

MCKINLEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ACTIVITY GUIDE



Dear Parents and Guardians:

McKinley strives to create a school environment in which children are exposed to many facets of learning in order to allow them to become well-rounded individuals. It is our hope that through providing children with a well-rounded curricular program coupled with a variety of extra-curricular activities we will expose children to opportunities for learning that may broaden their horizons and foster an interest that may become a life-long career path or interest.

McKinley prides itself on being able to provide a variety of activities that will appeal to a variety of students and interests and it our belief that the activities that we offer will provide children with opportunities for growth and learning on many levels. We continue to seek to expand and tailor our extra-curricular programs to meet the needs of the student population that we serve and continue to look for ways to continue to improve our activities. The activities are held based upon student interest and faculty availability.

We encourage every child at McKinley to find their niche in our school and become a part of one of the programs or activities being offered, particularly at the intermediate level. We feel that by encouraging children to explore opportunities for growth and learning we are best preparing them to leave the elementary school environment and enter the junior high school. We ask you to support your child in finding activities that best meet their needs and interests. Parents are also an active part of our activities here at McKinley and we invite you to be a part of the programming here as much as you are able and welcome your participation in our activities at whatever level you choose. We are looking forward to another successful year of activities here at McKinley.

The clubs and activities listed in this booklet are a sampling of clubs and activities available to the students at McKinley Elementary School. The clubs and

activities offered in any given year are determined by faculty sponsorship and interest.

LIST OF ACTIVITIES

1. Art Club (Primary Grades)
2. Arts and Crafts Club
3. Book Club (Intermediate Grades)
4. Book Club (Primary Grades)
5. Board Game Club
6. Bricks For Kidz
7. Cheerleaders
8. Chess Club
9. Chorus
10. Chorus (Honors)
11. Conversation Club
12. Cup Stacking Club
13. Exercise Club
14. Garden Activities
15. Girls Inc.
16. Homework Club
17. Intramural Sports
18. Instrumental Music
19. K-Kids
20. Korean Language Club
21. Math Olympiad
22. McKinley Academy
23. McKinley Ambassadors
24. McKinley Step Team
25. McMail Program
26. McWrite Program
27. Nutrition Club
28. Odyssey of the Mind Club
29. Odyssey of the Mind Teams

30. Parent Sponsored Clubs
31. Parent Tutors
32. Photography Club
33. Peer Mediator Program
34. Poetry Slam
35. P.S.S.A. Prep Club
36. Reading Olympics
37. Roots and Shoots Club
38. School Newspaper
39. School Safety Patrol
40. School Play
41. Sewing Club
42. Spanish Club
43. Student Council
44. Radio Club
45. Technology Club
46. Track Team
47. Train Club
48. V.I.B.E./I.M.A.G.I.N.E.
49. Writing Club
50. Zumba Club

ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB



SPONSOR: The Abington Art Center

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

The arts and crafts club is designed to provide the children at McKinley with an opportunity to experience artistic activities outside of the art classroom in relaxed, after school environment. The club will work to complete various crafts and artwork through its meetings. The children will be encouraged to further their artistic expression through these activities and have fun making products that will be able to be taken home. This club is designed to be for those students who have an interest in arts and crafts or who would like to have an opportunity to explore this area.

ART CLUB (PRIMARY GRADES)



SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

The primary art club is designed to offer primary grade students (students in grades K-3 with an opportunity to explore artistic activities outside of the art classroom in a relaxed, after school environment. The club will work to complete art projects which are specifically designed for primary grade students and the children will be encouraged to further their artistic expression through these activities and have fun making products that will be able to be taken home. This club is designed for children who have an interest in arts and crafts and who would like the opportunity to explore their artistic interests.

BOARD GAME CLUB



SPONSOR: Dr. Jen Downs and Ms. Dawn Vozzy

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Before School from 8:00 to 8:30 A.M. as
announced

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This club was developed to provide opportunities for students to interact with their peers in a fun activity in a smaller more individualized setting. Students meet before school to engage in playing many traditional board games in pairs or small groups. This club allows the students to get to know other students in a more individualized setting and provides a fun way to begin the day by learning new games or playing some old favorites. Those students interested in this club should speak to the club sponsors.

BOOK CLUB (INTERMEDIATE)



SPONSOR: Ms. Lauren Strohecker

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

The book club is designed for intermediate grade students. The club meetings begin with a teacher reading aloud to the children and visiting a popular author's website. The meeting provides an opportunity for students to share a book that they are reading with the club members. The students also write book reviews that are later attached to the school website. The students also share the book reviews that they create with other students throughout the building through book talks on the school televised announcements. This club is designed to engender in children a love of literature and a forum through which to share their reading interests with their peers. Research has shown that by exposing children to multiple opportunities to interact with literature their overall academic performance increases. This relaxed reading environment provides an opportunity for children to further their interests in reading and expand their repertoire of reading resources.

BRICKS FOR KIDZ



SPONSOR: McKinley PTO/Bricks For Kidz Organization

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This program entices children to explore mechanics and the way things work in their world. Through the use of predesigned Lego kits children are guided in the understanding of the mechanics of common objects in the world around them such as windmills, motor vehicles, and common household objects and toys. After learning about the history and design of these items, the children are guided in the creation of a Lego rendition of the object which is functional and allows the children to further explore the design which results in the functionality of these items. This program was designed by an engineer who was interested in teaching children to develop a greater understanding of the science behind their world. This is always one of McKinley's most popular clubs.

CHEERLEADERS



SPONSORS: Ms. Barbara Greco

DATE/ TIME OF MEETING: As announced in conjunction with school events and activities

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This group has been a welcomed addition to the McKinley School activities. The group of fourth, fifth and sixth graders was assembled to help engender school spirit in the McKinley school community. The cheerleaders work during their lunch and recess periods to develop cheers in correlation to school activities and assemblies. Their meetings are dictated by upcoming school activities where their involvement would be helpful in building a sense of school community. This activity is designed for those students who like to be a part of a cohesive school community building exercise and who like to perform for other students.

CHESS CLUB

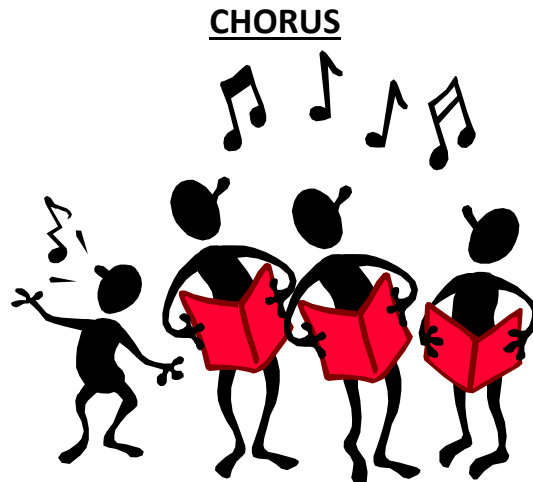


SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This club is designed for third or fourth graders who want to learn how to play chess or to perfect their skills at the game of chess. The students will be given an opportunity to be trained in the rules of the game of chess and the various strategies that can be employed in the art of the game of chess. The students will spend the first few sessions of the club learning the game and the remaining sessions increasing their skills through ongoing practice of the game. This program is designed for those students who enjoy board games and would like to develop their skills at a strategic game such as chess.



SPONSOR: Mr. Robert Ford

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During school day according to the building
Schedule throughout the school year.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

McKinley School offers a wide variety of programs to nurture and develop students musical skills. Weekly forty-five minute general music classes are provided to all students in the building from kindergarten through sixth grade. During general music, students are given age appropriate instruction in singing technique, basic elements of music such as pitch, form and style, musical history and rudimentary techniques in the playing of instruments such as xylophone, recorder and guitar. General music classes also often incorporate movement ranging from simple imitative and creative movement activities in the younger grades to more intricate types of movement such as folk dancing in the upper grades.

The vocal music program culminates in the fifth and sixth grades when all students are required to participate in school chorus. Fifth and sixth grade chorus meets weekly and performs annually in McKinley's winter and spring concerts. Singing in chorus helps students to become fluent in more advanced facets of singing such as dynamic and expressive use of the voice and interpretation of musical texts. Students who show a

particular aptitude and interest in singing are invited in the spring to participate in the McKinley Select Chorus which learns and performs a repertoire of greater sophistication and musical depth.

CHORUS (HONORS CHORUS)



SPONSOR: Mr. Robert Ford

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Mornings before school

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

As a result of the continued and growing interest in the performing arts at McKinley, in the 2010-2011 the Honors Chorus was formed. The Honors Chorus is chosen through an audition process established very early in the school year. Students who are selected are invited to be a part of the school Honors Chorus. This Choral group has the opportunity to represent the school at a wide variety of functions events both in the school and in the local community. This group also has the opportunity to perform more challenging musical works than typically possible in the traditional choral program.

CONVERSATION CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Dawn Vozzy

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: As Announced by the sponsor during the school day.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This club was designed to facilitate opportunities for students with special needs to engage in social activities with their peers throughout the school. Through nonthreatening and relaxed engagement in activities such as the completion of crafts, puzzles, or games, the students are provided with opportunities to interact and develop stronger communication skills. Students interested in this program should speak with their classroom teacher so that opportunities to be involved with this club can be facilitated. The opportunities provided through this club for bridging mutual understanding for students are invaluable and have made this club very popular at McKinley.

CUP STACKING CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Megan Olinger

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: As Announced during lunch periods

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This club was designed to increase student agility and dexterity through a fun physical activity. During this club the students are involved in strategically stacking plastic cups and unstacking them in a timed friendly competitive environment. This has become a widely popular club at McKinley and is held during student recess periods.

EXERCISE CLUB



SPONSOR: Mr. Michael Pinkhasov

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings
before school at 8 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

The morning exercise club was established in response to the growing body of research that suggests that American school children are not engaged in sufficient amounts of physical activity. Additionally, research has continued to suggest that there is a strong correlation between physical activity and academic performance, particularly when the physical activity precedes the student's academic school day. This club is designed to energize children for learning prior to the start of the school day through a wide range of physical games and activities which are both aerobic and fitness in nature.

GARDEN CLUB



SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Thursdays during recess through fall and spring months.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

McKinley Elementary School is extremely fortunate to have a wonderful garden as a part of our school environs. This garden, which is maintained through the generous support of parent volunteers, provides students with a contained area through which to explore biology and environmental science. On Thursdays, parents volunteer their time under the direction of Mrs. Sherwood to provide environmental lessons for the students during their recess time. Students are also permitted to explore the wonderful garden and become a part of the natural life, growth and development process that are inherent in the cycle of life. This is one of the prized activities that makes McKinley a wonderful place to grow and learn for our children.

GIRLS INC. CLUB



SPONSOR: The Girls Inc. Organization (Previously the Girls Club Organization of America)

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

The Girls Inc. Program focuses on developing academic and personal skills for girls in areas where they tend not to generally be mentored and tend to fall behind their male counterparts as they grow older. At McKinley this program has focused on developing mathematics skills in girls through their exposure to activities that challenge them to look at their life from an economic perspective by developing a budget, monitoring their spending, and understanding the local and global economy. Through this program, the girls are also exposed to women in business and industry who can serve as their role models and answer questions about some of the challenges and experiences they faced throughout their lives charting their career path. In the 2010-2011 school year this program was expanded to allow girls to have the opportunity to explore technology and developing a business model.

GIRLS ON THE RUN



SPONSOR: The PTO

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: As determined by the coaches

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM:

This program encourages girls to be involved in athletic activity while working on positive self-esteem and healthy student development. Girls are invited to participate in teams with a coach which trains them for the ultimate goal of participating in a race during the course of the school year. This program is supported by the Girls on the Run organization.

HOMEWORK CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Janice Stearns and High School Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Days to be announced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Homework Club was established at McKinley in response to an identified need at our school that some students require additional help and support after school in starting and completing their homework. As a result our school established the Homework Club which partners students with high school students who can assist them under the supervision of our faculty sponsor. This program was established in the 2010-2011 school year and has been very successful. Students are recommended to this program by their teacher or at parent request.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS



SPONSOR: Mr. Ernie West and Mr. Michael Pinkhasov

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Days to be announced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This activity is designed to expose the students to a variety of outdoor sports activities. The sponsor creates a series of sports activities that the students participate in after school. They are refreshed on the rules and protocol for the respective sports chosen and then provided with an opportunity to play the sports. Some of the sports that have been chosen in the past have included, basketball, softball, soccer, hockey, and volleyball. This is an activity that is very popular among our intermediate elementary students and provides them with an opportunity to enjoy each other's company through constructive physical activity.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM



SPONSOR: Ms. Nadine Hoffman, Mr. Nick Vallerio, Mr. George Frueh,
Mr. Robert Ford, Mr. Kevin Longwill

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During the school day according to
the building schedule.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Abington School District has a unique team approach to the Elementary Instrumental Music Program to ensure minimal disruptions to a student's classroom instruction while ensuring the opportunity for instrumental music instruction during the instructional school day. Students in the Abington School District Elementary Instrumental Music Program score significantly higher in both the mathematics and reading portions of the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA). The instrumental music program is divided into two components; beginning level instruction and intermediate level instruction.

BEGINNING LEVEL INSTRUCTION

Beginning level instruction is offered beginning in third grade for string instruments and fourth grade for wind and percussion instruments. During the first four weeks of the school year, all students in the third grade are offered an introduction to violin playing for one class (45 minutes) each week. During this time, students are evaluated on their small motor

coordination (finger movements on the strings), large motor coordination (bow motion on the string in a smooth, straight motion), eye-to-hand coordination (musical note reading), and the ability to follow directions.

During the first four weeks of the school year, students in the fourth grade not continuing in the elementary program are offered an introduction to the band instrument playing for one class (45 minutes) each week. Using plastic recorders, students are evaluated on their small motor coordination (finger movements), breath support, eye-to-hand coordination (musical note reading), and the ability to follow directions.

After the four week introductory period for the beginning levels, students are guided in the proper selection of instruments. Third grade students are able to choose between the violin, viola, cello, and string bass. Fourth grade students may choose between the flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, baritone horn, and percussion.

For the remainder of the school year, beginning level students (3rd grade strings and 4th grade wind and percussion) receive a 45 minute small group lesson once a week. The lessons are during the instructional school day. During these small group lessons, students will focus on the fundamentals of musical tone production on their selected instrument, care of their instrument, and music reading. The beginning year culminates in a performance by the combined beginning students (string or band) at the individual school's spring concert.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL INSTRUCTION

After the beginning level instruction, third grade for strings and fourth grade for winds and percussion, students receive one 45 minute small group lesson and, in addition, one 45 minute full ensemble rehearsal each week.

In the small group lesson, students continue to develop the fundamentals of instrumental music performance for their chosen instrument. All students above the beginning level are combined for a

full performance ensemble (Strings grades 4,5 and 6 – Band grade 5 and 6) During the ensemble rehearsal, the fundamentals of individual performance are utilized for the student to learn to work with others to create a final performance. It has been said that “In music, the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.” Ensembles at this level provide performances in both the winter and spring concerts at their schools.

The unique team approach for the elementary instrumental program minimizes disruptions in the regular education classroom to only twice a week. A limitation of this approach is that students may only enter the beginning level in third grade for strings and fourth grade for wind and percussion instruments. Students at the upper grade levels would create further disruptions for the regular classroom instruction by being “pulled out” of class to attend a beginning level instrumental music lesson.

K-KIDS PROGRAM



SPONSOR: Ms. Lauryn Kelly, Mr. Michael Pinkhasov

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During lunch recess on the first and third
Wednesday of every month.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

We have organized a club at McKinley called K-Kids and your child may be interested in becoming a member. K-Kids is a national service club for sixth graders sponsored by the Kiwanis Club International. Kiwanis also sponsors the Builder's Club at the junior high level and the Key Club at the senior high level. The goals of K-Kids are to provide opportunities for service to school and community, develop leadership potential, foster the development of moral character, and encourage loyalty to the school, community, and nation.

The McKinley School K-Kids Chapter is the second chapter formed in our state! We are excited to again be trailblazers as a model school for service and character education. During our meetings we plan and execute our projects. We elect officers who work closely with our sponsors to assist us in developing and implementing service projects for our community.

This is a great activity for those children who are interested in giving back to others and who get personal rewards from serving the greater good.

KOREAN LANGUAGE CLUB



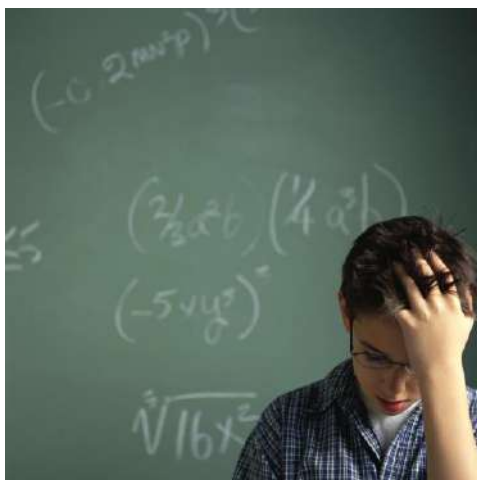
SPONSOR: Ms. Julie Kwon

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During School Hours As Announced

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Korean language club was established to continue to expose McKinley students to other cultures and languages internationally and to broaden their exposure to people from other regions of the world with whom they will have greater contact as our world becomes more globally connected. The students in this club have the opportunity to learn about the language and culture of the country of Korea. The students will be exposed to the customs, history and language of Korea through this program. The club is held during the course of the school day during recess.

MATH OLYMPIAD



SPONSOR: School Curriculum Specialist

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During School Hours Monthly

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Math Olympiad Program is designed for students who have proven mathematical talent through their local and national mathematical assessments. The students selected for this team compete with other students at their grade/age nationally on a series of advanced math problems which challenge their logical mathematical thinking. The students are scored on their accurate completion of problems and the scores are used to compare our students to the students who take the test nationally. Awards are given to those schools and students who demonstrate considerable proficiency in the completion of these problems and stretching their mathematical talent.

MCKINLEY ACADEMY



SPONSOR: School Curriculum Specialist

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Before School from 8:00 – 8:30 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McKinley Academy is a relatively new program at McKinley which was started in the 2011-2012 school year to provide students with an opportunity to receive additional assistance and remediation before school from teachers. Through this program, students work on areas of their own specific areas of need and are provided with computerized and individualized remediation to assist them in further building their foundational skills in both reading and math. Additional assistance can also be provided to assist students with their classroom assignments as needed.

MCKINLEY SCHOOL AMBASSADORS



SPONSOR: Ms. Kathy Weiss

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Periodically throughout the school year
as needed for special events.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McKinley School Ambassadors Program is relatively new at McKinley. It is designed for students in grades four through six who have been nominated by their teachers as students who exemplify the McKinley HEART character education initiative. These students have demonstrated honorable manners and behavior in their interactions with others and are therefore exemplary representatives of the McKinley School community. These students serve as representatives at school functions such as the school play, assemblies, and the Winter Concert. We hope to expand the roles of our ambassadors in future years and throughout activities that take place at our school.

MCKINLEY STEP TEAM
"MCKINLEY STEPPERS"



SPONSOR: TBA

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School in the Spring
From 3:30 – 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McKinley Step Team is one of the newest organizations at McKinley and introduces the students to a rhythmical form of dance which involves a series of dance steps, claps, and cheers to engage students. Through the synchronization of these dance moves students are able to provide cheers and entertain their peers. This has become a very popular club at McKinley and is usually hosted in the spring of each year.

MCMAIL PROGRAM



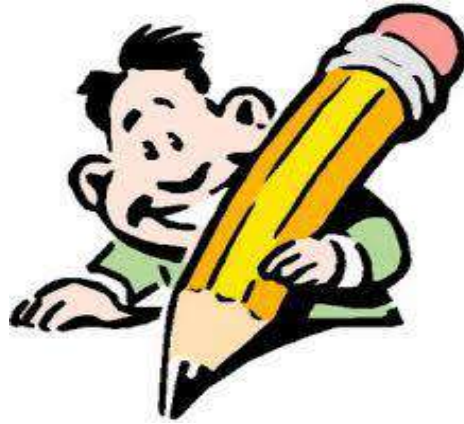
SPONSOR: Ms. Tricia Livingood; Ms. Lisa Guglielmelli;
Ms. Nancy Hartzell; Ms. Lynne Willkins

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Winter and Spring of the school year
throughout the school day.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McMail Program is designed to promote writing in school. Students, parents and staff are encouraged to write a short letter or just a hello to other members of the McKinley School family and McMail it through our in-school postal system. Stamps may be purchased at the school store and the mail may be placed in one of the two mailboxes located in the building. From there a third grade postal staff and parent volunteers will spend one lunch period a week sorting, stamping, and delivering the mail throughout the building.

MCWRITE PROGRAM



SPONSOR: Dr. Deaitra Bradley and Ms. Lorraine Crane

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Winter and Spring after school

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McWrite Club is designed to inspire our students to love writing through creative writing opportunities. This club has been incredibly popular with our students and affords our students an opportunity write in journals and engage in other forms of creative writing in an environment which stimulates them to write. Students are exposed to different forms of writing and qualities associated with good writing through literature and writing samples.

NUTRITION CLUB



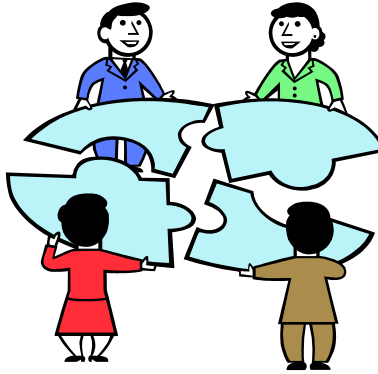
SPONSOR: Ms. Lorraine Crane and Ms. Lauryn Kelly

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After school from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Nutrition Club works with students to examine their choices of food and how to make more healthy choices regarding their decisions about what food to eat on a daily basis to maintain an appropriate level of nutrients in their system throughout the day. This club also couples healthy food choices with opportunities for the students to engage in playground activities, exercises and routines which will assist them in remaining healthy while increasing physical agility, stamina and activity.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND CLUB



SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After school from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
as announced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Odyssey of the Mind club was designed for fourth grade students to have an opportunity to engage in the Odyssey of the Mind experience without being assigned to a team. The students have the opportunity to practice spontaneous thinking problems which can be verbal, hands-on or verbal hands-on and which challenge the students to think out of the proverbial box. The questions are designed to stimulate student thinking about a concept or idea and to develop their vocabulary and thinking skills.

The students also participate in the development of a long-term problem which challenges them to solve a unique situation in a creative way. This problem can involve the construction of an item or items, the analysis of a piece of literature and a creative response to it, or a theatrical rendition or response. This activity challenges students to think in a uniquely different manner and expands their ability to meet and complete challenges that might present themselves.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND TEAMS

SPONSOR: PARENT VOLUNTEERS

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: AS ANNOUNCED

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The Odyssey of the Mind teams work on the same types of problems as described for the Odyssey of the Mind Club, however, they do so in preparation for the regional competition which takes place in the early spring. The students prepare for this event for several months by practicing spontaneous problems and perfecting their long term problem. This is a very time intensive activity and requires meetings both in and out of school. Students are selected for this activity during a audition that is held in the late fall.

PARENTS AS TUTORS



SPONSOR: Ms. Regina Rausch

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During school hours from the fall
throughout the course of the school year

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

The Parents As Tutors Program (P.A.T.) provides 30 minutes of additional one-on-one or small group support from a parent volunteer one or two times per week. Through the collaboration of our teachers, reading specialists and curriculum specialists, our staff provide specific materials and instruction for the volunteer tutor to deliver during this support period. While the children do miss some instruction that is going on in the classroom, we coordinate times that will allow for minimal interruptions during review or other non-new instruction.

PARENT CLUBS



SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After school hours throughout the course of the year

DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITY:

Throughout the course of the school year, parents volunteer their specific talents to host clubs and activities for McKinley students. Many of our parents have diverse interests and experiences which can be shared with our students and we welcome the opportunity to expose our students to new ideas and activities which will allow them to grow and become more well rounded. If you have a particular talent or skill that you would like to share with our students, please speak with the PTO president so that we can organize a club around this activity to benefit the students at McKinley. A teacher will be asked to serve as the faculty sponsor of the club. Through these clubs we have been able to effectively broaden our scope of activities and programs available to our students after school.

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Amy Petrilla and Ms. Dawn Vozzy

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: During school at lunch recess

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This is a relatively new activity at McKinley Elementary School. Through this activity students are working to create a photographic archive of events that transpire throughout McKinley during the course of the school year. The students will be taking pictures during school events and then creating photographic images to display in our school. These photos are used to showcase the wonderful activities and events that are a part of everyday life here at McKinley Elementary School. Through this activity the children will have an opportunity to perfect their photography skills as well as their skills in the area of computerized graphic arts.

PEER MEDIATOR (CONFLICT BUSTERS) PROGRAM



SPONSOR: Mr. Dennis Beam and Ms. Natalie Pawell

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: During School Hours – Recess Time

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This program was developed in response to our school HEART Program and our growing development of programs to foster student leadership opportunities. This program also evolved out of the school's approach to further addressing concerns with regards to bullying nationally. Through the peer mediation program, intermediate elementary students are trained in conflict resolution methods and are provided with the necessary tools to assist their peers in conflict resolution. The students in the peer mediation program volunteer their recess time to work with their peers to resolve low level conflicts that develop on the school yard and assist them in developing an amenable solution through the use of a prepared series of questions. The adult sponsors also assist the students in facilitating this process. Students for this program are recommended by their teachers due to their leadership and mediation skills.

POETRY SLAM



SPONSOR: Dr. Bradley and Ms. Crane

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School in the Spring

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This program is available to all students at McKinley and provides students with a natural venue through which they can share their creativity through their authorship or sharing of poems of interest to them. Through an after school assembly, students are invited to share their poems with an audience of their parents and peers in a very quiet ambience. This program has been incredibly well received and we encourage your students to sign up to be a part of this great activity.

PSSA PREP CLUB



SPONSOR: Various Teachers throughout the Building

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Before School from 8:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This program has been developed to work with students who have not successfully reached the levels of proficient or advanced on their PSSA examinations. In an effort to build the foundational skills necessary for these children to meet with the state standards in the areas of math and reading, teachers work with these students before school in a program of computerized instruction and remediation that is designed to meet their individual learning needs and target their specific areas of skill deficit. This program has demonstrated considerable success and assisting these students in further solidifying their skills in their identified areas of need.

PRIMARY GRADE LEVEL CLUBS



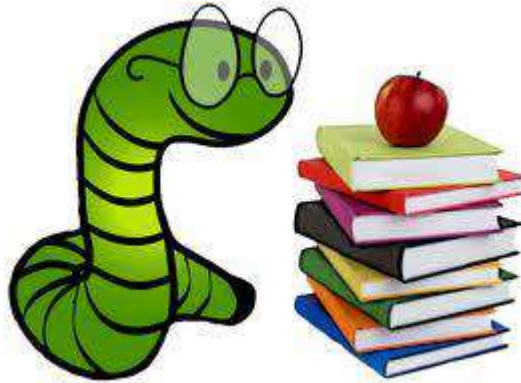
SPONSOR: Ms. Barbara Greco

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: After School 3:20 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This program offers a variety of clubs two times a year sponsored by teachers and parents designed to meet the needs of primary grade level students. The clubs have included computers, Legos, tumbling, garden activities and science activities. The students are invited to sign up twice a year for these opportunities as announced.

READING OLYMPICS



SPONSOR: Ms. Kelly Rimer and Ms. Lauren Strohecker

DATE/TIME OF MEETING: Before School from 8:00 A.M. to 8:45 A.M.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Reading Olympics Program has been at McKinley for many years and invites students to read from a preestablished list of classic texts over the course of the school year. Each team is challenged to divide the texts up and complete the entire reading list in advance of the annual competition. At the competition, the students compete against their peers from around the county. Students are queried about facts about each of the books that they read and the teams with the most points accrued at the end of the competition win. The program exposes children to wonderful reading selections while also reinforcing a team ethic. This is always a very popular program at McKinley for the intermediate grade students.

ROOTS AND SHOOTS CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Jenn Tanay

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: Before School at 8 A.M. as announced

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Roots and Shoots Club is a new program at McKinley designed to develop student interest in environmental awareness and conservation. The club evolved through the efforts of the Jane Goodall Association and has provided valuable opportunities for students to develop a greater understanding of their world and environment and environmental conservation through an approach of service learning. The students in this club have sponsored Recycling Fashion Shows and helped to develop the McKinley School environment to enhance natural habitats for our local wildlife. The program emphasizes an increased understanding of science and environmental science and the children have given back to our school community through their service to our school and its environment.

SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



SPONSOR: Ms. Jenn Tanay

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: During school at recess

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

There are many exciting activities transpiring at McKinley Elementary School and the students have sought a venue through which they might premier events and activities that are important to them throughout the course of the school year. In addition the students are seeking to engage in interviews through which they can develop a better understanding of their school and the staff members who are vital to its daily functioning. Out of this desire the school newspaper evolved and has become a vital part of the school activity. The students plan to publish the school newspaper tri-annually. Students at the intermediate grades with an interest in writing and personal interaction are encouraged to be a part of this activity.

SCHOOL SAFETY PATROL



SPONSOR: Mr. Matthew Brenner

TIME/DATE OF MEETING: Daily in the mornings before school and
after school.

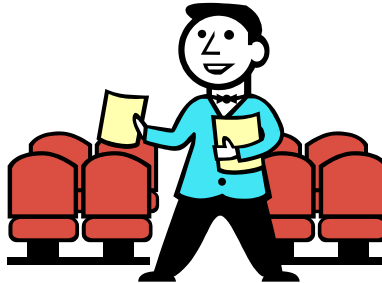
DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

In order to enhance the sense of community and vigilance about school safety awareness which is an integral component of the school HEART program, sixth grade students have been invited to become a part of the school safety patrol. The students are selected by their teachers as role models for the HEART behaviors that are sought in all students at McKinley. These students are charged with the responsibility of assisting other students at the school before school hours and after school in maintaining a safe and constructive school environment. They are asked to assist in monitoring school interactions on school grounds and especially on the school bus. It is our belief that by empowering students within our school population to be leaders among their peers we are fostering personal growth for all students and building capacity for children.

The children selected for this program are inducted into the safety program in the fall of each year and are compelled to sign a contract which enumerates their responsibilities as a member of the safety patrol.

Students in the safety patrol understand that with this responsibility comes high expectations for their role and they are informed failure to perform their responsibilities in this role will result in dismissal from the safety patrol. This program has had proven ability to foster leadership ability and responsibility in intermediate elementary students and enhances the sense of community within the school building.

SCHOOL PLAY



SPONSORS: PTO and Mrs. Harriett Solomon

TIME/DATE OF MEETING: After School from 3:30 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.
as directed by distributed schedule.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The McKinley School Community produces one school musical annually. The play sponsors select the play and then hold auditions in the mid-fall for all intermediate students interested in being a part of this endeavor. The students spend a significant amount of time throughout the fall and winter preparing for the full scale production of the musical that is selected. The students are asked to rehearse their lines at home and prepare for rehearsals that are conducted almost daily.

For those students who are not interested in being a part of the cast, but are interested in being a part of the play, there are opportunities to be a part of set design and props. Any student interested in being involved in the play in any capacity is welcomed. For those students who have an artistic or musical interest, this is a wonderful activity to become involved with.

SEWING CLUB



SPONSOR: Mrs. O'Donnell

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: After School at 3:30 as announced

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

One of the clubs developed at McKinley in the 2010-2011 school year was the sewing club. Through this club students are instructed in the proper and safe procedures for the use of a sewing machine and the creation of hand-made products through sewing. This club also has a service component as students are invited to work to create personalized pillowcases for students in local pediatric hospitals to make their stay more pleasant. This is done in partnership with a local community organization focusing on pediatric cancer. Students are also provided with an opportunity to create their own products throughout the course of the club.

SPANISH CLUB



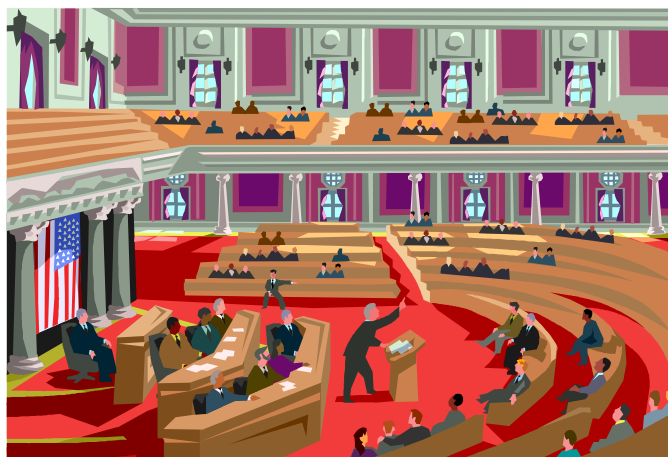
SPONSOR: Ms. Guglielmelli and Mrs. Heil

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: After School at 3:30 as announced

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This club is designed to expose students to an experience with another language early in their elementary school experience. Research has shown that the more opportunities that students have to experience a language in their early development the easier it is to acquire the ability to speak and retain that language later in life. This club offers an opportunity for students to begin to experience the Spanish language and culture and to begin to read and write in Spanish. This club has been exciting and we hope to expand this opportunity for students into other languages in the future.

THE STUDENT COUNCIL



SPONSOR: Ms. Kathryn Feld and Ms. Barbara Greco

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: In the mornings before school and
at other times as announced.

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The student council is comprised of students elected from their respective classrooms throughout the school. The student council models the democratic process for students as they become interactive participants in school decision making. The students are encouraged to engage in the democratic process by voting on various school spirit day activities, fund-raisers and student led school initiatives. They are provided with a forum through which they can air concerns relative to student issues in the school and be provided with a leading role in how to better improve their instructional environment for all students in the school. This is a vital and active part of the school community and has been instrumental in achieving various initiatives for the school.

THE RADIO CLUB/BROADCASTERS CLUB/WMCK STUDIOS



SPONSOR: Ms. Gail Allen

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: In the morning before school

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The Broadcaster's Club meets each morning at 8:50 A.M. in the WMCK studio (Room 118 A). The students set up the studio equipment in preparation for our live televised morning announcements. Student roles include; camera person (2), toggle person, mixer, music, prompter, mic, and weather. On Mondays and Thursdays one student wears the Dictionary Doc lab coat and presents a vocabulary word and its definition. On Tuesdays, along with a student from our autistic support class, we read a poem. On Wednesdays and Fridays we ask a trivia question and allow the classrooms to call in with the answer. Along with cooperation and responsibility, students gain experience with audio and video equipment, reading aloud in front of a camera, and are part of a production team.

TECHNOLOGY CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Livingood and Ms. McGinley

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: After school at 3:30 P.M. as announced

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This club seeks to expose students to opportunities to further hone their skills in the area of technology. It provides exposure to digital imaging, Power points, spreadsheets, data bases, internet and website exploration and allows the students chances to expand their talents in this area beyond what is possible through the normal technology curriculum.

TRACK TEAM



SPONSOR: Ms. Trish Livingood, Mr. Matt Brenner, Ms. Megan Olinger

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: Spring of School Year Before School Day

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

All students in fifth and sixth grade are eligible to participate in the track program. Only fourth graders who will be 10 years old by May 27 of the school year can participate. All members who participate and keep to the attendance policy will participate in at least one event in the district elementary track meet at Abington Senior High Schwartzman Stadium on May 27 of the school year with the rain date scheduled on June 4, 2009. Children will try out for the following events: 50 yard dash, relays, softball throw, standing broad jump, and one boy and one girl will be eligible for the 440 race. The students practice before school from 7:45 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. in the back of the school, two times per week, starting after spring break. Students absent three or more times will not be eligible to compete at the district meet.

TRAIN CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Dawn Vozzy and Mr. David Howard

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: Throughout the course of the school year

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

This club was designed to facilitate opportunities for students with special needs to engage in the construction of train platforms and train concourses with their peers throughout the school. Through this nonthreatening and relaxed engagement in the completion of train platforms, the students are provided with opportunities to interact and develop stronger communication skills. Students interested in this program should speak with their classroom teacher so that opportunities to be involved in this club can be facilitated. The opportunities provided through this club for bridging mutual understanding for students are invaluable and have made this club very popular at McKinley.

VIBE/IMAGINE PROGRAM



SPONSOR: Ms. Charlene Crawford and Ms. Nancy Hartzell

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: Throughout the course of the school year

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The VIBE and IMAGINE Programs are district-wide initiatives designed to meet the needs of the African American students in the school district. The purpose of the program is to create enthusiasm for academic achievement, to encourage good citizenship, to stimulate a desire to serve others, to promote leadership and develop character. The program at McKinley is a partnership program with Abington Junior High School for African American students of grades 4-6. The sponsors of the program will serve as mentors to McKinley students, in efforts to provide a smooth transition from elementary school to junior high school. The participants in this program will meet after school twice a month. Discussion groups and session will focus on various topics, such as...character and leadership development, citizenship, and cultural awareness through the use of literature, student projects and field trips.

THE WRITING CLUB



SPONSOR: Ms. Dee McGinley

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: After School 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. in the
Beginning in February

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

The writing club is designed to excite third graders about writing. The club shows students that writing can be a creative, fun, and low stress way for students to express themselves. In this club students will write poetry, small compositions, and create art work that incorporates the main elements of the writing process. Students will meet for one hour sessions in January and February. This is a great activity for students who enjoy or want to explore opportunities for self-expression and enjoy opportunities for independent work and sharing their works with others.

ZUMBA CLUB



SPONSOR: Parent Volunteers

TIME/DATE OF ACTIVITY: After School 3:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. in the Winter and Spring

DESCRIPTION OF PROGRAM:

Through this activity, students have the opportunity to engage in a fun fitness aerobic dance activity with the assistance of a trained Zumba instructor. This has been a very popular and highly engaging activity. The students have been joined by a significant number of teachers who have supported the program and modeled for the students the merit of physical activity and aerobic activity.

KEY FACTS ABOUT CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

As you read through the activity handbook, please keep the following things in mind:

1. Transportation to and from the activity is the responsibility of the parent. Unfortunately we are not able to provide transportation to or from extra-curricular activities at the elementary level.
2. It is important to be on time to pick up your children from the activities when they conclude.
3. Each club/activity sponsor determines the membership in the club or activity. Many of the activities are limited to students in the intermediate elementary grades (Grades 4, 5, 6) because it is felt that the students are more developmentally able to participate in many of the activities. In some cases there are also limits on the number of children we are able to accommodate with some of the activities and children are accepted on a first come first served basis.
4. If you have a question about a specific club or activity listed in the booklet, please feel free to contact the sponsor as they have the most accurate information about the activity they are sponsoring.
5. Each sponsor will publicize information about their club or activity prior to the beginning of the activity and dates listed in the booklet are subject to change due to weather emergencies or unforeseen changes in schedule. The sponsor will provide information about how to become involved in the activity and limits on membership prior to the start of each activity through the school announcement system.
6. Students are to be reminded that the school H.E.A.R.T. guidelines apply to all school activities and failure to comply with the school code of conduct can jeopardize their ability to remain a member of the activity.

