



McMeen Elementary

Family Weekly Newsletter

February 28 - March 4, 2022

Weekly Happenings

Monday, February 28

First Day of Lifted COVID Restrictions (see below for more information)

Tuesday, March 1

3:30 - Choir

Wednesday, March 2

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

3:30 - Frisbee Golf for 5th Grade

Thursday, March 3

Friday, March 4

Super Citizen Assembly



Mr. Guevara's Dual Language 1st graders sharing what they learned about Egyptian pyramids. They read about pyramids and build a model from cardboard. Sr. Guevara rocks! DL 1st grade rocks!

Los estudiantes de primer grado están compartiendo sobre lo que aprendieron sobre las pirámides de Egipto. Leyeron y construyeron un modelo de lo que aprendieron.



We had so much fun at our Istation Parade today! Congratulations to all of our Istation rock stars!

Upcoming Events

MARCH



March 9 - Open House Night
March 18 - No School - McMeen Planning Day
March 24 - Freedom Concert
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

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) 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.

Announcements

COVID Restrictions Lifting

As you have likely seen, starting Monday, February 28th, the district is removing all COVID restrictions from our school building. **Masks are still highly encouraged although no longer required.** Our amazing McMeen staff is already planning for how to best support students who may have various views and feelings on these changes. Please continue to communicate directly with your child's teacher regarding any questions or concerns you may have during this time of transition.

As part of COVID restrictions being lifted, we are excited to welcome families back into the building. We know many families are also looking forward to seeing the school and their child's classroom. While we are looking forward to seeing everyone in the building again, we also want to make sure we continue to foster the independence students have had such success with and not disrupt the rituals and routines teachers have worked so hard to establish this year. We ask that you continue to drop your child off on the blacktop to be received by the teacher at 8:20.

We will be hosting an Open House on Wednesday March 9th from 3:30-6pm to allow families to spend time in the building and see your child's classroom. Feel free to stop by to see the school and your child's classroom. As a reminder, **masks are still highly encouraged in DPS buildings.**

Please reach out to Andria Hinman or Lauren Bartsch if you have any questions.

Freedom Concert

We are excited about our first in-person concert since the start of the pandemic. Our Freedom Concert has been scheduled for March 24 4-5:30pm. More details will be coming soon!

COVID Vaccination Clinic at McMeen

We are excited to offer a free vaccination clinic here at McMeen on March 25th and April 15th from 3:15-5:15. Pfizer vaccines will be available for students, and there may be some for DPS families and staff.

Thank you for Bookies Event

Mil gracias! Thank you! If you participated in the Bookies McMeen book fair, thank you! There are books to be placed in our McMeen library and there will be others designated specifically to our Dual Language classrooms. McMeen appreciates you!

REMINDER 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.

REMINDER Cherry Creek Youth Sports Girls Softball

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

REMINDER 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

Student Shout Outs

Caught in the Act Winners - Congratulations to our Caught In the Act winners this week: Chris Mendez (Ms Eron, Responsibility), Ozi (Ms Zaragoza, Responsibility), Mikey Johnson (Ms Blair, Achievement and Perseverance), Gudea (Ms Alvarez, Achievement), Daisy (Ms Mena, Respect), Brennan (Ms Eron, Responsibility), Aveen (Ms Johns, Responsibility), Israel (Ms Jacobs, Perseverance), Carolina (Ms Caldwell, Achievement and Perseverance), Elias (Ms Goolsby, Compassion), and Sybil (Ms Zaragoza, Respect and Responsibility).

Top Banana Class -The class with the most Caught in the Acts this week: Ms Zaragoza

Monthly Top Caught in the Act Winners - these students received the most Caught in the Acts in February: Brody (Ms Caldwell), Arlo (Ms. Zaragoza), Wolfie (Ms Jacobs), Asher (Ms Jacobs), Evelyn (Ms Jacobs), Quincy (Ms Goolsby), Jacquelyn (Ms Mena), Avery (Ms Caldwell), and Ariel (Ms Mena)

3rd Grade, Carolina Barrera-Nerialvarado - Este semana le envié unas destacadas FELICITACIONES a la niña Carolina, por su excelente dedicación a nivel académico, cumpliendo siempre con sus actividades y tareas. También es una alumna que se sobresaleara a nivel disciplinario siguiendo siempre las expectativas de la clase, colaborando con sus compañeros, manteniendo el orden y la disciplina al punto de destacarse como líder. FELICITACIONES CAROLINA!!! - Sr. Barrera

4th Grade, Allison Rivera - Esta semana destaco a mi estudiantes Allison Rivera por su excelente desempeño que ha tenido últimamente en nuestras clases, su participación ha sido muy notable, sirviendo también como apoyo y guía a sus compañeros. Felicitaciones Allison por su valiosa dedicación y buen desempeño. Continúa manteniendo su gran dedicación. - Sr. Barrera

2nd Grade, Mariana Sanchez-Quevedo - She has shown so much perseverance in math this school year! She continues to give her best effort every day and does not give up when it is difficult! She makes sure to ask questions when she's confused and works hard at home with her family on her homework! - Ms. Candee

ECE, Elliana Mulvey - Ellie is really coming out of her shell and learning a lot in ECE. She is such a sweet girl and is always a great friend to all of her classmates. She loves to be a helper and her smile lights up the room. Great job Ellie!!

1st Grade, Natalie Vaughn - Natalie is always willing to lend a helping hand to her classmates and comes to school with a positive attitude! - Ms. Alvarez

1st Grade, Gueda Guarba - Gueda works SO hard in intervention, she is reflective and always remembers her reading goals! - Ms. McWhorter

2nd Grade, Dana Rashad - They are growing so much in 2nd grade! She has been really participating in lessons, helping those around her, and being very respectful with her classmates and teachers! Keep being an amazing role model! - Mrs. Homberg

2nd Grade, Jasmine Sobirjonova Husenovna - We have been learning about showing compassion and empathy in 2nd Grade. Jasmine is demonstrating this with her friends and other students in 2nd grade. She is so caring, and tries to help her friends when they are feeling sad or upset. She communicates clearly how she wants to help them! - Mrs. Homberg

Kindergarten, Alexander Henao - Él siempre nos hace reír y es un buen amigo con todos. He always makes us laugh and is a good friend to everyone. - Ms. Zaragoza

Kindergarten, Ruby Hanson - Ella ha estado trabajando muy duro en su lectura. She has been working really hard on her reading. - Ms. Zaragoza

Kindergarten, Delaney Ryan - Delaney is a kind and caring little girl who has enjoyed expressing her creative side at school this year! Outside our room, we have a "Delaney display" (her request) showcasing many of her creations. Her latest trend is creating purses out of paper and drawing tools, which she has also taught her friends how to make. Way to be a mini entrepreneur Delaney! - Mrs. McReynolds

Kindergarten, Dominick Skelton - Dominick has worked so incredibly hard this school year. He is a student who treats others with respect, always tries his best, and has a huge heart! He loves to express himself through art, and is so excited when he is able to share his art with his classmates. Thank you Dominick for being the amazing kid you are!

News from Classrooms

Second Grade is starting our new literacy unit on Life Cycles! We are very excited to dive deep into science-based, non-fiction books and learn from several different hands-on activities. We are also wrapping up our Addition with Regrouping Unit in math. We are experts! Our biggest challenge has been writing sentences that describe the sequence of steps it takes to add two and three digit problems with regrouping.

Resources from DPS

District Accountability Committee Application

Do you or someone in your school community have a passion or desire to help improve DPS by serving on an Advisory Board? Apply to the District Accountability Committee (DAC) by March 11. The DAC is open to DPS parents, staff and community members. The DAC application is available in the Consent Decree languages -- access the [one-pager](#) in your language for the link to apply.

The mission of the DAC is to serve as an advisory committee to the Denver Board of Education on matters such as budget priorities, SIP, charter school applications and other matters outlined in state statute or identified by the Board and Superintendent.

REMINDER 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 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

McMeen Elementary School

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