



McNiel 8th Graders Meet Nick Vujicic by: Vy Phan

World-renowned speaker Nick Vujicic spoke to 8th graders from McNiel and Kirby on Oct. 10th at first Baptist Church to raise awareness for bullying as part of his “No Limbs, No Limits” series.

Vujicic started the talk with a few light-hearted jokes then bravely shared his life story sharing how he overcame the difficulties of having no arms and no legs. After an anonymous survey for students and staff, Vujicic challenged everyone to promise to make a difference in their schools, and help end bullying. Brylee Grub-Erwin stood up to ask a question when Vujicic invited her on stage to give him a hug as she was the first out of the crowd to stand up against bullying.

After about a fifteen minute Q and A session, Vujicic brought each school up to take a group photo. McNiel’s group was so large that 4 separate photos had to be taken to include everyone. Vujicic left McNiel students with a positive mission to end bullying.



Brylee Grubb-Erwin & Nick Vujicic

Admin Takes Ice Bucket Challenge by: Nevil Vora & Andrew Robinette

McNiel administrators showed their chill factor with the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to raise awareness and money for the disease. Principal Tania Rushing, Assistant Principals Summer Rollins and Jackie McCartney, and Counselor Jackie Wheat participated in the event. Teachers Tim Bragg, Jazman Patterson, Chelsea Howells, and Diagnostician Cheryl Solomon all dumped the water on them. The group nominated the Barwise Leadership Academy administrators to the challenge all in good fun. The Lady Mustang coaching staff was also challenged to participate. Challenge accepted.



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Cheerleaders joining together for McNiel's Alma Mater

Out of the Gym, In the Classroom

by: Abigail Webb

Coach Traci Stegall didn't ever see herself teaching health, but had to because of changes in district personnel. She says she enjoys teaching health.

She has also taught P.E., Athletics and I.S.S, but wouldn't want to teach I.S.S. again.

She plans classroom activities which students can research and learn the classroom topics.

Health is a requirement for all 7th graders in Texas. Students don't choose to take health, but Coach Stegall expects them to be mature enough to handle tough topics.

Guest speakers from Serenity House, D.A.R.E., Hot Topics, and CPR provide information to 7th grade students as well.

Picture retakes Nov. 5th.

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

Homecoming Festivities

by: Angela Fiorentino

McNiel started last week with dress up days for spirit week, drug free week, and bullying awareness. Tuesday— hat day. Wednesday—Camo. Thursday—neon day. Friday—twin day. Monday—red. Homecoming Day—black white and silver. Dress up pictures featured on pg. 3.

Friday, McNiel Booster club held the Homecoming dance. This dance brought in over 400 students beating last year's previous record of over 300 for Booster Club. The dance was from 7-9 and included a photo booth where people could dress up in costumes.

October 28th was McNiel's pep rally. 7th and 8th grade students, staff, and parents filled the gym for the pep rally led by Coach Campbell. Mr. Bragg's group won the dressing game contest against Mr. McCartney, Coach Patterson, and Mrs. Borton. All groups had to tag team putting on articles of clothing and beat the other participants.

The football games were successful with wins both from the 7th and 8th grade teams.

NJHS Food Drive

by: Briana Keese

The National Junior Honor Society sponsored food drive for McNiel this year is called "Students Against Hunger." It starts on November 3rd and runs through Nov. 14th. Collections will support the local area food bank.

All 4th period classes will be competing against each other. The winning class will be chosen by number of items donated. If you bring ramen noodles, 10 packages will equal 1 can. The top class will be awarded a prize.

For further questions, please contact NJHS sponsors Mrs. Wolf in the library, or Mrs. Johnson in D138.

Get Involved

Student organizations are a great way to meet new people and be involved with the school.

McNiel has several student organizations. Contact the sponsors for meeting times and requirements.

- ◆ NJHS– Mrs. Wolf and Mrs. Johnson
- ◆ F.R.O.G.– Mrs. Wolf
- ◆ Disney– Mrs. Borton and Mrs. Sellman
- ◆ Crime Stoppers– Coach Cross and Mr. Laughlin
- ◆ Stand For the Silent– Coach Cross and Ms. Koetter
- ◆ Student Council– Mrs. Nix and Mrs. Smith
- ◆ Gaming Club– Mrs. Wolf
- ◆ Book Club– Mrs. Wolf



Top left: camo day. Top Right: neon day. Bottom left: twin day. Bottom right: hat day.



Communities In Schools

by: Tommy Elder and Garrett Koetter

C.I. S. is a Texas Education Agency funded program and is executed by Xochill Pruitt. McNiel's campus coordinator for the program is Tamara Koetter.

Any student is eligible to participate in the program. Mrs. Koetter sends out parental consent forms to parents. Koetter helps students who are in need of school supplies or need things for home.

The goal is to empower students to achieve in life. The C.I.S. program has been in Texas since 1977, but has been in Wichita Falls for 8 years. This is McNiel's first year to utilize the program.

Anyone with questions, or for those interested in the program please contact Ms. Koetter in the Counselor's Office.

New Students, New Look

by: Michael Hernandez & David Salinas

McNiel Jr. High underwent a major overhaul before the 2014-15 school year began. Maintenance and janitorial crews worked all summer to renovate and create a total of 7 new classrooms for an influx of new students.

D135 used to be one giant room shared by two classes with a divider wall to separate them. It now is a drastically smaller room while 3 new classrooms and hallway occupy the rest of the space. Coach Cross nicknamed the 4 news rooms, "The Quad."

Mrs. Johnson moved into the TV studio area of the new wing. A new technology lab is now ran by Ms. Houck who is new to McNiel this year, and the 4th room belongs to English teacher Ms. Curry, also new to McNiel this year.

Ms. Brown took over the former teacher's lounge as her new art space. The former art room is now ISS, BAC, and a math class taught by Coach Reames.

Coach Stegall now teaches health in the tutoring area outside the darkroom.

The building has been renovated to allow space for the 800 7th and 8th grade students proudly attending McNiel.

Contact Us

Got news? Contact us at:

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