



THE MCFALL MONTHLY
 A Monthly Newsletter Published By
 McFall Elementary School
 November 2011



Message from Mr. Washburn:

I hope you and your child have had a great start to the school year! I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for taking such an active role in your child's education. Our continued partnership will only enhance the educational experience for your student, and I appreciate everything you do! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to stop in or give me a call.



A Message from the School Counselor
Small Group Counseling Invitation

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

The school year is off and running and before we know it, the holidays will be on our minds. The holiday season can be a difficult time for families that have suffered the loss of a loved one. Because families gather together at this time, many feelings may resurface for the children because of the absence of their special person. An important part of the grief process is to pay tribute to and remember the one who has died on special occasions.

I would like to assemble small groups of students who have experienced a significant loss. The group provides the participants an opportunity to meet peers that have had a similar loss. I am expecting that we would have 4-5 meetings during the regular school day, beginning in November. The group activities are developmentally appropriate; activities will include drawing, journaling, arts and craft projects, and sharing the memories of our loved ones.

If you believe your student would benefit from this group, please email me at mholwerda@tkschools.org, or call at (269) 795-7944, ext. 4546. Once I have a list of participants, I will send home a letter with the dates and times of our meetings and ask for your permission to have your student participate. Thank you so much for the opportunity to work with your child.

Ms. Holwerda
 Elementary School Counselor



Recess

Recess is scheduled daily and students should have winter clothing - heavy coat, snow pants, hats, mittens or gloves, and boots to stay warm and dry. When the actual temperature or wind chill falls below 0 degrees, we will have an indoor recess. On the many days that we are able to go outside for recess, all students are expected to participate in the recess.



Upcoming Young 5's and Kindergarten Friday Schedule

November 4:	M-W Classes in Session
November 11:	T-Th Classes in Session
November 18:	M-W Classes in Session
November 25:	No School — Thanksgiving Break
December 2:	M-W Classes in Session
December 9:	T-TH Classes in Session
December 16:	M-W Classes in Session

School is closed for the holidays from December 19 through January 2.
 School resumes on TUESDAY, JANUARY 3.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES:

Our annual fall parent teacher conferences will be held during the week of 11/7 for first grade and the weeks of 11/7 and 11/14 for Kindergarten/X5's. McFall teachers plan their conferences at various times and parents will be notified of their individual meeting time. Positive communication between the home and the classroom greatly increases the child's chance of success in school, so we encourage parents to make note of their conference time and make every effort to attend. If you can't attend the scheduled time, please contact your child's teacher, and we will make every effort to schedule a conference at another time or date.

Food Service Information:

McFall Elementary and all TK buildings offer Breakfast daily to students before school starts. Breakfast is only \$1.25 and reduced breakfast is \$.30. Please note that if your child receives free lunch they are also eligible for free breakfast. Each day we offer the following for breakfast: Assorted Cereal with String cheese or Graham Cracker, Whole Grain Pop-Tarts, Yogurt Cup with Graham Cracker pack, Bagel with Cream cheese, and we also offer 1 hot rotating special each day (Breakfast Pizza, Breakfast Sandwich, Cinnamon Roll, or Pancakes). Each breakfast includes a 100% fruit juice and milk.



Lunch menus are available online @ www.tkschools.org under the Food Service Department section. We offer 3 lunch entrée choices daily. Each lunch includes a fruit, vegetable, and choice of 1% white milk or Skim Chocolate milk daily. Please note that milk is only included if a child takes a meal that day. Your child is welcome to purchase milk ala carte for \$.45 with their cold lunch. Lunch balances and purchase histories can be checked online at www.sendmoneytoschool.com. If you would like to receive email notices when your child's account balance is getting low please email awalker@tkschools.org or your welcome to call Alan Walker @ 795-5409 to get that set up.

We are required by the state of Michigan to have a new free / reduced lunch application on file for each school year. Applications expire each school year on September 30th. If your financial situation has changed please fill out a free / reduced lunch form by picking one up from your building office, download one from the TK schools website, or go online to www.lunchapp.com.

please contact Alan Walker (Food Service Director for Thornapple Kellogg Schools) @ 795-5409 or email awalker@tkschools.org if you have any questions or comments regarding Food Service.

Thank you,

Alan Walker

Check out the TK PTO — NOW ON FACEBOOK!

