



McMEEN
ELEMENTARY

McMeen Elementary

Family Weekly Newsletter

January 31 - February 4, 2022

Weekly Happenings:

Monday, January 31-

Tuesday, February 1

Black History Month Starts - Here are some [resources](#). We look forward to seeing what students and teachers come up with this month!

3:20- 4:30 Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, February 2

2:30 - GW Uplift with 4th and 5th Grades

3:30 - Frisbee Golf for 5th Grade

Thursday, February 3

Friday, February 4



Shout Out to our Kindergarten helpers who worked together to bring in cones on Thursday!

McMeen Elementary School
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Denver, CO 80246
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Upcoming Event



FEBRUARY

Feb 8 - Collaborative School Committee (CSC) and Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meetings
Feb 11- Teacher Planning Day- No School
Feb 21- President's Day- No School
Feb 22- Teacher Professional Development Day- No School

Messages from McMeen

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Tamara Acevedo, Deputy Superintendent of Academics, Reads to Kindergarten as part of McMeen's Read-a-Thon!

Our Kindergarten Dual Language classrooms were very excited to have a special visitor come and read to them on Wednesday of this week!



News from McMeen PTO

[PTO NEWSLETTER](#)

Next Meeting - Tuesday, February 8th
at 6pm via [this Zoom link](#).

Contact Us!

Email: mcmeenpto@gmail.com

Facebook :

<https://www.facebook.com/McMeenElementary>

Instagram:

[@realstudentsofmcmeen](#)

Interested in Supporting McMeen?

Like all schools right now, McMeen is currently experiencing challenges with staffing related to COVID illnesses and protocols. There are a few ways you could help out if interested:

- **Morning and Recess Monitoring** - One area we are really finding we have a need in is monitoring the playground during both the mornings and recess. In the mornings, we need help from 8:05-8:30 and during recess we need help 10:45-12:45. *We would love any time you can support during these blocks and on any days. It's totally fine if you can just do 30 minutes one day per week.* If this is something you are interested in, please complete the process in the next bullet AND contact Lauren Bartsch (lauren_bartsch@dpsk12.net) to set up a schedule.
- **Volunteer** - Even though we have suspended volunteers in the building, you can still start the process of becoming certified to be a volunteer for when we are able to open it back up. To do this, apply on the [Volunteer Background Portal](#).
- **Apply to be a Substitute** - Did you know you can make \$200/day as a substitute in DPS? AND that you can pick where and when you sub? The district (and McMeen) is always in need of substitutes. Learn more and apply on the [DPS website for guest teachers](#).



School Choice

We are currently in Round 1 of the School Choice process where families can choose what schools they want their child to attend. We are asking that you as our amazing community help to promote McMeen by directly reaching out to families you know and promoting our school on your social media accounts. The School Choice Committee is

working on generating some marketing materials you can use as well and we will share those as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please reach out to Lauren Bartsch at lauren_bartsch@dpsk12.net.

Girls on the Run

Girls on the Run will start the week of March 7th. Girls on the Run inspires girls to a lifetime of self-respect and a healthy lifestyle through an innovative program that combines training for a 3.1-mile run/walk race with fun games and activities that help girls learn to define their lives on their own terms. We will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Open to all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade girls. Registration opens at 9AM February 7th. For more information about the program go to www.girlsontherunrockies.org. Questions or want to coach? Reach out to Hannah Stults or Summer Holm at hannah_stults@dpsk12.net or summer_fahrenbrink1@dpsk12.net

Volunteer Opportunity: Cut Out Hearts for Teachers

We want to show our staff some love this February by putting hearts with messages of love and appreciation on their doors. To do this, we need help cutting out paper hearts. If you could make/cut out some hearts and bring them to school for this purpose, we would greatly appreciate it. Donations can be dropped off in the main office.

K-Cup Donations

We have a Keurig machine in the office and are always looking for K-Cup donations. If you have any you'd like to donate, feel free to drop them off at the main office.

Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee

The Declining Enrollment Advisory Committee will work to create recommendations on how the district should address ongoing declining enrollment, which impacts our ability to provide equitable, high-quality educational programs for our students. Superintendent Marrero will review the committee's recommendations on criteria to identify, close and/or consolidate schools with significant declining enrollment.

Diversity and inclusion will be an important consideration for this task force and members will include families, students, community partners, school leaders, teachers and staff, and central office leaders.

View the [online form](#) to learn more about the committee selection criteria and submit an application.

For more information visit: <https://www.dpsk12.org/declining-enrollment/>

Coats

We want to remind everyone that we do have a lost and found. If your child is missing any clothing items, please ask to check it out at arrival or dismissal (it is just inside door 5 near the entrance to the playground). Please also ensure that your child only takes their own items from the lost and found. We have had a few instances where kids are accidentally taking the wrong items. If this has happened with your child, please help return those items to the lost and found.

The Bookies Event - February 7-13

Help fill our Library and the Dual Language classrooms with Spanish/bilingual books! The Bookies is holding an event for McMeen where you can buy books for your family or books for McMeen. Use the code **McMeen15** and 15% of your purchases will go to McMeen to buy additional books. Please see the [flier in Spanish and English](#) for more information and the links to buy books!

Body Safety Lessons

To support our students in developing stronger body safety skills, and in compliance with Erin's Law, the Denver Children's Advocacy Center will be delivering 5 lessons about safety, prevention, and child abuse to students in Kindergarten-5th grade. Some topics include appropriate touch, safety steps, support systems, and the role of secrets. Licensed professionals facilitate these training sessions. To learn more about the curriculum please visit

<https://www.denvercac.org/what-we-do/prevent-abuse/denver-safe-start>.

If you do **NOT** wish your child to participate in programming, please sign and return [this form](#) (paper copies will be sent home next week) to Stefanie Limberger, School Psychologist Intern, supervised by Dr. Gray (Jennifer_gray@dpsk12.org), **by February 18th, 2022**. If we do not hear from you, we will assume your child has permission to

participate in this program.

REMINDER Covid Protocols

Due to the recent outbreaks of Covid-19, McMeen will continue to adhere to DPS protocols for health and safety. Students will continue to be required to wear well fitting masks at all times and we will be adhering to strict hand washing protocols. Please remind your students of these expectations.

We ask that you inform the school if your child tests positive for Covid-19 by calling the office. As information becomes available from DPS, we will pass it along to families.

REMINDER School Start Time

Please remember that school starts promptly at 8:20. The first part of the day is very important as it is our time to support the Socio-Emotional Learning for each student. Please drop off your students with enough time that they are in line and ready to enter the building with their class at 8:20. If your student will be tardy, you must have them enter from the front of the building. Once the back parking lot is blocked with cones, your student must enter through the front.

REMINDER ACCESS TESTING

ACCESS testing will begin on January 18th and will go through February 11th. If your student receives MLL services they will take the assessment on their assigned grade level day. Please make sure your student is present on the day of their grade level test to avoid make up testing. Here are the grade level testing days:

5th Grade: January 18th and 19th

4th Grade: January 20th and 21st

3rd Grade: January 24th and 25th

2nd Grade: January 26th and 27th

1st Grade: January 28th and 31st

REMINDER From Discovery Link

Hello McMeen Families!

Although it is months away, this warm December weather has us thinking about next summer.

For Summer 2022, Extended Learning and Community Schools will offer traditional Discovery Link summer camps, as well as the return of Enrichment Exploration Camps. Discovery Link summer camps will run from 6/13/22 - 8/5/22, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 7:00am - 5:30pm (with no camp on 7/4/22).

Summer camp will be hosted at Bradley International School for McMeen this summer!

Enrichment Exploration Camps will run the same dates from 7:30am - 5:30pm.

Registration for camp will open in late January/early February - you will receive more information in the following weeks.

We can't wait to spend Summer in the City with you!

-Candace Hoffmann

Program Supervisor for Discovery Link at McMeen

Student Shout Outs!!

ECE - Kyrie from Mr. Hughes class is a first time listener, and tries his best when learning about everything in PE class! Great job, Kyrie, keep it up!! - Mr. McReynolds

Kindergarten - Alice Peterman - Alice is such a hard worker! She has put in the effort and has grown SO much this year. She brings so much joy to our classroom, and we are so lucky to have her! - Mrs. McReynolds

Kindergarten - Elana Babekir - Elana is an incredibly kind child with a perfect pinch of spunk. She embodies what it means to respect others and treats her friends with a kind and caring heart!! - Mrs. McReynolds

Kindergarten - Philip Warren - El trabaja muy duro para completar todo su trabajo! He works really hard to complete all his work! - Ms. Zaragoza

Kindergarten - Emma Waas - Ella siempre quiere ayudar a sus compañeros con lo que necesiten ayuda. She is always willing to help her classmates. - Ms. Zaragoza

Kindergarten - Sam Servais - Sam is working so hard and learning so much Spanish! He uses his newly learned Spanish as often as he can! Sam is doing an amazing at working hard and being so kind to all his friends! So proud of you, Sam!

4th Grade - Quincy Cantu - Quincy is a kind person with an empathetic heart. She has worked so hard to help others during class time as well as her teacher and community. - Ms. Goolsby

NEWS From the Classrooms

2nd Grade Dual Language has started our unit on Black History Month! We have learned about Ruby Bridges and the bravery she had to be the first African American girl to attend an all white elementary school. I am so proud of the deep, thoughtful conversations we have had around racial inequity and fairness!

We are right in the middle of our Place Value unit in math as well. We have stepped up our game by reading, writing, and speaking like mathematicians in English and Spanish! Ask how to write a three digit numbers in standard form, expanded form, and word form!" - Lauren Candee

1st Grade - This week fantastic first graders are finishing up a literacy unit on fables and folktales by writing their own or writing their opinion about which character was the bravest. In math we are finishing up our geometry unit. We have been learning all about 2D and 3D shapes as well as fractions. We are also so excited to learn about and celebrate Lunar New Year! Gung Hay fat choy!

Resources from DPS

Internet Options

Does your family need internet? DPS has hotspots available. Reach out to Lauren Bartsch if you would like to request one at lauren_bartsch@dpsk12.net. The hotspots will be checked out to your child, so please include their name.

Free Broadband: Qualifying families can sign up for [free Comcast Internet Essentials Broadband](#) at home if they meet the Affordable Connectivity Program's (ACP) [eligibility requirements](#). Families who are currently enrolled in the Comcast Internet Essentials program can also sign up for the [free ACP broadband](#).

REMINDER Bringing Back Delayed Starts for Inclement Weather

Due to changing needs, DPS is bringing back delayed starts as an option instead of going remote during inclement weather. Please read [this flier](#) for updated information on how the district will handle delays, cancellations or going remote because of weather conditions.

REMINDER Covid-19 Vaccination INFORMATION

Our Denver Health School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are now offering vaccinations for free at [18 locations](#) across the city. SBHCs offer a quick and convenient way to get vaccinated. Please see this flier (in [English](#) and [Spanish](#)) with dates and locations of these free SBHC vaccination clinics. More information about the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine for children can also be found in this [fact sheet from Denver Health](#). Families can register for the vaccine online with their Denver Health MyChart account [here](#), or can call 303-602-8958 to schedule an appointment.