one application per household) for their household **BEFORE** school starts - Please allow 10 working days for processing by the Student Nutrition Services Office.

2016/2017 STUDENT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS (cream with purple printing) will be available for pick-up by August 08, 2016 at all Kenai Peninsula Borough Schools, Public Assistance / Job Service and KPBSD Central Office.

Households receiving Public Assistance Benefits: Households receiving Public Assistance benefits (Food Stamps or Temporary Assistance) **DO NOT** need to fill out a Student Programs Application IF they have received and turned in a School Meals/Direct Certification Notice from Public Assistance. The Department of Education and Public Assistance will coordinate efforts to implement the Categorical Eligibility Process by also sending names of qualifying households directly to KPBSD / Student Nutrition Services (SNS). Once your student's name has been received and processed, SNS will send you a letter notifying you that benefits are available.

30-DAY GRACE MEAL BENEFITS: Students qualifying for free or reduced meal benefits on the last serving day of the 2015-2016 School Year (May 19, 2016) may receive meal benefits for up to the first 30 school days of the 2016/2017 school year (August 23 – October 4, 2014). The 30 day grace period allows students to qualify for school meals while their new application, School Meals or Categorical Eligibility Direct Certification Notice is being processed. **NOTE:** If a student changes schools, a delay in receiving 30 day benefit may occur.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Some Carrots Monday

Bill's 5th Grade class will be selling carrots in two or three weeks and an order form will be placed in an upcoming newsletter for them. However, due to the thinning process, a limited number of 5 pound bags of carrots will be available for purchase this coming Monday morning for \$15. First come, first serve.

Girls on the Run

The Girls on the Run program, sponsored by Haven House, is looking for coaches. They hope to start the program in two weeks. It will be held after school two days a week for 5 or 6 weeks. The coaches will pick the days of the week. Please contact Joanna if you can help. jgreene@kpbsd.k12.ak.us



Kenai Peninsula
Borough School District

**McNeil Canyon
Elementary
52188 East End Road,
Homer, AK 99603
(907) 235-8181**

Phone: 907-235-8181

Fax: 907-235-8183

Email: pswanson@kpbsd.k12.ak.us

We're on the Web!! <http://mcneilcanyonelementary.blogspot.com>

Next
Site Council Meeting
15 Sept 16
3:30 p.m.
McNeil Canyon Elementary Library

Agenda:

- School Improvement Plan
- Review Bylaws
- McNeil Site News

Coast Walk Clean-Up

Our Annual Beach Coast Walk Clean-Up Day will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 20th. Additional information will be coming home later this month. Please watch for it.

Spotlight Students

The following students have been selected as Spotlight Students for the month of September: Hayden Kovelda, Alexandra Reutov, Amelia Young, Dominic Dockery, Maxim Sanarov, Javan Weisser, Glenn Casey, Robert Frost, Kayla Kalafut, Trinity Thayer, Jody Goodrich, Julian Kuzmin, Charity Rainwater, Wynne Reed, Emma Grimes, Kiril Kalugin, Elsa Milne and Lion Trejo. Parents are invited to join their child and the principal for lunch on Thursday, Sept. 29th at 11:15 am.

Spotlight Student forms are being sent home with these children today. Please return them as soon as possible so they can be placed on our Spotlight Student bulletin board. Thank you!!

Garage Sale Time!

It's time again to clean out your garages and closets!!! Joanna's class will be holding a Garage Sale at McNeil on Sat., October 1st. You will get a clean, dry room to sell your items and WE do all of the advertising!!! \$10 rent for 1/2 of a table and \$20 for a full table. We will also have a 6th grade table for those of you with clean items in good shape that you would like to donate to our fundraiser. A bake sale will be held in conjunction and we welcome donations for that as well. Please contact Laura Sheldon at the school to reserve your table now!