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

Kenai Peninsula
Borough School District

DRAGON TALES

Great Start at McNeil

30 Aug 19

Vol. 36, Issue 1

The first two weeks of school here at McNeil Canyon have been great! Classes have gotten off to exciting starts with new students making connections and returning students helping them to feel welcomed.

We are very happy to welcome 17 new Kindergarten students, 12 new-to-McNeil students and 2 new staff members to our McNeil team, Rachel Wied, and Charles Rininger who are teaching 2nd/3rd and 6th grade respectively. They are great additions to an already awesome team and you need to get to know them.

Once again the results of our annual AK state assessments (PEAKs) are in and McNeil students did a great job, exceeding the district and state performance by a tremendous margin. Parents of this year's 4th-6th grade students will be receiving the individual results in the mail by mid-September.

McNeil Canyon continues to be a great school because of the special community of parents, students and staff that call it "My School." Please get involved in all the opportunities that will present themselves through out the year. It is your commitment and involvement that make it a truly great school!!!

Special points of interest:

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

Family Game Night

Family game night will be held on Friday, Sept. 27 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!

Dates to Note:

Open House Harvest Fair	5 Sep
Early Release	18 Sep
Picture Day	18 Sep
Family Game Night	27 Sep
Garage Sale	5 Oct

Parent Volunteer Training

The McNeil Canyon Elementary School **Parent Volunteer Workshop** will be held Wednesday, Sept. 4th at 2:00 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 Joy to set up another time.

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.

Open House and Fall Harvest Fair by Corise and Rachel

On Thursday, September 5, 2019 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. 5th. 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)

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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, 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. Look for our next meeting date and time in the McNeil newsletters.

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.

We look forward to working together this year!

School Board Meets in Homer

The Kenai Peninsula School Board will meet this month in Homer at 6 pm on Monday, Sept. 9, 2019 at Homer High School. There will be a McNeil Canyon student presentation at this meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Band News by Mrs. Swanson

Band is starting soon!!! 2nd year band will be starting on Tuesday, September 24th. Please remember to bring instruments and books. Beginning band will start Wednesday Oct. 2nd. Stop by the music room during Open House on September 5th and pick up a band packet for beginning band. Check in with Moore Music in Homer or The Horn Doctor in Anchorage for purchase or rental of an instrument, or borrow one from a friend. There is a limited selection of instruments available to rent from McNeil as well. Contact Mrs. Swanson if you have any questions.

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 18, 2019. McNeil Students will be released at 1:20 pm and buses will leave at 1:30 pm. Your child will arrive home 1.5 hrs. earlier than usual.

After School Learning Lab

After School Learning Lab will begin Tuesday, Sept. 17th. There is **ASLL** every Tuesday and Thursday that school is in session. There is an activity bus that will bring your child home afterwards (**East of the school only**). It leaves the school at 4:30 p.m. 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.

Talk and Look Like A Pirate Day

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

Picture Day

Please mark your calendar – Picture Day is Wednesday, September 18th. Two parent volunteers are needed to help the photographer that day. Parent helpers will receive one free packet of pictures for their assistance. Call Joy in the office if you can help. All pictures will be taken in the morning with preschoolers invited to have their picture taken at 11:30 am .

Coast Walk Clean-Up

Our Annual Beach Coast Walk Clean-Up Day will be held on Thursday, Sept. 26th. Additional information will be coming home later this month. Please watch for it.

Bus Safety—Important Information

Apple Bus Company has asked that if you miss the bus at your stop, please don't follow the bus to the next stop and have your child walk up along the side of the bus from the back. This is very dangerous. The bus driver often cannot see the children in the dark and pulls away from the stop without knowing there are children in the "Danger Zone". If your child does miss the bus and you want to catch the bus and put your child on it, call Apple Bus Company and they'll radio the bus to get your car past the bus and offload your child in front of the bus at the closest safe place. Please feel free to call them with any questions at 235-0124.

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

Next

Site Council Meeting

10 Sept 19

3:30 p.m.

McNeil Canyon Elementary Library

Agenda:

- School Development Plan
- Review Bylaws
- McNeil Site News

Spotlight Students

The following students have been selected as Spotlight Students for the month of September: Eviana Arthur, Bela Donyes, Mari Bacher, Verinea Basargin, Stefan Kuzmin, Tobias Proter, Avien Ryder, Paxton Horn, Brenda Pennington, Aubrey Stephens, Araya Andres, Baron Theriot, Gyffyn Linder, Swift Blackstock, and Jackson Fraley. Parents are invited to join their child and the principal for lunch on Tuesday, Sept. 24th at 11:45 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!!! Charley's class will be holding a Garage Sale at McNeil on Sat., October 5th. You will get a clean, dry room to sell your items and WE do all of the advertising!!! $15 rent for 1/2 of a table and $25 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 Joy Overson at the school to reserve your table now!

Nurse's Corner

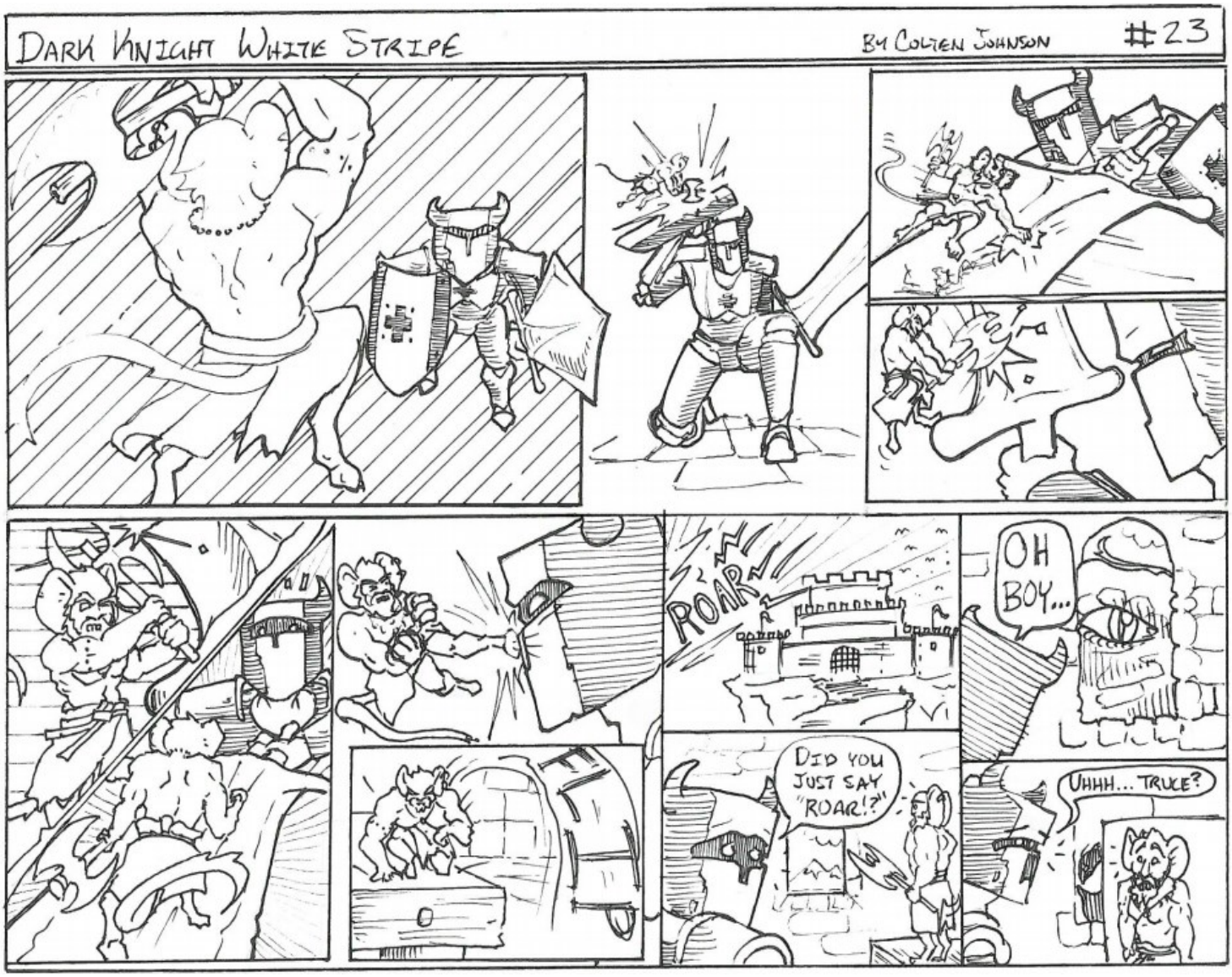
When to Keep Your Child Home from School
KPBSD policy states that a student should not be in school if **in the last 24 hours**:

- He/she has vomited during the night;
- He/she has diarrhea;
- He/she has a fever of 100°F or higher (including during the past 24 hours. The temperature should be taken during a time medication is not being used to control a fever.
- He/she has a frequent or persistent cough.

Thank you for keeping sick children home so they do not spread their illnesses. Keeping our students healthy is our goal!

Cough Drops at School
The school will no longer be carrying cough drops. If you want your child to have cough drops at school please send in a package of them and we will be happy to give them when appropriate just as we have in the past.

Dress for the Weather
Help your student be prepared as the weather changes with dry clothes, especially in wet weather. Dry socks, pants, boots, gloves and hats will ensure your child is ready to return to class after recess. We have a few available but only for the younger students.



Student Comics Wanted!

This spot reserved for student comics. Submit yours in the green box at the front desk. Templates available upon request.