# Merlin Messenger

Parent Newsletter - October





# It's Fall, Y'all!

We are so excited about the cooler weather headed our way! However, since we live in Texas, we also know it is not uncommon to experience a rise and fall in temperature within the same day in addition to unexpected rain showers.

With this said, we know our Merlins will start wearing their light jackets, hoodies and coats. Our lost and found area usually starts getting packed with lost items around this time of year. Please help us out by writing your child's name on the labels so we can return any items to them that we might find. Additionally, please remember that students have recess daily and PE at least 2 times a week. To keep our students safe, it is important that they wear appropriate shoes daily.



OCTOBER 2-6, 2023

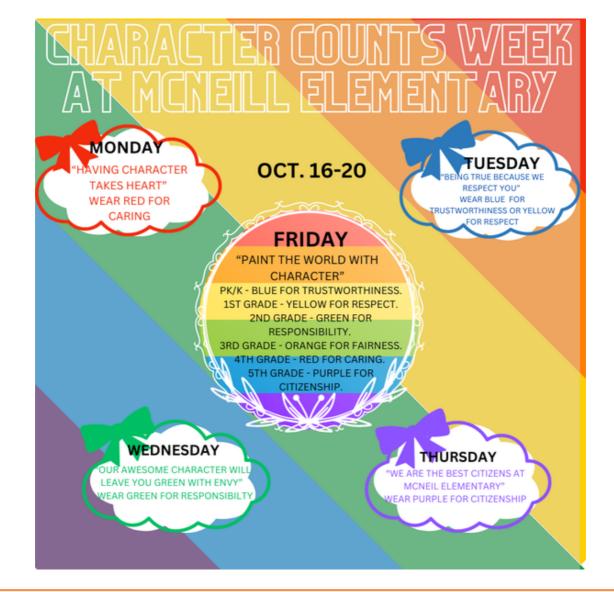
REMEMBER TO SHOW APPRECIATION TO OUR CUSTODIANS!

Fall Holiday - No School



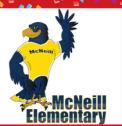


Character Counts Week - Oct. 16-20



Red Ribbon Week - Oct. 23-26

# REDRIBON WEEK OCTOBER 23-27













Red Ribbon Week is celebrated to bring awareness of the dangers of alcohol, drug, vaping, and tobacco use.

**Student Holiday - No School** 



Load the Lounge



# **LOAD THE LOUNGE**

NO TRICKS, JUST TREATS!

Help us stock the staff lounge with snacks and beverages!

If you would like to help, please bring any type of single serve snacks & drinks to the front office by

Tuesday, October 31, 2023

Suggested shelf stable snack & drink items include microwave popcorn, chips, candy, cookies, granola bars, pretzles, muffins, soft drinks, water, tea, coffee (K-cups), flavored water, sports drinks & MORE

THANKS FOR "TREATING" OUR TEACHERS & STAFF



Sponsored by McNeill Elementary PTO

#### Fall Ball School Dance - October 20



SAVE THE DATE...our fall dance is back! We will be hosting our **Fall Ball on Friday, October 20th** from 6pm - 8 pm in the Gym. More details will be shared, so stay tuned....

# 1st Nine Weeks Report Cards

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

Report cards will be available for parents to view on October 19th 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 at mgonzalez06@lcisd.org.

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

**Download** 

297.3 KB

# **Book Character Dress Up - October 31**

# BOOK CHARACTER DRESS UP DAY

STUDENTS AND STAFF COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER!

# PLEASE REMEMBER:

 Please bring the book that goes with your costume.



Please no toy weapons of any kind.



Please no scary costumes.



YOUR CHILD SHOULD HAVE A CHANGE OF SHOES FOR RECESS AND/OR PE.

WHEN: OCTOBER 31, 2023

## **Club Information - October**

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**

- October Date(s): 10/16
- Sponsors Ms. Patterson/Mr. Jones

#### Cheer - Mondays

- October Date(s): 10/2, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30
- Sponsors Ms. Stewart

#### Girls in STEM - Tuesdays

- October Date(s): 10/3, 10/10, 10/17, 10/24
- Sponsors Ms. Obrero/Ms. Harrell

#### Girls Above Society - Wednesdays

- October Date(s): 10/11, 10/18, 10/25
- Sponsors Ms. Patterson

#### Rhythm Club - Wednesdays

- October Date(s): 10/11, 10/18, 10/25
- Sponsor Ms. Garnes

#### Choir - Thursdays

- October Date(s): 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26
- Sponsor Ms. Garnes

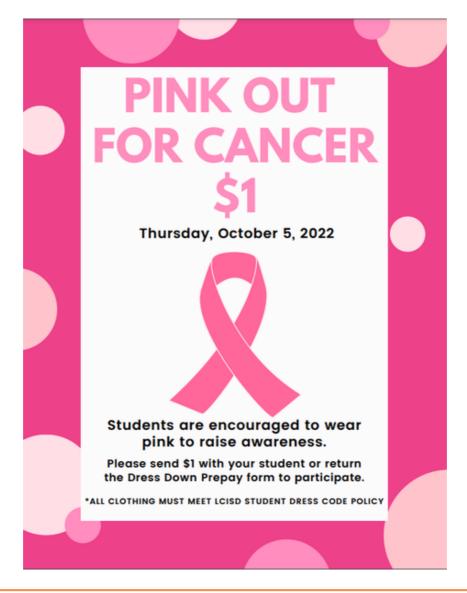
#### **Intramural Sports - Thursdays**

- October Date(s): 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26
- Sponsor Coach Young

#### **LEGO Club -** Thursdays

- October Date(s): 10/5, 10/12, 10/19, 10/26
- Sponsor Ms. Kirkpatrick

October Dress Down Day - Students Pay \$1



### **PTO News**

### **October Spirit Nights**

Our October Spirit Nights will be held on the following dates:

October 4 - Daddy-O's

October 11 - Spring Creek BBQ





Join your classmates and their families

MCNEILL ELEMENTARY WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 11 SPRING CREEK BBQ RICHMOND

5pm -9pm 7575 W GRAND PARKWAY S \* 832-400-2092



- Spring Creek will donate 20% of all the evening's proceeds to the PTO.
- \* Students should sign in at the front door.
- The class with the best attendance will be given a prize by Spring Creek.
- Your school will have the opportunity to earn a bonus of \$200 by doing the following:
- -Post on the school marquee
- -Post on your Facebook/Instagram/Twitter pages. (We provide the post).

Come see your teachers serve hot, fresh bread in the Spring Creek dining room!



### Join the PTO

# 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.

**Yearbook Information** 

# YEARBOOKS ON SALE!

# 2023-2024 Yearbooks are now on sale for just \$30!

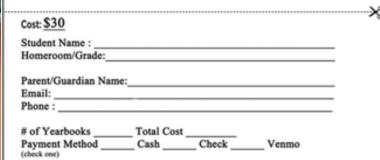
#### Three easy ways to order:

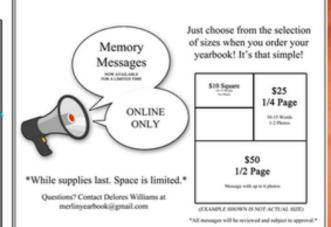
- Go to <u>Balfour.com</u> and type in our school name <u>McNeill Elementary School</u>. Purchase a yearbook online using a credit or debit card.
- 2. Make a payment using Venmo to McNeill Elementary PTO @McNeill-PTO
- Complete the form below and return to front office with your cash or check attached. Make checks payable to: McNeill Elementary PTO

For questions, please email Delores Williams at merlinyearbook@gmail.com

Sale ends 10/27/23, scan to pre-order now!









We are so excited to see your smiling faces and want you to share your back to school photos with us!

To upload from your mobile device, - search for **Balfour Image Share** in your app marketplace

create an account using our project number: 405986

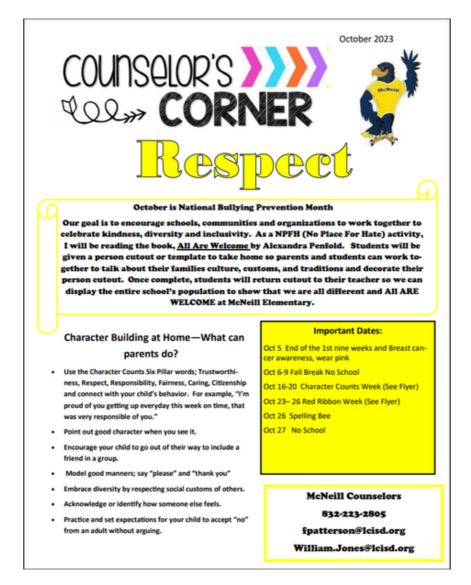
Or submit your photos to our yearbook team by emailing Delores Williams at merlinyearbook@gmail.com.



The last day to submit photos is March 8, 2024.

\*All photos subject to review. We cannot guarantee all submissions can be used in the book.\*

## **Counselor's Corner**



#### **Volunteer Information**

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

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.

students and teachers.

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 students in the conservatorship (custody) of the state
- 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 wear a visitor's / volunteer's badge. To better protect our students, visitors and staff, all LCISD 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

Prepare to evade or defend



#### **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



#### SHELTER! Hazard and safety strategy.

#### STUDENTS

Use appropriate safety strategy for the hazard

#### ADULTS

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.

# **Yearbook Information**

YearbookNews\_Fall2023.pdf

**Download** 

4.3 MB

# HELPFUL DOCUMENTS 2023-24 School Supply List

#### 23-24-school-supply-list.pdf

**Download** 

179.5 KB

#### 2023-23 LAMAR CISD CALENDAR

#### 2023-24-instructional (1).pdf

**Download** 

148.7 KB

#### **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 2-6: National Custodian Appreciation Week
- October 4: PTO Spirit Night @ Daddy-O's Pizza
- October 5: PTO Dress Down Day: Pink Out for Cancer (Students Pay \$1)
- October 6 & 9: Fall Break (No School)
- October 9-13: Fire Prevention Week / School Lunch Week
- October 11: Big Kahuna Fundraiser Begins
- October 13: 1st 9 Weeks Ends / Free Dress Day
- October 16-20: Safe Schools' Week / School Bus Safety Week / Character Counts Week
- October 20: Pre-Kindergarten Fieldtrip (Dewberry Farms) / Fall Ball Dance 6pm-8pm (GYM)
- October 23-26: Red Ribbon Week
- October 24: ECSE/SLC Fieldtrip (District Pumpkin Patch)
- October 26: Spelling Bee
- October 27: No School ~ Staff Development Day / Yearbook Sale Ends
- October 31: Big Kahuna Fundraiser Ends

	OCTOBER 2023						
N	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION MONTH BULLY PREVENTION MONTH CUSTODIAL APPRECIATION MEEK	2	3 GIRLS IN STEM (3:45-4:45PM)	4 PTO SPIRIT NIGHT (DADDY-0'S)	5 P.T.O. DRESS DOWN DAY PINK OUT STUDENTS PAY S1 CHOIR PRACTICE (7-7:45 AM) INTRAMURAL SPORTS (3:20-4:30PM)	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL (STAFF & STUDENTS)	7
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	FIRE PREVENTION MEEK SCHOOL LUNCH MEEK 10/9-10/13	FALL BREAK NO SCHOOL (STAFF & STUDENTS)	10 GIRLS IN STEM (3:45-4:45PM)	11 BIG KAHUNA FUNDRAISER BEGINS GIRLS ABOVE SOCIETY 3:15-4PM RHTHIR (LUIB (3:10-4:10PM)) PTO SPIRIT NIGHT (SPRING CREEK)	CHOIR PRACTICE (7-7:45 AM) INTRAMURAL SPORTS (3:30-4:30PM) LEGO CLUB (3:10-4:10PM)	13 1ST 9 WEEKS ENDS P.T.O. FREE DRESS DAY	14
	15 HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH ENDS SCHOOL BUS SAFETY MEEK SAFE SCHOOL MEEK CHARACTER COUNTS MEEK 10/16-10/20	16 2ND 9 WEEKS BEGINS WEAR RED FOR CARING NEHS MEETING (3:15-4PM)	17 HEAR BLUE FOR TRUSTWORTHINESS OR YELLOM FOR RESPECT GIRLS IN STEM (3:45-4:45PM)	18 HEAR GREEN FOR RESPONSIBILITY GIRLS ABOVE SOCIETY 3:15-4PM RHTHM CLUB (3:10-4:10PM)	19 PREPORT CARDS POSTED IN SKYMARD MEAR PURPLE FOR CITIZENSHIP CHOIR PRACTICE (7-7-45 AM) INTRAMURAL SPORTS (3:30-4:30PM) LEGO CLUB (3:30-4:09PM)	20 MEAR GRADE LEVEL ASSIGNED COLOR A MEAN GRADE LEVEL ASSIGNED COLOR A DEMBERRY FARMS FALL BALL 6 PM - 8 PM	PK/K-HEAR BLUE  1ST-MEAR PELLOM 2NO-HEAR GREEN 3RD-HEAR ORANGE 4TH-MEAR RED 5TH-MEAR PURPLE
	RED RIBBON MEEK 10/23-10/27	RED OUT MEAR RED TO SHOW YOUR PLEDGE TO BE DRUG FREE	24 ECSE/SLC FIELDTRIP DISTRICT PUMPKIN PATCH LEI OFF DRUGS MEAR A HAHAIIAN SHIRT AND/OR LEI GIRLS IN STEM (3:45-4:45PH)	25 FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS, NOT DRUGS MEAR YOUR PAJAMAS GIRLS ABOVE SOCIETY 3:15-4PM RHTHM CLUB (3:10-4:10PM)	26 SPELLING BEE SHADE OUT DRUGS HEAR SUNGLASSES CHOIR PRACTICE (7-7-45 AM) BITRAHURAL SPORTS (3:30-4:30PM) LEGG CLUB (3:10-4:10PM)	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY NO SCHOOL (STORMIS) YEARBOOK SALE ENDS	28
	29	30	31 HALLOMEEN BOOK CHARACTER DRESS UP DAY		Clark Brown		



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Website: <a href="https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home">https://www.lcisd.org/campuses/mcneill/home</a>

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Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins">https://www.facebook.com/McNeillMerlins</a>



