

McConnell Minute
Principal, Mrs. Paula Everett-Truppi
12/14/09



PTA Meeting

McConnell PTA General Meeting - Tuesday, Dec. 15 at 6:30pm in the Cafeteria (immediately following the first Orchestra concert). Hot Chocolate & Desserts will be available for purchase. Spiritwear will be sold as well. Please join us!

McConnell Hoodies make great Christmas gifts! \$20 each, sizes limited. For more information, please email cguthrie68@yahoo.com.



6th Grade Orchestra Concert

Please join us for our very first 6th Grade Orchestra concert!

December 15 in MMS Gym #1

6A: Arrive at 5:30, concert at 6:00

6B: Arrive at 6:30, concert at 7:00

Wear: Red orchestra shirts, black dress pants, black dress shoes and black socks (Jeans and tennis shoes are not appropriate.)

Bring: folding stand, EE book, instrument (home cellos, as well)



6th Grade Science Fair Winner Correction

Annie M. is the 2nd place winner for 6th grade McConnell Middle Science Fair.



Candy Cane Grams

Spread some holiday cheer! Relay for Life is selling Candy Cane Grams for the bargain price of two for \$1. Students can purchase them in homeroom through Thursday, 12/17. Parents are welcome to stop by the front office and purchase them as well. Surprise your student with a candy gram!

Candy Grams will be delivered Friday, December 18.



Saddle Club

We had an awesome time at our last meeting. We were introduced to many of the horses at the farm, ate pizza and cupcakes, and finished with a quick walk around the ring on horseback! It was fantastic.

We are looking forward to beginning again in January. We are changing the format slightly, and will have a meeting every Tuesday alternating between Rancho Alegre and staying here at McConnell. Pick up will be by 6:00 at both locations each week. You will find the schedule on the Saddle Club icon of Mrs. Wilkinson's Homework Now site. It is not always alternating weeks, so please pay attention to the locations.

Please wear your Saddle Club shirt every Tuesday that we go to the Ranch. Also, we will have pictures at our next meeting on the Ranch on January 12.



Scholar's Bowl News

McConnell sent two Academic teams to the PAGE Gwinnett County Middle School Playoff Tournament in Duluth on December 12. There were teams from 14 Gwinnett middle schools competing in the Playoff. Both teams scored wins, and each of our teams topped 1000 total points scored for the day. Our B team won five of their seven rounds. Representing McConnell were: Kira P., Devin G., Emily E., Jenna R., Amber F., Johnathan V., John G., Mateo C., Ben W., and Garrett S., who was the day's top scorer for our teams. Congratulations to both teams for a job well done.



St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Math-A-Thon

In January we will begin our Math-A-Thon marathon. From January 11 until January 22, students may participate in a fundraiser for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Students work math problems and at the same time help save kid's lives. Students will receive a Math-A-Thon Funbook, prize information, and a pledge collection envelope when they return from Winter Break. They ask friends and family to donate money to St. Jude for their participation in the Math-a-thon. Then they turn in the pledge envelope to their homeroom teacher. **(All money should be in the form of a check payable to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.)** Students turning in \$35 or more will receive a Math-A-Thon t-shirt and a free ticket to Six Flags. More details of prizes will follow. Please do your part to help the children at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by participating. For additional information, contact Brenda Bailey at brenda_bailey@gwinnett.k12.ga.us.



Menu Update for Cafeteria

The lunch menu has been changed for the week of December 14-18.

December 14:

Turkey & Cheese Pre Packaged Sandwiches
Salsa Chips
Grape Giggles
Cookie
Milk Choice

December 15:

Hamburger/Bun
Chips
Bananas
Brownie Bites
Milk Choice

December 16 - Holiday Lunch:

Baked Ham/Roll
Corn Bread Stuffing
Mashed Potatoes
Cranberry Sauce
Gingerbread Cookie
Milk Choice

December 17:

Chicken Sandwich
Chips
Mini Carrots
Pink Cookie
Milk Choice

December 18:

PBJ Sandwiches
Salsa Chips
Grape Giggles
Peppermint Cookie
Milk Choice



Archer Wrestling Presents: Stars and Strikes Lock-in/Fundraiser

When: Friday, December 18 from Midnight to 6 am (Registration starts at 11:30pm)

Where: Stars and Strikes Dacula
1700 Winder Highway

Cost: \$25 (\$30 at the door)

Includes: Unlimited Bowling with shoe rental
Unlimited Laser Tag
Unlimited Bumper Cars

Movie Viewing Room
Pizza and Soft Drinks (midnight to 2 am) *Additional food and beverage available for purchase throughout the event

Tickets are available for purchase in the McConnell front office. CASH ONLY please.

For more information, contact Wandi Gaylen (770) 330-0771 or wandi@wandigaylen.com



Archer Youth Association Meeting

DATE: 12/16/09

TIME: 7:00 PM

LOCATION: ARCHER HIGH SCHOOL THEATER

The Archer Youth Association would like to invite you to meet the current board members of the Archer Youth Association. We will discuss the status of Harbins Active Park, basketball, baseball and football. We will open the floor for any questions from the public. If you would like to submit a question prior to this meeting, please email them to president@playaaasports.com



8th Students and Parents: eShare

Leave your lasting mark on the McConnell Yearbook! Would you like an opportunity to contribute a quote for potential use in the yearbook?

Whether it is a phrase that means a lot in your life or something you are known for saying, simply submit the quote, along with a photo, by going to eShare at www.hjeshare.com Enter the school code of 9010844. Share your insight!!



GSMST Open Enrollment

Registration information for Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology (GSMST) for the 2010-11 freshman class is available on the GCPS web site (www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us) and on the school web site (www.gsmst.org). Applications must be submitted no later than January 22, 2010 for consideration. GSMST is a charter school and therefore enrollment is open to all current Gwinnett County 8th grade students who complete the 8th grade requirements and who reside in the Gwinnett County Public Schools attendance zone. The rigorous course work at GSMST may not meet the needs of all students. As this is a school of choice, it is highly recommended that parents and students review the GSMST curriculum and learn more about the school's offerings before making a decision to register.



Scoliosis Screening Corrected Email Contact to Volunteer

McConnell PTA's Health and Safety Committee is looking for volunteers to help with their annual Scoliosis screening. This simple screening may help us be the first to notice changes in a child's spine, and it is a valuable service to our children. The screening will take place Wednesday, Jan. 13, at our school. There will be a short training session at 9am with the screening immediately following. Lunch will be provided to our volunteers as a token of our appreciation.

Please contact Joan Prichard at prichardga@yahoo.com if you are able to help us with this important screening. Thanks for your continued support.
Joan Prichard, MMS PTA



Yearbook Deadline Extended

Please note: Yearbooks will be distributed in May, but you must order by **Friday, Jan. 22** to ensure your child will have one reserved.

ORDER FORMS

You may download an order form on our school website, <http://www.mcconnellms.org/pdf/yearbook.pdf> or come by the front office.

FOUR CONVENIENT WAYS TO ORDER

1. PAY WITH CHECKS OR MONEY ORDER

- Make payable to MMS
- Place check/money order in a sealed envelope with the order form below.
- Submit to Ms. Gayle Carr in the front office.

2. PAY WITH CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD

- MMS is #939
- Order on-line www.YearbookOrderCenter.com
- Order toll free 1.866.287.3096

3. PAY WITH CASH

- Complete the order form below
- Place money in a sealed envelope with the order form below.
- Submit to Ms. Gayle Carr in the front office.

4. MAKE A DEPOSIT

- Deposit of \$15 must be received by January 22.
- Make payments in the months of Feb., Mar. and Apr.
- Or pay remainder in April.
- Balance must be received on April 13.
- If balance is not received by April 13, you forfeit the deposit and any payments.



Dates to Remember:

Tuesday, 12/15

6th Grade Orchestra Concert in Gym #1 6pm (6A) & 7pm (6B)
PTA General Meeting 6:30pm, Cafeteria (immediately following first orchestra concert)

Wednesday, 12/16

Red & White Game (Faculty vs. Students 4:30pm)

Students should be picked up no later than 6pm

Friday, 12/18

End of Second 9 Weeks 12/21/09-1/3/10
Winter Break

Monday, 1/4

Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

Thursday, 1/7

MMS vs. Couch (Grayson HS 5pm, Boys immediately following)

Saturday, 1/9

MMS vs. Sweetwater (Berkmar HS 9am, Boys immediately following)



New Testing Dates

Grades 6, 7 and 8 CRCT

April 19-23, 2009 - Monday-Friday

(Students were originally scheduled to take the CRCT April 13-19)



Staying Healthy!

We are reinforcing with staff members and students the importance of hand washing, coughing or sneezing into their arm and staying home if ill, especially if running a fever. Please remember any staff member or student who runs a fever must stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours (without the aid of a fever reducer).



The Parent Portal is Coming!

There is still time to sign up! Remember the Parent Portal goes "live" in January. For more information and to view the application form, please visit our website: <http://www.mcconnellms.org/parent.html>. Here you will find the directions and information regarding the Parent Portal. Registration must be in person, with a valid id.



Check Out

Student check outs are not permitted after 3:30pm. In order to be counted as present for the day, students must check in before 12:35pm. Students who check out before 12:35pm and do not return to school will be counted absent.



Bus Change Request- Permanent or Emergency

For student safety, behavior management on the buses and to avoid overcrowding, McConnell Middle School will not allow students to ride a different bus or to get off at a different bus stop unless there is a permanent bus change or an unexpected family emergency (i.e. serious illness or death in the family, accident, etc). For an emergency temporary or a permanent bus change, please contact the child's community office with a written note or phone call the morning of the request. Be sure to include a phone number where a parent or guardian can be reached to discuss the request.



Early Arrival to School

J. P. McConnell does offer morning study hall for those who arrive early to school. Students may be dropped off no earlier than 8:00 am. All students must report to the cafeteria. If scheduled to attend Help Day or another function, they will be dismissed from the cafeteria. Please do not drop off anyone prior to 8:00 am as we do not have staff members available to monitor students. We put the safety and security of your child first!



School Office and Staff Hours

Our front office hours are 8:00 am to 4:30 pm. Staff hours are 8:15 am to 4:15 pm.



Help Day

Help Day is every Wednesday morning from 8:15 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.



HOMEWORKNOW

Ever wondered what your student had for homework?

Visit our website, <http://www.mcconnellms.org> and click on the link to Homeworknow.com to see the assignments for your child's classroom.



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Grayson and Texas Roadhouse-Snellville. Thank you partners!**