



The Lion's Roar

McKinley Monthly Newsletter

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Welcome Back McKinley Lions! It's Going to be a Great Year!



On the first day of school McKinley had our first ever Info Fair where school and community organizations such as the PTA, PS Arts, the Ed Foundation, after school programs, and the Metro, all came to talk to families and share information. Families were excited to hear all about the many ways they can be involved in the school and community.

Principal Dr. Benjamin, and Assistant Principal Sofia Cedillo, are ready for the first day of school!

Students and families had a wonderful time at our TK and K Meet and Greets. Our new Lions met their classmates and teachers, snacked, got their new Spiritwear, and played on the playground as they were introduced to their new school.



Your McKinley staff was hard at work before school starts, having professional development, collaborating, and planning for the school year. Thanks PTA for providing breakfast for our staff! It's going to be a great year!

The McKinley staff and their families also took a little time out to have some fun and build that Lion Team Spirit for the school year, playing some laser tag at Ultrazone Sherman Oaks.

Welcome Our New Teachers

Jennifer Botello- 2nd Grade

Mrs. Botello comes from a family of teachers, and has 7 years of teaching experience in 2nd and 3rd grade at a Title I school with predominately English Language Learners. At her previous school she was the Professional Learning Community (PLC) Leader for grades 3-5 and helped teachers with curriculum development, instructional strategies, and data analysis. Mrs. Botello has experience in using Blended Learning techniques, was a member of her school's Technology Team to spearhead STEAM implementation, and recently received a Technology Integration Specialist Certification from LMU. She also has knowledge and experience in Thinking Maps, CGI, and other research-based instructional strategies. Mrs. Botello coached her school's girls' basketball and volleyball teams and coed soccer, directed the school choir, moderated Student Council, coordinated the school Talent Show, and conducted after school tutoring.

Veronica Contreras- TK

Ms. Contreras comes to us with 12 years of teaching experience in Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 1st Grades. She has particular expertise and experience as a STEAM teacher and dual language English/Spanish teacher. Ms. Contreras has served her previous school districts as a Mentor Teacher and Beginning Teacher Support Advisor helping to support and guide new teachers with their instructional practice. Ms. Contreras utilizes Readers Writers Workshop, and delivered Response to Intervention (RTI) strategic instructional support both during and after school to help struggling students learn and succeed. Her previous school was Title I with predominantly English Language Learners, and with her help the school received numerous awards such as the "National Center for Urban School Transformation Award."

Judith Nix- Special Education Teacher, Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI)

Ms. Nix comes to us with 24 years of teaching experience in both elementary and middle schools. In addition to teaching PreK-8 students with special needs, she has been an English Language Learner Team Leader for her District where she helped ELL students and teachers in grades 6-12 develop and maintain individual learning plans. She was also a Title I Teacher, working directly with private schools in her District to support the learning of Title I students. Ms. Nix has also been a District Special Education Coordinator, supporting school specialists, supervising Paraeducators, and conducting IEPs. She was also a Mentor Teacher for Student Teachers, supporting them as they pursued their teaching credentials. Ms. Nix has experience with Collaborative Teaching models, has coordinated Literacy and Math Nights, was a Student Advisor in an after school study program, Testing Coordinator, and member of her District's Literacy Team.

Welcome Our New Staff

Tiffany Estrada- Literacy and Language Interventionist

Tiffany Estrada graduated from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Special Education and a specialization in Spanish. Ms. Estrada has over 23 years of teaching experience. She taught for 6 years in Arizona before coming to SMMUSD in 1999 where she taught K-3 at Muir Elementary. In 2008, she became a Reading Teacher at Will Rogers Learning Community. As an LLI she will be working with English Language Learners in upper grades to help student develop their literacy and language.

Carla Smith- Bilingual Community Liaison

Carla Smith graduated from UCLA with a BA degree in Sociology, and received her teaching credential and Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from CSUN. Carla worked as an Intervention Coordinator in LAUSD's School Mental Health working with at-risk students and their families. She was also a bilingual teacher and taught K, 1, 4th, and 5th grades in LAUSD. She also taught 4th grade at Grant Elementary in SMMUSD. Mrs. Smith is a proud parent of 2 children in SMMUSD. She is fluent in Spanish, and is excited to work with ELAC, School Smarts Academy, and other parent groups to promote parent involvement.

Marc Overton- Technology Support Assistant

Mr. Overton will be assisting teachers and students with the Computer Lab, Interactive White Boards, Chrombooks, iPads, audiovisual equipment, and other technology on campus. He has experience as an Advanced Repair Agent in repairing and configuring various devices. He enjoys programming in various programming languages. He is the happy father of two, and is an SMMUSD alum himself. He comes to us from Malibu schools in SMMUSD where he provided support with Active Directory, network trouble shooting, software and hardware troubleshooting and more.

Lovell Colvin- Day Custodian

Jeff Peoples- Night Custodian

Mr. Colvin is joining the McKinley Team as our Day Custodian and Mr. Peoples will be one of our Night Custodians. Both have worked in SMMUSD for many years and are excited to be making this move to our beautiful campus and wonderful community.

Important Upcoming Dates

Be sure to check our school calendar on the website and our mini-messenger to see the dates for all our ELAC, AASG, Special Ed Resource Group, PTA, and Site Governance meetings. You will also see a variety of other events and activities listed on the calendar. We hope to see you there!

Back to School Nights

August 29th Grades TK-2 and September 5th Grades 1st-5th

6:00-6:30pm, Cafeteria- New Volunteer Training

- All family members who want to volunteer in the classroom, on field trips, or at school events/activities are required to attend a Volunteer Training. At this training you will learn about school and district policies, and tips for how to support students' learning.
- At this training you will be given a Volunteer Application to complete.

6:30-7:00pm, Auditorium- Introduction

- The Principal, PTA, Ed Foundation and other school groups will provide important information about the school and SMMUSD.

7:00-8:00pm, Classroom Presentations

- Your child's teacher will explain about their classroom discipline policy, grade level curriculum, and communication plan.

This is an adult-only event. Students will not be permitted on the playground as there is no supervision. Please arrange childcare. Thank you for your support!

Parking will be available on the playground for this event.



Monthly Schoolwide Assemblies

August 25th- 8:30am-8:45am, Welcome Back Assembly

September 29th- 8:30-8:45am, 2nd Grade Presents the Pillar of Character "Respect"

New this year, we will be having whole-school assemblies on the yard, on the last Friday of every month (except for the Fridays before breaks). The goal of these brief assemblies is to build school community, and to reinforce our schoolwide Positive Behavior Support Plan. These assemblies also support our SMMUSD goal of "All students will engage in schools that are safe, well-maintained, and family friendly." Family members are invited to attend. PTA meetings will often be held immediately after the assembly, so be sure to head over to the Auditorium at 8:45am to hear about how you can get involved at McKinley.



Back to School Picnic September 8th 4:30-6:30

Pack some food and a blanket, and come hang out with other McKinley families at this casual relaxed get together. See you at the McKinley field!



Emergency Preparedness

McKinley staff have regular earthquake, fire, and shelter-in-place drills so students and adults know what to do in an emergency. Please make sure to turn in 2 updated Emergency Cards.

If there is ever an emergency you would pick up your child by following the procedures below.

