

*High Levels of Learning
for All*



McEachern Messenger

October 2013 Vol. 3, No. 2

2400 New Macland Road, Powder Springs, GA 30127 Phone 770-222-3710 • FAX 770-222-3712

A Monthly E-Newsletter for McEachern High School Parents, Students, Staff, and Community

IMPORTANT DATES

October 3	Student Holiday/Teacher Furlough Day	October 18	Varsity Football at North Cobb
October 4	Student Holiday/Teacher Furlough Day	October 23	Technology Training for Teachers (Planning)
October 4	Varsity Football at Campbell	Oct 28-Nov 1	Hearing/Vision Screening all 10th Graders
October 7	Student/Staff Holiday	November 1	Varsity Football at Harrison
October 8	Teacher Workday/Student Holiday		
October 11	Varsity Football vs. South Cobb		
October 15	PTSA Board Meeting Russell Hall		
October 15	Project 2400 Parent Meeting 6 pm Cafeteria		
October 16	PSAT/ASVAB Administration		



FROM THE ADMINISTRATION...

2013 SAT scores are in...McEachern raised our average SAT score by 12 points from the 2012 scores! Let's get those test scores even higher. Make sure you sign up for our SAT prep classes, utilize online study resources and participate in the PSAT in your sophomore year here at McEachern. More details can be found on the McEachern HS Webpage.

Go Indians!



SOCIAL MEDIA

Now you can follow the McEachern Messenger on Facebook and Twitter!! "Like" us at McEachern Messenger on Facebook, and "follow" us on Twitter at @MHS_Messenger.



Send submissions by the 15th of each month to McEachernMessenger@gmail.com

PARENTVUE (NEW GRADEBOOK)

ParentVue provides parent/guardian access to students' grades and attendance and allows parents/guardians to set up automatic e-mail notifications of attendance and/or grades. Parents will be able to sign up for access after Open House on August 22nd with valid ID. Here is a guide for parents to use once they receive their school activation code on the 22nd: <http://synergysupport.cobbk12.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=I8dm%2fHpMTA4%3d&tabid=161&mid=530>

MHS STUDENT WEBSITE FEATURE

Have you noticed that our teachers are blogging? Log on to the MHS Website. If you already have an account, enter your student ID and the password you created. Once in, you'll find directions to add each of your teacher's blog pages, athletics page, or club pages. If you do not have an account, simply click "register". Enjoy the ease of having all of your teacher's blogs in one spot!!

TUTORIALS

Tutorials are held every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:45—5:00pm. See your teacher for a tutorial ticket. Students may leave early from tutoring, but must have a ride within 15 minutes of being dismissed.

STUDENT PARKING

Every student who drives on campus MUST purchase a parking decal. The parking decals are \$50 per semester. See the McEachern website for all parking rules, regulations, and forms needed to apply. There is an additional form and be sure to note the new regulations regarding unpaid fines and towing.

BUS DISMISSAL POLICY

McEachern dismisses at 3:30pm. The buses close their doors at 3:38pm. Students are not allowed access to the bus after the doors are shut. Plan ahead and make it to your bus on time!

TARDY POLICY

To be excused for being tardy to school a student must present a doctor's or dentist's official appointment verification, a note regarding student illness, or a document for a court ordered appearance at the time the student signs in to school. Tardies due to missing the bus, traffic, oversleeping, car trouble, etc. are unexcused. Any student checking into school after 8:25 am must sign in with the Attendance Office. If a parent/guardian signs the student into school, a note must still be presented stating the reason for the tardy.

NOTE: Tardies are cumulative for ALL classes/homeroom each semester.

1— 8th= Warning

9th— 15th= Saturday School

16+ = ISS

Failure to serve Saturday School will result in two days of OSS.

BUS NOTE POLICY

We have a new bus pass with the following procedures:

1. The student will get the bus pass from their bus driver.
2. The student will take the form home and have their parent/guardian fill it out.
3. The student will then bring the pass to their administrator's office for approval first thing in the morning.

Forms can be printed from http://www.mceachernhigh.org/School_Info.html

ATTENDANCE NEWS...

EARLY DISMISSAL

If you are planning to check your student out of school early, please send an early dismissal note to school with your student. Your student will give the note to his/her first block teacher. The teacher will write your student a pass to come to the Attendance Office at the time you stated on the early dismissal note. Parents will not need to come to the Attendance Office to check out his/her student if the student has turned in an early dismissal note.

PTSA NEWS...

JOIN US

Please join the PTSA for just \$7.00 per person. As our way of saying "Thank You", each PTSA Member will receive a McEachern Indians Stadium Cup, Chick-Fil-A coupon and \$10.00 Gift Certificate to Aspens Signature Steaks Restaurant (while supplies last). Add a \$20.00 Donation to your membership and you will automatically be entered into our Spring Raffle for a chance to win a 32" Samsung LED TV!! Membership Forms can be found on the PTSA webpage under the 'Activities' section on the McEachern High School website at www.mceachernhigh.org.

OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE – YEARBOOK GIVEAWAY

Join McEachern PTSA during the month of October for just \$7.00 and you will automatically be entered into our Free Yearbook Giveaway!! The winner will be announced on Nov. 4th during morning announcements. Membership Forms can be found on the PTSA webpage and in the Main Office in Russell Hall.

ATTENTION MHS CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS.....

When your Club or Organization joins PTSA, we will provide Pizza for an upcoming meeting. The entire Club Roster must join PTSA to be eligible. Submit your Club Roster plus a copy of each student's membership card for verification to the PTSA mailbox in Russell Hall.

IGNORANCE IS NO DEFENSE: PARENT ASSEMBLY

PARENTS, DID YOU KNOW THAT....

- when your teen turns 17 years old, they are an adult under Georgia criminal laws?
- if your teen gives a prescription drug to a friend, they both can be charged with a crime?
- if your teen has a fake ID with a government logo, he/she can be charged with a felony?
- your teen can be charged with statutory rape regardless of whether they are a girl or a boy?

McEachern PTSA will be hosting a Parent Assembly featuring J. TOM MORGAN, former District Attorney of DeKalb County and author of "Ignorance Is No Defense: A Teenager's Guide to Georgia Law", on Oct. 21st at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC. Don't miss this important opportunity to learn about teenagers' rights and the consequences for breaking laws that may surprise both teens and parents. (Please be advised that this assembly is designed for parents and high school students and is not recommended for students below the 7th Grade). The book, "Ignorance Is No Defense: A Teenager's Guide to Georgia Law" (list price - \$15.00) will be on sale for \$8.00 for PTSA members and \$10.00 non-PTSA members before and after the Assembly.

**Volunteers are needed for the
2013
GEORGIA APPLY TO COLLEGE
Program!**



GEORGIA APPLY TO COLLEGE (GAC) is part of the American Council on Education's national initiative to increase the number of students accessing postsecondary education. Each year, the Governor proclaims November **Georgia Apply to College Month**. During the month, high schools across Georgia hold events during which their seniors can receive assistance, support and encouragement as they apply to college.

The **GEORGIA APPLY TO COLLEGE** program helps Georgia high schools:

- ✓ Provide students with a time to focus on applying to college.
- ✓ Demystify the process of researching and applying to college for their students.
- ✓ Help their students identify the colleges that will be the best institutional fit for them.
- ✓ Encourage students to apply who may not otherwise have seriously considered going to college.
- ✓ Engage students in the college application process earlier in their senior year.
- ✓ Foster a school-wide college-going culture.

"I loved being able to help the kids and being able to have conversations that really helped them think about their future." - 2012 Volunteer

"I was encouraged to apply and had a set time and place to do so. I also had great volunteers to help me when I needed them to." - 2012 Student Participant

"This was a great event in that our students were pumped about the idea that they could go to a college or university." - 2012 Site Coordinator

Ever wonder how you can make a difference in your local high school?

Just a few hours of your time in November can help high school seniors make their college dreams a reality! As a Georgia Apply to College Volunteer you can:

- ♦ Provide assistance to high school seniors as they navigate the college application process;
- ♦ Share your college experiences; and
- ♦ Inspire graduating seniors to reach for their dreams by applying for college!

It takes just a few simple steps to get involved:

- ♦ Visit the GAC website at www.usg.edu/apply-to-college
- ♦ Click on the **Get Involved as a Volunteer** section and go to **How to Become a Volunteer** to view the contact information for the participating high schools that have requested volunteer assistance.
- ♦ Contact a participating school and let them know your interest and availability. They will then confirm your volunteer registration and provide you with more specific details about their event.
- ♦ View the Volunteer Training Video, also found in the **Get Involved as a Volunteer** section of the site, before attending your first GAC event. The training will provide you with the information you need to have a fun and rewarding volunteer experience!

Visit the **GEORGIA APPLY TO COLLEGE** website at www.usg.edu/apply-to-college to learn more! Questions? Contact us at gacw@usg.edu or call us at 404-962-3110.

The Georgia Apply to College program partners are:
University System of Georgia Technical College System of Georgia Georgia Independent College Association
Georgia Student Finance Commission Georgia Department of Education Communities in Schools of Georgia Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education

CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Please support our school-wide Thanksgiving Food Drive to benefit the Center for Family Resources, which provides Thanksgiving meals to Cobb County families in need. This is a great community service project for McEachern Clubs and Organizations!! Please place your cans in the blue barrel in Russell Hall. Or you can "Drop a Dollar for Hunger" in the blue barrel at the Oct. 11th (Senior Night) football game. You can even donate your change on Chick-fil-A Fridays!! Monetary donations may also be made by taking an envelope marked "PTSA Food Drive" to the Main Office in Russell Hall. Let's take the trophy this year for "Most Donations From A High School." Thank you for your support!



NATIONAL PTA REFLECTIONS PROGRAM (ARTS RECOGNITION)

The PTSA Reflections Program provides opportunities for students to express themselves artistically and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts.

This year's theme is: "Believe, Dream, Inspire"

Students can submit entries in the following categories:

- Visual Arts (drawing, painting, and collage)
- Photography
- Musical Composition
- Literature
- Dance Choreography
- Film/Video Production

Judges will select two winning entries per grade in each category.

All Entries are due to the PTSA Mailbox in Russell Hall by Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013.

Each entry must include a Local Student Entry Form. Please review General Rules, Consent Form Info and Entry Packaging Guidelines, along with specific category rules.

Please refer to the PTSA webpage under the 'Activities' section on the McEachern High School website at www.mceachernhigh.org for more information.

THEME SEARCH CONTEST: National PTA seeks a theme for the 2015-2016 Reflections Program year. The student who submits the winning entry will receive \$100. The Theme Search Entry Form can be found on the PTSA webpage under the 'Activities' section on the McEachern High School website at www.mceachernhigh.org. Entry Form must be returned to the PTSA mailbox in Russell Hall by October 15, 2013.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Michele Rice at mceachernptsapres@gmail.com or (917) 572-9241.

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS....

Watch for our monthly 'Volunteer Opportunities' email. Any amount of time you can contribute (even just an hour) is so appreciated!! Please send your email address to [www.mceachernptsapres@gmail.com](mailto:mceachernptsapres@gmail.com) to be added to our distribution list.

PTSA BOARD MEETINGS

PTSA Board Meetings will be held at 6:00 p.m. in Russell Hall on the following dates: 10/15, 11/12, 12/17, 1/14, 2/11, 3/11, 4/8, 5/15. Parents, Teachers and Students are invited to attend. We welcome your input!!

SEEKING COMMITTEE/STUDENT CHAIRS

The PTSA Board is seeking parents and students to serve on the Board as Chairs and Student Chairs for the following Committees: Reflections (PTA Arts Program), Family Engagement, Youth Services, Communications, Community Engagement, Scholarship, Health and Wellness, Education Enrichment, and Membership. If you are not able to serve as a Committee Chair, please consider serving as a Committee Member. Please send an email to www.mceachernptsapres@gmail.com indicating your interest.



CHICKEN BISCUITS ARE ON SALE FOR \$2.50 EVERY FRIDAY FROM 7:30 - 8:15 (weather permitting). Proceeds to benefit the McEachern High School PTSA Scholarship Fund and other PTSA programs.

Thank you in advance for your membership and support of your McEachern High School PTSA!!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Michele Rice
Vice President	Angela Townsend
Treasurer	Joyce Jones
Secretary	Charisse Jones
Principal	Regina Montgomery
Administrative Liaison	Krystal Wattley

CTAE NEWS...

Two graphic design students from McEachern High School were selected as finalists for the Cobb Digital Library logo design competition hosted by the Cobb County Library Media Specialists. Entries were submitted by several high school design programs throughout the county, but Abigail Caldwell, and Jose Carmona-Almonte, both juniors at McEachern, were in the top two finalists for the competition. Students created their designs in Illustrator using Macintosh computers in the Advanced Graphic Design course. The two students worked together collaboratively to finalize their design.



ATHLETIC NEWS...

Congratulations to Nicholl Perez who was invited to join the US National Youth Soccer Team this summer. This is a huge honor and a stepping stone to the Olympics. Way to go Nicholl !!!



GO INDIANS!



P.O. Box 1088
Marietta, GA 30061
Telephone: (770) 426-3300
www.cobbk12.org

Agosto del 2013

Apreciados Padres de Familia:

Cobb County School District (CCSD) está comprometido en el logro de los éxitos de los estudiantes a través del entrenamiento educativo, en las escuelas locales, durante el año escolar 2013-2014.

Para ello, los directores y oficiales del distrito dedicaran más tiempo visitando a los estudiantes y a los maestros en sus salones de clases, durante todo el año escolar. Este énfasis adicional en el "entrenamiento educativo", brindara apoyo al aprendizaje y reforzara la atención del Distrito en el éxito estudiantil. Los miércoles serán los días que CCSD escogerá, como días de entrenamiento educativo. Usted puede estar seguro de que sus preocupaciones son muy importantes para nosotros, a pesar de que estamos dando más hincapié a la interacción en el salón de clase. Por lo tanto, le pedimos que se comunique con la escuela o la secretaría de la oficina para hacer una cita para hablar con el director o el administrador del distrito.

El distrito le agradece su apoyo continuo para con nuestras escuelas y administradores locales. Así mismo, le agradecemos su paciencia mientras implementamos el entrenamiento educativo en las escuelas.

Atentamente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hinojosa'.

Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.
Superintendente



Empowering Dreams for the Future

P.O. Box 1088
Marietta, GA 30061
Telephone: (770) 426-3300
www.cobbk12.org

August 2013

Dear Parents,

The Cobb County School District (CCSD) is committed to improving student achievement through instructional coaching at local schools during the 2013-2014 school year.

As a function of this, principals and district officials will spend more time visiting with students and teachers in class throughout the school year. This additional emphasis on "instructional coaching" will help support learning and reinforce the District's focus on student achievement. CCSD will recognize Wednesdays as instructional coaching days. Please know that your concerns are still very important to us, even though we are increasing emphasis on classroom interaction. Therefore, we encourage you to contact the school or office secretary to schedule a time to speak with the principal or district administrator.

The district continues to appreciate your ongoing support of our schools and local administrators. Additionally, your patience is appreciated as instructional coaching with schools is implemented.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hinojosa'.

Michael Hinojosa, Ed.D.
Superintendent



2014 Project 2400 Parent Information Meeting

McEachern HS- Cafeteria
October 15, 2013 6-7 PM

Do you need help raising your SAT Scores? The Cobb Schools Foundation and the Cobb County School District have partnered with the Princeton Review to present

Project 2400!

Project 2400 is your chance to help increase your SAT Test scores!

This exclusive SAT Preparation course consisting of 24 hours of in class instruction and 3 full-length diagnostic tests is offered at McEachern High School.

Project 2400 is for high school juniors only and classes are taught using Princeton Review materials and instructors.
(Regular price for this course is \$999.)

Your Project 2400 cost is only \$25!

Interested students and parents MUST attend the mandatory information meeting in order to be eligible to participate in the program.

Average score increases from past Project 2400 classes on the practice tests (from Test 1 to Test 3) have been approximately 175 points! Students have improved 10-760 points.

Want to receive an email when the new McEachern Messenger is published each month?

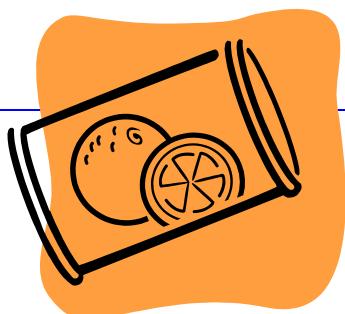
- * Go to the McEachern HS Website—<http://www.mceachernhigh.org>
 - * Click on “resources” on the top right
 - * Click on “subscribe to messenger”
- * Complete the subscription request information form



Junior Parent Breakfast

Saturday, November 9th in the PAC
8:30-10:30 AM

Join us for food and important information regarding your 11th grade student here at MHS.





McEACHERN HIGH SCHOOL

PTSA

*everychild.onevoice.**



SPRING RAFFLE



GRAND PRIZE: 32" HD TV

Drawing will take place at the April 2014 PTSA General Meeting (date to be announced)

Winner need not be present.

Raffle Ticket: \$20.00
(Available to PTSA Members Only)

*1 Free Raffle Ticket with PTSA Membership
and a \$20.00 Donation*



McEACHERN HIGH SCHOOL PTSA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Seniors must be PTSA Members to be eligible for MHS PTSA, South Cobb Council of PTAs, and Georgia PTA Scholarships.)

Staff Student Family Comm. Partner

Member Name/No.: _____ Grade: _____

Address: _____

City _____ Zip _____

Home #: _____ Cell/Work #: _____

Email _____

Number of Memberships: _____ x \$7.00 = \$_____

Scholarship Fund Donation(s): _____ x \$20.00 per Senior = \$_____

Donation(s): _____ x \$20.00 per Student = \$_____

(This donation helps to support various PTSA programs, including Red Ribbon Week, Reflections Arts Program and Quest College Fair.)

Total Amount: \$_____

Make checks payable to: McEachern PTSA
(Returned checks subject to a \$15.00 fee) Return to: Russell Hall - PTSA Mailbox OR
McEachern H.S. PTSA, 2400 New Macland Rd.
Powder Springs, GA 30127

PTSA Use Only: Cash \$_____ and/or Check #_____ \$_____