



Jean McNair Elementary

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Principal
Sean Monahan

September 18, 2017

Dear Parents,

Another school year is off to a great start. Thank you to all who were able to attend our Open House on Tuesday, August 22, we had 92% of our students and their families stop by to visit classrooms! Just a reminder that you can expect newsletters like this one sent home on a monthly basis with important news and upcoming dates. These newsletters can also be found on the Winnebago Schools website, Jean McNair Elementary page at <http://www.winnebagoschools.org/schools/mcnair>.

IMPORTANT NEWS FOR THOSE PICKING UP AND DROPPING OFF STUDENTS:

Please plan ahead of time with your child whether you'll drop off and/or pick up students along the sidewalks in the front OR back of the building. Behind the school, you can pull right up to the back door and in front of the school, you should pull right up past the front doors to McNair to the northeast corner of the building. *If you choose to park in the parking lots, please walk up to the sidewalks and wait for your child on the sidewalk.*

**FOR YOUR CHILD'S SAFETY, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THEY ARE NOT
RUNNING OUT INTO THE PARKING LOT TO MEET YOU.**

*ALSO, PARENTS AND OTHER VISITORS SHOULD ALWAYS REPORT TO THE
OFFICE BEFORE, DURING, AND AFTER SCHOOL TO RECEIVE A VISITOR'S
BADGE. PARENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WAIT IN THE OFFICE OR OUTSIDE THE
SCHOOL BUILDING FOR STUDENTS TO BE DISMISSED. THANK YOU FOR
YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER AS WE WORK TO SAFELY DISMISS
YOUR CHILDREN.*

Just a reminder when sending lunch money to school with your child, please send the money in an envelope with your child's first and last name clearly marked on the envelope, as well as the amount you've enclosed. In addition, if calling the school about a last minute change in plans regarding how your child will get home at the end of the day, please call before 2pm so we have time to get the message to your child.

PTO Fall Fundraiser order forms are due back to school by this Wednesday, September 20. Be sure to check out the following link for information on this fall's fundraiser:

http://www.winnebagoschools.org/schools/mcn/pto_fundraiser_fall_2017.

Thank you in advance of your support of the Winnebago PTO, all money raised will go towards special projects at Simon and McNair Elementary Schools, including McNair's upcoming playground project. At McNair, in the past, PTO has financed PE equipment, library materials, classroom materials, including contributing to field trip costs, as well as playground upgrades. Speaking of PTO, their meetings this year will be held on the third Monday of the month beginning at 3:30pm in the district conference room at McNair Elementary. The first meeting is today, Monday, September 18, here at McNair.

Students at McNair recently completed our first round of STAR testing in the areas of Reading and Math and the results are being used to screen and progress monitor student growth, plan for instruction, measure performance and determine growth and effectiveness. The math component tests general math achievement within 54 skill sets that fall into the following domains of numbers and operations, data analysis, statistics, and probability, algebra, as well as geometry and measurement. The reading component assesses 36 reading skills within the following domains including word knowledge and skills, analyzing literary text, understanding author's craft, comprehension strategies and constructing meaning, as well as analyzing argument and evaluating text. These results are just a snapshot of your child's academic picture and these results will be shared with you at Parent Teacher Conferences in late October.

Tomorrow, Tuesday, September 19, is Fall Picture Day. Forms were sent home recently with further details, including cost and payment options. Forms and money are due on picture day and even if you are not purchasing a package, your child will have their picture taken for the yearbook and class composite picture. PLEASE remember that if you are purchasing pictures, the money for these is due on Tuesday, September 19. The forms sent home also give instructions for submitting payment online, if you would rather pay that way.

Friday, September 29, is the date of our first ever Parents Night Out, PBIS school fundraiser. For a flat \$15.00 per child, \$10.00 for each additional child (\$35.00 maximum), school staff will provide supervision, activities and food for your children in grades 3-5 and their siblings in grades K-2 from 6pm-10pm so parents may enjoy some time to themselves. Again, this is a flat rate, which breaks down to about \$3.75 per hour for child care on a Friday night. What a bargain for you and a fundraiser for McNair's PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) program at the same time!

Elementary conferences this fall are scheduled for Wednesday, October 25, from 4-7:30pm and Thursday, October 26 from 1-7:30pm. Please note that students will also be dismissed at 1pm on Wednesday, September 27 and again on Wednesday, October 25, for School Improvement afternoons and there is NO SCHOOL for students on Thursday, October 26 because of conferences and Friday, October 27 because of a School Improvement Day. There is also NO SCHOOL on Monday, October 9, due to the Columbus Day holiday.

From the desk of the Music Department:

Fifth grade students have been learning about the beginning band program here at McNair with Mr. Maher and Mrs. Mitchell. There will be a fifth grade parent/student meeting and rental night on Wednesday, September 20, at 6:30pm in the *high school gym*. Please plan to attend if your child has expressed an interest in joining band because many questions will be answered and information shared during this session.

From the desk of the Nurse:

Nursing staff will be conducting Vision and Hearing Screening of all students this year. All students will be screened and you will be notified should there be any concerns raised. In addition, please make sure students who need to be excused from PE classes and/or recess due to injuries have a note on file with the nurse. If we don't have something on file, we have to ask your child to participate in PE class and recess.

NEWS FROM Winnebago High School ATHLETICS:

Students attending sporting events are required to attend with a parent, guardian, or an accompanying adult if they are 8th grade or younger. Students found to be at an event without a parent, guardian, or accompanying adult will be sent home. Students are also expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times and are expected to be seated and watching the event with their parent, guardian, or accompanying adult. They are also expected to clean up after themselves by disposing of garbage properly. Failure to follow expectations may lead to removal from an event and/or being banned from future events.

NEWS FROM Winnebago School District FOOD SERVICE:

Please note that free and reduced meal application forms are available in each school office and in the district office. The form can also be accessed on the District 323 website. Also, parents can be mailed a form by contacting any school or district office. Completed application forms can be submitted at any office in the school district.

In addition, when sending money to school for student lunch accounts please make sure you are sending it in an envelope marked clearly with the child's name and teacher to ensure proper credit to your child's lunch account.

School cafeterias in Winnebago continue to meet tough new federal nutrition standards for school meals, ensuring that meals are healthy and well balanced and provide students all the nutrition they need to succeed at school. Now is a great time to encourage your kids to choose school breakfast and/or lunch, both are offered every day students are in attendance!

School meals offer students milk, fruits and vegetables, proteins and grains, and they must meet strict limits on saturated fat and portion size. School lunches will meet additional standards set by the federal government requiring:

Age appropriate calorie limits, larger servings of vegetables and fruits (Students must take at least one serving of produce), a wider variety of vegetables, including dark green and red/orange vegetables and legumes, fat-free or 1% milk (flavored milk must be fat-free) and more whole grains and less sodium.

School meals are a great value and a huge convenience for busy families too! We also offer breakfast at all of our schools. At the elementary level, breakfast costs \$1.75 and lunch costs \$2.55 and the reduced costs are \$0.30 for breakfast and \$0.40 for lunch. Our school lunch menus are posted on the district website and we look forward to welcoming your children to the cafeteria this year.

This looks like all for now. Look for another update in October, or as news happens. Please mark your calendars now for the following days off:

Wednesday, September 27 (Dismissal at 1pm), *School Improvement Afternoon*

Monday, October 9 (NO SCHOOL), *Columbus Day Holiday*

Wednesday, October 25 (Dismissal at 1pm), *School Improvement Afternoon and Parent Teacher Conferences from 4-7:30pm*

Thursday, October 26 (NO SCHOOL), *Parent Teacher Conferences from 1-7:30pm*

Friday, October 27 (NO SCHOOL), *School Improvement Day*

Sincerely,

Mr. Sean Monahan, Principal