



# McKinley mini-messenger

this week wednesday to wednesday October 14 - 21

Thurs 10/15

**Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill**

Sun 10/18

10am-2pm

**Picnic in the Park** - McKinley Playground - We'll be stuffing Halloween goodie bags for kids at the children's hospital

Mon-Fri 10/19-23

**Red Ribbon Week**

Wed 10/21

8:30am

**Makeup Picture Day** - Auditorium

1:35pm

**Snack Sales**

*Jue 10/15*

***Practica en Caso de Terremoto***

*Sun 10/18*

*10am-2pm*

***Picnic en el Patio*** - Campo de Recreo McKinley – Nosotros estaremos rellorando bolsitas con golosinas por el día de Halloween para los niños en el hospital de niños

*Mon-Fri 10/19-23*

***Red Ribbon Week***

*Wed 10/21*

*8:30am*

***Dia de Retratos si su hijo/a faltó en septiembre*** - Auditorio

*1:35pm*

***Venta de Meriendas/Snacks***



Week of October 12

Dear McKinley Families:

Hats off to a successful Bike It/Walk It event! Thank you to all students, staff & parents who helped organize this fun-filled event! It was great to see so many students participating and it was wonderful to see so many parents, students & staff lending a helping hand. I had so much fun biking to school with the students on Friday. We met at 17<sup>th</sup>/Arizona at 8:00 am and rode to school with Sergeant Rudy Flores. The police department was on hand at the Arizona gate to greet students and pass out pencils. This was a fantastic community event! Thank you again to everyone who helped with our annual Bike It/Walk It event!

We had our first literacy night this past Wednesday. I'm getting positive feedback regarding the presentations. If you weren't able to make this event, we have a link on our school website and you can review the power point presentations. Our next literacy night is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 pm. TK-grade 1 presentation will be in Room 100 and grades 2-5 presentation will be in Room 203. Child care is available in the cafeteria for ages 4 and up. Hope to see you there! This is a wonderful opportunity to get useful information about the California Standards, what to see in the classroom and how to help your child at home. Please encourage others to attend.

We need your help. We've had reports of bicycles being vandalized on our campus. Additionally, we've had reports of cars being vandalized in our parking lot. If you see any suspicious activity, please report it to the office right away.

My goal is to visit each classroom every day. This gives me an opportunity to connect with each child and support our staff. As I visited classrooms this week, I observed amazing art lessons, students working in the garden, and students participating in our TK-grade 2 music program in the auditorium. Additionally, I saw differentiation in the classroom during reading (students working in small groups with their just right books), teachers conducting academic conferences with students, students working on real life math problems, students setting reading goals, students working on phonics patterns, students reading silently and much, much more! If you have any questions regarding your child's educational program, please see your child's teacher to set up a conference.

Our literacy coach, Mike Ostrom, is working with 12 teachers on a book study that meets after school periodically. This is a voluntary professional development opportunity we offered to teachers. Teachers are paid for their time and receive a free book called, [The Reading Strategies Book](#), by Jennifer Serravallo. Teachers collaborate and discuss the various strategies outlined in the book and practice the strategies in their classroom. This is a great opportunity for our teachers to work together to support the learning of all of our students.

We will be participating in the Great Shake Out Drill this coming Thursday, October 15 at 10:15 am. We will practice our drop and cover procedures as well as our evacuation procedures. The drill will take at least 30 minutes. The office will be closed from 10:15 am-10:45 am. All staff and students (as well as parent volunteers on campus) will be part of the drill. This is an opportunity for us to practice so we are prepared in the event of an emergency. Moreover, we had a fire drill last Friday and practiced our evacuation procedures (the drill was conducted at from 9:15-9:30).

Don't forget to support our PTA Cold Stone Night on October 13th. I will be serving ice cream from 6:00- pm-7:00 pm. Hope to see you there! Remember, every Friday is school spirit day. Be sure to wear your McKinley shirt or blue and gold to show your school spirit!

Sincerely,

Susan Yakich  
Principal



The SMMUSD has developed attendance policies and procedures in order to comply with California state law. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of any absence and its impact on learning.

Because attendance is fundamental to your student's success and because our district is committed to student learning, it is imperative that we notify you when your child has missed school.

*Our school cares about your child's educational success and expects all children to arrive to school on time, every school day.*

Our teachers begin instruction daily at 8:30 a.m. thereby requiring all children to be in class ready to learn.

#### **Unexcused (Parent Received L1, L2, L3 Letter)**

In accordance with the State of California's Education Code [EC § 48260-48273], when any pupil is absent from school for 3 days or more without a valid excuse, or tardy 3 or more times in excess of 30 minutes we must notify the parent/guardian. Late arriving students disrupt and miss out on the valuable instructional process. Whenever possible we encourage all appointments including medical, therapy, dental and orthodontia to be scheduled after school hours or on non-school days.

#### **Excused (Parent Received EEA1, EEA2 Letter)**

In order to be consistent in our communications, our computers are pre-programmed to notify parents of student illnesses or excused absences at different intervals. You will receive an attendance letter from the school upon your child's 8th and then subsequently on the 14th excused absence. *This is because excused or unexcused, your child is missing valuable learning time, and excused absences should be very limited.*

### Frequently Asked Questions about...ATTENDANCE

To assist you in better understanding our District's policies we will answer some of the most frequently asked questions regarding attendance:

#### **1. What do I have to do if my child is going to be absent from school?**

Please call McKinley School at 310 828-5011 ext. 6511 or email loyenoki@smmusd.org. You must leave your child's name, the reason for the absence, the date of the absence and your name to verify that it was a parent/guardian that is verifying the absence. If you send a note upon your child's return to school, please do not give it to the teacher, make sure it goes to the office

#### **2. What does it mean to "verify" my child's absence?**

When a student is absent, parents are required to call/send a note to the attendance department in order to validate the reason for your child's absence. We call this process: Absence Verification.

#### **3. What happens after I have called in my child's absence?**

The attendance clerk will then proceed to mark your child's attendance record with an "Excused" or "Unexcused" absence according to Ed. Code and District policies.

#### **4. What happens if I forget to call my child's absence on the day of his/her absence?**

You may call to verify your child's absence up to 72 hours after your child has been absent. **Absences that are not verified within the time allowed will be considered unexcused absences. After our attendance month accounting cycle closes unexcused absences due to non-verification cannot be overwritten or changed.**

#### **5. What is considered an Excused Absence?**

By law [EC § 48205], excused absences are: illness (fever 100° or more, your child must be fever free for twenty four hours before returning to school), persistent runny nose with yellow-green mucous discharge, rashes [unless there is a note from your physician stating that your child is not contagious], vomiting [If your child is sent home vomiting he/she needs to be vomit free for twenty four hours before returning to school], diarrhea [If your child is sent home from school with diarrhea he/she needs to be diarrhea free for twenty four hours before returning to school], medical/dental appointments (doctor's note required for verification), death in the family, specific religious reasons, required appearance in court, and exclusion from school for contagious disease.

**6. What happens if my child is absent more than 8 days during a school year?**

In order to be consistent in our communications, our computers are pre-programmed to notify parents of student illnesses at different intervals. You will receive an attendance letter from the school upon your child's 8th and then subsequently on the 14th excused absence.

**7. What happens if my child continues to be absent beyond 14 excused absences?**

After reaching 14 absences for "illness" parents will be required to provide a doctor's note for each subsequent absence.

**8. What can I do if my child has a chronic illness that prevents him/her from being at school regularly?**

SMMUSD offers alternative educational options for students with special circumstances that have been verified by a physician.

**9. What if my child's absences do not fall under any of the Excused Absences categories?**

State law [EC § 48260-48273] is very specific about these types of absences. A student who is absent from school without a valid excuse will be marked "unexcused" for the day. These types of absences are also called "Truancies"

**10. I thought "truancy" indicated that a child skipped/ditched school. Why would my child be considered "Truant" if I have called to verify the absence?**

In accordance with Education Code of the State of California [EC § 48260-48273], any pupil who is absent from school for 3 days or more without a valid excuse, or tardy in excess of 30 minutes or more (Tardies are only excused with a parent note for illness, doctor/dental note for appointments), is "truant".

**11. What about coming in late (tardy) or leaving early for an appointment?**

According to State Law [EC § 48260-48273] a student that is absent from school in excess of 30 minutes during a school day is also considered "truant." *Compulsory Education Law* therefore, requires a student to attend a *full day every day!*

**12. What is the process for a child with more than 3 unexcused absences/Tardies?**

You will receive a letter from the school upon the 3rd (third) and the consequently upon the sixth absence/truancy. On the second letter (6th absence/truancy) you will be asked to attend a SART meeting which is a meeting with the Assistant Principal. Additional unexcused absences will result in a referral to the *School Attendance Review Board* and possible referral to the District Attorney for prosecution. Additional unexcused attendance may result in being referred to the Student Attendance Review Board (SARB).

**13. What can I do if my child needs to be out of school for a length of time?**

If your child must go out of town for five or more days, you may request that your child is signed up for an Independent Study Agreement. Please note that teachers need at least one week's notice in order to prepare materials without interrupting their instructional time.

*We hope this information has helped you to better understand SMMUSD's attendance Policies and procedures. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact Liz Oyenoki at 310-828-5011 ext. 65121.*

McKinley Elementary's Annual  
**halloween harvest  
festival**

**Friday, Oct. 30**

**4:00-7:00 pm**



There are lots of ways to get involved in the upcoming Halloween Harvest Festival!

Come to the **planning meetings** in the cafeteria each Wednesday in Oct. at 8:45 AM after drop off!

**Donate Mini Pumpkins or Bake Sale Goodies or Give an Hour of your Time!**

**Questions?** Contact Doug DeBeech: [dbsquared1@aol.com](mailto:dbsquared1@aol.com) or (310) 909-3795

*Your kids will love  
seeing you help their school!*

Sign up on the **Harvest Volunteer Board**  
or go online to [www.mckinleyevents.com](http://www.mckinleyevents.com)

# Wanted!

**Goblins and Ghouls  
Who Are Good with Tools!**

any parent/adult who would like to be part of the construction and operation of this year's Haunted House, please contact Jason Hughes: [jasonhconstruction@gmail.com](mailto:jasonhconstruction@gmail.com) or 310-968-6463 or Jennie Wadsworth: (310) 451-4427 or [jennie.wadsworth@gmail.com](mailto:jennie.wadsworth@gmail.com).

## Haunted House Hours

Sunday, Oct. 25	10am - 2pm
Monday-Thursday, Oct. 26-29	6 - 9pm
Sunday, Nov. 1 (tear down)	10am - 2pm



**The more,  
the scarier!**

# ~~I Survived~~ the Haunted House

at McKinley  
Elementary's  
Halloween  
Festival



## CASTING CALL FOR 5TH GRADERS ONLY!

We are searching for students who would like to be characters in the haunted house!

One hour shifts on Friday, Oct. 30 - 4:00-7:00 p.m. at the Halloween Harvest Festival

If you are interested, you must attend a Training Session Wednesday, October 28 at 1:45 p.m. or Thursday, October 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium. Parents must sign a waiver form.

Contact Jennie Wadsworth with any questions: (310) 451-4427 or [jennie.wadsworth@gmail.com](mailto:jennie.wadsworth@gmail.com).