



10/31/11 Message from the PTA Co-Presidents, Kate Boyd and Susan Cook

THANK YOU...

To **Brenda Martin** for coordinating our **Spiritwear** orders. T-shirts and hats went home last week and sweatshirts will be coming in this week.

WHAT'S GOING ON...

The upper grade **Poetry Slam** organized by Bradley Hogin, Ernie Gonzalez, and Jakob Weber will be held in the multipurpose room on **Friday, Nov. 4th at 6:30 p.m.** Concessions will be available for sale by of the 4th Grade Gold Country committee. Please come out and snap for our kids!

The **canned food drive** organized by Anna Arial and Haley Rodas-Torres ends November 1st. The **blanket drive** organized by Aaron Van Tighem and Carson Gary runs through November 7th. Both of these donation efforts benefit COTS.

Our next **Dine and Donate** event will be at **Aqus Café** on Thursday, **November 3rd** all day from 7:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. Look for flyers in your Wednesday envelope, or click here for a flyer you can download: http://mcnearelementary.org/docs/Aqus_Eng.pdf

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 or pick up a registration form in the office.

SCREENING OF "RACE TO NOWHERE"

McNear School librarian Laura Bussey is teaming with Grant School librarian Alice Crysdale to host a **screening of the movie "Race to Nowhere."** Here is an excerpt from the movie's website:

Featuring the heartbreaking stories of young people across the country who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students aren't developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids, Race to Nowhere points to the silent epidemic in our schools: cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, stress-related illness, depression and burnout are rampant, and young people arrive at college and the workplace unprepared and uninspired.

Race to Nowhere is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

Please join us at the Grant School on Thursday, November 3rd at 7:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person and there will be a discussion facilitated by Betsy Fox of the Caring School Community following the event. To read more about the movie, visit <http://www.racetonowhere.com/home>. To purchase tickets, please visit <http://rtngrantelementary.eventbrite.com/>.

UPCOMING PTA MEETING

The next **PTA Meeting** will be on **Monday, November 7th**. We have invited Food and Nutrition expert, Miguel Villarreal to speak about **food and nutrition in our schools** from 6:00-7:00.

Miguel holds a BA of Science in Food and Nutrition and a MBA in Business with 28 years experience as Director of Nutritional Services in Texas and California schools. Throughout the past 28 years he has implemented innovative strategies for improving children's nutritional health by modifying menus and operations to exceed National School Lunch standards. His work is focused on creating "Total School Nutrition and Wellness Environments" for students by collaborating with student youth groups, parents, teachers, administrators, healthcare organizations, universities, Farm to School affiliates, and numerous allied organizations. Miguel's Farm to School gleaning program has attracted both State and National attention. Miguel is an active member of National, State, and local organizations focused on educating and improving student's well being. He also the Past Public Policy and Legislative Chair for the California School Nutrition Association.

We have also invited Ray DiGiaimo, the Food Services Supervisor of Petaluma City Schools to be a part of the discussion. Our regular PTA meeting will follow the discussion. The full agenda will be posted prior to the meeting. If you need childcare, please contact Susan Cook by Thursday, November 3rd at cobyandsue@sbcglobal.net or 415-827-0433.

SWEATSHIRT UPDATE

We now have both zip-up hooded sweatshirts and pull-over hooded sweatshirts available! If you ordered a zip-up and would prefer a pull-over, let us know and we will trade it out for you. Also, the cost of all sweatshirts is now \$25.00. If you ordered and paid for an adult zip-up for \$30.00, you will be reimbursed \$5.00. If you have any questions or would like to make an exchange, please contact Brenda Martin at queenof3@comcast.net or Susan Cook at cobyandsue@sbcglobal.net or 415-827-0433.

VOLUNTEER ROUNDUP

Have you seen beautiful artwork in your child's classroom? If the answer is yes, it is surely due to an effort from an **Art Docent**. Art Docents come into the classrooms and lead an art project with the kids. These art projects are requested by the teachers and are usually designed to reflect the curriculum in that classroom. If you feel like art is an important part of your child's education, or if you just want an opportunity to get in the classroom and have fun with the kids, sign up as an Art Docent. No experience necessary! You will be fully trained by lead docent Alyse Breece. Please contact Alyse at abreece@pet.k12.ca.us.

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>

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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