



# McMeen Elementary

*Family Weekly Newsletter*

March 7-11, 2022

## Weekly Happenings

### Monday, March 7

[Girls on the Run starts this week!](#)

### Tuesday, March 8

3:30 - Choir

5:00 - Collaborative School Committee (CSC) Meeting - *all families are welcomed*

6:00 - Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) Meeting - *all families are welcomed*

### Wednesday, March 9

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

3:30 - Frisbee Golf for 5th Grade

[3:30 - 6:00pm Family Open House](#)

### Thursday, March 10

### Friday, March 11

[No School for ECE Students Only](#)

## Upcoming Events

MARCH



March 18 - No School - McMeen Planning Day

March 24 - Freedom Concert

March 25 - COVID Vaccination Clinic at McMeen

March 28-April 1 - Spring Break

Congrats to all of our Super Citizens from today: Aria Foster, Julianne Fernandez, Carolina Barrera-Nerialvarado, Nelly Sanchez, Oliver Suarez-Lazaro, Ola Hassan, Alyzae Romero-Alcazar, Kameron King, Rebecca Samland, Damien Gunn, Mya Zink Jackson, Mohamed Shukry, Brennan Cantu, Mohamed Ashmaig, Hanas Jawhar, Aveen Jawhar, Natalie Vaughn, Bentleigh Busha, Dillan Rose Dodder, Abdiaziz Igal, and Lisandro Becerra-Garay!

# 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?

We are still always looking for volunteers to support with the following:

- **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** - We are hoping to bring back volunteers soon! Start the process now to become certified to be a volunteer for when we 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](#).

## Announcements

### Open House

**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 at any point in that window. 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.

### Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month. Find resources [here](#).

### I Matter Mental Health Resource for Youth

Colorado [House Bill 21-1258](#) established this temporary behavioral health services program to

provide access to mental health and substance use disorder services for youth, including addressing needs that may have resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is open to youth 18 years of age or younger or 21 years of age or younger if receiving special education services. Learn more and sign-up on their [website](#).

### Discounted Avalanche Tickets

The DPS Foundation is offering discounted tickets to three separate Avalanche Games: Sunday March 14, Wednesday March 23, and Thursday March 31. To learn more, check out these flyers in [Spanish](#) and [English](#) or visit the [DPS Foundation website](#).

### Garden Clean-up Rescheduled

The Garden Clean-up originally scheduled for this Saturday has been rescheduled to **Saturday, March 19th from 10am-12pm**. Meet us at the McMeen Community Garden if you're interested in joining!

### REMINDER 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!

### REMINDER 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.

### 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 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](#).

## Student Shout Outs

**Caught in the Act Winners** - Congratulations to our Caught In the Act winners this week: Marcus (K), Anthony (K), Rylen (K), Abdo (5th), Mohamud (2nd), Layla (2nd), Ezra (2nd), Shukrona (K), Roland (3rd), Brittany (4th), Ryan (3rd), and Tyjer (5th)

**Top Banana Class** -The class with the most Caught in the Acts this week: Ms. Eron's 5th Grade

**Kindergarten, Alexis Rivera-Duran** - Alexis is an extremely thoughtful and kind student and he brings so much joy to our classroom! - Ms. Blair

**Kindergarten, Cameron Morrison** - Cameron is an exceptional student. He always tries his personal best and is a caring friend to everyone in our class! -Ms. Blair

**2nd Grade, Dana Rashed** - You have been such a joy in our classroom! You have been showing compassion to others including others with you, being a partner with anyone I give you, and speaking up when you want to work alone. Keep up being respectful! - Mrs. Homberg

**Kindergarten, Elana Babekir** - Elana is an amazing artist who adds tons of creative details into her illustrations. She has truly embraced using drawing and writing as a way to express herself and her ideas. I have loved seeing her artwork grow and change throughout this year! - Mrs. McReynolds

**1st Grade, Bentleigh Busha, Melody Gunn, and Eddie Rodriguez** - These first graders rock! Coming into our kindergarten class this week, these three kids knew exactly what to do! They remembered all of our routines and expectations. It was a joy to host them and see how much they have grown in 1st grade! - Mrs. McReynolds

**4th Grade, 5th Grade** - 4th and 5th grade students demonstrated respect while learning how to safely navigate social media. - Mrs. Claypool

**1st Grade, Ezekiel Beyer** - Ezekiel ha estado crecido mucho en su escritura y lectura. Siempre está poniendo todo su esfuerzo en lo que hace y siempre quiere sobresalir en todo lo que hace. Ezekiel has been growing a lot in his writing and reading. He is always putting his effort into what he does and always wants to excel in everything he does. - Sr. Guevara

**Kindergarten, John Gonzalez-Gaitan** - El ha estado trabajando muy duro en su escritura. He has been working really hard on his writing. - Ms. Zaragoza

**Kindergarten, Brianna Garcia** - ella siempre es muy amable con todos sus compañeros. She is always kind to her classmates. - Ms. Zaragoza

**3rd Grade, Isaiah Smedley** - Isaiah has been doing a fabulous job showing the McMeen traits,

taking responsibility and making sure our classroom is always clean and organized! - Mrs. Hillis

**3rd Grade, Taraji Johnson** - Taraji consistently shows up to school everyday excited to learn. She has been working really hard on explaining her thinking in math so she can teach others how to solve the problems.

**3rd Grade, Emerson Ryan** - Emmy has been working so incredibly hard in class and with Mrs. Mcwhorter to meet her goal of getting tier 1 in Istation so she can participate in the Istation parade. For the month of March, Emmy exceeded her goal and jumped 19 points and will now be in the Istation parade. Way to go Emmy! We are so proud of you!

**3rd Grade, Suzy Foster** - Suzy consistently exemplifies the McMeen trait of kindness and compassion in our classroom! She comes to school each day with a smile on her face and is quick to help any friend in need. - Mrs. Hillis

**3rd Grade, Riad Adrovic** - Riad as shown academic growth. He continues to make gains on his I-station and in his writing and math. I love to see Riad's face light up when he grasps a concept. - Mrs. Toney

**3rd Grade, Akram Ali** - Akram is always has a smile and a can do attitude. He is always willing to help in the classroom. Akram has also shown strong academic growth especially in his writing. - Mrs. Toney

**ECE, Nolan Smith** - Nolan is doing a great job in ECE. He is working on recognizing his letters and numbers. He is also working hard on accomplishing tasks all by himself. Great job Nolan and keep working hard!! - Mr. Hughes

**Kindergarten, Naira Almjdbi** - Naira is incredibly bright and has recently taken on a leadership role in the classroom. She has done a wonderful job teaching and helping her peers with new math concepts, and has even taught first graders how to create combinations to 10. Fabulous job! - Ms. Mena

**2nd Grade, Lauren Ortega-Villanueva** - she is constantly striving to do her very best! She has a strong work ethic and is committed to completing all of her school work! - Ms. Candee

**5th Grade, Marisol Fuentes** - She shows up with a positive happy attitude every day! She also has been so supportive in and out of the classroom!

**5th Grade, Sam Torres**- He shows up every day ready and excited to learn! He is always willing to help his classmates out.

**Kindergarten, Jackson Jordan** - After being out sick, Jackson jumped right back into school with two feet ready to set a great example for his classmates!! He is always following classroom expectations and is always giving kind reminders to his friends! Way to go, Jackson! - Ms. Painter

**Kindergarten, Ava Keeney** - Ava is such a wonderful role model for our classroom! She is always helping her friends with their work, and always has a smile on her face! She is so kind and caring, is such a great helper in class! Great job, Ava! - Ms. Painter

**ECE, Cora Schmidt** - Cora has been working very hard on her Spanish. She has made lots of new

friends and always comes with a big smile to school. Go Cora!

**5th Grade, Ariaah Davis** - Ariaah was so welcoming and helpful when we had a new fifth grade student arrive this week! She made our new student feel comfortable and helped them make new friends. Way to go Ariaah! - Ms. Zaleski

**5th Grade, King James** - King has been working very hard on his school work. We are so proud of his focus and dedication to learning and growing! - Ms. Zaleski

## News from Classrooms

**3rd grade** has been learning so much throughout the months of February and March! We are working hard diving into point of view in Literacy, spending time digging into class tales, such as *The Three Little Pigs* and *Little Red Riding Hood* as well as retellings from different perspectives. We are growing our critical thinking skills, analyzing texts and comparing to determine how the storyteller point of view affects how the story is told.

In Math, we have been working on how to find area, using length and width. Moving forward, we will be transitioning to learning about how these concepts are meaningful and helpful in everyday life!

**4th graders** got to explore the animals at the zoo after completing their informational literacy unit on animals and their adaptations. We learned a lot about animals and their environments and were lucky enough to catch the elephant presentation!







2nd Graders went on a nature walk this week!



## Resources from DPS

### **REMINDER** 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 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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