



DRAGON TALES

McNeil Start Exciting

28 Aug 15

If you spent any time at McNeil Canyon Elementary this past 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 12 new students we gained in grades 1-6 and the 13 new Kindergarten students.

With Debbie Piper taking on a First/Second grade combination class, Melon Piper with a Second/Third grade combination class and Mrs. Swanson teaching First/Second Math and Science, 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. 32, Issue 1

Special points of interest:

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

Dates to Note:

Open House	3
Harvest Fair	Sep
Early Release	16
	Sep
Family Game Night	25
	Sep
Garage Sale	3
	Oct
Picture Day	6
	Oct

Family Game Night

Family game night will be held on Friday, Sept. 25 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 Thursday, September 3, 2015 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 Thursday, Sept. 3rd. 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)

Community Council News by Amy Stonorov

It is a tradition at McNeil that as the children grow and move up through the school the parent leadership and involvement in community council shifts also. We have some wonderfully dedicated parents who have led and been involved with community council since their children were new to McNeil, and now their children have moved up and some even have moved on. So the time has come for another group of parents to join us and get involved, and make it a smooth transition.

We welcome all parents to come to the meetings and join in as you can. The first meeting will be TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th at 1:00 in the staff lounge.

Community Council also needs a parent representative from each class to help with parent communication. This is a way to get involved and help out. Look for a sign-up sheet in your child's classroom at the open house. If you have questions or want to help contact Amy Stonorov (235- 0172), April Rhodes (235-3971), Britt Milne (235-9024).

Band News by Mrs. Swanson

Second year band will begin on Tuesday Sept. 15th. Beginning Band will start on Tuesday, September 29th. I will be sending home band packets next week with more information for beginning band. Please stop by and see me at open house. You can rent an instrument from The Horn Doctor in Anchorage. Contact Mrs. Swanson if you have any questions.

Artist in the Schools by Debbie

Local artist, Josh Nordstrom, will be our Artist in Residence next month. He will be sharing his mosaic making expertise with all students in our school. The two week residency for students will begin Tuesday, September 22 and end with a gallery walk of our artwork on Monday, October 5, at 1:00 p.m.

We need some help preparing for the residency. First, we need MORE thin, colorful cardboard boxes—the kind cereal, crackers, mac and cheese, and cake mixes come in. The boxes may be broken down to store them flat. Also, we need thick corrugated cardboard from large boxes. Thank you to those of you that have sent in your boxes; we still need LOTS more. We are hoping to use mostly recycled materials for this project.

Parents are encouraged to join Josh and the staff on Wednesday, September 9, 2015, at 2:45-4:30 p.m. for an **after school workshop**. We will meet in the Art Room where preparations for this special project will begin. We have lots to do and any extra hands will be put to good use.

Our annual beach walk will occur on Thursday, September 17th. As the students are bused to the beaches, they will stop in town where Josh has commissioned works of permanent art—the new Port and Harbor Office, new public restroom facilities, and Homer City Hall. On the first morning of the residency Monday, September 22nd, the school will join together for an all school assembly to meet Josh and launch into the theme of BEING CREATIVE THROUGH MOSAICS. He will use a slide show presentation to explain and demonstrate the steps taken to design and complete a mosaic. This will build background knowledge, excitement, and an understanding of the goals for the residency. Teachers will be able to use this slide show to segue into integrated lessons with their respective classes.

This Artist in the Schools residency is made possible by the fundraising of our McNeil Canyon Community Council and through partnership between Alaska State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency, with additional support from the Rasmuson Foundation.

Coast Walk Clean-Up

Our Annual Beach Coast Walk Clean-Up Day will be held on Thursday, Sept. 17th. Additional information will be coming home later this month. Please watch for it.

Parent Volunteer Training

The McNeil Canyon Elementary School **Parent Volunteer Workshop** will be held Tuesday, Sept. 15th 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.

After School Learning Lab

After School Learning Lab will begin Tuesday, Sept. 15th. 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.

Background Checks for Volunteers

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!" If you have any questions, call the school 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 16, 2015. 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.

Talk and Look Like A Pirate Day

Friday, Sept. 18th, is Talk and Look Like a Pirate Day. Aaaargh. Join the fun!

Important Borough Meeting Saturday, Oct. 3

At McNeil Canyon Elementary in the Library at 9:30 am on Oct. 3rd, the Borough will meet with our community about capital projects and Revenue Sharing. Make your voice heard.

School Picture Day

Please mark your calendar – Picture Day is Tuesday, October 6th. 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 from 11–11:30 am.

HEA Energy & Conservation Student Contest

This contest is open to all students in Grades K – 6. See the bulletin board in the main entrance for additional details and entry forms. The deadline is Sept. 18, 2015.



Kenai Peninsula
Borough School District

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Next

Site Council Meeting
(with other area Site Councils)

15 Oct 15

6:00 p.m.

Homer Middle School
(tentatively)

Agenda:

- District Budget

Spotlight Students

The following students have been selected as Spotlight Students for the month of September: Baron Theriot, Javan Weisser, Breyan Cathey, Aaron Elkins, Kallan Johnson, Sofia Loboy, Einar Pederson, Jack Spurgeon, Haley Baker, Blaise Banks, Minadora Reutov, Alexander LeBlanc and Coleman Stephens. Parents are invited to join their child and the principal for lunch on Tuesday, 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 3rd. 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!