MERLIN MESSENGER

Parent Newsletter - November



2023 LAMAR CISD BOND ELECTION - TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

2023 Traylor Bond Stadium Repairs





LAMARCISD

2023 Bond One Sheeter Flyer - English.pdf

Download

1.3 MB

2023 Bond One Sheeter Flyer - Spanish.pdf

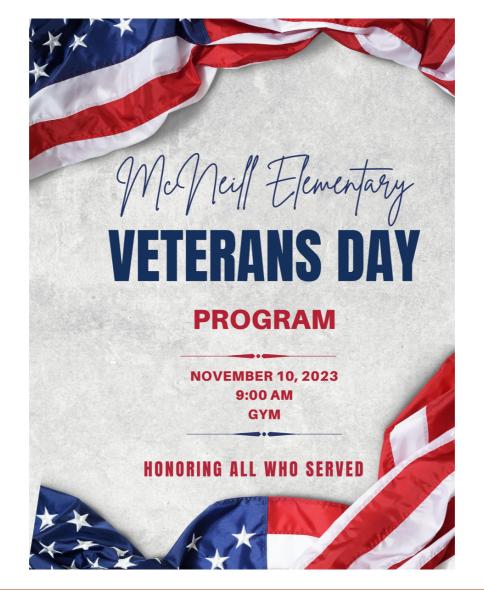
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I can't believe that we have completed their first nine weeks of school. It seems like yesterday we were opening our doors and welcoming our Merlins back to a new school year! Our Merlins and teachers worked extremely hard to finish the first nine weeks strong. As we enter the month of November, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the McNeill community. Through your support and commitment, we continue to build a legacy of high expectations and student achievement. I am so thankful for the relationships with our community, parents, teachers, staff and most importantly our STUDENTS! This time of year is special to me because it is truly about family and showing gratitude. I encourage each of you to take time this month to show gratitude towards the ones that mean the most to you.

Thank you again for all of your support! I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season!





FOOD AND HYGIENE DRIVE

SPONSORED BY NEHS

Nov 10-17

Please join us in our annual Food and Hygiene drive benefiting Rosenberg's Helping Hands.

Non-Perishable Food Items:

- SoupTuna

- Rice/PastaPantry Meals
 - Hamburger HelperRice-A-Roni

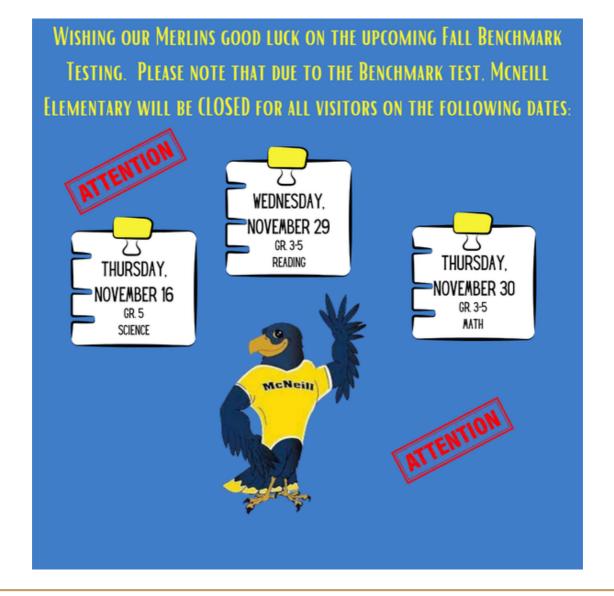
Hygiene Items (travel size):

- SoapToothpasteDeodorant

- ConditionerBody Wash



BENCHMARK TESTING - NO VISITORS



2ND 9 WEEKS PROGRESS REPORTS

As a reminder, progress reports will now be found in the student portfolio section in your Skyward Family Access account.

Progress reports will be available for parents to view on November 16th in Skyward.

Please see the attached guide down below for the simple, 4-step process to access your child(ren)'s grade report.

If you need help with Family Access, please contact our secretary, Mindy Gonzalez, mgonzalez06@lcisd.org.

How to view progress reports and report cards in Family Access.pdf

Download

297.3 KB





WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBER

With our enrollment growing over 900 we will now have two (2) assistant principals. Ms. Contreras will begin supporting our campus on Tuesday October 31st. Please welcome our 2nd Assistant Principal, Ms. Lisa Contreras!

Hello McNeill Families,

I am Lisa Contreras. A little bit about me that I feel is important to share is my love for learning! I am in my 15th year of education with experience as an Assistant Principal and I hope to continue to grow through this journey here at McNeill Elementary. I look forward to getting to know all the kiddos at McNeill!

A few things unrelated to my profession are that I love to read, run, travel and write! I'm excited to support Ms. Jordan and Ms. Dickerson as best I can, as well as, supporting your child's academic and social-emotional growth.

Kindest regards, Ms. Contreras



CLUB INFORMATION - NOVEMBER

Our clubs are underway. It is important that parents pick up or drop off students on time. We appreciate your support! Below you will find a list of clubs, meeting dates, and sponsor name(s). Please reach out to the club sponsor with any questions.

Club Name

NEHS - Monday

- November Date(s): 11/13
- Sponsors Ms. Patterson/Mr. Jones

Cheer - Mondays

- November Date(s): 11/6, 11/13, 11/27
- Sponsors Ms. Stewart

Girls in STEM - Tuesdays

- November Date(s): 11/7, 11/14, 11/21
- Sponsors Ms. Obrero/Ms. Harrell

Girls Above Society - Wednesdays

- November Date(s): 11/8, 11/15, 11/29
- Sponsors Ms. Patterson

Rhythm Club - Wednesdays

- November Date(s): 11/8, 11/15, 11/29
- Snoneor Me Garnee

Choir - Thursdays

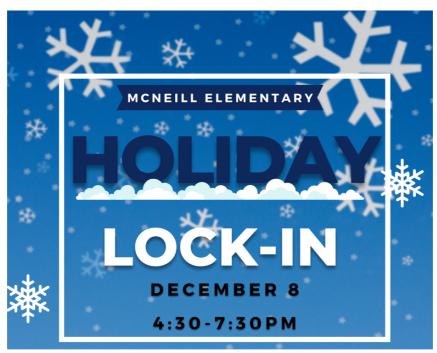
- November Date(s): 11/2, 11/9, 11/30
- Sponsor Ms. Garnes

Intramural Sports - Thursdays

- November Date(s): 11/2, 11/9, 11/16, 11/30
- Sponsor Coach Young

LEGO Club - Thursdays

- November Date(s): 11/2, 11/9, 11/16
- Sponsor Ms. Kirkpatrick



\$25 per student



Scan the QR code to sign up!

The McNeill Elementary lock-in is coming early this year! The evening involves games, singing, dancing, arts & crafts, and snacks. For just \$25, Come enjoy an evening of fun and games hosted by your very own specials' teachers.

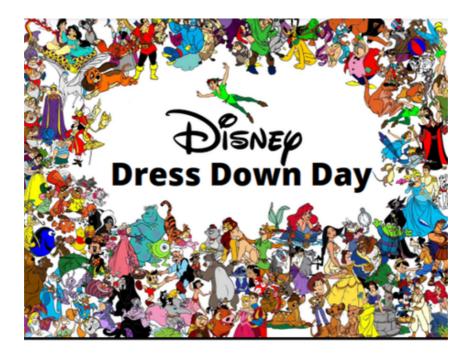
<u>This event is open to kindergarten through 5th grade</u> <u>students who are currently enrolled at McNeill Elementary.</u>

For questions, please reach out to Ms. Garnes. bailee.garnes@lcisd.org



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NOVEMBER DRESS DOWN DAY - STUDENTS PAY \$1



Thursday, November 16, 2023

Please send \$1 with your student to participate in Disney Character Dress Down Day.

*All clothing must meet the LCISD Student Dress Code Policy. *Costumes may be worn (No masks)

PTO NEWS









MCNEILL ELEMENTARY PTO MEETING JOIN US



6:30PM NOVEMBER 7, IN THE LIBRARY

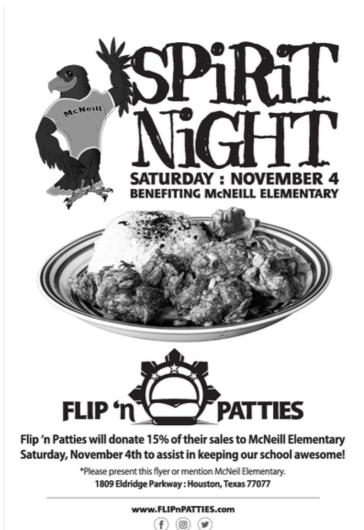






November Spirit Nights

Our November Spirit Nights will be held on the following dates: November 4 - Flip'n Patties



CROSSING GUARD VOLUNTEERS

From the PTO

In an effort to increase student safety, especially in light of the recent tragedy in Katy ISD, we have put together a signup for volunteer crossing guards. The intersection of Lakemont Bend and Mason is very busy and a dangerous place to be a child. Please consider volunteering to help our dedicated Crossing Guard, Ms. Ruse continue to ensure student safety as they get to school each day. She performs this job everyday, rain or shine, and looks out for the students as if they were her own children. Ms. Ruse will be there to lead the way; volunteers will be provided with a reflective vest and greeted with smiles from our grateful students. Please sign up to help make the crossing safer for our students.

Crossing Guard Volunteers

McNeill PTO Membership Sign-up

JOIN McNeill Elementary PTO TODAY!!

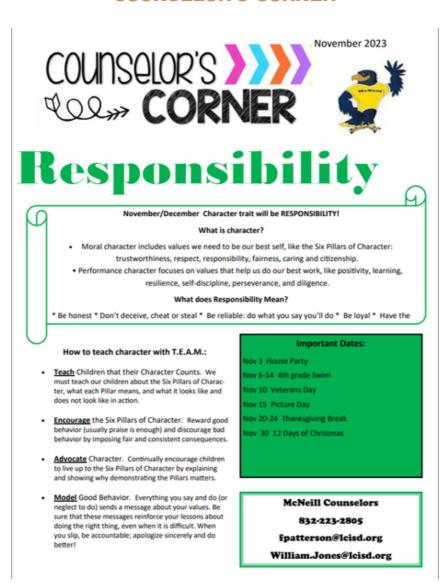
McNeill Elementary PTO is a vital part of the school community bringing together parents, teachers, administrators, and students. We provide an excellent opportunity for parents to meet one another, get comfortable with the school and its staff, and support each other's common goals. Plus, we have a lot of fun in the process!

MEMBERSHIP IS ONLY \$10!!

Each year our PTO funds social events, tools for education, student programs, school supplies, etc. We also provide much needed extras to enhance our student's overall school experience. The PTO can only accomplish all of these things with your help, so please join us today and become involved.

If you would like to make a donation to the PTO we welcome your support. If you are making a donation, please make checks payable to "McNeill Elementary PTO". All donations are tax deductible.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



REPEATED INFORMATION

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

If you are interested in volunteering in Lamar CISD for the 2023-2024 please complete the volunteer background check application found here https://www.lcisd.org/community/volunteers
This background check will allow you to serve on campus in a variety of capacities with both students and teachers.

We appreciate your help in keeping our campus and students safe. Thank you for volunteering in Lamar CISD!

LUNCH VISITORS

Please see the reminders below regarding our lunch visitors and procedures.

Lunch visitors will be welcomed daily during. Lunchroom visitors are limited to **TWO visitors** per child per day.

As a large campus, our space is very limited, and we must be creative with how we safely accommodate lunch visitors for parents who would like to eat with their children. There will be one lunch table and the lounge area designated for visitors. Please be sure to sit in these areas only.

Visitors may eat **ONLY** with their child. Visitors may not provide food for children who are not their own or interact with them.

Visitors must sign in at the front office with a government issued identification card or a passport to receive a pass. After the scheduled lunch time, parents must leave the building.

Parents are highly discouraged from dropping off lunches or having lunch delivery services at school. The constant deliveries are a disruption to the instructional environment. Students should bring easy to open items with them daily for lunch and snacks to minimize contact. No nut-based snacks for the classrooms.

McNeill Lunch Schedule (1).pdf

Download

151.7 KB

LAMAR CISD ELEMENTARY HANDBOOK / DISTRICT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Lamar CISD Elementary Handbook has been approved by the LCISD board and is now posted with updated changes. Please follow this link to review:

https://www.lcisd.org/departments/academics/elementary-education

HIGHLIGHTS

Technology Devices

Personal Technology Lamar CISD believes that appropriate use of students' technology devices enhances our students' education. Students may be asked to bring their own device to school. This includes but is not limited to: cell phones, smart phones, iPods, iPads, electronic tablets, and laptop computers. Students may use devices in class at the teacher's discretion. Students must follow teacher, campus, and district rules and guidelines for use.

(Campus Guideline: All electronic devices must remain in the student's backpack turned off during the instructional day unless the teacher allows the student to use the device for an assignment.)

Vapes / e-cigarettes

During the last Texas Legislative session, a law was passed making it illegal for a student to be in possession of a vape / e-cigarette at school events or on campus. If a student is found in possession of such items violating the district code of conduct, there is a mandatory placement at ALC. (Page 113 Elementary Student Handbook)

Possession Of Prohibited Items Students shall not possess or use:

(For a complete list of prohibited items see page 99 of the LCISD Elementary Handbook)

- fireworks of any kind, smoke or stink bombs, or any other pyrotechnic device
- razor, box cutter, chain, or any other object used in a way that threatens or inflicts bodily injury to another person
- "look-alike" weapon
- air gun or BB gun, firearm, stun gun
- a pocketknife or any other small knife
- mace or pepper spray

(Parents, please discuss this with your child and check your student's backpacks or pockets every periodically. Students have shared that on the weekends they go fishing or hunting where they use a pocket knife. We simply do not want a pocket knife left in a pocket or back pack from a fun weekend trip inadvertently. If you look on page 113, there's mandatory placement to ALC if these items are brought on campus.)

Compulsory Attendance Law

Excused Absences for Compulsory Attendance

State law allows exemptions to the compulsory attendance requirements for several types of absences if the student makes up all work. The District shall excuse a student from attending school for the following purposes:

- · Religious holy days
- Required court appearances
- Activities related to obtaining United States citizenship
- Health-Care Appointments*
- For atudanta in the concernatorahin (quatody) of the atota

- TAPS at Military Funeral
- Parent, Stepparent, or Legal Guardian who is an active-duty member of the uniformed services leaves for active duty
- Personal Illness**
- Death/Funeral of an Immediate Family Member
- Quarantine Absences for a student who is required to quarantine will be excused with written documentation from a medical physician or the school nurse.

*Documented health-care appointments for the student or a child of the student, including absences related to autism services shall be excused, if the student returns to school on the same day of the appointment and brings a note from the health-care provider. A consultation over the phone or via video (telemedicine) is considered an appointment with a health care professional. However, an appointment with a school nurse does not count as an appointment with a health care professional.

**When a student is absent from school due to personal illness, the student upon return, or within 5 days of returning to school, must submit a note signed by a parent giving the date(s) and describing the reason for the absence.

Unexcused Absences

If an absence does not meet the criteria for an excused absence, the absence will be considered unexcused for attendance accounting purposes. Examples of unexcused absences includes, but are not limited to the following:

- Any absence without required documentation.
- Family trips/vacations, reunions, weddings, parent business trips.
- Non-school sponsored activities.
- Private lesson or tutoring.
- Religious retreats, camps, mission trips, and individual rites other than a religious holy day.
- Non-enrollment days These are days that a student is not in school due to transferring to another LCISD campus or alternative placement.

ABSENT NOTES:

Parent notes may be sent by email but must come from a parent's verified email account. The note or email must be sent to the campus attendance clerk. Excuse notes turned in after 5 days are subject to approval by the campus principal. An excessive number of absences will be referred to the Campus Attendance Review Committee (ARC). If a student is absent 5 consecutive school days or more, a doctor's note is required within 5 days of the student's return to school for the absence to be excused.

MAKE-UP WORK:

It is critical for students to work with teachers when they return from an absent from school so that assignments can be completed.

PARENT STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

The LCISD Board of Trustees approved the Parent Standards of Conduct on August 1, 2023.

Parent Standards of Conduct - 08.01.23.pdf

Download

147.2 KB

Parent Standards of Conduct - Spanish - 08.01.23.pdf

Download

145.5 KB



2023-24 MCNEILL'S STANDARD DRESS CODE

Parents,

Please help to ensure that your child is in dress code everyday. Outside of dress down days, students are expected to adhere to our campus dress code. Thank you in advance for your help.

Collared (polo style, no logo) solid color tops in red, white, navy blue and yellow. Bottoms may be in solid color khaki, navy blue or blue denim jeans, slacks shorts, skirts, or jumpers. McNeill spirit shirts may also be worn.

Clarifications:

- Students are required to wear their ID's daily.
- On PTO Free and Pay dress down days students must follow the LCISD dress code policy.

CAR RIDER PICK-UP PROCEDURES

To ensure the safety of our students, we ask that you please follow the procedures listed below to help the car rider line remain safe and move quickly.

- 1. The car rider line is a **CELL PHONE FREE ZONE**.
- 2. Dismissal will begin promptly at 3:10.
- 3. Parents will hang their car rider signs on the rearview mirror.
- 4. A teacher will assign you a number as you enter the car rider line.
- 5. You will pull forward to your designated number indicated on the sidewalk to your right.
- 6. Do not stop when you see your child walking. A Safety Patrol student or teacher will assist your child with entering the car.
- 7. Please do not get out of your vehicle for any reason.
- 8. Once your child is in your vehicle, you must remain in the car rider line. **Do not go around the** cars in front of you to exit the car line.
- 9. <u>If your child is not at the designated number provided, you will be asked to move forward and park in a designated parking spot.</u> A staff member will go to the gym and walk your child to your vehicle.
- 10. Please be patient and drive slowly.



RAINY DAY DISMISSAL PROCEDURES

On inclement weather days, we will implement our Rainy Day Dismissal procedures to ensure all students get home safely. All dismissal procedures will remain the same for car riders, bus riders, daycare, and YMCA students. Please note the changes below for walkers and bikers in the event of a Rainy Day Dismissal.

Walkers & Bikers

- Students will report to the library and sit by grade level.
- After the bus and day car buses have departed, parents of walkers/bikers may make their way to the front of the school.
- Parents will be asked to sign their child out with one of the staff members in the front foyers.
- Students will be released from the library to the parent after they have been signed out.

In the event you would like to change your child's transportation method, please contact the front office before 2:15 pm. Thank you in advance for your understanding as student safety is our top priority.

EARLY PICK-UP AND TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If you take your child out of school before dismissal time, you will need to report to the office to sign him/her out. Your child will stay in the classroom until you arrive. If it necessary for someone other than the parent/guardian pick up your child, that person must be signed, dated note with the child. The person picking up your child must show photo identification to the office staff. Accumulated time of early pick-ups is calculated by minutes in lost instruction time. Request to check out your child must be done prior to 2:15 pm.

Any changes in the normal transportation of your child must be stated in writing with a parent/guardian signature. We ask for everyone's help in not making changes frequently. However, we understand that in rare cases, unexpected changes will need to happen. These can be called in to the front office by 2:15 pm. We are not able to process changes after 2:15 pm. This includes parents that come to the campus without prior notice to pick up their child. Any change in transportation arrangements for any student requires a note to the teacher. Make sure you write your child's first and last name, teacher's name and indicate the date(s) for the change and how the child is going to go home. We ask that the parents not email the change since there maybe times that a teacher is not in attendance or does not have a chance to read their email.

Please note on early release days the latest you can pick up is 11:00 am!

VISITOR / VOLUNTEER BADGES

Parents and other visitors / volunteers are welcome to visit district schools. For the safety of those within the school and to avoid disruption of instructional time, all visitors / volunteers must first report to the main office, sign in as a visitor / volunteer, present a valid State issued ID, and

campuses screen for registered sex offenders. A valid State issued ID is required to enter all campuses.

(New Requirement: Badges must be worn on the upper torso / chest area in clear view)



SMART TAG REMINDERS

- Students will be required to wear their SMART Tags daily. They should wear them with their lanyards to school. No items should be attached to lanyards.
- All students will start receive SMART tags by the end of the first week.
- Any student who misplaces their SMART Tag will need to purchase a replacement one. Replacement SMART Tags can be purchased for \$5 in the front office

SRP: STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL

IN AN EMERGENCY TAKE ACTION



HOLD! In your room or area. Clear the halls.

STUDENTS

Clear the hallways and remain Close and lock door in room or area until the "All Clear" is announced

Account for students and adults Do business as usual



SECURE! Get inside. Lock outside doors.

STUDENTS

Return to inside of building Do business as usual

ADULTS

Bring everyone indoors Lock outside doors Increase situational awareness Account for students and adults Do business as usual



LOCKDOWN! Locks, lights, out of sight.

STUDENTS

Move away from sight Maintain silence Do not open the door

ADULTS

Recover students from hallway if possible Lock the classroom door Turn out the lights Move away from sight Do not open the door



EVACUATE! (A location may be specified)

STUDENTS

required to Follow instructions

ADULTS

Account for students and adults If possible, bring your phone Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Prepare to evade or defend



SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

ADULTS

Lead safety strategy Account for students and adults Notify if missing, extra or injured students or adults

Hazard Safety Strategy Tornado Evacuate to sh Hazmat Seal the room Earthquake Drop, cover and hold Tsunami Get to high ground



EMERGENCY DRILL PRACTICES

Every month Mcneill students will practice a safety drill along with a fire drill. Drills are not announced so we can practice them in case we are presented with a situation to activate one in real time. Teachers reviewed the procedures for these drills with their students during the first week of school. These drills have not changed from last year to this year.

HELPFUL DOCUMENTS 2023-23 LAMAR CISD CALENDAR

2023-24-instructional (1).pdf

Download

148.7 KB

DATES TO REMEMBER

NOVEMBER

- November 2: Choir Practice / Intramural Sports / LEGO Club
- November 3: Wear Your House Colors
- November 4: PTO Spirit Night @ Flip'n Patties
- November 6: 4th Grade Swim Begins / Cheer Practice
- November 7: Girls in STEM
- November 8: Girls Above Society / Rhythm Club
- November 9: Choir Practice / Intramural Sports / LEGO Club
- November 10: NEHS Helping Hands Food Drive Begins / Veterans Day Program @ 9 AM (GYM)
- November 13: NEHS / Cheer Practice
- November 14: Girls in STEM / 4th Grade Swim Ends
- November 15: Picture Day (Class Pictures / Fall Retakes) / Girls Above Society / Rhythm Club
- November 16: Gr. 5 Fall Benchmark (Science) NO VISITORS / 4th Grade Fieldtrip / Progress Report Grades Posted / PTO Dress Down Day (Disney) - Students Pay \$1 / Intramural Sports / LEGO Club
- November 17: NEHS Helping Hands Food Drive Ends / Early Dismissal @ 11:45 AM
- November 20-24: Thanksgiving Break (No School)
- November 27: Cheer Practice
- November 28: Girls in STEM
- November 29: Gr. 3-5 Fall Benchmark (Reading/Language Arts) NO VISITORS / Girls Above Society / Rhythm Club
- November 30: Gr. 3-5 Fall Benchmark (Math) NO VISITORS / Choir Practice / Intramural Sports

