



# McMeen Elementary

*Family Weekly Newsletter*

February 7-11, 2022

## Weekly Happenings

### Monday, February 7

The Bookies Event starts (see below)

### Tuesday, February 8

Choir at 3:30  
Collaborative School Committee (CSC)  
at 5pm [Zoom link](#)  
Parent teacher Organization Meeting  
at 6pm

### Wednesday, February 9

3:30 - Frisbee Golf for 5th Grade

### Thursday, February 10

### Friday, February 11

**No School - Teacher Planning Day**



## Upcoming Events



[Black History Month Resources](#)

### FEBRUARY

Feb 14- Friendship Day Celebrations

Feb 16- Superintendent Visit

Feb 18- 100th Day of School

Feb 21- President's Day- No School

Feb 22- Teacher Professional Development Day- No School

# News from McMeen PTO

## PTO Newsletter

**Next Meeting** - Tuesday, February 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

### 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. **Big thank you to the Samland family for their donation of hearts.**

### 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.
- **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](mailto:lauren_bartsch@dpsk12.net).

### 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. **Thank you to the Samland family for their K-cup donations!**

### 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

### 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](#).
- **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).

### 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. Here is the link to the store: <https://thebookies.com/book-fairs/mcmeen-book-fair>.

### 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](#).

### 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)

### **REMINDER 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.

### **REMINDER 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](mailto: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.

## Student Shout Outs

**Kindergarten Arlo Unger** - Ella se esta esforzando en su lectura y escritura! ha podido escribir sus oraciones en español independientemente! She is striving in her reading and writing! she has been able to write her sentences in spanish independently! - Ms. Zaragoza

**Kindergarten Caleb Tadie** - Su confianza de usar su español a crecido mucho y lo esta usando más cada día . His confidence in using his Spanish has grown and uses it more everyday. - Ms. Zaragoza

**4th Grade Liam McArdle** - Liam has done a great job at being a hard-working student and a role model for our class. He is kind, helpful, creative, and tries his best in every subject. Liam shows that he puts his learning at the top of his to-do list and I am so proud of his leadership in our grade! -Ms.

Goolsby

**Kindergarten Oliver Suarez-Lazaro** - El siempre esta haciendo buenas decisiones y es un buen ejemplo para el resto de sus compañeros. He is always making good choices and has been a great example to his peers. - Ms. Zaragoza

**5th Grade Aria Davis** - She is always so positive! She works hard and is a kind classmate!

**3rd Grade Vera Henry** - Vera is a recognized leader in the Art Studio. She is thoughtful, kind, and always tries her best. Keep up the amazing work Vera! We are lucky to have you as a part of our community! - Ms. Claypool

**ECE Leilany Guzman** - She has stood out this week for being a Super Friend! to her classmates. Erica Aldaz.

**3rd Grade Riad Adrovic** - Riad has shown compassion in our class. - Ms. Toney

**3rd Grade Mina Ibrahim** - Mina has shown growth in her I-station scores. - Ms. Toney

**4th Grade Nely Sanchez** - Un reconocimiento a la niña Nely Sánchez por su excelente dedicación y desempeño; es una niña que siempre está atenta en clase; siguiendo las instrucciones y cumpliendo las expectativas en clase. - Mr. Barrera

**3rd Grade Andrew Ortega Villanueva** - Felicitaciones a Andrew, un niño quien se ha destacado por su excelente comportamiento, integrándose y participando en las diferentes actividades de clase, se destaca por cumplir con las expectativas y disfrutar de sus clases. - Mr. Barrera

## News from Classrooms

**3rd Grade:** This month we are working on writing our own narratives using the work the kids have done learning about Fables. We are also beginning our lessons on Black History Month where the kids will be doing a research project on someone they would like to learn more about and create a slides presentation to present to the class. In math, we are working on solving story problems and beginning to review for our second interim assessment coming up in a few weeks.

**4th graders** have been learning a lot about sound! We have made our own homemade telephones, kazoos, and sound wave models. We are excited to continue learning more and doing fun projects using Mystery Science!

## Resources from DPS

[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 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](mailto: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, cancelations 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.



***McMeen Elementary School***

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