



DRAGON TALES

Lots of Learning Happening

30 Sept 16

Six weeks of school have zipped by and it hardly seems like we could have spent that much time at school already.

ed in class and at home represent a whole lot of learning opportunities for McNeil Canyon students.

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In those six weeks; sixth grade students have taken a field trip to Peterson Bay, fifth grade students took a trip to the Noomah carrot patch, third and second grade students took a ferry ride and visited Seldovia, and all of our students had the opportunity to participate in the Harvest Fair.

Six weeks done means there are only 30 weeks left, we have a lot of learning left to accomplish in that time and it will go by just as fast as these first six have.

We all need to work together, students, parents and staff, to give the time we have the best effort we can while we have the opportunity. Thanks for all you do to make learning happen at McNeil!!

Special points of interest:

- Garage Sale
- Picture Retakes
- End of 1st Quarter
- P/T Conferences
- Fall Carnival

These special activities and all the assignments and projects that have been complet-

Dates to Note:

Borough Revenue Sharing

At 10:00 am on Saturday, Oct. 1st in our school library, the Borough will meet with our community about capital projects and Revenue Sharing. Make your voice heard.

Garage Sale	8 Oct
No School for Students	21 Oct
Early Release	26 Oct
No School for Students & P/T conferences	27 & 28 Oct
Fall Carnival	28 Oct

Coast Walk on Tuesday

The annual Coast Walk Clean-Up has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 4th. All students in grades K—6 will be participating. We need parents to help with a celebration when we return to McNeil at about 1:30 pm. Call Laura if you can help.

Garage Sale

The annual McNeil Garage/ Bake sale, sponsored by our 6th grade class, will be held on Saturday, October 8th from 9 am—1 pm. There are still tables available for rent or you can donate items to the 6th grade table. Call the school office if you have any questions or would like to rent a table.

Picture Retakes

Picture retakes will be on Monday, Oct. 10, 2016 Please return the entire picture packet if you would like to have your child's photo retaken. If your child was absent on Picture Day, or you didn't get a chance to order photos, new order forms are being sent home today.

Two parent helpers are needed on picture retake day. Volunteers receive a free packet of pictures for helping. Call Laura in the office if you would like to help. Thank you.

KPBSD Budget Meeting

The KPBSD will have a District wide budget development presentation on Thursday, October 13th at 6 pm. McNeil Site Council Members, as well as all interested parents, are invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. We will have a special Site Council Meeting immediately following the 15 min. video. The McNeil Site Council will meet on that date here at McNeil.

This meeting will be used to provide a brief overview of the KPBSD budgeting process and the fiscal reductions we are facing. We will then have a discussion about the scenarios of a potential 10% and 20% reduction in our school budget.

The purpose of the meeting is to gain feedback on areas of your school budget that can be reduced, areas that should remain priorities and suggestions for legislators about solutions to our shortfalls. This input will then be presented to the Board at the November and December board meetings and work sessions.

All parents, staff and community members are encouraged to complete a survey about your opinion on class sizes and school program offerings at: <http://hanoverresearch.kpbsd.sgizmo.com/s3/>

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Parent/Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday and Friday, October 27 & 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Notices with your child's scheduled conference date and time will be sent home with them on Friday, Oct. 14th. If you are unable to attend at the scheduled time, please contact the school office to reschedule as soon as possible or no later than Oct. 24th. Conferences are an important communication time for parents and teachers. We hope to see you here!

Community Council

The McNeil Community Council will meet on Friday, October 14th at 1:00 pm in the Staff Lounge. All parents are invited to attend. It is especially important for Room Representatives to attend if at all possible. We will be handing out information about the booths each class will be having and directions to help get volunteers to work the booths.

Fall Carnival

The annual McNeil Canyon Elementary Fall Carnival will be held on Friday, October 28th from 5 - 8 pm. This is a fun-filled evening for the whole family and community. The Fall Carnival is sponsored by Community Council and is their one major fundraiser for the year. Plus it's a lot of fun! Parents may be receiving a phone call asking them to help at the Carnival. Your time commitment can be as short as one hour. Please consider helping with this great event.

Fall Carnival Poster Contest

All students are invited to make a poster (no bigger than 12" x 18") to help let people know about our Fall Carnival. **All poster contest entries will receive a prize.** Posters need to be submitted by Tuesday, Oct. 18th. The poster must have the student's name, grade and teacher's name on the back and **MUST** have the following information somewhere on the front of the poster:

McNeil Canyon School Fall Carnival
Friday, October 28
5:00-8:00 pm at McNeil Canyon School

Additional information that you could include if you wish is: "Come Join the Fun!". Food, Prizes, Games, Haunted House, everyone is welcome! Happy creating!

We are also collecting books for the cupcake walk. You can drop off used books in the office with Laura.

First Quarter Ends/Inservice Day

First Quarter will be ending on Friday, October 21st. This is an in-service day for staff so there will be **NO SCHOOL** for students that day.

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 next one will occur on Wednesday, October 26, 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.

Crazy Hair/Hat Day

Student Council is sponsoring Crazy Hair/Hat Day on Thursday, October 20th. Join the fun!

Bus Changes

Community Meetings were held recently in Homer, Anchor Point and Ninilehik. There will be some major changes to bus service in these communities, including changes to school start and stop times and a reduction in the number of buses.

Make your concerns heard. To offer your suggestions, questions or thoughts, please use this online public comment link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SouthernPeninsulaSchoolTimes>

If you did not attend a bussing meeting and would like more information before commenting, call Pete

Ukuleles

Dear Parents,

For the past few weeks, our 3rd/4th, 5th and 6th graders have been making excellent progress in beginning ukulele lessons during Mrs. Swanson's music classes. These lessons have been led by volunteer Sharon Schulz, who is a singer/songwriter musician and retired KPBSD Speech/Language Pathologist. All our students seem enthusiastic about learning how to play this increasingly popular instrument!

This is our second year of studying the ukulele, and we are again using "Madeline Pots' Ukulele Class for Kids" online. It is exciting to see our students grow, and our program build! Besides learning musical skills, they are improving their listening/attending, physical coordination, and social skills playing together as a band.

If your child is interested in getting their own ukulele, please keep in mind there are many different types and sizes. Sharon teaches right-handed Soprano, Concert, and Tenor ukulele. We strongly suggest getting a quality instrument made of wood or wood laminate. Please avoid toy plastic or "souvenir" ukuleles, as these will probably not sound as good, which may be discouraging.

Steve Cornish at Cornish Music in Homer on Pioneer Avenue has a variety of quality ukuleles at reasonable prices. He is very knowledgeable and encourages customers to "shop around" and try instruments. You can also check out Austin Bazaar's "Different Ukulele Sizes/How to buy a Ukulele" Parts 1 and 2 on YouTube. For more information about purchasing a ukulele, please contact Mrs. Swanson or Sharon at sharonfriesenschulz@gmail.com.

Thanks for your support of our music and other educational programs at McNeil Canyon Elementary School!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Swanson and Sharon Shultz



Kenai Peninsula
Borough School District

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Next

Site Council Meeting

13 Oct 16

6:00 p.m.

McNeil Canyon

Agenda:

- District Budget Meeting
- Review Bylaws
- McNeil Site News

We're on the Web!!
www.mneilcanyon.org

Book Fair

Our annual Book Fair this year is once again being held in cooperation with The Homer Bookstore. We are fortunate the Homer Book Store offers us the opportunity to provide quality literature to our families while supporting our art program through this fundraiser. On top of purchasing books at the Book Fair in our hallway, you can place orders for books you want at that time, the book store will order your books or provide them from their stock, and consider those sales part of our fundraising event. The Book Fair will be held during the week of Oct. 24th through Oct 28th. Hours on Monday , Tuesday and Wednesday, will be during our lunch hour, 11:20-12:20. On Thursday and Friday during Parent Teacher Conferences books may be purchased between 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Proceeds from the Book Fair are used to buy art supplies for school wide projects.

Spotlight Students

The following students have been selected as Spotlight Students for the month of October: Yuki Bacher, Paxton Horn, Joseph Morris, Emma Fisher, Leya Johnson, Thomas Martin, Cohen Boyd, Justus Grimes, Tilea Lockwood, Ryder Rhodes, Cassidy Carroll, Alexandra Casey, Braedan Pilant, Kiprian Reutov, Laura Davoudlarian, Riley Huffman, Chase Jones and Faith Latham.

Parents are invited to join their child and the principal for lunch on Tuesday, October 18th 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!!