



*10/24/11 Message from the PTA Co-Presidents, Kate Boyd and Susan Cook*

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## THANK YOU...

Another round of gratitude goes out to Christi Reynolds, Tricia DeCarli, and all the dedicated participants for their **jog-a-thon fundraising**. The goal was \$6,000 and they surpassed it impressively by raising over \$16,000. That money goes directly back to the PTA to support school-wide programs and events which benefit each student and strengthen our community.

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## STUDENTS ARE ORGANIZING

McNear students are activists in such wonderful and inspiring ways! You may have already noticed these programs being introduced by concerned and creative kids:

- ✦ **Anna Arial and Haley Rodas-Torres** have started a canned food drive for COTS (Committee on the Shelterless) and have placed shopping bags in each classroom for donations. Please drop shelf-stable food items in a bag before **November 1**.
  - ✦ **Bradley Hogin, Ernie Gonzalez, and Jakob Weber** have planned, organized, and are executing a poetry slam for 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, to be held in the multipurpose room on **Friday, Nov. 4<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.** Concessions will benefit the 4<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Gold Country.
  - ✦ **Aaron Van Tighem and Carson Gary** are hosting a blanket drive for COTS through **Nov. 7**. Drop your new or used blanket donation in the breezeway near the front office.
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## WHAT'S GOING ON...

The next **Garden Committee Meeting** is **Monday, Oct 24 at 7pm** in the Staff Room. On the agenda: the ongoing needs in the garden, the Kid's Garden Club, and the spring curriculum. We need lots of volunteers to make the garden a successful program. If you would like to support the garden but cannot make it to this meeting, please contact Carlin Finke ([cmfinke@yahoo.com](mailto:cmfinke@yahoo.com)) or Julia Luna ([thelunafamily@att.net](mailto:thelunafamily@att.net)).

Interested parents met with Jason Sutter regarding the fundraising targets for this year's **Friends of McNear benefit**. Mr Sutter came with a list of ideas from the teachers, which included hands-on science and art programs and supplies, refreshing the outdoor mural, garden and nutritional programming, new playground equipment, and updating our storage of emergency supplies. We'll fine tune our goals at additional meetings; stay tuned if you'd like to be part of the process.

Please note that in last week's newsletter we printed the wrong date and time for the screening of "Race to Nowhere". The correct day is **Thursday, November 3 at 7 pm** at Grant School. The cost is \$10 per person and there will be a discussion facilitated by Betsy Fox of the Caring School Community following the film. To read more about the movie: <http://www.racetonowhere.com/home>. To purchase tickets: <http://rtnggrantelementary.eventbrite.com/>.

**New McNear Falcon Wear Gear is ready!** We're going through the orders and getting everything ready for pick-up or delivery. If you selected delivery, we'll place your items in your child's cubby this week. If you want to pick up in the office, they'll be waiting after Monday with your name clearly marked. If we have any inventory left over after the pre-orders have been filled, we'll make them available for sale.

Watch for the flyer for our next **Dine & Donate day:** Thursday November 3 at Aqus Café!

Are you crafty, or have a kid who's crafty? This year's **HomeSpun Craft Fair** is now accepting registration. Space is limited and vendors are selected to offer the widest array of items. You can reserve a table for \$10. Vendors allot 20% of their sales to the PTA and After School Enrichment. The Craft Fair will be Saturday, December 3 from 10 am to 2 pm in the multipurpose room. Email April Citti [aprilcitti@yahoo.com](mailto:aprilcitti@yahoo.com) or pick up a registration form in the office.

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## VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP

Calling all classroom volunteers--past, present and future! Those of you who have spent time working in the classroom have made a huge difference for all our students. An additional hour a week working with a single student can make a powerful impact in a different way. Every student brought closer to mastery means greater opportunity for the whole classroom to advance. If you have time to volunteer during school, please consider becoming an **Academic Assistant**.

Formerly known as academic mentors, we're renaming this position to reflect the simple nature of the role. You are assigned a student who needs a little more one-on-one support with classroom work. With guidance from the teacher on areas of focus and strategies to use, you serve as a tutor during the school day to help get work done. Just that little bit of extra attention could mean tremendous strides for struggling students, and further academic advancement for all. If you want to know more or are ready for an assignment, please email Jason Sutter ([jsutter@pet.k12.ca.us](mailto:jsutter@pet.k12.ca.us)) or grab a sign-up form in the office.

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To join the PTA, download a form: <http://www.mcnearelementary.org/pta/JoinPTAForm.pdf>

Like us on **Facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/pages/McNear-Elementary-PTA/81029894486>

Check our section on the **McNear website:** <http://www.mcnearelementary.org/pta.html>

**Volunteer opportunities** are updated here: <http://www.mcnearelementary.org/volunteer.html>

Please let us know if you have any questions, feedback or ideas. Or look for the **Suggestion Box** folder in the office and drop us a note!

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