



Volume 2  
September 21, 2009

Upcoming Dates:

- Sept. 25 - Gift Wrap Sales Begin
- Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m. - Ice Cream Social
- Sept. 28 - After School Enrichment Classes Begin
- Oct. 3, 9:00a.m-12:00 Noon - Garden Work Day and Potluck
- Oct. 6, 6:30 p.m. - PTA Meeting
- Oct. 8, 3:15 p.m. - School Site Council Meeting
- Oct. 9 - Gift Wrap Sales End

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## Newsletter

[www.mcnearelementary.org](http://www.mcnearelementary.org)

### Principal's Message

It is no secret that McNear Elementary is an amazing learning community. McNear is unique in its capacity to draw together in support of the education and well-being of all the children of McNear. Most recently, the amazing turn out at Back to School night reaffirmed our dedication to the students of McNear. We know intuitively that a strong connection between home and school will help ensure student success. However, every year those connections need to be renewed and redefined as new combinations of teachers and families begin working together. Below are four things families can do to strengthen our partnerships.

1. **Volunteer in the classroom.** The most effective support you can provide for your child's learning is to volunteer in the classroom. Teachers are excited to have your support in reading groups, math, and any number of other areas. If you have time in your schedule, don't hesitate to talk to the teacher about opportunities.
2. **Participate in events.** Our calendar will be coming out next week. Mark down our school events and carve time out of your family schedule to participate.
3. **Review school guidelines.** School guidelines have been developed over time to ensure everyone's safety and well-being. Whether it is playground rules or parking guidelines, understanding and supporting the rules and systems put in place will support our community. Our school guidelines will be published with the calendar next week. Take a few minutes one evening to review these guidelines with your student.
4. **Don't Give Up On Homework.** Homework is your most tangible partnership with your teacher in educating your child. Ask questions, share thoughts, ensure that your children are doing their best work. For some of us, the chance to work with students on homework might be the only direct link we have with the learning our students are doing this year. If you are checking homework, ensure your student is doing their best work. The guidelines include average homework times for each grade. If your child is spending too much time, please talk with your teacher about ways to cut down the time.

We are now a full month in, and I see clearly that effective home-school relationships benefit both the student and the entire community at McNear. Let's continue to strengthen these relationships by dedicating ourselves to do what we can to contribute to the growth of our learning community.

Onward,

Jason

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## **Great American Opportunities Gift Wrap Fundraiser**

It is that time of year again! We are kicking off our first fundraiser for McNear School. Please join us in selling gift wrap, cookies, candy and lots more through the Great American Opportunities catalog. Be looking for the catalog to come home with your child this week. We will be selling from Friday September 25<sup>th</sup> through October 9<sup>th</sup>. Any support you can give will be greatly appreciated. If you do not want to sell products, monetary donations are accepted. Return order forms to the office by Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much.

*Antoinette Butts, Gift Wrap Coordinator*

## **Ice Cream Social**

The McNear PTA invites all families to the Welcome Back Ice Cream Social and Raffle on Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. There is no charge for the ice cream sundaes served by our fabulous teachers. Donations are welcome. Come and enjoy the warm weather with your friends and classmates.

Win a New Bike, Nintendo DS or ITouch!!

One lucky person will win their choice of a 20" new bike, a Nintendo DS or ITouch at the Ice Cream Social. Tickets will be \$3.00 each, or 2 for \$5.00. We will start selling tickets after school on Wednesday to give you plenty of chances to win. The winner need not be present to win, but we hope to see you there!!!

## **Janis Phillips, Student Advisor**

Hello Everyone,

I have started my regular weekly schedule of classroom visits. It is going great! We have been talking about identifying feelings in the kindergarten and 1<sup>st</sup> grade. We have looked at pictures and talked about how to tell if our friends are happy or sad or mad. We are talking about respect and how to join into games in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grades. We ask the question, how do I join a game or group in a polite and respectful way? In the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades we have been discussing how things are going on the playground and beginning to establish some rules around the new games they are playing. In all the classes I am greeted with enthusiasm which makes for some fun lessons. I am so lucky to be a part of a wonderful community.

Janis Phillips, Student Advisor

## **Medications at School**

Please be advised that ALL medications brought to school (prescription medication, over-the-counter medications, aspirin, Tylenol, cough drops, eye drops, vitamins, etc.) MUST be kept in the office and MUST (NO EXCEPTIONS!) have a doctor's approval (forms are available in the office). This form must be completed by the physician, detailing the medication (time to take, amount, etc.) and signed by both the physician and the parent. This is a STATE LAW and we must abide by it. We appreciate your understanding and adhering to these very important requirements.

If your child had medication at school last year and will do so again this year (inhaler, Epi pen, aspirin, etc.), we must have a new form completed by the physician and the parent. This must be done each year. Please stop by the office to pick up a form. If you have any questions, please call us at 778-4752.

## McNear Absence Line

The McNear Absence Line number is 778-4859. This is an answering machine and is set to record messages 24 hours a day. Please call this number if your child is absent, or if you know your child will be late to school due to an appointment. Thank you.

If you need to pick up your child early, PLEASE come to the office - don't go directly to the classroom - and we will call your child from his/her class. Thank you.

## Please Sign In/Out at Office

Anytime you come on campus, either to work in a classroom or pick up your child, you MUST sign in/out in the office. If you are going to be working in a classroom, we will have you sign in and wear a Volunteer/Visitor nametag. Our students know to look for nametags on adults who are on campus; they know that any adult wearing a nametag has signed in at the office and that they are a "safe" visitor.

## Would You Like to Receive a Copy of This Newsletter by Email Instead of a Paper Copy?

As part of our ongoing communication between school and home, we publish a McNear School newsletter approximately twice a month. With over 400 students, this requires a lot of paper for each edition. We would like to encourage as many families as possible to sign up to access the newsletter in electronic format on our school website. A message will be sent each time a new newsletter is posted, allowing instant access to information and updates. Of course, if you prefer to receive a paper copy, we will still accommodate that request (we will send home one newsletter per family, sent home with the oldest child).

**Please let us know your wishes either by emailing ([nancyt@pet.k12.ca.us](mailto:nancyt@pet.k12.ca.us)) or by returning this form to your student's classroom or the office.**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will receive the McNear Newsletter electronically through the school website. My email is:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I prefer to receive a paper copy.

Please note: **If you have received the Newsletter electronically in the past you will continue to do so automatically and DO NOT NEED TO CONTACT NANCY OR TURN IN ANY PAPERWORK.** If you have been receiving the Newsletter electronically and DO NOT WISH to receive it by email anymore, please contact me ([nancyt@pet.k12.ca.us](mailto:nancyt@pet.k12.ca.us)) or by phone (778-4752) so that I may make the changes. You will then receive a paper copy of the Newsletter.

# PESA

## Parent Class



### Parent Expectations Support Achievement (PESA)

PESA parenting classes are again being offered through the school counseling program. Classes are free and on site baby sitting is offered. Learn interactions which will help support your child's academic achievement, improve parent-child communications, and encourage a safe and caring home environment. Last year, the classes were very well received and parents reported enjoying the opportunity to share stories and ask questions of the facilitators and the group.

**Topics Covered will include:**

- Providing encouragement
- Fostering courtesy
- Redirecting & correcting misbehavior
- Effective listening
- Affirming feelings
- Promoting thinking & self reflection
- Fostering self esteem
- Creating healthy family bonds

**Offered:**  
**Monday Evenings – Grant School Library**  
**5:30-7:00 PM**  
**Beginning October 5th – November 16th (Skipping October 19th)**  
**Facilitators: Sonja Wanhala, Grant Counselor and**  
**Nicole Renae, McNear Counselor**

**Please return this form to Sonja Wanhala, Grant School Counselor or  
Nicole Renae, Mc Near School Counselor by Friday, Sept . 25<sup>th</sup>**

NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I will be attending at Grant

I cannot attend this class, please let me know when other classes are planned at other school sites

I am interested in classes in Spanish

I have \_\_\_\_\_ children who need babysitting. Their ages are: \_\_\_\_\_

# PESA

## Clases para padres



### Parent Expectations Support Achievement (PESA)

Clases para padres PESA vuelven a ser ofrecido a través del programa de consejería escolar. Las clases son gratuitas y se ofrece cuidado de niños mientras usted atiende la clase. Aprenda interacciones, es decir algunas técnicas que le ayudaran a apoyar el logro académico de su hijo; mejorar la comunicación y fomentar un ambiente que propicie a su familia sentirse protegido, seguro y amados. El año pasado, las clases fueron muy bien recibidos y los padres informaron que disfrutando y fue de mucha utilidad tener de la oportunidad para compartir sus historias y hacer preguntas a los facilitadores y el grupo.

#### Temas a tratar incluyen:

- Proporcionando estímulo
- Fomentando la cortesía
- Como redirigir y corregir la mala conducta
- Escuchar efectivo
- Afirmando sentimientos
- Promover la reflexión y la autorreflexión
- Fomento de la autoestima
- Creación saludables relaciones familiares

**Ofrecido en Valle Vista Elementary School:  
Lunes por la mañana - después de la Asamblea  
9:00-10:30 AM**

**Empezando 5 octubre-16 noviembre (excepto el 19 de Octubre)**

**Facilitadores: Sarah Fleming (Valley Vista Consejero)  
Karen Cunningham (Escuela de Consejería Intern)  
Karla Lounibos (madre, Valley Vista )**

**Disponible en español e Inglés**

Por favor devuelva este formulario a Sarah Fleming o Carmen Cremidis, Escuela de Valle Vista, antes del 25 de Septiembre.

NOMBRE (S): \_\_\_\_\_

TELÉFONO : \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre del niño (s) en la escuela : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Sí, voy a asistir.

\_\_\_\_ No puedo asistir a esta clase, pero me gustaria saber cuando las clases estaran disponibles en otra escuela del distrito.

Tengo \_\_\_\_\_ niños que necesitan cuidado o de niños mientras atiende la clase. Sus edades son: \_\_\_\_\_