

September 8, 2009

# McCoy News

Sign up for the McCoy E-news bulletins!

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Be the first on your block to know what is going on at McCoy. We send out periodic information via this e-news bulletin.

Big Thank you to PTA volunteers!

Michelle Watson and the McCoy staff would like to thank all the moms who helped buy and sort all the shorted school supplies. Yes, the company that was supposed to provide school supplies that parents paid for shorted many of the boxes and did not fill some of the orders all together. Yet, our PTA powered through and funded all the missing items. We will try and recoup the funds for the items that were missing from the

## Welcome Back From Your New Principal!

Thank you for sending your students back to us. It's been a long summer and we've been looking forward to having them back on campus.

No return to school could be complete without an introduction by myself, the new principal, Tony Dominguez. I was appointed by the school board on July 20<sup>th</sup> and was promptly tricked into starting work the next day. My plans for enjoying summer till the end of July were dashed, but the good news was that I was coming to work for a great school district. The bulk of my principal experience has been at the middle school setting, with the youngest students that I've worked with have being 6<sup>th</sup> graders. As a teacher I taught govern-

ment and economics to seniors in high school (also taught freshman in college at Southwest Texas State, teaching the introductory political science classes). What I've learned about teaching and working with students at the various levels is that they have lots in common; they all want to be heard, understood, cared for, and appreciated. These are all factors that I am eager to convey, and that I will expect our teachers to understand as well.

With a couple of weeks of classes under our belt I see that the successes of McCoy have a strong foundation with the superb character of our students. I have found them to be polite, inquisitive, and quite charming and I

look forward to working with all our students throughout the year.

In case you are unaware, McCoy earned a state rating of Recognized for its testing performance from last school year. Being a Recognized campus is a strong indication of the type of curriculum and instruction that is happening in the building. This speaks to the quality of teachers that we have on our campus. With a little organization on all our parts here at McCoy, I think we can earn a higher rating of Exemplary

I hope to be communicating with all interested parties on a regular basis and definitely look forward to working with all of our students and their parents.

## New Assistant Principal

### From the desk of

**Brenda Jirasek:** I'm Brenda Jirasek, and was appointed to be the assistant principal along with our new principal. It's exciting to be at McCoy! What a great group of teachers, students and parents! My 22 years of experience as a teacher and principal have been at all grade levels, P-12. Each level is unique and rewarding. I will do all I can to make this a successful year for each students at McCoy Elementary.

I believe in life long learning. I have a B.S. in Education with a major in business, an M.S. in Occupational Education and am currently pursuing a doctorate in educational leadership.

Family is a priority in my life. Jim and I have three children ages 21, 19 and 17. Time with our family brings us joy. Children grow up so quickly, so I encourage you to enjoy them every minute you can.

## Class Starts At 8 AM

A big thank you to all the parents who get our scholars to class on time! Thank you! Hopefully the summer-time schedule that youngsters like so much is a long forgotten routine. Just a reminder, class starts at 8 AM. Students can report to the cafeteria to have breakfast or the gym when they arrive on campus and line up by sitting on the floor according to their homeroom teacher. The teachers will start leading the students out starting at 7:45 (and no later than 7:55) if all their students are present in order to be in their class and ready to go at 8 AM. The morning prep for the students can be time consuming, but we are working with them to be ready as quickly as possible. Thank you again for having your child here on time.

Should your scholar arrive to

school after 8:00 he/she will need to go to the office to obtain a tardy slip from Mrs. Seaman. Scholars should be signed in by a parent if they arrive at school after 8:15. If your scholar is out of school due to a doctor's appointment, please give a doctor's excuse to the office for your scholar to be counted present for that day. A note sent to your scholar's teacher informing her/him that your scholar will be leaving during the day and what time to have him/her in the office will be helpful. Please make sure your scholar knows how they will be getting home at the end of the day. Should an emergency arise, change of transportation notices should be called in no later than 2:00 when possible.

## 4th Grade Parents

**Only:** Fourth graders are working on a super cool Pop Art Photo project. Mrs. Smiley is requesting each 4th grader bring \$1.00 to help with the cost of photo developing, if possible. All 4th graders will complete the project regardless of the donation, but a \$1.00 would sure help. Please send in an envelope to Mrs. Smiley. Thanks!!!

## Every Friday is Spirit Day!!

Scholars and parents alike, please note that every Friday is McCoy Spirit Day! Show your McCoy Spirit proudly, wear your McCoy T-shirt every Friday! If you have not bought your new McCoy "Mission Possible" Camo T-shirt yet, please email Michelle Watson at: [michelle@brandonwatson.com](mailto:michelle@brandonwatson.com)

And in subject line put: Need McCoy T-shirt and you will be sent a form.

## Turn in your Box Tops & Win an Ice Cream Party!

Box Top Monthly contest: WIN an ICE CREAM PARTY for student's homeroom class. Each month we will have a contest between classes in each grade to see who can get the most box tops collected for their class. The class with the most box tops collected at the end of the month wins an ice cream party. The contest starts now! Money earned by collecting Box Tops goes to P.E. to buy needed equipment for scholars to use during P.E., if we can donate enough who knows what can be purchased! So turn in your box tops today!

## BE A VOLUNTEER!

If you are interested in [Volunteering at McCoy](#), there are

many great ways you can be a part of one or many scholars and teachers lives either daily, or weekly or monthly. Any time given to Mentor, bake cookies, help out a teacher with projects, volunteer in the Library, etc. is all time well spent. Every little bit helps and it's much needed and appreciated. Therefore, email McCoy PTA's Volunteer Chairman: Oona Villarreal, [oonas@suddenlink.net](mailto:oonas@suddenlink.net)

Or fill out the yellow Volunteer form that went home in your scholar's Eagle Folder first day of school.

Mark your calendar & join us on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am in McCoy Cafeteria. If you cannot make it due to work or other, please contact Oona with your interests and contact information. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you!! From McCoy PTA

## New Teachers at McCoy

We welcome eight new teachers to our campus. At the elementary level we had over 1600 applicants for the various positions in the district. Whittling down the superb candidates was a challenging job. Luckily, with such a high number of applicants it is easier to find the highly qualified individuals. The new teachers to our campus are as follows:

**Cindy Boucher:** Ms. Boucher is teaching our Integrated Learning Center class this year at McCoy. She has been in education over 30 years with 16 of those years in Georgetown. She has 2 grown sons who graduated from GHS, Jeromy and Stephen. When she found out she had been accepted as our ILC teacher, her comments were that she was thrilled to be at McCoy.

**Tammy Fite:** Ms. Fite will be teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade wrote. She is Texas born and bred, a fourth generation Dallasite, raised on Snuffer burgers and cheesefries, Blue Mesa sweet potato chips (Yummmmm!) and the original Dallas Cowboys (the one with Tom Landry and Roger Staubach). She has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from The University of Texas at Dallas. She's been teaching 4<sup>th</sup> grade since 2005. Prior to that she was a litigation paralegal for 20 years. In 2005, in search of a much more fulfilling and rewarding career, she went back to school and obtained a teaching certificate. Her only stated regret about leaving the courtroom and entering the classroom . . . is that she didn't do it sooner.

## PTA Cookie Dough Fundraiser

Our Fall Cookie Dough Fundraiser with Frost (our sister school) kicked off last week, September 1st! Your scholar should have come home with his/her Cookie Dough & More Fundraising Packet filled with lots of information, a triplicate order form and a money envelope that needs to be filled out with Name, Teacher, Grade, etc. Please review all information and turn in coupons as needed because

**Kathy Knudsen:** Ms. Knudsen will be teaching 4th grade Math and Science. Before being a stay-at-home mom, she taught 4th grade at Gattis Elementary in Round Rock. She is a graduate from Georgetown High School and received her teaching degree from Southwest Texas State University...aka Texas State.

**Margie Kunze:** Ms. Kunze is beginning her 18th year of teaching and will be serving all grades by mainly providing intervention in the area of math. As a "Boost" teacher, she will have the opportunity to give students special attention in small groups or in the classroom. Ms. Kunze and her husband are the proud parents of Calvin and Elise, both whom are attending Texas A & M. Go Aggies!

**Christina Medina:** Ms. Medina is a recent graduate from Texas State University with a Bachelors Degree in Education EC-4. Graduating with a 3.89, she is ESL certified and Special Education certified for grades EC-12. A graduate of Georgetown High School, Ms. Medina attended school in Georgetown since the 4th grade. She will be the content mastery teacher for 3rd-5th. Ms. Medina is the proud mother of a kindergartener at Frost.

**Ali Munoz:** Ms. Munoz will be the 4th grade bilingual teacher; she comes to us from Belton ISD. Ms. Munoz has been pursuing a graduate degree in educational administration and thought it was a good time to expand her profes-

sional horizons. Her thinking was she wanted to work in a progressive, successful school district that centered its efforts in the genuine success of its students.

**Betty Thomas:** Ms. Thomas will be one of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade bilingual teachers. This is her 11th year to teach, all in elementary with the exception of last year when she taught at a middle school. She has stated that she is delighted to be at Georgetown ISD. Ms. Thomas mastered her Spanish communication skills while growing in San Jose, Costa Rica, so she will bring an international flavor to the campus.

**Barbara Tucker:** Ms. Tucker will be the music teacher for McCoy. Growing up in Houston, this will be Ms. Tucker's thirtieth year to teach after receiving her Music Degree from the University of Texas. She is very excited to be teaching music in Georgetown ISD and here at McCoy Elementary.

**Jennifer Condieff:** Ms. Condieff will be one of our 5<sup>th</sup> grade science and math teachers. She and her family are moving to the Georgetown area from Mission, TX. Ms. Condieff and her husband are Round Rock High School grads (a long time ago) and feel like they are "moving back home". A mother of two sons, a fourth grader and a freshman in high school, she is looking forward to a great first year back in central Texas. She recently stated that she is already attached to "her kids" and is thrilled to have the honor of teaching at McCoy

we will be having DAILY COUPON DRAWINGS, so every coupon turned in counts. If you have any questions, contact Karen Solomon, McCoy PTA p#512-585-3334 or email buzzkaren@verizon.net

### Important PTA September Dates

Please make note of the following dates of interest for the month of September:

9/10 – McCoy Room Parent &

Volunteer Round-Up in Cafeteria at 9:15a\* Notice time change.

9/15 - CiCi's Night – McCoy & Frost Fundraiser Night – Come Join the Fun!

9/15 - Fundraiser Ends Today!! All Orders, Money and Coupons are Due!

9/16 - Fundraiser Big Drawing at 2:40p

9/25 - Staff Luncheon at 10:45a (Provided by 5th Grade Parents )

## Other Important PTA news:

1. October PTA Board Meeting is the First Tues. Oct. 6th at 8:05am in Library and Board meetings will be on every 1st Tuesday unless it's a Holiday. A General PTA meeting will be scheduled for November, it will be in the evening and have a Family Night then as well, more information on this later.
2. Room Parent and Volunteer Round Up, Thursday September 10, at 9:15 AM in the Cafeteria, get involved in your scholar's school be a part of the team and boost the moral while adding special educational programs to your scholar's overall McCoy Education and well-being. See you there!
3. The Reflections competition kicks off later in September, so be on the lookout for details on that.
3. UIL Kicks off in September, details are in the students folders today (September 8).
5. PTA is celebrating 100 years. To celebrate and challenge our community, our McCoy PTA is striving to have 100% membership with parents and staff (Our McCoy Teachers & Staff are already at 100%!!). We are striving for all the parents of all our McCoy scholars to meet the challenge of 100% membership by September 30. We are in a contest with the other schools in Georgetown ISD, and we want to show that we are proud and committed parents of our McCoy scholars, teachers, staff and school!

## NEW TEXAS LAWS

Just as a friendly reminder, please be aware of some new state laws that recently came into effect.

Texas Legislation News: Two new laws are in effect: one banning teen drivers from using cell phones and text messaging devices; the other prohibiting drivers from using handheld cell phones in school zones. First violation carries a fine of \$50, fine increases to \$200/250 upon further violations.

2009 Texas legislation:

[Texas House Bill 55](#): Outlaws use of handheld devices in school zones and prohibits cell phone use by passenger bus drivers transporting minors unless the bus is stopped.

[Texas House Bill 339](#): Prohibits drivers under the age of 17 with restricted licenses from using wireless communications devices, including cell phones and text messaging devices.

Progress Reports will be sent out next Tuesday, September 15. Please be on the lookout for it.

## ART NEWS!

The art classroom is in need of baby wipes. We use them for quick clean-up of messy projects. If you are able to donate, we would really appreciate your help!



## VISION AND HEARING SCREENING!

Parents, please mark down on your calendar that McCoy will be having a vision and hearing screening on Wednesday and Thursday, September 16 and 17. Parents should remind scholars to bring prescription glasses to school (if not already) for the vision screening.

