J.H. McGaugh Elementary

UTK/Kindergarten Parent Information Night

2026 - 2027



Team McGaugh

Ms. Wendy Wood – Principal

Mr. Rick Larson – Assistant Principal

35 Teachers

40 Classified Staff

680 Sea Lions



Team McGaugh



UTK/K Team

- Joanna Cygan-TK
- Traci Tochioka - TK
- Jessica Barr - TK
- Andrea Hess - K
- Susie Kim - K
- Stefana Fox - K
- Cari Sizemore - K

McGaugh

- 2025 Los Alamitos Classified Employee of the Year
- 2024 Purple Star Designated School
- 2023 Los Alamitos Unified Teacher of the Year
- 2022 California Pivotal Practice Award
- 2020 Classified Employee of the Year
- 2019 Exemplary Arts Teacher
- 2016 "Exemplary Arts Award" CA Dept. of Education
- Five-Time CA Distinguished School
- Gold Ribbon School
- Special Needs Educator of the Year - OC Parenting Magazine



A Day in the Life of UTK

Instruction & Learning

- Quick, interactive circle times (typically 5-7 minutes) with movement and songs.
- Play centers intentionally linked to PTKLF learning goals.
- Teachers facilitating and questioning, not simply directing.
- Hands-on, sensory experiences available daily.
- Integration of RULER and Heggerty within playful routines and centers.
- It should feel active, language-rich, and social.

Environment & Climate

- Child-generated signs, labels, and displays that reflect ownership and language development.
- Visual schedules and reminder cues that support independence and self-regulation.
- A designated Calm Corner or regulation space equipped with visuals and tools for self-regulation.
- Materials arranged for access and choice, encouraging problem-solving and collaboration.
- Clear pathways between designated "nooks" or centers to promote safe movement and calm transitions.
- Classrooms that feel warm, organized, and intentionally designed, not overly decorated or themed.



A Day in the Life of UTK









UTK Daily Schedule

🟢 **50% Play-Based Instruction**
Learning centers, small-group facilitation, exploration, and inquiry grounded in purposeful play.

🟡 **25% Routines & SEL Integration**
Arrival, transitions, community circle, RULER routines, self-regulation practice.

🔵 **15% Targeted Instruction**
Short, interactive whole-group or small-group lessons (literacy, math, phonological awareness/Heggerty).

🟣 **10% Outdoor Learning & Gross-Motor Play**
Outdoor exploration, movement, and cooperative games that extend classroom learning



Kindergarten at McGaugh

Kindergarten students experience a structured and playful environment that focuses on developing foundational skills for school and life. Some of the many skills that we will be taught throughout the year include academic learning, social and emotional development, fine and gross motor skills, creative expression, routine, structure, exploration, and inquiry.



Reading

Our Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) literacy program consists of:

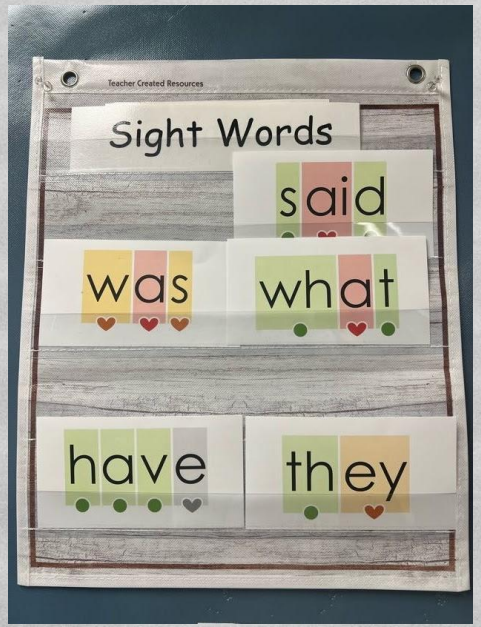
- Phonemic Awareness -rhyming, syllables, phonemes
- Decoding- letters and sounds, spelling, sound correspondences
- Sight Words
- Language Comprehension- vocabulary, literacy knowledge (concepts of print, genres), language structures (syntax and semantics)



Literacy Slides

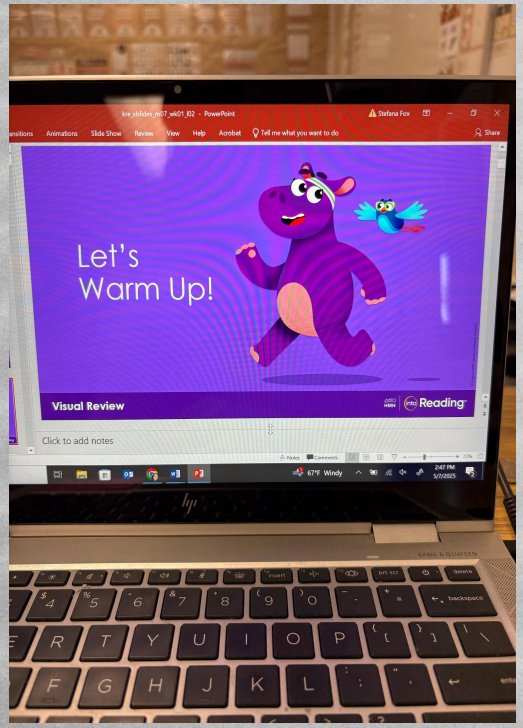
https://photos.app.goo.gl/w3LrZ2z9qAgm5bQM9

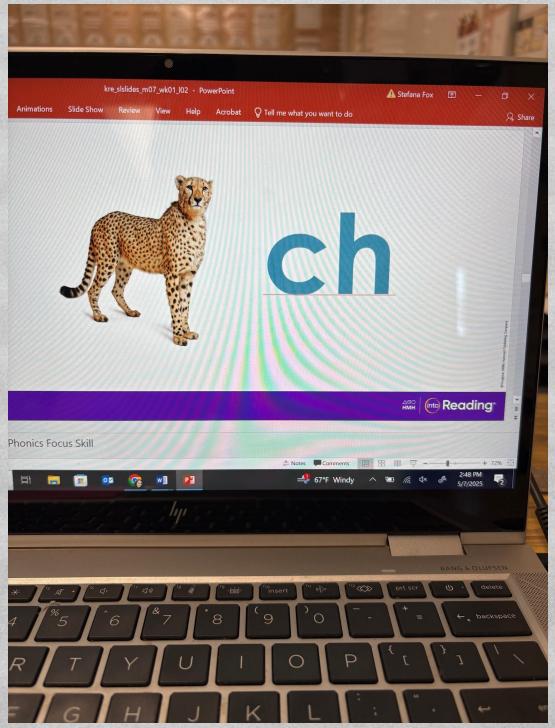


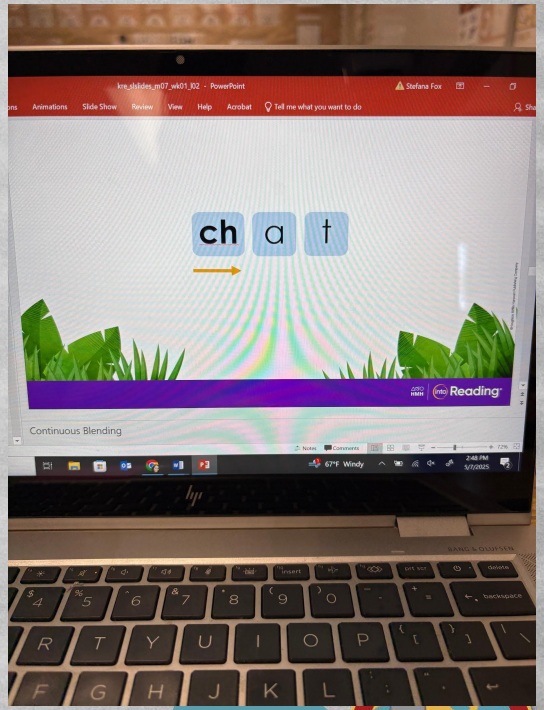




Literacy Slides





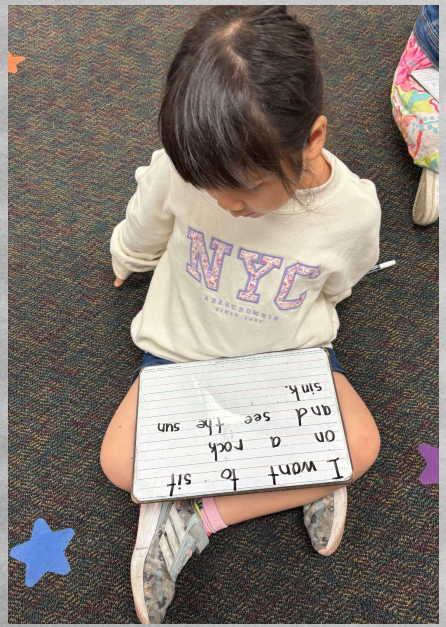


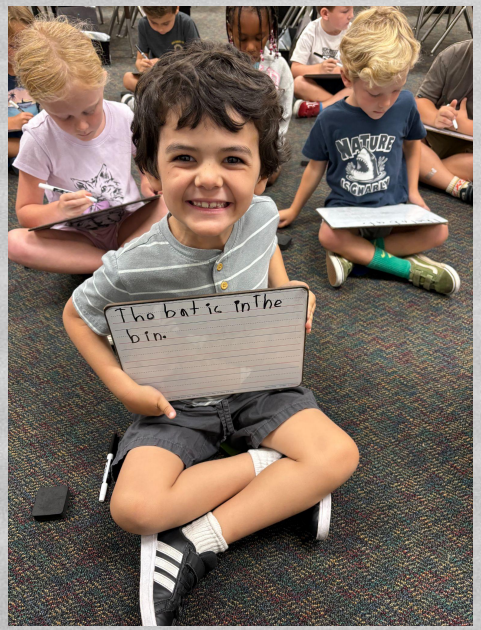
Writing

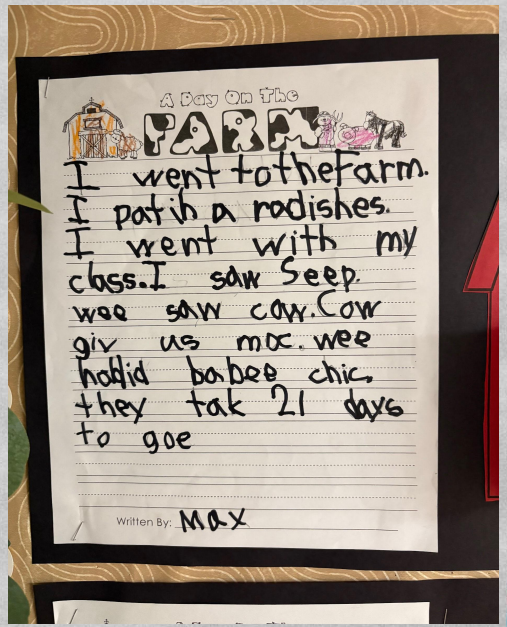
- Name writing
- Letter formation
- Guided writing
- Phonetic spelling
- Dictation
- Narrative, informative and opinion writing

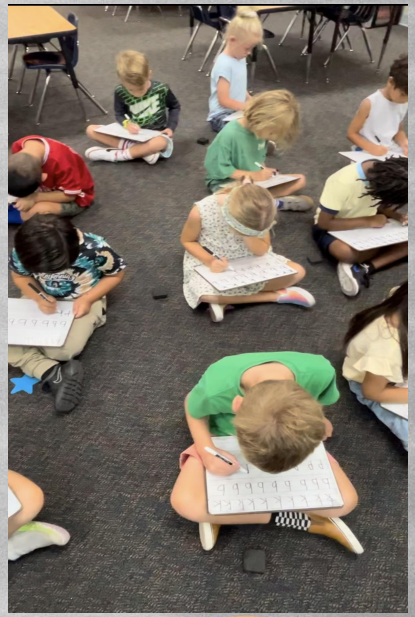


Writing


I wont to sit
on a rock
and see the sun
sinh.


The bat is in The bin.


A Day On The
FARM
I went to the farm.
I patib a radishes.
I went with my
class. I saw Seep.
wee saw cow. Cow
giv us mac. wee
hadid barbee chic,
they tak 21 days
to goe
Written By: Max

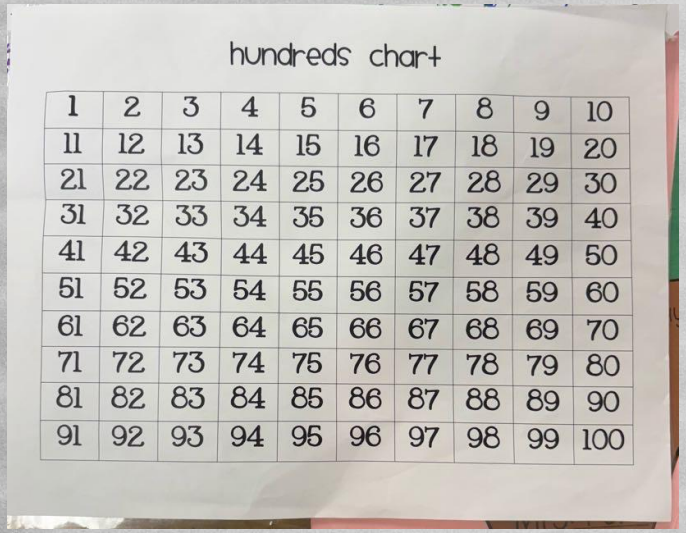


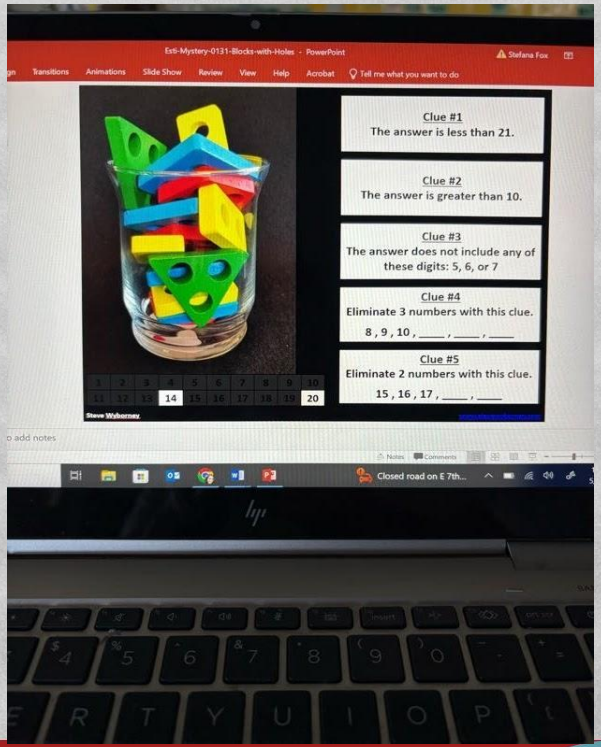
Math

- 2D & 3D shapes
- Number sense
- Number recognition, representation and writing 1-20
- Place value
- Addition and subtraction
- Problem solving



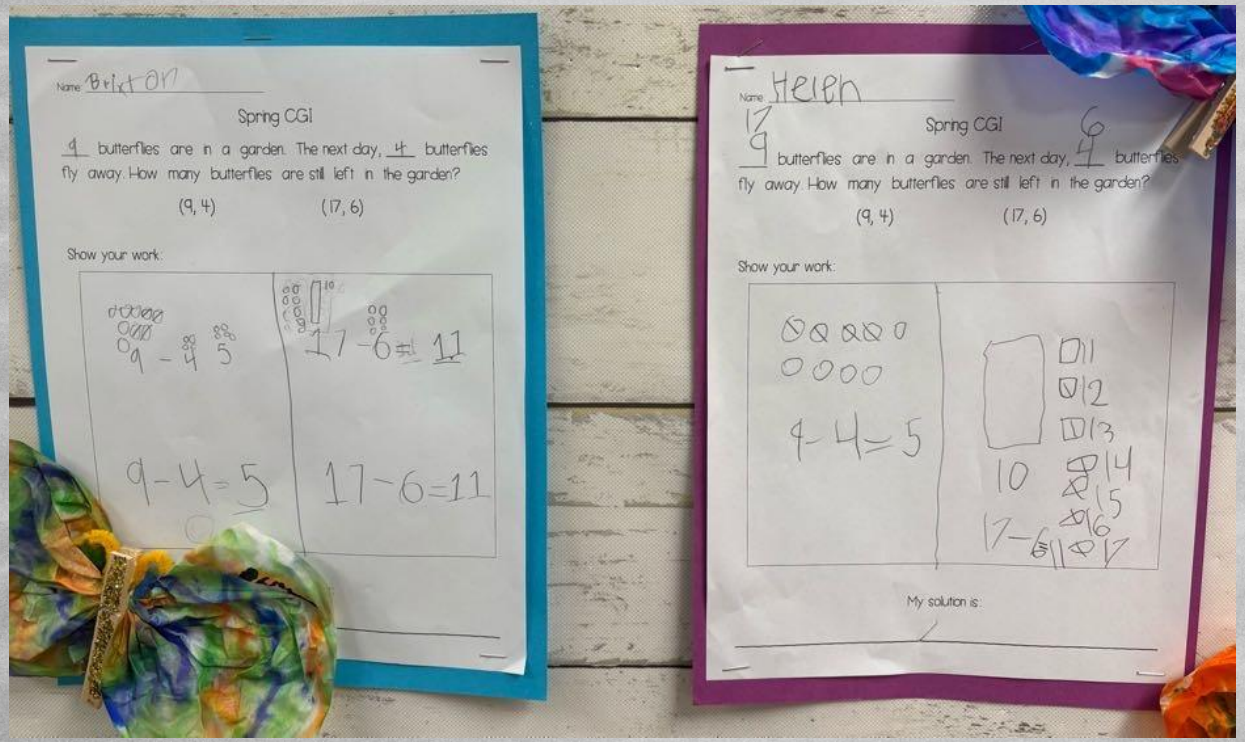
Math


hundreds chart
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40
41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60
61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70
71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 80
81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 90
91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 100


Est6-Mystery-0131-Blocks-with-Holes - PowerPoint
Clue #1
The answer is less than 21.
Clue #2
The answer is greater than 10.
Clue #3
The answer does not include any of these digits: 5, 6, or 7
Clue #4
Eliminate 3 numbers with this clue.
8 , 9 , 10 , ____ , ____ , ____
Clue #5
Eliminate 2 numbers with this clue.
15 , 16 , 17 , ____ , ____



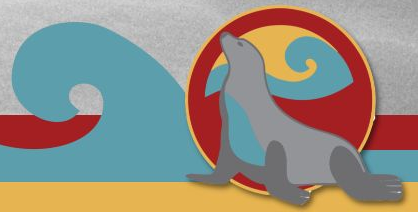
Math


Name Brixton
Spring CGI
9 butterflies are in a garden. The next day, 4 butterflies fly away. How many butterflies are still left in the garden?
(9, 4) (17, 6)
Show your work:
9 - 4 = 5
17 - 6 = 11
9-4=5
17-6=11
Name Helen
Spring CGI
17 9 butterflies are in a garden. The next day, 6 4 butterflies fly away. How many butterflies are still left in the garden?
(9, 4) (17, 6)
Show your work:
4-4=5
10
17-6=11
My solution is:



Specials

- Art Lab
- Music
- STEM Lab



Specials

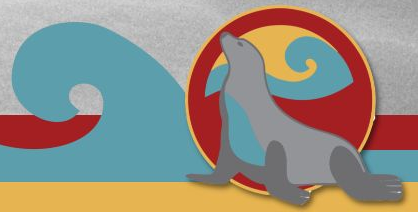






Special Events

- Holiday centers
- Big Buddies
- 100th day of School
- Field Trip



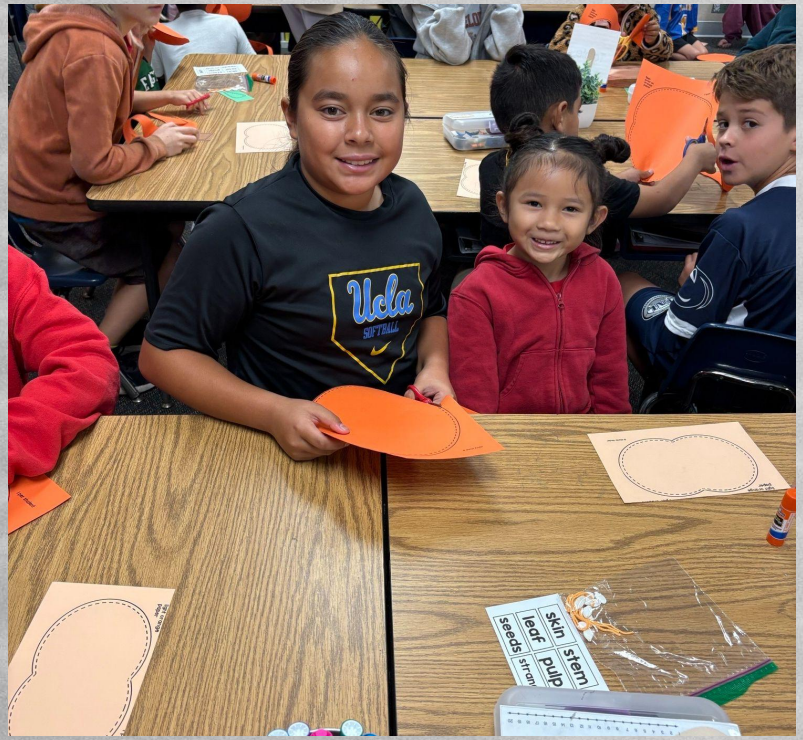
Special Events - Holidays







Special Events - Buddies





Special Events - 100th Day









Special Events - Field Trip







Wellness Counselors

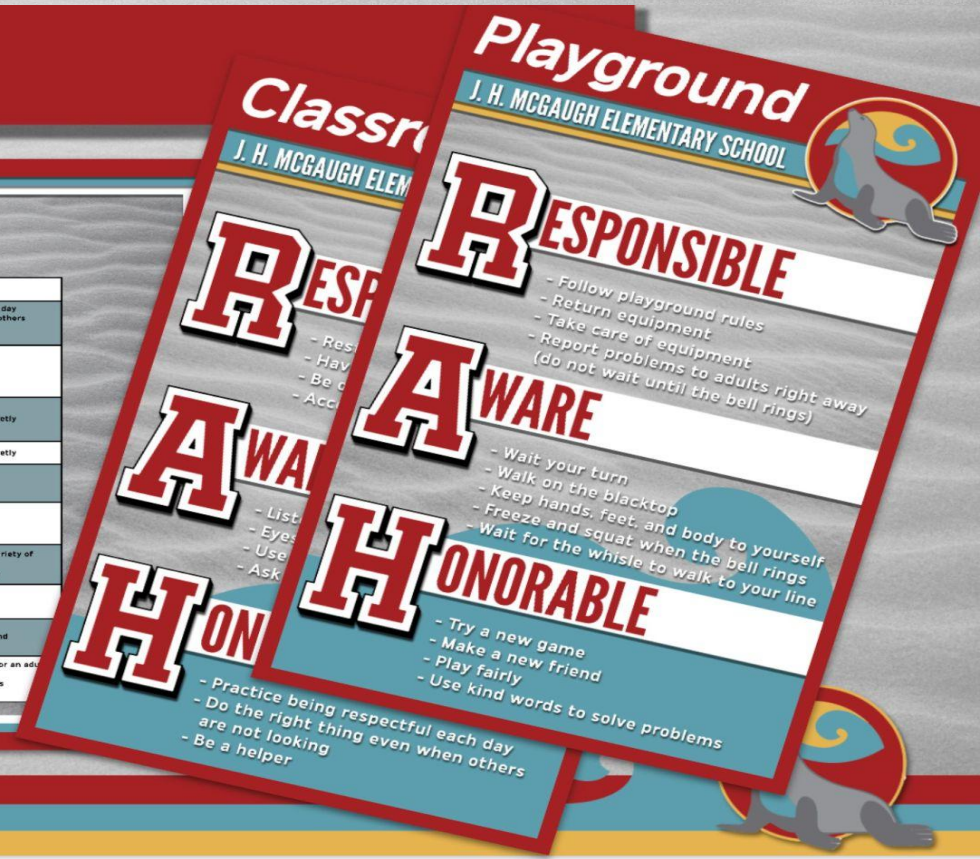




R.A.H Behavior

PBIS at McGaugh

	R Responsible	A Aware	H Honorable
Classrooms	- Rest well and nourish your body - Have your materials ready for school - Be on time, all the time - Accept challenges each day	- Listen attentively - Eyes on the teacher - Use time wisely - Ask for help when you need it	- Practice being respectful each day - Do the right thing even when others are not looking - Be a helper
Playground	- Follow playground rules - Return equipment - Take care of equipment - Report problems to adults right away (do not wait until the bell rings)	- Wait your turn - Walk on the blacktop - Keep hands, feet and body to yourself - Freeze and squat when the bell rings - Wait for whistle to walk to your line	- Try a new game - Make a new friend - Play fairly - Use kind words to solve
Bathrooms	- Use bathroom materials and equipment appropriately - Clean up after self - Report problems to adults	- Respect each others' privacy - Wait patiently for your turn - Walk to and from bathroom	- Return to class quickly and quietly
Main Office	- Wait patiently	- Walking to, from and in the office	- Return to class quickly and quietly
Auditorium	- Walk to and from auditorium - Walking only in auditorium	- Sit in seats; face forward, feet flat - Hands in lap - Quiet during performances	- Listen carefully - Quiet indoor voices
Lunch Area	- Clean up trash - Lower voice level - Follow school rules	- Keep tabletops and floor area clean - Walk on the blacktop	- Wait patiently for dismissal - Be polite - Invite others to sit with you
Media Center, Art Lab, and Music	- Return books on time - Take good care of books - Take care of all equipment	- Push in chairs - Walk to/from the media center	- Challenge yourself to read a variety of books - Listen and follow all directions
Hallways	- Keep hallway clean - Walk on the right side of the sidewalk	- Walk quietly and in a straight line - Be aware that others are learning	- Use polite words
Wellness Center	- Put all materials away after using them - Care for all materials - Listen to the teacher for directions	- Keep the area clean - Be calm and cool with your voice and body - Be mindful of your time	- Be polite - Explain the rules to a new friend - Use kind words and actions
Arrival & Dismissal	- Be on time - Be ready with school materials - Come to school daily	- Wait patiently - Hands, feet and objects to self - Use crosswalks for crossing, wear helmets when riding bikes or scooters	- Go to assigned area and wait for an adu - Use greetings - Say "thank you" to your parents for bringing /picking you up



Celebrate Sea Lions





Join the McGaugh Community



Rachel Lamphear

PTA President

Katherine Lasker

Project SEEK President




WELCOME
to our
SCHOOL BY THE SEA!
McGaugh Elementary School
PTA
everychild. onevoice.
RAH
McGAUGH!

McGaugh PTA

Community. Connections. Communication.

McGaugh PTA Goals & Programs

McGaugh PTA Supports programs and events that enhance the experience of all McGaugh Sea Lions and their families

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Engage Families & Community	Enhance Educational Experiences	Respect & Celebrate Differences	Promote Health & Physical activity	Fundraise/ Give Back
Room Parents	Book Fair	International Culture Club	Jog-A-Thon	Carnival / Silent Auction
Popsicle Party	Reflections	P.E.A.C.E Week	Outdoor Science	Apparel
Ice Cream Social	Green Team	Come Walk In My Shoes	School	Membership Drive
Family Fun Night	McGarden	Week of the Military Child	Guest Speakers	McGinkos
Carnival/Silent Auction	Red Ribbon Week	All Abilities Awareness and	Playground Upgrades	Jester Program
Jester Program	Astronomy Night	Education		School Gifts
McGaugh Connect	Music programs	Neurodiversity Week		Field Trips
Honorary Service Awards	Imagination Machine			Staff Appreciation
Movie Nights	International Culture Club			Wellness Space
McGaugh PTA Website	International Day			Intervention
5th Grade Activities	Field Trips			

MCGAUGH PTA HIGHLIGHTS



POPSICLE POSTING



BOOK FAIR



COME WALK IN MY SHOES



CARNIVAL



ICE CREAM SOCIAL



JESTERS



MOVIE NIGHT



INTERNATIONAL CULTURE CLUB



FAMILY FUN NIGHT



JOGATHON



MILITARY KIDS



5TH GRADE ACTIVITIES

MCGAUGH PTA DOLLARS ALSO FUND



EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS



ALL FIELD TRIPS



SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT



WELLSPACE ITEMS & STAFFING



STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK



ASSEMBLIES



OTHER RESOURCES

How can YOU stay informed and connected?

MCGAUGHPTA

McGaugh Connect

Weekly email newsletter

@McGaughPTA

PTA'S Instagram Page

"McGaugh Elementary Families"

Private FB group

McGaugh's PTA website

The go-to site for info

ParentSquare Emails

Messaging system used by school and Los Al USD

PROJECT SEEK

Supporting *Art* & STEM
at McGaugh Elementary

WHERE CREATIVITY
MEETS INNOVATION



WHAT IS PROJECT SEEK?

PARENT-RUN NONPROFIT
Since 1993

FUNDS ART & STEM
Programs

SUPPORTS EVERY MCGAUGH STUDENT

We bring creativity and innovation into the classroom.

WHAT YOUR CHILD EXPERIENCES



ART LAB

Hands-on creative projects



INNOVATION LAB

Coding, robotics, STEM learning



TECHNOLOGY ACCESS

Real-world tools and skills

PART OF THE SCHOOL DAY — NOT EXTRAS

WHY IT MATTERS

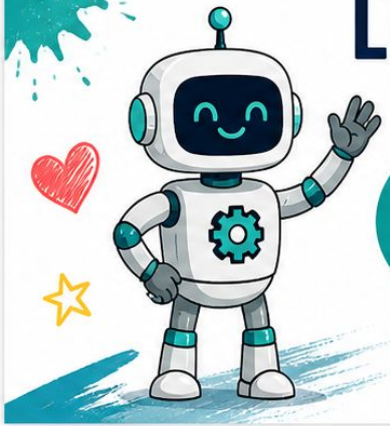
WITHOUT PROJECT SEEK

These programs wouldn't exist.

WITH PROJECT SEEK

- ✓ Creative confidence
- ✓ Problem-solving
- ✓ Future-ready skills

PREPARING KIDS FOR WHAT'S NEXT



LET'S WORK TOGETHER!

MEETINGS ARE THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH, immediately following drop off in the Kids Korner Room.

We'd LOVE to see new faces next year as a lot of our families are aging out of the school.

CAN'T MAKE THE MEETINGS?
Email
president@projectseek.org

FOLLOW
@projectseek_mcgaugh
on Instagram to find out about volunteer opportunities!

OUR FUNDRAISERS MAKE A BIG IMPACT!

These events help fund Art & STEM programs for every McGaugh student!

CHARLESTON WRAP
Holiday gifts and wrapping paper fundraiser

THE MCGAUGH HOLIDAY SHOPPE
In-school holiday shopping for kids

MOMS NIGHTS OUT

SKATE NIGHTS

DINING FOR MCGAUGH

OUR SPRING GALA/AUCTION:
The Event!



JOIN US!

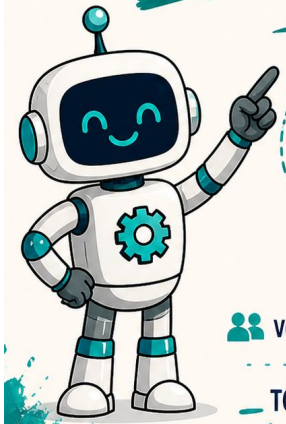
- DONATE
- VOLUNTEER
- ATTEND EVENTS
- SPREAD THE WORD



Every dollar supports
Art & STEM at McGaugh!

projectseek.org

FOLLOW US on INSTAGRAM!



@projectseek_mcgaugh

Stay connected!

VOLUNTEER SUPPORT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO GREAT THINGS
FOR OUR STUDENTS!

Kids Korner

Go to www.losal.org

Click "Menu"

Click "Programs"

Select Extended Day Care

Click the "Academic School Year Information" icon



Attendance Matters

- McGaugh's success is dependent upon student attendance.
- Excessive tardiness and absences can lead to decreased achievement, decreased engagement, and other adverse effects.
- Establish responsible habits now so that your student knows the expectations for the morning routine.
- Plan ahead for parking and the long walk to the classroom.
- Schedule doctor's appointments after school.
- Schedule vacations during school breaks.



Health Matters

Keep your student at home for the following:

- Vomit
- Fever
- Uncontrollable Cough
- Diarrhea
- Contagious Illnesses

- Establish a routine for dinner, clean up, and rest.
- Practice using the bathroom and cleaning up
- Practice using soap and thoroughly washing hands
- Practice table manners when eating
- Write names onto all clothing items that can be removed at school



Remember

- All kids learn in various ways and mature in various stages
- Here at McGaugh, education is about the **WHOLE** child (academic, social, emotional, and physical development).
- Team McGaugh is here to support you and your child, don't wait if you have questions or concerns.
- Greatest **IMPACT on** long term educational success is parental involvement and school connectedness.
- Kindergarten is different than when you were in school, be prepared for academics to increase throughout the school year.
- ENJOY this time in your child's life!



Sea Lion Life



Dates to Remember

- UTK/Kinder Play Date - **Sunday, August 9th, 2:00-3:00PM** on the McGaugh kinder playground
- UTK/K Teacher Meet and Greet (with your child): **Tuesday, August 11th, TBD**
- First Day of School: **Wednesday, August 12th 7:55 AM - 12:30 PM**
    - Gates open at 7:40am
    - Warning Bell at 7:50am
    - 7:55am (tardy/late bell)
    - Dismissal at 12:30PM for the first 12 days of school so that teachers can assess students and meet with parents in the afternoons to discuss assessment results.
    - Pick-up is at the front of the school. Your teacher will notify you as to which front gate is your pick-up gate.
- Back to School Night: **Wednesday, August 12th, 6:00PM - parents only**



Questions

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