

McConnell Minute
Principal, Mrs. Paula Everett-Truppi
9/23/09



School Council 2009-2010

Please help me welcome the members of this year's school council.

Parent Members:

Jeff Allen
Jeff Parmer
Brenda Ross
Colby Willhite
Renee Woodard

Staff Members:

Joan Prichard
Corey Helgesen

Business Partner:

Vulcan Materials, Bill Ottaway

The dates of our school council meetings will be: October 5, 2009, November 9, 2009, January 12, 2010, March 8, 2010, April 26, 2010 (7 pm at Archer HS). All meetings begin at 7:30 am and conclude about 9:00 am unless otherwise noted.



Parent Writing Night

Parents, you are invited to attend our Parent Writing Night on Tuesday, October 6, at 6:30 pm. This opportunity has been created to help you understand the writing program here at McConnell, along with Georgia's Grade 8 Writing Assessment. **Parents of all grade levels are encouraged**

to come to our cafeteria, pick up a copy of your child's GCA scored fall writing practice test and learn how to interpret the results. Volunteers are needed to hand out the scored papers. Please contact our PTA presidents Christie Williams and/or Colby Willhite at:

www.mcconnell-pta.org



2009 - 2010 Cheerleading Squad

We are so incredibly proud of all the girls who tried out. Everyone did really well this week, and the judges decisions were difficult. We would like to congratulate the following cheerleaders for making the 2009-2010 McConnell Tigers' Cheerleading Squad!

Hannah A., Ashley A., Taylor B., Haley D., Madison G., Jade L., Emily L., Courtney M., Morgan M., Lexie S., Shalyse S., Amelia T., Taylor T., Ashley T., Marley W., Kaitlyn W.



Archer Athletic Association Winter Basketball

Archer Athletic Association will offer winter basketball for boys & girls ages 5-18. The cost is \$160 for Online Registration or \$150 for Walk-up Registration. Additional family members will be \$150 each. Online registration is open now until October 24. Walk-up registrations will be held Thursday, 9/24 and 10/1 at Archer HS from 5-7pm. For more information or to contact someone, please visit www.PlayAAAsports.com



Archer Athletic Association Winter Cheerleading

Archer Athletic Association will offer winter basketball cheerleading for girls in grades K-8. Cost is \$95. Walk-up registration will be held at Archer HS on Thursday, 9/24, along with a mandatory uniform fitting, from 5-7pm. Online registration is open now until October 24. For more information or to contact someone, please visit www.PlayAAAsports.com



New Cafeteria Choices

New ala cart items will be available in the cafeteria beginning September 22, 2009. These new items are an additional cost to the lunch meal.

Soy milk (vanilla) \$0.60
Chocolate Milk Chugs \$1.00



Volunteers Needed

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 healthandsafety@mmspta.org if you are able to help us with this important screening. Thanks for your continued support.

Joan Prichard, MMS PTA



Scrapbook Club

The Scrapbooking Club will have its second meeting on Tuesday, October 6 in Ms. Pip's room in the Tiger Tower (2.120) after school until 5:30. New members should stop by Ms. Pip's room to get a permission form to be turned in before the meeting.



Important Yearbook Announcement

Order by October 1 to Save Money!

Yearbook: \$35

Yearbook with an engraved nameplate: \$40

Order October 1 – December 1

Yearbook: \$40

Yearbook with Engraved Nameplate: \$45

Yearbooks will be distributed in May, but you must order by Dec. 1 to ensure your son or daughter 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.

THREE WAYS TO ORDER

- **Submit Order to MMS. Send in order form and payment to Ms. Carr in the front office. Make checks payable to Herff Jones Yearbooks.**
- **Order on-line. www.YearbookOrderCenter.com. McConnell is order # 939.**
- **Call toll free. 1-866-287-3096, Mon-Fri, 9 am until 6 pm. McConnell is order #939.**

8th Students and Parents: eShare

Would you like an opportunity to contribute a meaningful quote for potential use in this year's Yearbook? Here is what to do...submit a photo along with the quote by going to eShare at www.hjeshare.com Enter the school code of 9010844. Share your insight!!



Book Fair

Attention McConnell Parents and Students. It's Book Fair time! Our fall book fair will begin on September 28 and will run through October 2, from 9am-3:45pm each day. It is only ONE week this year so make sure you ask your child when his language arts teacher is bringing their class in so that they have their money ready. Parents, feel free to come in during the day and browse our selection, books make wonderful gifts! See you at the fair!



Campus Life / FCA

Campus Life/ FCA begins this Thursday, September 24, and will meet every other Thursday at 8:15 in the Chorus Room at the end of Connections Hall. This student-led organization meets for devotional and fellowship activities. We allow for leadership opportunities at all grade levels and we are open to all students. Campus Life is a fun, exciting, vibrant group who sing songs, do skits and save time for meaningful devotionals and fellowship. We look forward to seeing you there!!



Dates to Remember:

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Wednesday, 9/23 | Archer Gwinnett Basketball League team tryouts |
| Wednesday, 9/23 - Friday, 9/5 | 8th Grade CogAT |
| Monday, 9/28 - Friday, 10/2 | Book Fair, Media Center |
| Thursday, 10/1 | 7th and 8th grade band concert |
| Monday, 10/5 | Fall Picture Day |
| Tuesday, 10/6 | Parent Writing Night 6:30 pm, Cafeteria |
| Friday 10/9 - Monday, 10/12 | School Holiday |
| Tuesday, 10/20 | Report Cards Issued |



Staying Healthy!

During the cold and flu season it is important that we all practice behaviors that promote good health. At McConnell, each classroom teacher was

supplied with hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray. As you visit our school you'll notice that our front office and computer labs are all equipped with hand sanitizer. As students enter the lunch line two automatic hand sanitizing machines have been installed. We are reinforcing with staff members and students the importance of handwashing, coughing or sneezing into their arm and staying home if ill, especially if they are running a fever. Please remember that 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).



Car Rider Lanes

Our car rider lanes are operating well. Good jobs parents! Just reminder if you are unloading or loading your student, please pull all the way down to the end of the loading or unloading lane. Stopping near the back of the lane or in the middle prevents us from loading/unloading more students. Thanks for your support!



8th Grade Fall Testing Information

Please make a note of testing dates. It is extremely important all students are present during testing.

CogAT Testing

This test measures development of abstract reasoning abilities through verbal, quantitative and nonverbal assessments. CogAT results are used to identify students' areas of strength and weakness.

Schedule

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday, September 23 | Verbal |
| Thursday, September 24 | Quantitative |
| Friday, September 25 | Nonverbal |

ITBS Testing

This test provides the school with information that indicates how well students are achieving in each area compared to national norms.

Schedule

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Monday, October 19 | Vocabulary & Reading Comprehension |
| Tuesday, October 20 | Language |
| Wednesday, October 21 | Math |
| Thursday, October 22 | Social Studies & Science |
| Friday, October 23 | Sources of Information |

TESTING TIPS

1. Get a good night's rest.
2. Eat a nutritious breakfast.
3. Arrive at school on time! Testing must begin at 9:20 and students must be in class by then to participate.
4. Bring #2 pencils.
5. Always do your BEST!

*NOTES: Once testing begins, tardy students are **not** admitted to class. Please avoid morning appointments during the testing schedule.*

**To ensure successful administration of the tests, we will not have Help Day for 8th grade students on Wednesday, September 23 (CogAT) or Wednesday, October 21 (ITBS). Thank you for your understanding. Your student's 8th grade teachers will be available on all other Wednesday Help Days should your student require academic assistance.



The Parent Portal is Coming!

Remember that 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. Remember that registration must be "face to face".



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!



McConnell Website

Gwinnett County Public Schools is now hosting our web site! When you type in our web address: www.mcconnellms.org you will be directed to the county web page for J.P. McConnell Middle School. At the top of the page you will see a link that will take you to our school web page.



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.



HOMWORKNOW

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.



Please thank our current School Business Partners with your patronage:
Publix-Grayson Village, Summit Chase Country Club, Vulcan Materials-Grayson and Texas Roadhouse-Snellville. Thank you partners!