



**McPolin Elementary School Weekly Office Updates**  
**Wednesday, April, 21<sup>st</sup> 2021**

Dear parents and caregivers,

I must start with appreciations to us all for making last week perfect. We continue to enjoy in-person learning thanks to everyone's efforts to keep school safe and open. I trust this year we have well learned, based on our undisputable, yearlong, evidence, that when we all work together, everything is possible.

With our success, I have the opportunity to share upcoming activities and information starting with Kindergarten Orientation. Though it will be virtual through ZOOM, the good news is we are able to organize this event once again. Our plan is simple:

- Look for details in next week's "Weekly Office Updates" as well as information on the school website.
- We will post a ZOOM address for access starting with the morning activity from 8:30-9:00am.
- We will share the basic registration and required immunization information, including an introduction to our amazing kindergarten staff.
- Finally, we will answer questions from families.
- We will further have a similar, second activity at 5:30-6:00pm. This activity will be different as we will record the morning presentation to share and then answer questions.

Though a far different activity than we might hope for, the fact we are able to host this activity and start preparing for next year just feels terrific. As you have questions please contact the office. We are also asking our families to share this information in the community with any new families as you can.

Another End-of-Year(EOY) activity that I need to share is our EOY assessments. We were unable to complete these important assessments last year, so having this opportunity is welcomed more than ever. We do a variety of assessments for grades K-5 including; iReady, DIBELS, the state RISE (R.eadiness I.mprovement S.uccess E.powerment), and our site-based EOY writing assessments. YES – these assessments are important and useful. As much as each student's scores will be of interest to parents/caregivers, these school-wide assessments offer important data about our instructional practices as a school. As we identify patterns of successes and challenges we can then plan on how to leverage our work and resources as a school. Over the past three years our data has been trending up confirming our efforts and decisions are having a positive impact on student learning. Having this EOY data could not be more important.

The first EOY assessment starts next week (April 26-30) in 5<sup>th</sup> grade with the RISE writing assessment. I will be sharing information confirming the testing for each subsequent week moving forward. However, I know the teachers will be contacting families directly to share suggestions and help to support students. My hope is based on this note, all of us check-in with our teachers to learn more and how to help and support.

As I close this week's "update", I want to mostly thank and encourage us all to maintain our vigilance in reference to safety. Yes – it is wonderful to be able to discuss and enjoy some more "normal" activities like Kindergarten Orientation and EOY assessments. We must not let our success and fatigue around our COVID school year to allow us to think we can start short-cutting our efforts. Safety will continue to be priority #1. I believe that for most of us the impact on our family and extended family health and safety has been minimal – not for all. I am directly aware of families who have long term health issues or even the loss of a family member or close friend. It is my responsibility to be the voice, and our responsibility as a community to stay the course and honor the mandates of our county and district officials. We have come so far thanks to all of us. We have come together thanks for accepting and living our theme of "One for All and ALL for One." I continue to be inspired each and every day. We Got This!

Sincerely,  
Bob Edmiston

**Upcoming events:**

- **5<sup>th</sup> grade state RISE WRITING TESTING 4/26-4/29**
- **Kinder' Orientation - ZOOM**
  - **Thursday, 4/29**
    - **8:30-9:00am**
    - **5:30-6:00pm**