

The Tartan Tribune

The Newsletter of McCullough Junior High

November 2008

www.conroeisd.net

Volume 9 Issue 5

Yearbooks

Orders for the 2008-09 McCullough yearbook can now be placed online at www.smart-pay.com. Orders include a free line of personalization for the student's name. Please include their middle initial. Orders will be accepted until Winter Break on December 19th.

Motivational Production

McCullough students will be viewing our annual Motivational Production as part of Red Ribbon Week on October 29th in the big gym. The production is titled "Fearless" and is an Imax-like presentation. Students will not have Advisory and will view the shows by grade level in the afternoon. If you are picking your child up for a doctor's appointment, I would advise bringing a slip in during the morning to arrange in advance.

Sci://Tech 2009

Sci://Tech 2009 will be a little different this year. The junior high science fair competition will occur on Friday, February 20th, a week earlier than in the past, with the senior high competition happening the week before that, on February 14th. The rest of the Sci://Tech 2009 events, along with all of the award ceremonies will occur on February 28th. The awards ceremony is tentatively scheduled to occur at TWCP auditorium this year to allow more seating. Look for more information from your student's science teacher as the fair approaches.

Socials

The McCullough Junior High P.T.A. will be hosting socials on the evenings of:

Seventh Grade- December 5th

Eighth Grade- January 30th (revised date)

These events will run from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. and are for McCullough Junior High students only. I.D.s will be checked at the door. Regular dress code is in effect and no bags, drinks, or food will be allowed in the building. If you would like to volunteer to work this exciting event, please contact Liz Golze at lizg_houston1@comcast.net.

Drop off on this evening will be on the west side when the doors open at 7:00 p.m. Please do not drop your child off prior to 7:00 p.m. Pick up will be on the west football field side for people with last named of A-K and on the east side by the water tower and Woodsedge for people with last names of L-Z. If your child is carpooling please plan to pick them up on the west side by the football field.

Early Release on March 27th

McCullough Junior High will have early release on March 27th. Please check our website for release times and modified schedule. If picking up your child on these dates, please expect the car rider line to be much longer than usual. Please note October 24th is now a full day after Hurricane Ike.

Coats for Kids Drive

McCullough and many other CISD schools will be participating in the 6th annual Coats for Kids drive. If you have a coat or jacket in good condition that your family no longer uses, please drop it off in the bin located in the front office. We will accept coats until November 10th. All donated coats will be cleaned and distributed to CISD students in need of a coat or jacket.

GT Nominations

Nominations for GT Screening open October 1, 2008 and close December 19, 2008. Parents and teachers may nominate students to be screened for GT. Should a teacher nominate a child for GT screening, parents will be notified of screening opportunities. If parents are interested in nominating their child for GT, please e-mail Ashley Pointer and request a nomination form. Parents can also find a nomination form on the CISD GT homepage. GT screening is done on campuses after the start of the second semester. Details about that screening will be coming at a later date.

Peanut Free Table

McCullough does have a table in our cafeteria devoted exclusively to students who need to eat in a peanut free environment. This table is located by the podium in the cafeteria and marked with signs.

P.T.A. General Meetings

The McCullough Junior High P.T.A. has remaining meetings on the following dates at 9:30 a.m.:

January 24th and April 24th

October 24th is now a Full Day

Please note October 24th is now a full regular day. With the original schedule, prior to Hurricane Ike, it was to be an early release day.

Change of Address, E-mail, or Phone Number

If you move to a new address in our attendance zone, please be sure to notify our registrar, Cindy Specht, of the change. It is critical that we have the correct address in our MIS System so that mailouts, reports cards, important summer information, and course verifications get to you. Also, if you change phone numbers, including cell phones, please let Ms. Specht know so that we can update our emergency contact and clinic information cards. Ms. Specht can be contacted at cspecht@conroeisd.net.

Veterans' Day Tradition

Each year students in 8th grade history choose a United States veteran to honor. Students interview the veteran and then make a poster identifying the branch of the military they served in, their years of service, and other key features. With the help of our PTA volunteers, the posters are then displayed in front of the school during the week of Veterans' Day. This year the posters will be on display from Nov. 8- Nov. 12 (weather permitting). Please invite your friends, family & especially any veterans you know to come and see this impressive display of posters honoring over 1000 veterans. We hope that through this activity students acquire a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by the men and women who serve in the U.S. military & learn to express that appreciation by taking the time to honor one individual.

U.I.L. Eligibility in Junior High

Please note that all courses taken in junior high, including high school and Pre-AP courses, all count for U.I.L. eligibility. Unlike high school, there are no classes which qualify as "exceptions." Students must be passing all courses at the end of the first six weeks as well as the first nine weeks to be eligible for contests. A young person who was ineligible would still practice. *The first major eligibility date for passing is October 10th, 2008.* For a complete chart of all UIL dates please see the "Progress Report and UIL Calendar" on the parent services page of our website.

Principal: Chris McCord

Assistant Principals:

Steve Skidmore (7th A-K)
Shannon York (7th L-Z)
Jerry Horan (8th A-K)
Wes Henson (8th L-Z)

Counselors:

Libby Henderson (7th A-K)
Jana Shriver (7th L-Z)
Marti Meerscheidt (8th A-K)
Steven Jessen (8th L-Z)

Upcoming Events

- 10/21 Picture Retake Day
- 11/8 Veterans Day Posters on Display in Front
- 11/26 Thanksgiving Holidays
- 12/5 Seventh Grade Social
- 12/22 Winter Break Begins
- 1/12/09 First Semester Exams
- 1/15/09 U.I.L. Eligibility Date
- 1/20/09 2009-2010 Course Guide Available Online
- 1/22/09 Incoming Eighth Grade Parent Information Meeting
- 1/24/09 P.T.A. Meeting
- 1/27/09 Incoming Seventh Grade Parent Meeting
- 1/28/09 Incoming Seventh Grade Parent Meeting
- 1/30/09 Eighth Grade Social
- 2/2/09 Incoming Seventh Grade Elective Information Night
- 2/11/09 Cheerleader Info Mtg
- 3/9/09 Cheer Clinic Begins
- 3/13/09 Cheer Tryouts
- 3/16/09 Spring Break Begins
- 3/27/09 U.I.L. Eligibility Date
- 3/27/09 Early Release
- 4/7/09 Highland Girl Clinic Begins
- 4/10/09 Holiday
- 4/18/09 Highland Girl Tryouts
- 4/24 P.T.A. Meeting
- 5/25/09 Memorial Day Holiday
- 5/29/09 All books due to be returned

All dates are tentative

McCullough Phone Numbers

Transportation: (832) 592-8800
Main Line: (832) 592-5100
Metro Line: (832) 482-6215
Main Line: (936) 709-7215
Fax: (832) 592-5116
Attendance: (832) 592-5111
Attendance: (936) 709-5111
Kidchat Tipline (888) KIDCHAT

Office Hours 8-5 each school day

Highland Girl Spring Tryout Information

3/24 - Tryout Information Meeting

4/7 - Tryout Clinic Begins

4/18 - Team Tryouts

4/18 - Officer Tryouts

4/19 - Results posted

All dates and times are subject to change.

Bullying

Early in this school year our administrators will meet with students through language arts classes to discuss school procedures, expectations, and where to go in our building for help with any need. A wide range of topics will be covered including the Student Handbook. One aspect of this will be bullying prevention. If your child is bullied or perceives he/she is bullied at school, please have your student contact his/her administrator in the grade level offices. Our staff works hard to prevent and solve any potential problem involving this subject, but we must know about it to be able to assist.

Report Cards Mailings

During the 2008-2009 school year, report cards will be mailed home at mid-term and the end of the school year. Report cards will be sent to parents/guardians via students approximately on November 1st and April 3rd.

Athletics Website

Our McCullough Junior High Athletics Website has complete information on everything you need to know regarding our athletic program. The site includes directions to games, coaches, e-mail addresses, schedules, results, etc.

Calling in Absences for a Sick Child

To report an all day absence, please call the attendance line *each day your student will be absent* at 832-592-5111 or 936-709-5111.

Front Desk Hours

Our front desk is open for business from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. each school day.

Review of Exams

Examinations and tests administered by McCullough and most secondary schools are part of a larger body of common assessments developed for accuracy and quality covering the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS). These confidential exams, and parts of exams, are utilized among our staff within common departments, as well as components of the exams with other campuses. Students will review stumble sheets with their instructor to correct any mistakes made and emphasize learning. Should you like to review an exam in person with your child's instructor, please contact the instructor directly via e-mail.

No Dismissal Pick Up After 3:35 p.m.

Should you wish to pick your child up in the afternoon for an appointment, please make sure to do so prior to **3:35**. If picking up your child after 3:15 p.m. for an appointment, it is **strongly** recommended you park on the west side of the front horseshoe or the west parking lot.

Students Contacting Parents/Guardians

Along with keeping your phone/address information current with our PEIMS office and clinic, it is very helpful if students have a parent/guardians complete set of contact numbers including work, all cell phones, and home numbers. Students can utilize our front office phones after school free of charge. Being able to contact you is invaluable in many cases. It is also important that students know where they live and their address.

Medications on Campus

Please remember that students are NOT allowed to transport medications to or from school. The TEA (Texas Education Association) explicitly prohibits nurses from dispensing ANY medication unless it has been provided by the parent and a written permission obtained. If you are not readily available during the school day, you might consider leaving a small bottle of medication such as Tylenol or Ibuprofen in the clinic in case your child should need it. If you have a student with asthma who will be participating in track or other athletics this spring, please provide the nurse with an inhaler for the coach. Call the clinic directly at 832-592-5117 with any questions.

Releasing Your Child Early for Appointments

Please send a note with your child and have them drop off the note at the main office. The note should include the student's name, date of release, time you will pick up the student, parent/guardian name, and parent/guardian signature. If picking up your child after 3:15 p.m. for an appointment, it is **required** you park in the west parking lot.

C.I.S.D. School Board Policy For Advancement

Students in junior high are required to pass three out of the four major core classes to advance to the next grade. **Language arts and math class must be passed along with either science and/or social studies (preferably both) in order to advance to ninth grade.**

KidChat

Conroe I.S.D. operates an anonymous Tipline where students can phone in any concern they have regarding a student or situation. All tips are followed up on as quickly as possible. With a call in a student is given a code number and if the tip directly leads to a felony arrest the caller may be eligible for a reward. Please note the number is 1-888-KIDCHAT.

First Semester Exams

First semester exams for the 2008-2009 school year will begin on January 12th.

Cheerleaders Spring Tryout Information

February 11th - Tryout Info Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium (packets will be available for pick up at the meeting ONLY)!!!

February 17th - Packets due to McC office by 3:50 p.m.

March 9th -12th - Tryout Clinic 4:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m.

March 13th - Tryouts (No early release) approximately @ 4:30 p.m.

March 14th - Results Posted by 5:00 p.m.

March 26th - New Member Info Meeting @ 6:00 p.m. in the Commons LGI

All dates and times are subject to change.

Peers Assisting With Schoolwork (PAWS)

Beginning in September, McCullough will offer free homework help Tuesdays and Thursdays after school. Times for PAWS will be 4:00 p.m. until 4:45 p.m. each day in the downstairs library. This free service will be staffed by one of our teachers and Interact students from TWHS.

Tentative TAKS Testing Dates

3/3	Grade 8 Reading and Grade 7 Writing
4/7	Grade 8 Math
4/27	Grade 7 LAT Math
4/28	Grade 3-8 LAT Reading
4/28	Grade 7 Math
4/29	Grade 7 Reading and Grade 8 Reading (Retest)
4/30	Grade 8 Science
5/1	Grade 8 LAT Science
5/1	Grade 8 Social Studies
5/19	Grade 8 Math (Retest)
6/30	Grade 8 Math (Retest)
7/1	Grade 8 Reading (Retest)

- All TAKS Dates are very much subject to change by TEA
- A small percentage of students will be involved in LAT testing
- Eighth grade students are required by TEA to pass the reading and math tests in order to advance to ninth grade

SSI Requirements

The State of Texas has established the Student Success Initiative. This policy holds that all eighth graders **must** pass the reading and math portions of TAKS next year to advance to ninth grade. Please refer to the TEA website for details.

Lone Star Cup Champions

Congratulations to TWHS for repeating as Dodge University Interscholastic League Lone Star Cup Champions. This yearly state award recognizes the outstanding competitive academic and athletic high school in Texas.

Parent Access Center Online Information Database

Conroe Independent School District provides a free database of information which is available online 24/7 for your viewing. With Parent Access Center one can view attendance, grades, major discipline infractions, past TAKS results, current lunch balance, etc. Along with this information, the e-mail account of which you utilize for sign up will receive school e-mails with important information including upcoming events, breaking news, athletic contests cancellations due to weather when possible, etc. By accessing the same area of our district webpage at www.conroeisd.net parents/guardians can add additional e-mail addresses to receive this information if you choose. **Please be sure to read the FAQs if you have difficulty with your login.**

Incoming Eighth Grade Parent Information Meeting

McCullough will host its annual incoming eighth grade information meeting the evening of January 22nd, 2009 beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Bock Auditorium.