The Merlin Media

VOLUME 11 - OCTOBER 3

CAMPUS WALKTHROUGH FOCUS

We will begin our walkthroughs during the week of September 5th. When visiting classrooms, we will have a specific focus that we will be looking for to provide feedback. The focus for the week can be found below.

Walkthrough Focus for the Week of October 3-7: T-TESS DOMAIN 2

- **Dimension 2.3 - Communication**

This week when we visit your rooms, we will be looking at how the teacher clearly and accurately communicates to support persistence, deeper learning and effective effort.

STAFFING UPDATES

We would like to welcome Ms. Katie Tovar to the 3rd grade team. Ms. Tovar is a graduate of the University of Houston-Downtown and enjoys spending time outdoors, exploring coffee shops and doing sudoku puzzles. She was able to shadow Ms. Justus today to ensure a smooth transition for our students. Please be sure to welcome her when you see her in the hallways.

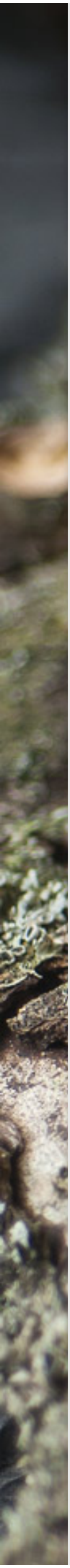
BOND TOWN HALL MEETINGS

Lamar CISD is set to host a series of Town Hall meetings to provide information on the district's 2022 Bond Propositions. The district is scheduled to host in-person meetings at each high school located within the district boundaries.

To hear the Bond Presentation in person and ask questions, staff has the option of attending their color track meeting starting at 4:30 p.m. Attendance at the meeting is optional.

The community meetings are set to start at 6:30 p.m.

READING ACADEMIES ZOOM UPDATE



The October Check-In meeting for Reading Academies has been rescheduled due to some scheduling conflicts that have come up for campuses and district cohort leaders. The new date for the Check-In Meeting will be **October 12th from 3:15-3:45.** You will receive an email from your cohort leader (Karin Gisi) including the zoom link for your meeting.

MASTERY CONNECT TRAINING #4

We will have our final Mastery Connect training for teachers in Grades 2-5 during our October staff meeting which is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, **October 12th from 3:50-4:35**. The training will take place immediately following the Reading Academies Zoom.

OCTOBER STAFF MEETING ADJUSTMENTS

Due to the change in schedule with the Reading Academy Zoom and change of date for our last Mastery Connect training, the following adjustments have been made to October's staff meeting in an effort to consolidate the number of days in which staff will need to stay afterschool.
Please see those changes below:

Kinder - 3rd Grade Teachers
3:15-3:45 Reading Academies Zoom

2nd - 5th Grade Teachers
3:50-4:35 Mastery Connect Training

I appreciate everyone's flexibility and understanding.

PLC FOCUS – 10/4

Our PLC focus will be using the road maps for lesson planning (lesson progression) and the structure of the mini-lesson for the week of October 10-14, 2022.

LOCATION: Grade Level Pod Area

ITEMS NEEDED (EACH TEACHER):

- Any/all resources necessary for the TEKS that you will teach the week of October 10th
- Laptop

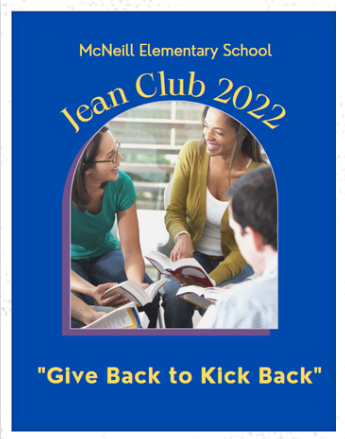
Please note:
K-4th Math and Reading
5th Grade Math, Reading, and Science

Please reach out to the Content Team if you have any questions.

POSTING OF LESSON OBJECTIVES

The purpose of lesson objectives is to communicate the lesson target for the day to your students as well as any individuals that may be visiting your classroom. It is important to ensure that you are posting your lesson objectives in a visible location for your students. Lesson objectives should be aligned to what you are currently teaching and referenced during the lesson so that your students have an understanding of what they will be learning for the day/week.

DID SOMEBODY SAY JEANS?



Staff members may purchase a "Jeans Pass" for the remainder of the fall semester (October 3-December 16). Money may be paid at anytime during the "Jeans Pass" period. Please make all payments to Mindy in the front office.

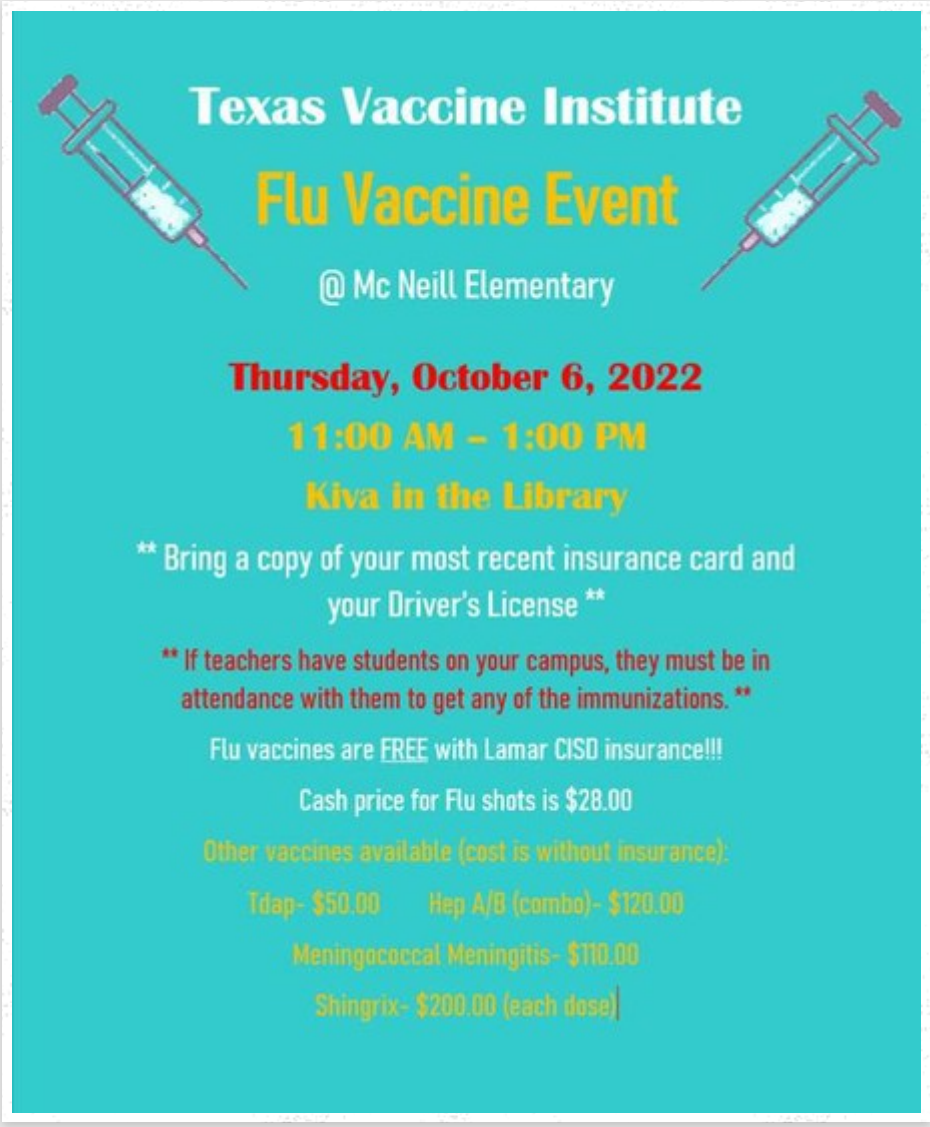
- Professional Staff - $30
- Paraprofessionals/Hourly Staff - $15

Money collected will go to our campus Activity Fund.

FALL BALL SCHOOL DANCE – OCT. 28

SAVE THE DATE...our fall dance is back! We will be hosting our **Fall Ball on Friday, October 28th** from 6pm - 8 pm in the Gym. More details from the Dance Committee will be shared, so stay tuned....

FLU VACCINE INFORMATION



docx Influenza_Vaccine_Flyer Original- Lamar Consolidated ISD.docx Download 856.6 KB

TYPING CLUB – SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER INCENTIVES

From the Office of Digital Learning:
It's time to get our students excited about TypingClub! The Digital Learning Team will be sponsoring two TypingClub incentives for the remainder of September thru October. The "Login Lollies" incentive will be for kindergarten thru 1st grades and the "Cool Club" incentive will be for 2nd thru 5th grades. Read more about these incentives:

- **Login Lollies (K-1st grade)** – The Digital Learning Team will be awarding lollipops to Kinder and 1st grade classrooms where 100% of students can log into a district device without assistance. Teachers can fill out this form Login Lollies 22-23 when 100% of their students can login successfully with their district credentials. A member of the Digital Learning team will deliver the lollipops to the classroom.
- **"Cool Club" (2nd – 5th grade)** – The Digital Learning Team will be awarding freezer pops to the top class at each grade level, 2nd – 5th, at every elementary campus with the

highest performance (total time in program, accuracy, words per minute). These reports will be run at the end of October and freezer pops will be delivered to the winning classrooms.

SPRING BOOK FESTIVAL KICK OFF

LCISD Libraries will host the Spring Book Festival on April 1st. This event will encourage literacy through showcasing the books on the Book Festival list. Students will choose from a variety of different “experience” booths designed to immerse students in hands-on, interactive activities related to the book. The purpose of the event is to foster a love of reading and promote community involvement, as well as develop reading skills such as vocabulary development, background information, and inquiry. While the program seeks to provide long-reaching reading skills, it also strives to present an opportunity that brings out the fun in reading for children and their families. See below for flyer.

pdf PCOM SBF Promo Flyer 22-23.pdf Download 292.8 KB

REMINDERS FROM THE FRONT OFFICE

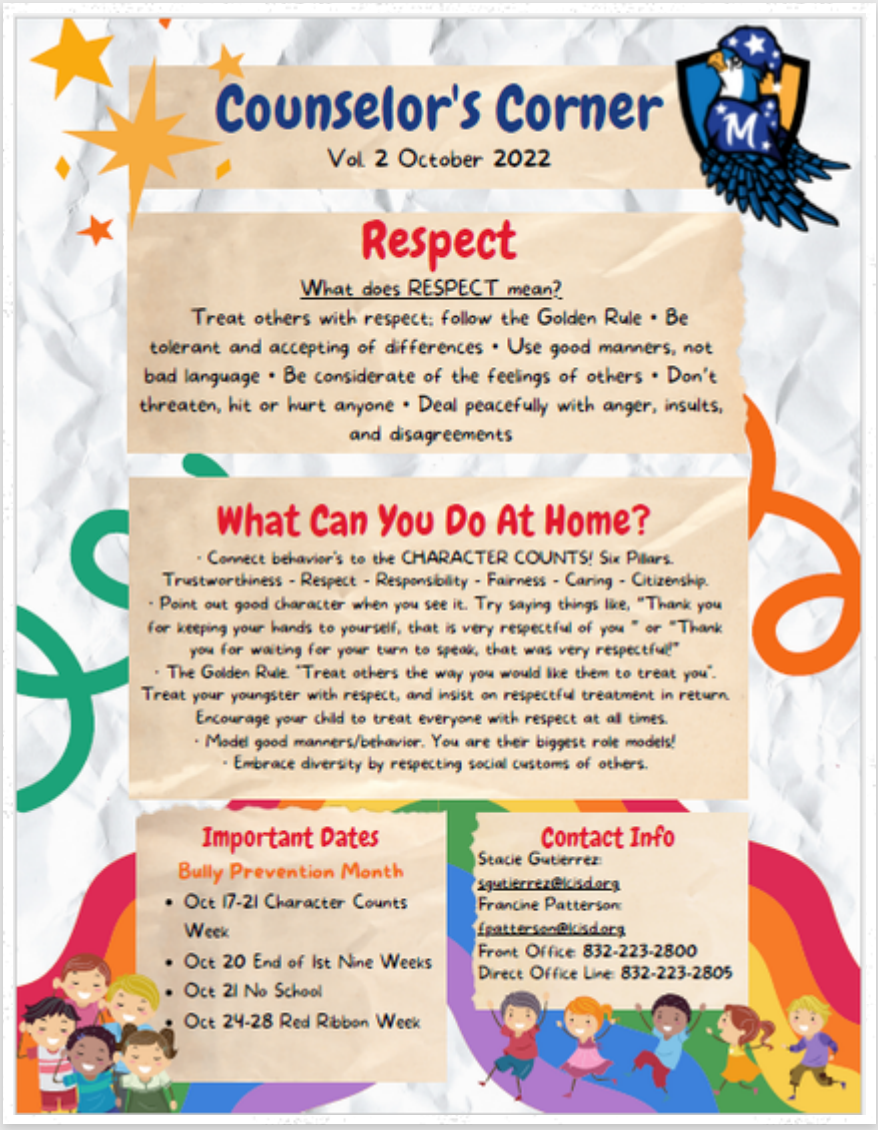
Student Excuse Letters

When you receive a student absence excuse send them to the front office in your communication folder and make sure the excuse has the student's first and last name, grade & teacher's name. If we receive excuses with missing information we will send them back for you to put the information needed. If you receive half notes or little strips please tape them to regular size sheet of paper to ensure that they are not misplaced. If you have any questions please feel free to call Mindy at x2803 or stop by my office.

Daily Attendance

Attendance should not be taken until 9:45am. There have been several students who have been marked absent and the time stamp shows times between 915am-9:35am. Please be sure to wait until the designated time to take attendance.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER



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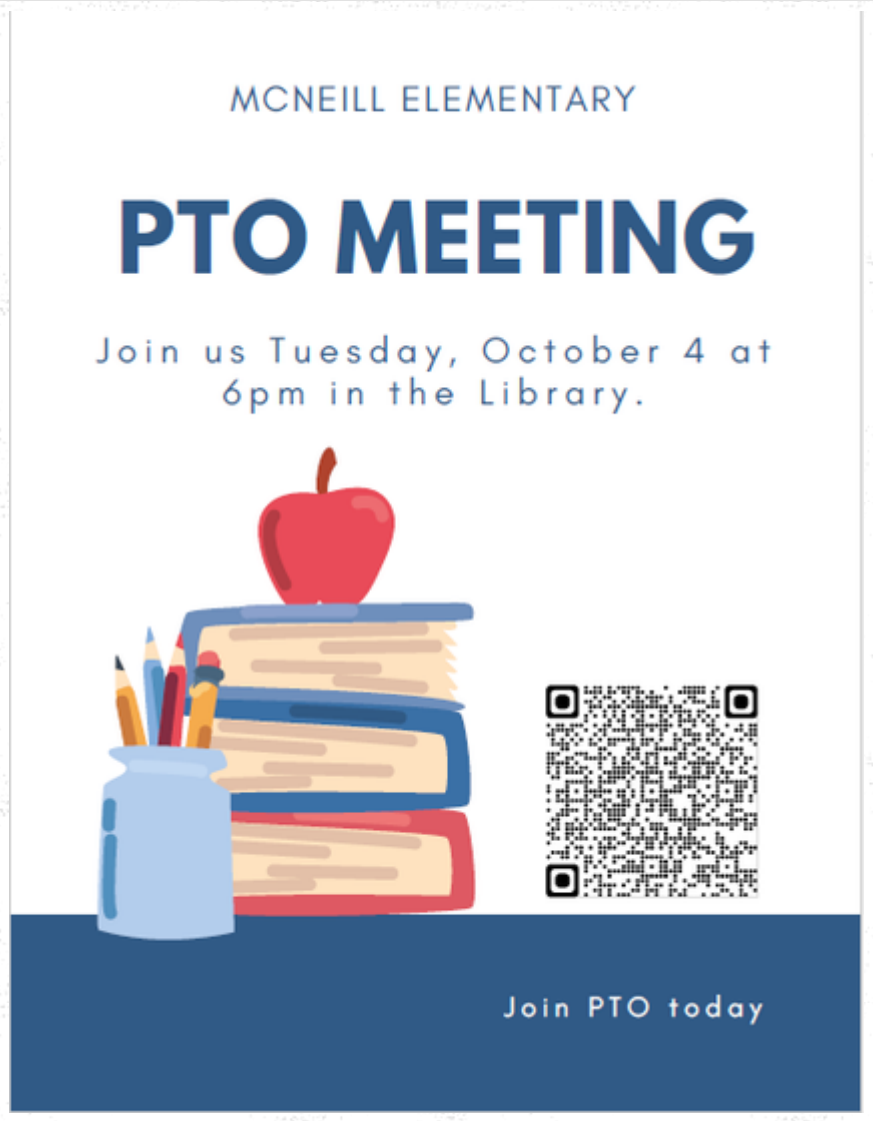
PTO INFORMATION



HOUSE SHIRTS NOW ON SALE

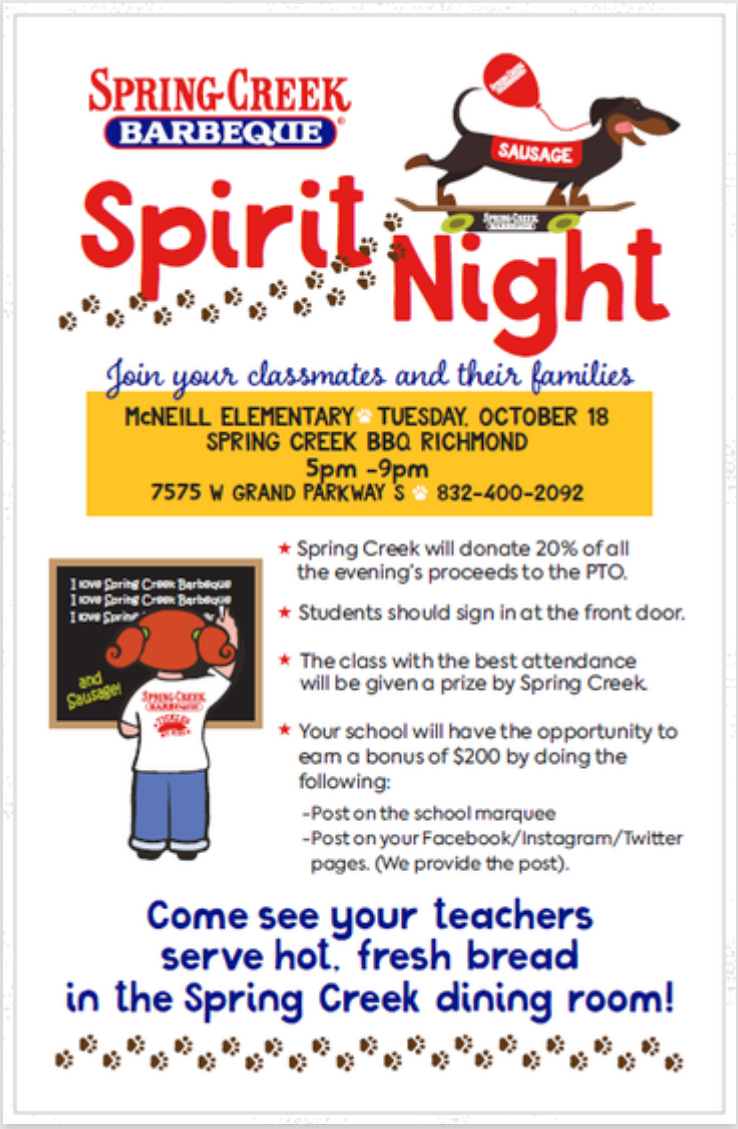
House shirts are now available for purchase!
Https://gogearup.io/McNeill-housetee22

SPIRIT SHIRT SALE EXTENDED

OCTOBER DRESS DOWN DAY

OCTOBER SPIRIT NIGHTS

McNeill
SPiRiT NiGHT
FLIP 'n PATTIES
SATURDAY : OCTOBER 8
BENEFITING McNEILL ELEMENTARY
Flip 'n Patties will donate 15% of their sales to McNeill Elementary
Saturday, October 8th to assist in keeping our school awesome!
*Please present this flyer or mention McNeil Elementary.
1809 Eldridge Parkway : Houston, Tx 77077
www.FLIPnPATTIES.com
@flipnpatties



Teacher volunteers will be needed for our Spring Creek BBQ spirit night on Oct. 18. Sign-up information will be forthcoming.

ZIPPER POUCHES

Two zipper pouches have been placed in each teacher's mail slot in the work room. These pouches will be used for PTO correspondence for the 2022-2023 school year and returned to us at the end of the year. Any money or forms that need to be sent to the PTO this year (membership forms, birthday marquee, yearbook, dressed down pre-pay forms and any PTO money collected - to name a few) may be placed in these pouches and dropped into the red mailbox style bin in the work room next to the laminator. Once the PTO has collected these items, the pouches will be returned through the mail slots in the work room. Additionally, once dress down prepays have begun to come in, we will send you a list of students (two copies, one for each pouch) who have prepaid so the list may be attached or placed in to the folder for reference.

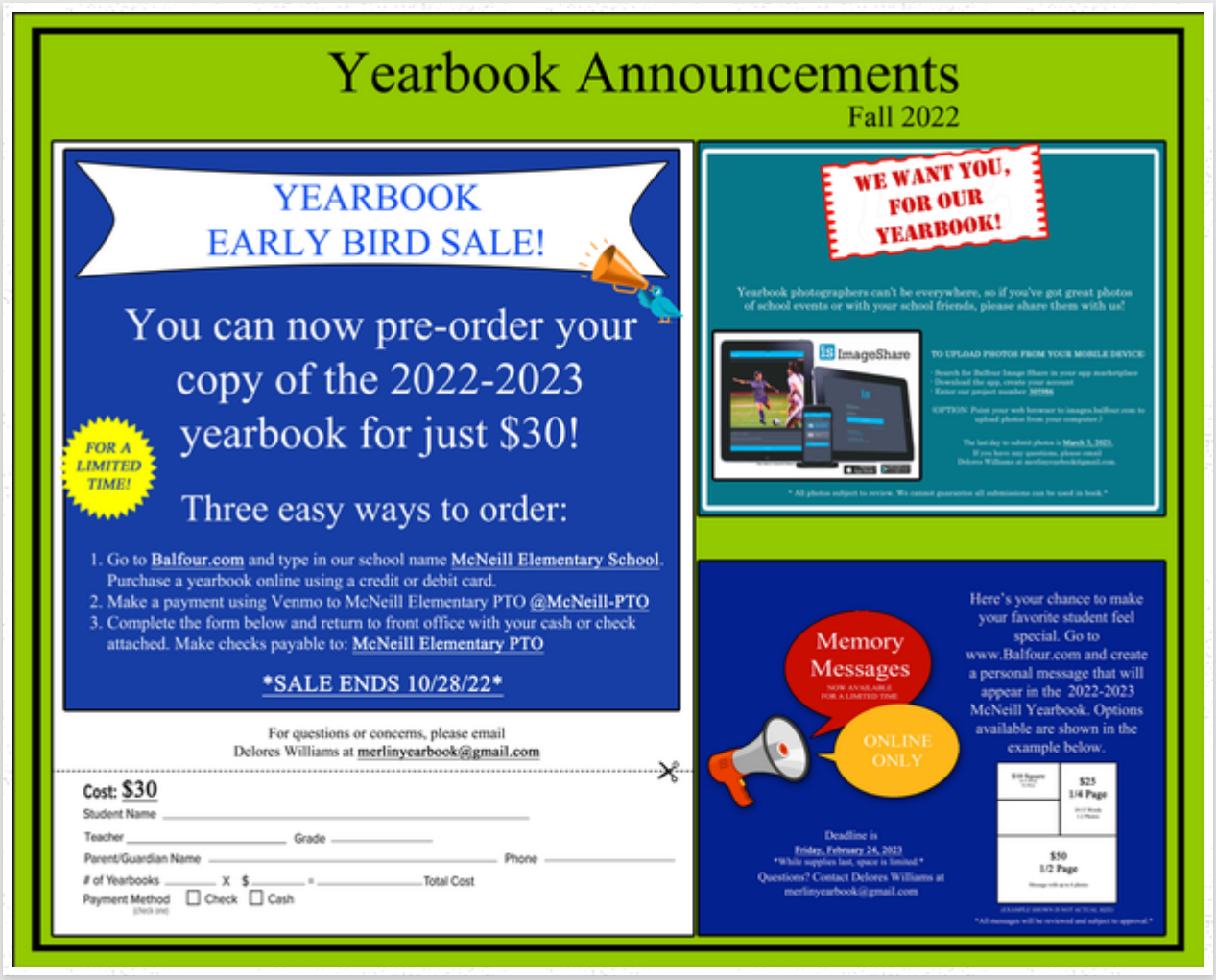
The McNeill Elementary PTO Board is excited to get back on campus this year and work with each of you. We are in the process of getting volunteers trained to help in the workroom, and will be updating as soon as we have those volunteers in place. We need help from our

teachers and staff to help get information home to our families. We welcome your questions, ideas, and input. Please feel free to reach out to me this year if we can help in anyway.

Nicole Martinez
President. PTO.McNeill@gmail.com

YEARBOOK INFORMATION

The information below was shared with parents in the September newsletter. We also wanted to share this information with you in the event that you get any parent questions, as well as, to promote this information to your students. Thanks in advance for your assistance in getting the word out!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

pdf Guided Reading Training Plan 2022-2023.pdf — Download 151.0 KB

pdf Roadmap Roundups 2022-2023.pdf — Download 120.3 KB

READING RESPONSE TRAININGS (GR. 2–5)

With the emphasis STAAR will place on reading responses, we want to make sure everyone is well prepared. Kristen Cruikshank will present "Responding to Fiction Text Through Reading Responses" on September 27 and "Responding to Nonfiction Text Through Reading Responses" on October 6th. Participants will receive a copy of the book. Please use the links below to register and share the information with your teachers.

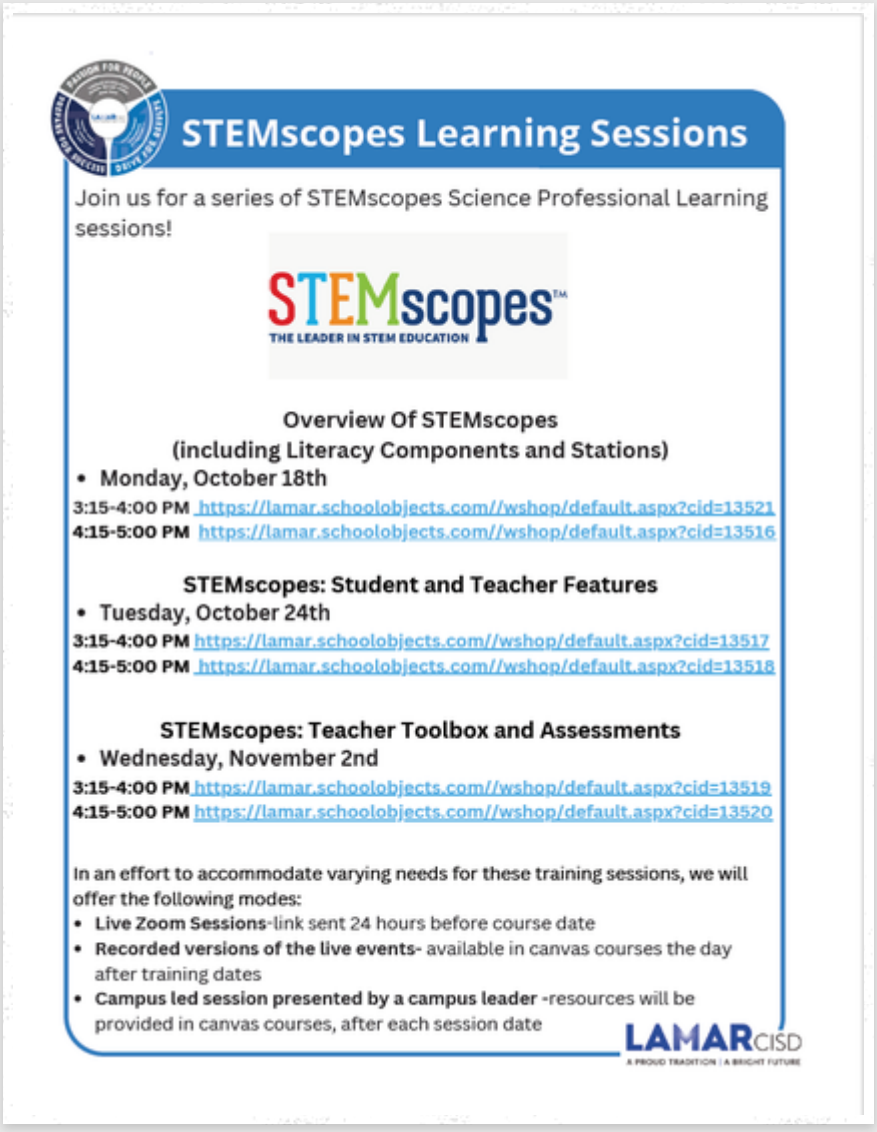
October 6: Responding to Nonfiction session **Click here** to enroll in Strive.

FALL MATH PD OPPORTUNITIES

pdf 2022-23 Fall Elementary Math PD - GM OG NT 3R.pdf Download 115.0 KB

STEMSCOPES PROFESSIONAL LEARNING SERIES

pdf STEMscopes PL Sessions.pdf Download 141.1 KB



K-5 SCIENCE ROADMAP ROUNDUPS

All elementary teachers and coaches are invited to attend the K-5 Science Roadmap Roundup sessions! These are planning sessions for the next nine weeks period, with district support team members in the room. During these sessions, participants will learn about the district resources available for the upcoming units in Canvas as well as in STEMScopes. In addition, attendees will have time to collaborate and plan upcoming science units and assessments in grade level teams with teachers from various campuses across the district.

pdf K-5 Science Roadmap Roundups.pdf

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DATES TO REMEMBER:

Our calendar will not be as involved as it has been in previous years. We will adjust accordingly as the disease activity levels change.

OCTOBER

- October 3-7: Custodial Appreciation Week
- October 4: CogAT Testing (Kindergarten) / PLC w/Coaches / PTO Meeting @ 5:30 PM (Library)
- October 5: CogAT Testing (Kindergarten)
- October 6: CogAT Testing (Kindergarten) / Library Pop Up (MackinVia Lightbox)
- October 7: PTO Dress Down Day (Pink Out for Cancer - Students Pay $1)
- October 8: PTO Spirit Night @ Flippin Patties
- October 9-14: School Lunch / Fire Prevention Week
- October 12: Reading Academies Check In (Zoom) @ 3:15 PM/ Mastery Connect Training @ 3:50 PM / Walk & Roll to School Day
- October 13: Library Pop Up (Pebble Go Next) @ 3 PM
- October 17-21: Character Counts Week
- October 18: PLC w/Coaches
- October 19: Guided Math Learning Walks (1:15-2:15 PM)
- October 21: Student Holiday / Professional Development Day / NW1 Grades Due
- October 23-28: Red Ribbon Week
- October 26: Team Leader Meeting @ 3:30 PM

MCNEILL ELEMENTARY

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