



# McMeen Elementary

*Family Weekly Newsletter*

February 21-25, 2022

## Weekly Happenings

### **Saturday, February 19**

**1:00 - School Choice Playdate and Information Session** - We are having a Playdate and information session for prospective families on the McMeen playground this upcoming Saturday. **Coffee will be provided.** All current and prospective families are invited to attend. Please reach out to any prospective parents you know and invite them to join us and learn about our amazing school!

### **Monday, February 21**

**No School - Presidents Day**

### **Tuesday, February 22**

**No School - Teacher Planning Day**

**4-8pm - McMeen Eats at Freddy's Steakhouse (6250 Leetsdale Dr)** - Mention McMeen at checkout and they'll donate 15% to McMeen's PTO

### **Wednesday, February 23**

9:30 - Social Media Safety Presentation for 4th and 5th Grade

2:30 - GW Uplift Program with 4th and 5th Grade

3:30 - Frisbee Golf for 5th Grade

### **Thursday, February 24**

### **Friday, February 25**

2:30 - Istation Parade- Students will be recognized for their efforts on our monthly literacy assessment. The parade will take place in the building. Be sure to ask your student about it!



We had a blast at last Saturday's playdate and hope more families can join this week!



We had a great visit with Dr. Marrero, the Superintendent of DPS, this week!



Thank you to PTO for all the love on Valentine's Day. Also, check-out Jose Angel's amazing shirt.

**We have lots more photos at the end of the newsletter. Check them out!!**

## Upcoming Events



[Black History Month Resources](#)

### FEBRUARY

Feb. 28 - First day of no mask mandate

### MARCH



March 4 - Super Citizen Assembly

March 18 - McMeen Planning Day

March 28-April 1 - Spring Break

# News from McMeen PTO

## PTO Newsletter

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

### Contact Us!

Email: [mcmeenpto@gmail.com](mailto:mcmeenpto@gmail.com)

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

Instagram: [@realstudentsofmcmeen](#)

## Volunteer Opportunities

### 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](mailto:lauren_bartsch@dpsk12.net)) to set up a schedule. You can also sign up on the [McMeen volunteer calendar](#). ***We are currently working on putting together some support/guidance for parents who choose to volunteer.***
- **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](#).

### Library Book Donations

The McMeen Library is in need of hardcover books and would love donations in English, Spanish, or Arabic. The Bookies Event (below) is a great way to help donate books as well!

## Announcements

### The Bookies Event

The Bookies, our partner book store, has extended the McMeen book fair until Tuesday. Please take time to visit and peruse the wealth of reading materials and educational games they have to offer! Use the code **McMeen15** and 15% of your purchases will go to McMeen to buy additional books. Here is the link to the store: <https://thebookies.com/book-fairs/mcmeen-book-fair>.

### CMAS Schedule



Below is our testing schedule for the Colorado Measures of Academic Success (CMAS). This is the test all 3rd-5th grade students take each year in the subject areas of Literacy, Math, and Science (5th Grade only). You can learn more about the assessment from the CDE website [here](#).

April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	No School	NO TESTING	5th Grade Science			
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
		3rd-5th Grade Literacy				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
		3rd-5th Grade Math				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

### REMINDER Mask Update

On Wednesday, the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment [announced](#) that the public health order requiring masks in schools will expire **at the end of the day on Friday, Feb. 25. Masks are still required in all indoor school settings until that date.** The decision by DDPHE means that, beginning Monday, Feb. 28, **masks will no longer be required but will be strongly recommended for all students, staff, and visitors across DPS.**

### REMINDER Summer Options

We are hearing from a lot of parents that they are feeling confused about options for their child this summer. We are hoping we can help clarify some of that here.

- **Summer Connections** is the DPS summer *school* option, where students will work on literacy, math, and science. This is a rebranding from what was formerly known as Summer Academy, which also only focused on literacy. Registration is open now through March 25th. You can learn more [here](#). They have also released flyers in [Arabic](#), [Spanish](#), and [English](#) for more information.
- **Discovery Link Summer Camp** is the summer enrichment option. They were originally going to offer camp at Bradley Elementary for McMeen students; however, they are no longer able to do that since Bradley will be under construction. Registration is open now! You can learn more about all the available sites [here](#) or reach out to Candace Hoffmann at [candace.hoffmann@dpsk12.net](mailto:candace.hoffmann@dpsk12.net).

### REMINDER Cherry Creek Youth Sports Girls Softball

Registration for the spring season is now open at [www.creeksports.com](http://www.creeksports.com). The season runs from April 2 to May 8. Learn more from [this flier](#).

### REMINDER COVID Notifications

We wanted to let you know that DPS schools will no longer send general COVID-19 notification letters to families when there is a COVID-19 case in your child's classroom or at their school. Instead, families can check the [DPS COVID-19 Dashboard](#) to see the latest updates with cases that are reported to us.

You will still be notified if your child needs to quarantine after an in-school exposure.

As we move into the next phase of this pandemic, please encourage your students to continue following the [DPS 5](#) and the DPS [COVID-19 Guidance for Parents & Caregivers](#). Please monitor your students for illness symptoms and keep them home if they are sick. We also know that getting vaccinated is the best way to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please visit [www.vaccines.gov](http://www.vaccines.gov) to

search for the vaccine provider closest to you or consider accessing no-cost health care services offered from our [School Based Health Centers](#) (Denver Health Pediatrics at Denver Public Schools) by calling 303-602-8958.

For more information about how many COVID-19 cases we have in our community, please visit [Denver's COVID-19 Case Dashboard](#).

Please call our front office if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

### **REMINDER Girls on the Run**

Girls on the Run will start the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 7<sup>th</sup>. For more information about the program go to [www.girlsontherunrockies.org](http://www.girlsontherunrockies.org). Questions or want to coach? Reach out to Hannah Stults or Summer Holm at [hannah\\_stults@dpsk12.net](mailto:hannah_stults@dpsk12.net) or [summer\\_fahrenbrink1@dpsk12.net](mailto:summer_fahrenbrink1@dpsk12.net)

## Student Shout Outs

**Caught in the Act Winners** - Congratulations to our Caught In the Act winners this week: Delilah (4th), Kalie (4th), Quincy (4th), Roberto (4th), Novianna (2nd), Asher (1st), Josiah (K), Damien (4th), Mariam (1st), Aziza (3rd), Andrew (3rd), Montae (2nd), Layla (3rd), and Finn (K).

**ECE, Sedona Lynch** - Demuestra ser una super amiga al relacionarse con sus compañeros de manera positiva y por estar siempre dispuesta a ayudar a sus compañeros cuando lo necesitan. ¡Nos sentimos muy contentas y orgullosas de Sedona! ¡Continúa siendo así Sedona!

Demonstrates to be a super great friend by interacting with classmates in a positive manner and for being always ready to help out her classmates when needed. We feel very happy and proud of Sedona. Keep being you, Sedona!

**4th Grade, Kalie Reynolds** - She is one of the most honest, kind, creative, and loving student I have ever taught. Kalie not only cares about her classmates, but she has also has a huge heart for animals and a passion for writing. I am looking forward to seeing her shine! - Ms. Goolsby

**ECE, Samran Khatir** - Samran has already learned so much this year and is always excited to see what's next. She has made lots of friends with her caring and fun personality. She is always laughing and making others laugh. Great job Samran!!

**Kindergarten, Manea Madrid** - Ella a llegado a la escuela lista para aprender y hace su mejor esfuerzo en su trabajo. She is coming to school ready to learn and tries her best on her work. - Ms. Zaragoza

**Kindergarten, Ozi Kapnik** - El es un estudiante muy responsable y siempre quiere ayudar a sus compañeros. He is a very responsible student and is always willing to help his classmates. - Ms. Zaragoza

**Kindergarten, Zakai Henderson** - El esta trabajando muy duro en aprender español y usarlo cada día. He is working really hard in learning and using his Spanish everyday. -Ms. Zaragoza

**ECE, Christopher Peña** - Christopher juega y se relaciona con compañeros de manera positiva. También muestra más participación durante las actividades escolares. ¡Nos sentimos muy orgullosas Christopher y su progreso! ¡Sigue esforzándote Christopher!

Christopher plays and interacts positively with classmates. He is also showing more participation during our school activities. We feel proud of Christopher and his progress! Keep up the good work Christopher! - Mrs. Rivera and Mrs. Erica

## News from Classrooms

**2nd Grade:** The second graders will begin a new literacy and science unit learning all about the different cycles in nature. Some topics we are covering are the seasons, daytime and nighttime cycles, the life cycles of frogs and butterflies, and the water cycle. We will be working like scientists observing and recording our observations of the butterfly cycle in class. We will be building our science vocabulary as well as doing our learning through becoming efficient users of nonfiction texts and writing like scientists in journals.

**Dual Language Happenings:** The Pathways to the Seal of Biliteracy Activity of the Month has been distributed to participating students. (We're excited to see interest from English, Spanish and Arabic language students!) If a student returns the envelope to your class, please send it to the main office.

**ECE** - In ECE we have been working on describing 2D and 3D shapes using our own words. We are also finishing up our 2 week unit on the 2022 winter Olympics. We have learned about some of the different sports that take place during this time and have competed in some of our own like "ice" skating (skating on plastic) and iceberg hopping (not yet an official Olympic sport).

**Kindergarten** - This week in Kindergarten we celebrated friendships and our 100th day of school. In Literacy we are learning about plants & in Math we are learning about number bonds! - Ms. Zaragoza, Ms. Painter, Ms. Blair, Ms. Mena, Mrs. McReynolds

**ECE Dual Language** - In ECE Dual Language this month we started working on 3d shapes like sphere and cube. We have been celebrating Black History Month highlighting African American achievements and recognize the central role African Americans have played in U.S. history. Like Rosa Parks and Mae Jemison and others. We continue talking about How to be a Super Friend! And how to work as a team. Also, we continue with our community helpers unit studying this month the doctor and the firefighter. - Room #114 and #103 - Erica Aldaz & Cecilia Rivera

## Resources from DPS

### [Join February 23 MLE DAC Virtual Meeting](#)

Families of multilingual students are invited to join DPS for a Multilingual Education (MLE) Districtwide Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 23.

At this meeting, families will learn more about:

- Healthy Start Times Phase 2
- Declining Enrollment update
- Social-Emotional support opportunities

Register [here](#) and join the meeting via [Zoom](#). For more information, visit the [MLE DAC website](#) or call 720-423-2040.

### **Support DPS with Reviewing Applications for New Schools this Spring**

DPS is looking for parents and community members to review applications from new district-run and charter schools this March and April 2022. Most years, DPS receives applications from groups and organizations that are passionate about offering new educational opportunities to Denver students. To determine whether those schools could be high-quality options for students, DPS welcomes and benefits from the perspectives of parents and community members. Participants will receive remote training and support. No experience is required. Please apply for the Application Review Team by completing [this interest form](#) and help us shape the future of DPS.

### **REMINDER Healthy Start Times**

With the shift to Healthy Start Times in fall 2023, DPS is seeking input on what options work best for the community in carrying out this change. There are three options for bus routes that make Healthy Start Times possible. Please share these opportunities for students, families and DPS community members to join upcoming meetings. For more information and to register, visit the [Healthy Start Times page](#).

### **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.

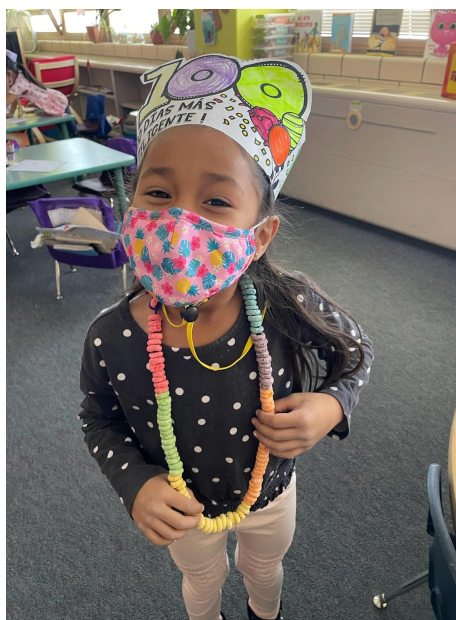
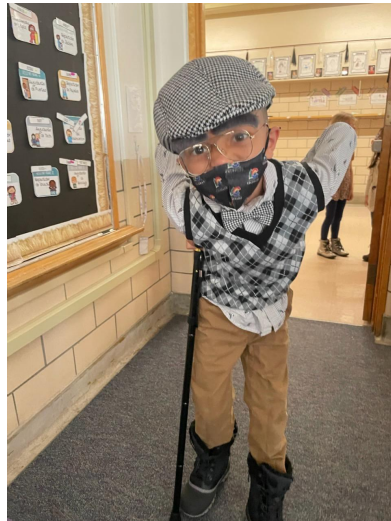
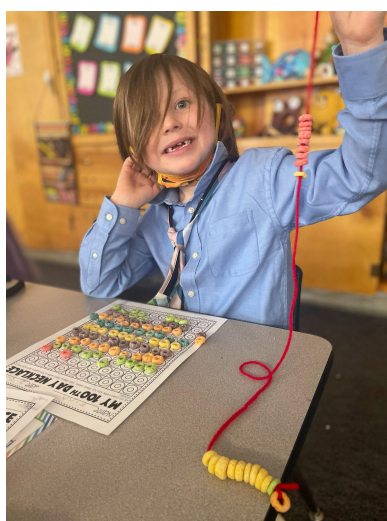


McMEEN  
ELEMENTARY

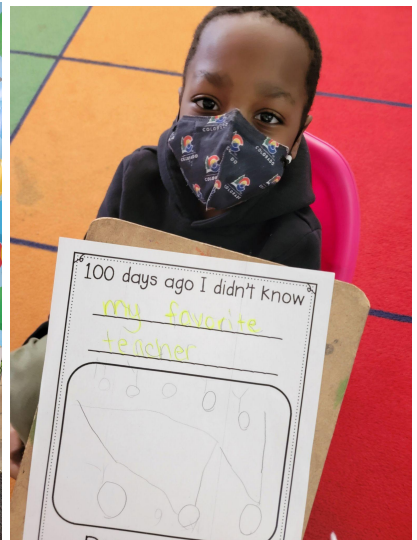
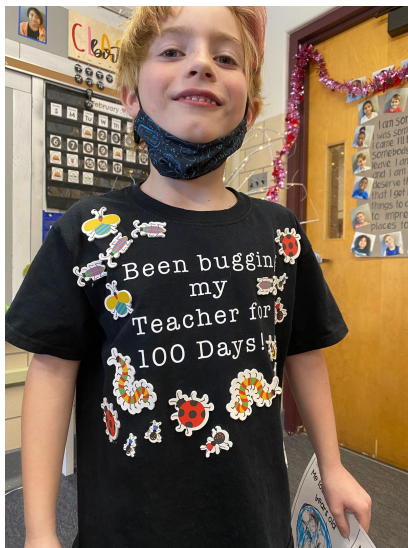
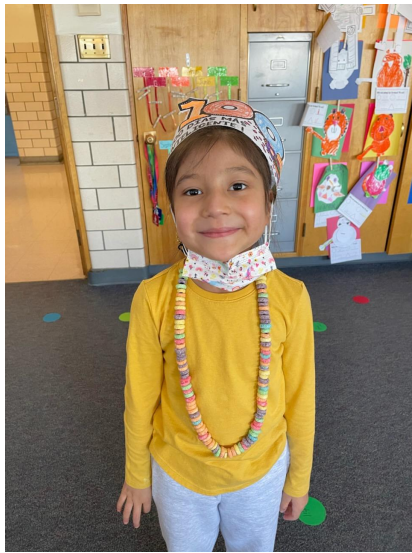
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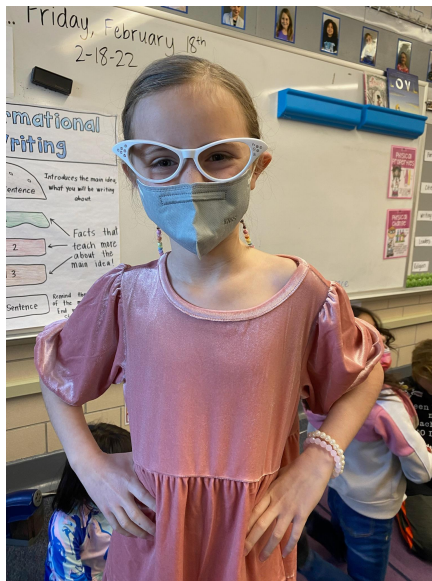












We are hoping to invite families into our building soon. In the meantime, here is a peek at some stuff going on in the building. Our teachers have been hard at work updating bulletin boards to help beautify our school. Look at their awesome creations!

