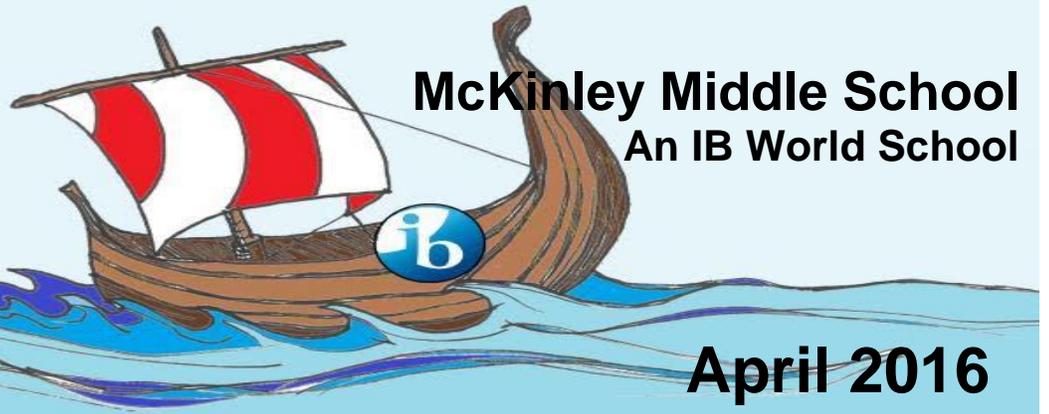


The Viking Voyage

McKinley Middle School
An IB World School



April 2016

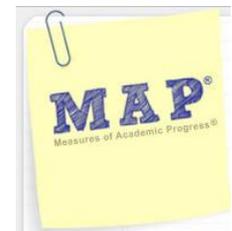
Today, as a caring, global citizen, I will be safe, respectful & responsible in all of my communities.



Upcoming Testing dates:

NWEA MAP testing April 5th – 15th

Wisconsin Forward Exam April 25th – May 20th



McKinley Family Night Fun!

Attention all 7th grade families: Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 14th
5:30pm – 7pm for Around the World in 80 Minutes.

Thank you to all who attended our 6th and 8th grade family nights. We appreciate you taking the time to come to McKinley with your kids!

The 6th grade families made structures out of dried noodles and tape. The Jazz Band and Swing Choir performed beautifully! Food and fun was shared by all.

The 8th grade families came out on March 22nd to support their children and take part in McKinley's fourth annual Passion Night. The students presented their Passion Projects, sharing their contributions to our community and the lessons they learned from their experiences.



CHOIR

Swing Choir is preparing for our competition trip to CHICAGO! We can't wait to show Illinois what we do best!! Swing will travel to CHICAGO April 20 - 24. While in CHICAGO we will participate in the Heritage Festival Competition. Students will also get to experience the arts of this amazing city. We will be seeing The Blue Man Group, the musical Evita, as well as taking the architectural boat tour. Best of luck to all students who are participating.



Our spring concerts are coming up at the beginning of May. Please refer to your initial class contract for concert performance dates.

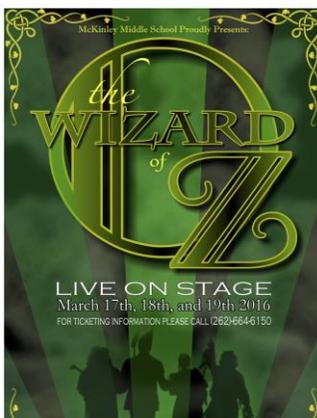
Important Dates

- April 4 – International Travel Club Meeting
- April 5 – PTSA Dine Out Panera 4pm-8pm
- April 9 – Bandarama Performance @ Case
- April 12 – Gandhi to Racine Theatre Guild
- April 13 – Clark to Racine Theatre Guild
- April 13 – Student Government Meeting
- April 14 – 7th grade Parent Night
- April 14 – PTSA Dine Out @
Georgie Porgies 5pm-9pm
- April 20 – 24 Choir Trip to Chicago
- April 22 – Two hour early release
- April 26 – Talent Show

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Congratulations to all students who participated in THE WIZARD OF OZ. Thank you to all staff, students, volunteers, and community members who came out to support our All-School-Musical!



Counselor's Corner

Map Testing will start up right after Spring Break! These scores will be used in conjunction with student performance and teacher recommendations to make class placement decisions for next year. Please be sure your students are well-rested and at school on their day of testing when at all possible! Thanks for your help at home to make our students more successful here. In general, we will be testing April 5th - 14th, but your student's teacher will have more specific information regarding dates/times for testing.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/1537c316e9424ca2?projector=1>

There will be a 7th/8th grade girls STEM All-Day Workshop at UW-Parkside May 18. Twenty-three 7th Graders and twenty-three 8th Graders will be selected to go.

Many Universities and Colleges offer precollege programs for students who will be in grades 6-12. See the following websites for examples:

UW-Whitewater

<http://www.uww.edu/precollege/programs/summer-academic-camps>

UW-Oshkosh

<http://oce.uwosh.edu/personal-and-professional-development-programs/youth-programs/>

<http://www.uwosh.edu/precollege>

For more opportunities

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/precollege-programs/>

End of the Year upcoming costs:

- Yearbook: \$30 for reserved, \$35 if purchased when they arrive.
- 8th Grade Day Away in June
Final Date TBA: \$35
- 8th Grade Phantom Ranch Trip:
DATE & Price coming out soon!
Watch for communication coming from your 8th grade student!
- 7th & 8th Grade Rafting Trip:
May 27-29th \$100

2016 Washington DC Trip Information

There is still time to sign up for this year's trip

Trip Dates: Wednesday, June 15th 2016-

Tuesday, June 21st 2016

You CAN REGISTER online

at: www.worldstridesdiscovernow.org

Trip ID# 117044

Please Contact Ms. Dickert with any questions.

Danielle.Dickert@RUSD.org

Keep up with trip information and

announcements on our website:

<http://sites.rusd.org/ms-d-dickert/important-dates>

Physical Education

The best part about coming back from Spring Break? Roller Skating of course! Hopefully your student got their permission slip on time. If they didn't, have them get it in ASAP! The P.E. teachers will be available during conferences with extra slips. The cost for this unit is \$7.00 which includes the skates and 5 days of skating here at McKinley.

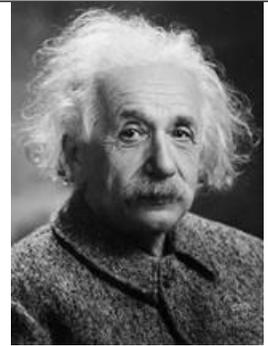
Looking ahead at the remainder of the year, we will be going into our Soccer Unit, Softball Unit and concluding with our Fitness Testing once we finish up skating. Just as a reminder, as the weather gets nicer we will be going outside for class anytime the temperature is over 50 degrees. Please help your student to dress accordingly.

Track season will be starting with sign-ups on April 11th and 12th after school and our first practice on April 13th from 3:45-4:45. Track is open to all students in all grades. Practices are mandatory in order to be eligible participate in the meets. We hope to see your student-athlete there.

Einstein

We hope all our Einstein families had a great, well-deserved spring break and are ready to take on the rest of the year!

In Science classes, astronomers will be blasting off into outer space during our astronomy unit! We will be learning about the seasons, gravity, the International Space Station, individual planets, constellations, and historic views of our solar system.



In Language & Literature classes, we have been preparing for the upcoming MAP test that students will be taking the week we return from break. All Einstein students have met individually with Ms. Pajic to set a goal for their reading score. They all came up with action plans which include ways they can become a better readers. After the test, we will be begin on our “Notable Characters” unit. In this unit, students will be reading books of their choice and complete analyses of the characters!

In Math, we will be solving real world ratio problems and calculating unit prices/rate! Students will be working collaboratively to practice calculating better buys at grocery stores. The final assessment will be using ratios and unit rate to calculate the best price of given products. Students have also been preparing for the upcoming Math MAP assessment.

In Individuals & Society, students are researching human-made and natural locations around the United States of America and will be creating their very own travel journal of those sites. This will incorporate the five themes of geography we have focused on earlier in the year! We will also be using knowledge from our math unit to calculate gas mileage and trip costs on their American journeys!

Mandela

Can you believe it's just about April already? This school year has flown by!

Science- Speaking of flying, our scientists have taken off into space as they've learned about astronomy. They are working on a project relating to the International Space Station and how astronauts work in space.

Individuals and Societies- Students will take on the role of a traveler and create an itinerary that documents their trip through the regions of the United States.

Language and Literature- Students are diving into their own independent reading books and analyzing the characters within their text. Eventually, students will use their character analysis to write a mini-biography or mini-autobiography to document the life and events of their character. This assignment will require some imagination and critical thinking!



Mathematics- Our students are working hard on a unit all about ratios, rates, and proportions. This unit requires students to take what they previously learned about fractions, and apply those concepts in a new context when working with ratios. This unit also requires students to solve real-world problems and has great real-world application.

MLK

Right before Spring Break MLK house collaborated to combine their knowledge of notable characters in Language and Literature and the new information they are learning about the regions of the United States in Individuals and Society. The students were able to make connections across content areas while working together in the Library for a few days.

In Language and literature students are reading independent novels that they choose to help develop their knowledge of notable characters. They are doing a lot of reading and responding based on their novel each day. In addition to our independent novels they each wrote a 6 word memoir and created a small biography poster on someone they found interesting or inspirational to help expand our knowledge of autobiographies, biographies and memoirs.

MLK Scientists are currently studying astronomy. They created their own constellations and myth to explain why their constellation ended up in the sky. Students are learning about the different celestial bodies found within our universe. Ask your student what the difference between a meteor, meteoroid and meteorite is?

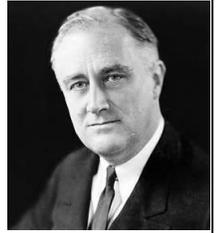
In math, we are focusing on solving ratio word problems using visual representations, calculating unit price, and unit rate. The students are collaborating in small groups using a double number line, unit blocks, and ratio tables to solve ratio problems. The students made real world connections by learning how to calculate the better buy when comparing two items using unit price.

In I&S, they will be traveling Coast to Coast as they visit the four regions of the U.S. During their travel, students will be stopping in cities of their choice and will be planning activities for each stop. They will be incorporating what they have learned already this year, the 5 Themes of Geography in their Travel Log that they will be creating along their fun and exciting road trip.



Roosevelt

First of all, we are SO proud of all of our students involved in the Wizard of Oz, both onstage and behind the scenes as stage crew members. Great job! We were SO impressed by you all!



Our Mathematicians are currently in their Ratios, Rates and Proportions unit. We celebrated Pi Day by measuring circular items and seeing who could calculate a ratio as close to Pi as possible! Ask your child to help you while you're shopping, as they can help you calculate the better buy when comparing two items using unit price! They can also help you calculate sale prices using percents!

Our Geographers are in the middle of planning a road trip across the USA. They will visit the four regions of the US stopping in eight cities along the way. Students will plan activities for themselves, be responsible in finding places to spend the night, researching gas prices, finding places to eat, and observing human and physical characteristics of each region. We are excited to see their final products!

Our Scientists are currently studying astronomy. Students are learning about the different celestial bodies found within our universe. They are also learning about gravity and inertia and enjoying different demonstrations that show inertia! Ask your student to show you some of these demonstrations at home! We had an excellent time at Discovery World exploring how science is part of our world! Thank you to all of the chaperones for making Discovery World possible and to our students for demonstrating "viking up" behavior.

Language- We have met so many interesting people through books! In our Notable Characters Unit, students are learning to identify character types and traits as they read their independent novels. They delve deeper into the characters and what makes them "tick" through entries in their word jottings and character jottings packet. As they learn about these interesting characters, real and imaginary, they are applying the elements and characteristics of biographies, autobiographies and memoirs. They have interviewed each other to create mini-biographies, and used their inferencing skills to put themselves in the places of a character in their book to create an auto-bio cube. Next, they will be reading excerpts of memoirs and writing entries in a memoir of one of the characters in their books. They will also be writing "I Am" poems! Finally, they will use all they have learned to create a Facebook page for one of their characters. Thankfully, there will always be new characters to meet in the imaginary world of books!

Upcoming Field Trips: We will be traveling to Tabor Woods in May. More information will be provided to your student as we get closer to the date.

Clark

****Reminders:** There are lots of great things happening in the 7th Grade in April!! The 7th Grade field trip to the Theater Guild is April 12th. The students should have brought permission slips home for this. The 7th Grade Family Night is April 14th. The students have been working diligently on their projects and are excited for you to come see them. Watch for information regarding the WaterShed project in April.**



Individuals and Societies: Students have finished our Africa unit, and we've moved into Asia. Students will be exploring everything ranging from world religions, caste system, one child policy, spread of communism, as well as the Vietnam and Korean War.

Language Arts: We are *diving into* (that's a metaphor) a new unit on literary devices! Students will learn devices such as similes, metaphors, alliteration, allusions, etc. They will hear the *pitter patter* of rain on rooftops and teach you what onomatopoeia and alliteration are! We will create an assessment in which students identify literary devices and themes, and then find similar devices and themes in other songs, poems or texts!

Math: Now that they can work with fractions, our 7th graders are diving into ratios and unit rates with gusto, figuring out prices per item, points per game and pieces of fruit per pie (not Pi). This is a great example of how we use math in everyday life. They are competing with each other to see who can accomplish the most on Compass Learning, and they are proudly showing off their scores to their teachers and their friends. This is something that can also be done from home and will count toward their goals.

The pre-algebra students are in the Ratios, Rates and Proportion unit. Students will be using their new skills to create and furnish their dream bedroom in a new country. Please ask your child about the Compass Learning contest. This is something that can also be done from home and will count toward their goals.

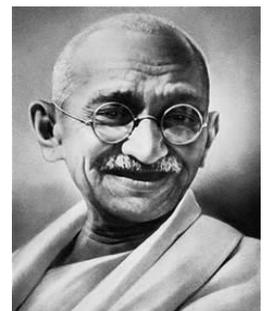
Science: Students are learning about the environment all around them. They are exploring different environmental issues every day (biological hazards, noise pollution, and land pollution). For the next month we will continue to look at other pollution issues. Continue to look on Google classroom for assignments that your child should be completing.

Gandhi

Math! Hello! Happy spring! In 7th grade we are finishing our unit on ratios and proportions. We are using our knowledge of fractions to be able to solve real life problems, like the cost of an item or the miles per gallon of gas that a car may use. Everyone has worked hard to learn these concepts and be able to use them in real life situations. We will be completing an I.B. project using these concept as well. We are working hard to get ready for next year's math-8th grade jumps into algebra! In the algebra classes we have been busy working our way through the equations of a line. This can get tricky as there is quite a bit to remember! Compass Learning is continuing in all math classes, and we have a friendly but spirited competition as to which class and individual student will successfully complete the most activities. Compass is accessible from home, so encourage your student to add to their totals in their spare time!

Language and Literature

Students have been 'digging deeper with literary devices.' Students are continuing to read their novels as they work on their assessment. They will connect the themes of their books with poems and popular music of the day. After we return from Spring Break, we will be tackling our spring MAP tests. It will be exciting to see the great gains that the students have made this year in class!



Angelou

Language & Literature: Students have officially wrapped up the Short Story Unit with an IB Assessment! They compared and contrasted two stories and made a poster to represent the different components of a story. Looking ahead as we begin the 4th and last quarter of the year, we will be reading parts of The Diary of Anne Frank and how a person's identity is shaped by the decisions they make. Make sure you ask your student about what they have been learning!

Individuals and Societies: Students have completed their final projects on Africa and I am extremely impressed with some of the action they have taken to help end poaching, and bring fresh water to those in need. Final Unit projects are a large part of the third quarter grade and missing projects will have a huge impact on class progress. Students have been exploring the Middle East for the last two weeks, so ask your students what they have learned about the Middle East and what surprised them the most. Students will be learning about the history of the major world religions when they return from break. We will be spending the remainder of April exploring East and Southeast Asia.

Science: Students are learning about the systems of the human body. After spring break they have a project on the digestive system due. It is very important to turn the project in on time as project count as an assessment grade, which is 60% of their final grade. We still have a few systems to learn about when they come back from spring break. I hope the students get some rest during their week off.

Algebra: Students are graphing and solving quadratic functions, solving inequalities, or finishing up solving equations.



Houdini

Language and Literature: Happy Spring! We have finished our short story unit which also included a review of figurative language. The students made posters and wrote essays that compared and contrasted two of the stories that we read. We started our poetry unit just before the break and are continuing for the next few weeks until we start MAP testing in April. Looking ahead, we will be reading part of "The Diary of Anne Frank" and studying people who have overcome obstacles.

Math: Hello! We can't believe the third quarter is already finished! The students have been working hard at solving one and two step equations. We have also started a coordinate plane unit. They are doing well and enjoying using learning stations in the classroom. We are looking forward to a very productive fourth quarter.

Algebra: Students are graphing and solving quadratic functions, solving inequalities, or finishing up solving equations.



April is Autism Awareness Month

(Excerpt from Alec S. and Juana E. McKinley Middle School-8th Grade Passion Project 2014)

What is Autism?

Autism is a disorder that affects the brain in the first three years.

- It affects the social and communication parts of the brain.
- It mostly affects boys (1 in 54)
- It is very rare for girls to have Autism (1 in 254)
- Affects 2 million people in the United States
- It is a spectrum disorder with a range of complex neurodevelopment disorders.

How is Autism Diagnosed?

Healthcare providers will often use a questionnaire or other screening instrument to gather information about a child's development and behavior.

Some rely solely on parent observations, while others rely on a combination of parent and doctor observations.

What are the signs of Autism?

EARLY SIGNS

- No babbling or pointing by age one.
- No singular words by sixteen months or two word phrases by age two.
- No smiling or social responses.
- No response to name.
- Loss of language or social skills.
- Poor eye contact.
- Excessive lining up of toys or objects.

LATE SIGNS

- Impaired ability to make friends with peers.
- Impaired ability to initiate or sustain a conversation with others.
- Stereotyped, repetitive, or unusual use of language.
- Preoccupation with certain objects or subjects. Restricted patterns of interest.
- Inflexible adherence to specific routines or rituals.

What causes Autism?

Scientists aren't certain what causes Autism Spectrum Disorder. Some possible answers are: Irregularities in several regions of the brain, disruption of normal brain development, environmental factors on gene function and links to heredity.

What helps children with Autism?

Here are some things that help with Autism:

- Educational/behavioral interventions.
- Medications.
- Other therapies.

How are teens different?

Teens can be bothered by noisy areas; such as gyms and cafeterias.

- Might stand too close and might not take the hint when a conversation is done.
- They may make rude comments but might not know how you will take it.
- They want to make friends but only like to talk about *their* interests.
- They are easily bullied but don't understand when they are being bullied.

ALSO....

- People with Autism are very creative,
- Their minds are open to anything and anyone.
- Most are friendly.
- They don't judge others.
- They live in the moment and they don't let anything in the past bring them down.
- They are passionate about ideas.
- They are less materialistic.

What can we all do to help those with Autism?

- Be patient.
- Be kind.
- Be understanding of their differences.
- Include them in conversations and activities.

Protect them from bullies. Spread the word and help others to understand.

attendance **MATTERS**

ATTENDANCE

Excellent attendance is essential to school success. Students are expected, when healthy to attend all scheduled classes and activities on time except as excused by the school. When students are ill, parents/guardians need to report their child's absence by calling **664-6155**. If phoning in when voicemail is on, please leave the following information:

- The student's name and grade
- The reason for the absence
- The probable duration of the absence
- The identity of the person calling

If your child has been absent 10+ days this semester/year due to illness or other reasons, these absences are considered excessive and we will need a medical statement from your child's physician to excuse her/him for the remainder of this school term. All remaining absences, which are not accompanied by a doctor's excuse, will be treated as trancies as per our District Policy.

EARLY DISMISSAL OR LATE ARRIVALS

It is requested that dental and medical appointments be scheduled outside of the normal school day as much as possible. In the event a student must leave before the school day ends, or arriving at school late, the parent must come to the office and sign the child in or out.

Digital Resources Available to Students Anytime, Anywhere

RUSD students can access digital resources from the RUSD Instructional Technology Resources page (instech.rusd.org) anytime, anywhere. For most of the resources, students can access the content by using their student ID and district password. For a list of digital resources and login information, [click here](#).

HELP WANTED

Arbor Management, the food service provider for Racine Unified, is looking for very special associates. We are looking for the kind of people who are interested in part time hours on the days that schools are in session and who like to be around children. Shifts vary from 3 to 6 hours per day between 5am and 3pm, Monday through Friday. If interested, please complete an application between 9am and 3pm at the Arbor office located at 3109 Mt Pleasant St., Bldg. 2 Door B. We look forward to meeting you.

EOE M/F/D/V

RUSD Now Offering Text Message Notifications

New this year, during weather or other emergencies, RUSD will now be able to notify parents and guardians via text message. If you have a cell phone number as your primary household phone number in our records, you will be eligible to receive District text messages.

How Do I Sign-Up?

- On Dec. 14 the District will send out an opt-in text message to your cell phone asking you if you'd like to receive text message notifications from Racine Unified.
- The text will be sent from the number 684-53.
- Reply 'YES' if you want to receive text message notifications or 'NO' if you do not want to receive them.

If your primary phone number is not a cell phone and you would like to receive District text messages, you can change your number in Infinite Campus Parent Portal. Please see step-by-step instructions on the backside of this page.

If you need your Parent Portal access code, please contact your child's school.

If you do not receive an opt-in message, please login to the Parent Portal and make sure your primary household number is correct. If you miss the Dec. 14 opt-in message and your primary household number in Infinite Campus is a cell phone, you can text "YES" to 684-53 at any time to sign-up.

District text messages will also be sent out in Spanish. Please note that the program does not allow us to enter special characters. Therefore, messages will not have the following accent marks, á é í ó ú, ü, ç ÿ.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email info@rusd.org.

McKinley Middle School

2340 Mohr Ave

Racine, WI 53405

Main office (262) 664-6150

Attendance (262) 664-6155

Fax (262) 664-6196

<http://www.rusd.org/mckinley>



McKinley is now on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/McKinley-Middle-School-1729768473924040/>

