



Turning in His Coaching Hat

by: Alaina Vallier, Briana Rivera & Vy Phan

Long time McNiel teacher and Coach Tom Chancellor is retiring at the end of December. He's proudly taught for 36 years in the district, 16 of which were at McNiel.

Chancellor started teaching at McNiel in 1999 because his daughter was an 8th grader here that year. Chancellor said that teaching "Was good, a battle at times."

When asked what his most memorable teaching moment was Chancellor replied with a smile, "There are too many to pick." Chancellor shared that the main reason for his retirement is so that he can become "A full-time babysitter for my baby grandson."

It is clear that Coach Chancellor loves teaching and cares deeply about his students and fellow faculty members. Chancellor said he hopes that "The kids learn something and are kind," when asked what impression he wanted to make. Chancellor is a cherished teacher with the heart of a Mustang who will leave big shoes to fill.



Coach Chancellor, daughter, wife, and grandson.

Turkey Shoot Success

by: Valerie Patterson & Kenzie Bice

The McNiel turkey shoot was held on November 25th and lasted all day. Girls had to make a shot from the volleyball 10 foot line while boys had to shoot from half court. If a shot was made a 10-12 pound turkey was won. Students and staff could pay \$1 a shot, or \$5 for six shots in hopes of winning a turkey. Turkeys were purchased from our PIE partner, United Market Street. All together 25 turkeys were purchased. Three hundred students and 20 teachers participated. The school raise \$200 after it was over. The first student to win was John Harmon and the first teacher to win was Coach Stegall on her first shot-nothing but net! Mrs. Rushing came up with the idea and hope for this to be an annual event. Something similar is in the works for Easter.



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Cheerleaders joining together for McNiel's Alma Mater

School Pride Ceiling Tiles

by: Garrett Koetter, David Salinas & Tommy Elder

Ms. Brown's art room has a new look. Students have been painting the ceiling tiles as a project to add school spirit to the room.

The idea from Tascosa High School, but Brown thinks the results are better at McNiel. Brown also says that she can't pick a favorite tile.

Students sketch out the designs then color them. Roof leaks are the only real problem for the tiles as they can leave watermarks.

Most of the tiles are McNiel related, but vary in styles. There are some that are graffiti, Japanese style, but all in honor of McNiel.

More school spirit ceiling tiles are going to be put in the library and the entryway to the student center to give the building a little more flair.

The style is anything McNiel related. Soon, there will be a huge Cat in the Hat tile decorated and hung in the library.

Ms. Brown is very proud of her art students who completed the tiles.

Angel Tree

by: Destiny Jones & Brianna Keese

McNiel Girls Athletics collected over \$1000 in gifts from the WFTFCU Angel Tree in order to provide gifts to kids who would not otherwise get presents. Recipients are chosen through child protective services. Names of kids are kept anonymous.

Athletes were able to choose a person to get a present for. If some of the gifts were a little more expensive athletes grouped together to make the child's wish list come true. Monetary donations were also accepted and with some funding from fundraisers leftover gifts and clothing were also purchased.

All gifts were delivered to the credit union by the coaches and distributed through CPS.

PAC Day

by: Abigail Webb

McNiel Jr. High will hold PAC Day on Dec. 19th. PAC stands for "Passing All Classes." This is the second year for this event.

Students are eligible to attend if they are passing all classes. If a student is failing a class he or she will be in tutoring.

Activities include, gym time, movie, and board games.

For an additional \$5 students may bring electronics such as e-readers, laptops, ipads, phones, and Nintendo DS's and be able to use them during scheduled times without them being taken up.

Room placement will be assigned at random. The event will go from 8:30-10:30.

School will release at 11:30.

Please have your ride arrangements made in order to be picked up on time.

**Winter break
Dec. 19– Jan. 5th**

**Yearbooks on
sale now. \$60 or
\$85 with an 8th
grade baby ad.**

Door

Decorations

By: Demetric White & Katie Andrews

The holidays are quickly approaching and doors around the McNiel hallways are full of character. The front offices chose a theme from the movie, "Elf."

Attendance Clerk Kelli Mason came up with the idea of decorating doors and having a contest. Mason said she thought of the idea because "Christmas is my favorite holiday and I don't like bland doors."

Winners will receive hot chocolate and candy canes for their class.

American National Bank employees will judge the contest based on a rubric.

This is a fun way to bring a little healthy competition and spirit to McNiel before the semester ends.



Top: Students get a tour from the Air Evac crew. Bottom Left: Gwyneth McHugh inside the helicopter. Bottom right: Career Portals class with the flight crew.



Air Evac Demonstration

by: Tommy Elder and Garrett Koetter

Mrs. Houck's Career Portals class had a special demonstration last week from the local Air Evac team. Shortly after 12 the helicopter circled in and landed on the 7th grade practice football field.

There was a paramedic, flight nurse, and a pilot that each talked about the requirements for joining Air Evac. They also gave the starting salary for a flight nurse which is \$50,000. The pilot also said the distances the helicopter could fly roughly 200 miles on a tank of fuel depending on flying conditions.

There was about a 10 minute question session where things (such as how you become an Air Evac patient) were answered.

Students were allowed to climb inside the helicopter and check out the equipment. The crew left during 6th period.

Tardies

BY: Alaiina Vallier & Sienna Hunsaker

Tardies have always been a problem, but this year the numbers are way down due to the new tardy policy. If a student earns 10 tardies he or she must report to Saturday school held twice a month.. Even if a student goes to the office he still has to let the classroom teacher know or he will be counted tardy without a pas.

Winter Wordsearch by: Jaden Darkow

F R I S F T H A N U C C X I S
 G A E O A P K N A W O H B Z H
 X N O E L N N I M S E R Q N M
 N D I O D J T N W N K I O D M
 S A D E P N O A O O Y S R F K
 X U T E I S I F N W D T P O W
 R D U P C M P E S R M M M X J
 Z N M H U K J P R M D A X G X
 Y J O I R D V C E K A S Z Q E
 H O H D I A U A X X T O D W Z
 L U Z B O L D D S P T K A P G
 L I G H T S T V Z V E I G R Q
 S T N E S E R P D U P I U W S
 N V W L M X B U P B J A Y K I
 C X E P B D O J Z U L I R B S

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