

THE MERCURY

McGregor, Minnesota

December 2008 - February 2009

Vol. 29 No. 2

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"Creating a Learning Community Where Improvement is Continuous"



www.mcgregor.k12.mn.us

Newly Elected School Board

ELECTED TO A 4-YEAR TERM



Roy Hietalati



Mike Kruse



Eric Kulju



Julie Orbeck

ELECTED TO A 2-YEAR TERM



Larry Doten



Lynette Maas

From the Superintendent

I am very pleased with the start of school this year and I hope that it is going well for all of you. Our enrollment appears to have stabilized at approximately 385 students in Kindergarten through grade twelve. This is good news for our district. We were projecting a decrease in student enrollment and, as it turned out, our enrollment has increased by approximately 13 students. This is the first increase in enrollment for McGregor School in several years.

Our fall sports season has concluded and I'd like to thank all of the parents, coaches and athletes for everything you do to keep the programs running smoothly. There is a lot of time and effort put into a sports season and the hard work put forth certainly shows. Our fall sports include football, volleyball and cross country and I'd like to recognize all of you who contribute by announcing games, running the clock, selling tickets or working concessions. Your time and hard work are certainly appreciated.

One of our longtime employees, Cathy Twistol has retired from McGregor School this year and we would like to congratulate and wish her the best. Cathy worked as an educational assistant and bus driver for the past seventeen years and also served as union president for the past couple of years. She has been a valued asset to our school and we'd like to thank her for her years of service.

Cathy, you have our best wishes and we'll be looking for you to stop in and visit us when you can.

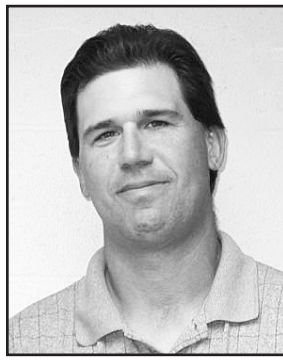
The last topic I have to discuss is our technology grant. McGregor School wrote a grant in partnership with the Willow River school and we were successful in obtaining a \$146,000 grant through this partnership. The purpose of this grant is to enhance education through the use of technology. A portion of the grant must be used for staff development with the purpose of improving instructional methods through the use of technology, but the grant did allow for the purchase of some equipment as well. McGregor School used its funds to install 8 interactive whiteboards and 8 interactive 47-inch flat screen plasma displays. We upgraded and improved the existing technology equipment in 21 classrooms and replaced a computer lab in the high school media center with 20 new computers. Our school will benefit greatly from this new equipment and our students will continue to have up to date equipment to work with.



PAUL GRAMS
Superintendent/
Principal

From the Assistant Principal

I write this article as my first quarter of school as Assistant Principal draws to a close and we begin the second half of first semester. I have found my new position to be very enjoyable as I have had the opportunity to work more closely with many of the students. We are very fortunate to have great kids in our community and I'm looking forward to working with them during the rest of the school year.



BOB STASKA
Activities Director and
Assistant Principal

A couple of items that I'd like to discuss is our attendance and activity bus programs. We feel that regular attendance is critical to a students' academic success. Of course students may be absent due to illnesses, doctor appointments, and other unforeseen events so our attendance policy is clearly defined in the student handbook. Students must provide either verbal or written absence verification from a parent/guardian for the absence to be excused. You may call either the elementary or high school office to report an absence or send a note with your student upon their return to school.

Our activity bus program is offered to students to allow them to participate in after school activities during the week. We ask that high school students involved in after school activities planning to ride the activity bus sign up in the office with their activity listed. A student may not ride the activity bus if not involved in a school sponsored after school activity and parents will be called to pick up their student if this is the case.

If you have questions regarding attendance or the activity bus, please feel free to give me a call at any time. I'm also available to discuss any other concerns you may have. I hope that you all have an enjoyable winter season.

Alternative Learning Program

The Alternative Learning Program got off to a good start this year. We opened our doors on September 9, and continue to meet every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30 - 5:30.

So far, this year, we have twenty-eight students enrolled. There are twenty-three students from McGregor taking a total of fifty-five classes. There are five students from other schools taking ten classes.

The Alternative Learning Program is located in the M.O.R.E. Building, across the street from McGregor High School. It was organized to help students satisfy their need for credits at the high school level. It is our goal to see all students earn their high school diplomas and lead successful lives.

If a high school student is in need of a credit in science, social studies, English or math, they can contact Marsha Doten, counselor, at McGregor H.S. (ext. 237) or call the M.O.R.E. Building directly on Tuesday or Wednesday during operating hours and speak to Linda Farah. The number is 768 - 3505.



Speech Meet

McGregor will be hosting the annual McGregor Firefighters' Speech meet on January 31st. We are expecting around 200 participants and 14-15 schools attending, some as far away as Minneapolis and up to Big Fork. A special thanks to the McGregor Firefighters for donating the money to buy the awards for this meet.

Much thanks to the firefighters who donate money for the great awards given out at the McGregor Firefighters' Speech Meet. Also a thanks to the Lions for donating money to the speech team. This was used to help pay for expenses for those who advanced to the state speech meet. A huge thank you to the Lions.

McGregor Area Dollar for Scholars 2009 Community Dinner

Please make plans to join us on Saturday, February 7, 2009 at the McGregor Community Center. Social hour will start at 6 p.m. and a pre-dinner raffle drawing at 7 p.m. and then dinner will follow at 7:10 p.m.

The Class of 2009 will be serving up a spirited meal. There will be silent and live auctions, raffle and games. Tickets are available from Cheryl Haapoja, or your favorite senior.

If you can't join us for the dinner, consider supporting the Class of 2009 by buying a pre-dinner raffle ticket. The pre-dinner raffle will consist of 100 tickets at the cost of \$20 each. The grand prize will be \$1,000. These tickets will be available starting Jan. 1, 2009. You do not need to be present at the dinner to win. You can purchase the pre-dinner raffle ticket from Ken Boyd, Cheryl Haapoja, or Fred Tuttle.



Meet the New Basketball Coaches

JOSH WAHLIN - Head Boys Basketball Coach

I would like to extend a sincere thank you to all the members of the McGregor community. My move to your area has been seamless and I could not be more grateful for this opportunity. It is my hope that I can build a program, which encompasses all the aspects of this community. I am here to instill in your players the values of honesty, integrity, hard work, and dedication. But most of all, I am eager to teach them about this game which I love so much.



Athletics has been deeply embedded in my upbringing. At a young age, I learned that “you get what you put in.” If you dedicate yourself and put forth your maximum effort, you will be successful.

My coaching experiences have included stints at Shanley, Fargo North, and I learned a great deal while at Moorhead High with Coach Gulsvig. I was a MSHSL Official for football and baseball for four years and currently am Physical Education/DAPE teacher at Minisinaakwaang Leadership Academy.

This year our kids will play an up-tempo style so I urge you to get in the stands and support this team.

We have an Aitkin Jamboree which we just added on for November 29th 1st game is at 10:30—We also have a Polar League Jamboree Dec. 6th.

Josh will be assisted by Mike Sorensen. Mike was an assistant basketball coach at Northland Christian School for two years and was assistant baseball coach in McGregor from 1993-95 and pitching coach at Mesabi Community College for two years.

KRIS RINTA - Head Girls Basketball Coach

Kris brings much experience to the girls basketball program. His experience includes varsity boys for 4 years, 2 years as boys assistant coach, 1 year as 9th grade and 1 year as junior high coach.

The returning players have varsity level experience as they all saw varsity minutes last year. Kris commented “I know as the season progresses we will become a stronger team. It will take the girls some time to adapt to a new system, but my goal is to make us competitive in every game we play this year.”

The girls will be participating in the Esko Scrimmage/Jamboree on November 22 and the season officially opens on December 4 against Lakeview Christian.

Returning players include Seniors Hannah Raushel, Felicia Raushel and Anna Carlson; Juniors Casey Pierce, Lacie Campbell and Amanda Fredrickson; Sophomores Courtney Kruse, Janae Nistler, Sarah Sample, Grace Sorensen and Hope Sorensen.

Kris will be assisted by Anthony Pierce. Anthony has three years of experience at the junior high level.

Attention Parents of Juniors ACT Test Dates

TEST DATE	REGISTRATION DATE
December 13, 2008	November 7, 2008
February 7, 2009	January 6, 2009
April 4, 2009	February 27, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009

REGISTER AT www.actstudent.org

Lights of Love

Light a Light on the Tree of Lights for a loved one or someone you admire. ~In Memory or In Honor~ The Lights represent special people.

Names of those memorialized or honored are recognized during the power point program on Sunday, December 7, 2:00pm in the McGregor High School Auditorium.

A card will be sent to the Lights of Love person or family acknowledging your donation. Donations are accepted all year long. Minimum donation is \$5.00. All donations are tax deductible.

Lights of Love is sponsored by the McGregor Friends of the Library. Proceeds raised are pledged to the enhancement of our library.

Holiday Shop for Kids



Holiday Shop for Kids will be held for students K through 6 on Friday, December 12, 2008.

This is a community service project sponsored by the McGregor Lions. As a service project, not a fundraiser, we will everything at cost. There are gifts for mom, dad, grandparents, brothers and sisters. We try to keep the cost for most items within the \$1.00 to \$5.00 range; however, there are a few items \$5.00 to \$10.00 and many gift items under \$1.00. Letters of reminder will be sent home with the children the week of the event. We ask you to discuss this sale with your children so they have an idea of who they want to buy for a how much they can spend. Each class will come in groups by grade. A helper will assist each child and no one else is permitted in the sales area. This has become an annual event and we are looking forward to working with the children. If you would like to help with this fun, worthwhile, and rewarding project, please feel free to call Shirley Scollard @ 426-3527. If you send a check with your child, please make it payable to ISD #4 or McGregor School.





rare a coach gets to work with a runner who is so young but possesses so much natural ability. Korinna is such a runner.

Korinna had an outstanding season. She earned All-Conference Polar League honors by placing sixth at our conference meet. By taking 12th place in a very deep field of 130+ girls at the Section 7A meet, she missed qualifying for the state championship race by only two places; not bad for a seventh-grader! I am very much looking forward to working with Korinna next year.

Ninth grade is when coaches expect runners to improve the most and Ben Fistere definitely did that. Ben's whole attitude and approach to running changed this year and it showed in his results: he placed 8th at the junior high Polar League meet and 15th at a large race held in Proctor. I am hoping Ben will use the lessons learned about the importance of attitude this year as a spring board to even more success next year.

The team's other freshman, Gabriel Baumgardt, split time between cross country and football this fall. He earned a top ten finish at our home meet and a top-15 finish at Crosby-Ironton.

Returning junior letterman Emiley Brennan was slowed by an ankle injury in mid-season this year. Although she tried very hard to comeback from it, she lost a week of training at a critical time and was not able to make up for the lost speed training she missed. The result was that while she had a good season, she was not able to repeat the performance that earned her the All-Polar League honor she won last year.

Senior captain Anna Carlson was finally able to run again after missing three years of competition due to serious, non running-related leg injuries. That she was able to do this is a testament to her character and work ethic. One of the year's highlights for me was when Anna placed in the top one-third of a race that featured most of the girls' teams from northern Minnesota.

As any coach knows, senior leadership is critical to team success, especially when most team members are young. Anna was an excellent role model for our younger runners and her leadership in this regard was outstanding. She will be truly missed by all of us.

In closing, I wish to thank the many volunteers and employees of Savanna State Park who were instrumental in helping McGregor host another successful home meet. I also wish to thank our Board of Education and Administration for allowing these athletes the opportunity to compete in this great sport.

Cross Country '08

by Coach Lon Baumgardt

The McGregor Cross Country Team recently completed another season of running competition. This year's squad was one of the youngest I have worked with since starting the program here at McGregor.

For several members of the team, 2008 was either their second or third year of running competitively. As a coach, I have to balance working these younger runners hard enough to be successful, but not so hard that they become injured or get burned out. The two goals I have set for all junior high-aged runners is that they finish their races and improve their times as their season progresses.

Two of McGregor's youngest runners - Cheryl Dittoe and Nick Fistere - both improved their times from last season and demonstrated good work ethic right up the last race of the year. The most important issue with both of them at this time is the development of enough confidence in their fitness levels to believe they can run a race fast without feeling they will run out of energy at the end of their races.

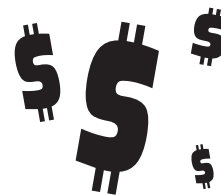
Self-confidence does not appear to be much of an issue with McGregor's youngest runner, 12-year old Korinna Mickelson. It is

8th Grade Students Take NAEP Test



Our school has been selected to represent schools across our state and nation by participating in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). NAEP is given by the U.S. Department of Education and tells us what American students know and can do in key subject areas. The results are published in a report called The Nation's Report Card. The assessment will be given on February 12, 2009 in reading, mathematics and science.

Financial Aid Nite



FEBRUARY 3, 2009

5:30 PM

SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS

This evening is sponsored by Itasca Community College and the Blandin Foundation Grant

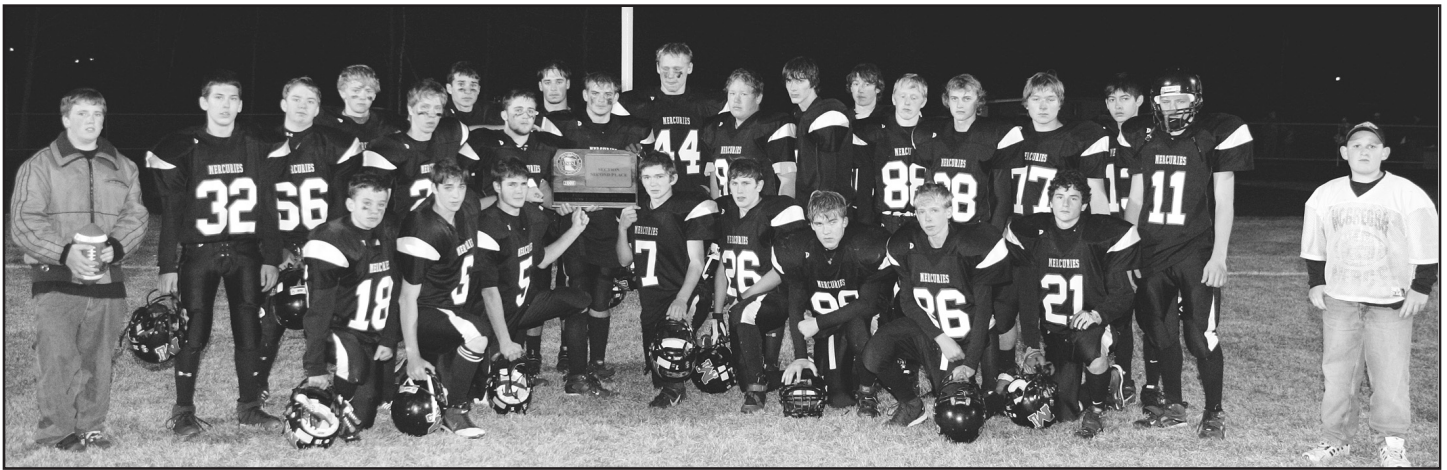
Students who attend will have a chance to win three \$50 Target/Walmart gift cards. In addition, students who attend will also be entered into a drawing for a \$500 scholarship to be used at the college of their choice.

Need not be attending Itasca to attend this meeting---it is for all seniors and their parents !!

Refreshments will be served.



Mercs Finish Season 9-2



This year the McGregor varsity football team finished with a 9-2 record and a third straight trip to the section finals. This group spent many hours during the off-season in preparation for the 2008 season. This included attending summer camp in McGregor, a UMD team camp and a ton of hours in the weight room. The Mercuries had wins over Floodwood and Isle in the playoffs before losing the section final game to Northland.

Despite losing 12 seniors off of last year's team, the Mercuries were determined to have another successful season. The six seniors (Christopher Pierce, Matt Carlstrom, TJ Troup, Chris Novotny, Ryan

Napstad, and Mike Tast) on this year's team showed great leadership and many underclassmen stepped up into starting roles. Christopher Pierce set school records for most yards in a season (2292) and touchdowns in a season (29). He finished his career with 4821 rushing yards and 62 career touchdowns.

The Mercury football team would like to thank everyone for their support this year, and the returning players are planning on working just as hard in the coming months so that next season will be just as exciting and successful as the past few years have been.



Mercs Volleyball

VOLLEYBALL TEAM — front: Heather Busse, Abigail Hawkinson, Jasmine Brennan; middle: Jamie Vikla, Samira Glass, Jenna Ronich, Corrine Becker; Grace Sorensen; back: Jeanie McGee, Hope Sorensen, Courtney Kruse, Sarah Sample, Casey Pierce, Angie Shofner.

EARLY CHILDHOOD SCREENING

Early Childhood Screening will be held on Friday, February 20, 2009. Every child in Minnesota is REQUIRED for public school entry to go through this screening after reaching age three. This is so any health or developmental needs can be found and hopefully corrected long before the child enters Kindergarten. FREE Early Childhood Screenings will be available BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. The screening site is the McGregor Community Center.

To schedule an appointment for your child, please call Paulette at 768-2111 ext. 225.

Santa is Coming to Town

Santa Claus is coming to town on Sat., Dec. 6, from 2 pm - 4 pm at the VFW in McGregor. The VFW Auxiliary will be having a Kids Christmas Shop. The Union Woodland Cemetery will be having a bake sale there as well.



DECEMBER 2008

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1 Mini Merc Practice - 5:30 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - ABE - 3:30	2 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - Rustic Chair - 5:30	3 CE - ABE - 3:30	4 CE - Computer Class - 2:30 CE - Love & Logic Magic - 5:30 GB - LVCA - 5:45 - Away	5	6 Santa visits VFW - 2 pm CE - Digital Camera Class - 9 am CE - First Responder - 6 pm held at Fire Hall
8 Mini Merc Practice - 5:30 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - ABE - 3:30	9 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 BB - Isle - 5:45 - Home JH BB - Isle - 5:45 - Home	10 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - Tax Planning - 1:30 or 6:00 CE - ABE - 3:30	11 GB - AIBrook - 5:45 - Home JH GB - AIBrook - 5:45 - Home	12 Elementary Holiday Shop BB - Greenway - 5:45 - Away JH BB - Greenway - 5:45 - Away	13 Dinner Concert - 6:00
15 Mini Merc Practice - 5:30 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - ABE - 3:30 GB - Isle - 5:45 - Home	16 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - Rustic Chair - 5:00	17 CE - 1st Responder - 6 pm Rm 119 CE - Rustic Chair - 5:00 CE - ABE - 3:30 School Board Mtg - 5:00	18 Elementary Holiday Musical - 1:30 GB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Home JH GB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Home	19 BB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Home JH BB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Home	20
22 NO SCHOOL CE - BSWI Winter Fun - 9:30 am GB - Wrenshall - 5:45 - Home JH GB - Wrenshall - 5:45 - Home	23 NO SCHOOL BB - Wrenshall - 5:45 - Away JH BB - Wrenshall - 5:45 - Away	24 NO SCHOOL Fitness Center Closed Christmas Eve	25 NO SCHOOL Fitness Center Closed Christmas Day	26 NO SCHOOL	27 NO SCHOOL
29 NO SCHOOL GB - Aitkin Holiday Tourney - Noon BB - Aitkin Holiday Tourney - 6 pm	30 NO SCHOOL GB - Aitkin Holiday Tourney - Noon BB - Aitkin Holiday Tourney - 6 pm	31 NO SCHOOL Fitness Center Closed New Year's Eve			

JANUARY

2009

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>Sundays, January 4, 11, 18, 25 CE - CO-ED Volleyball 6-7:30</p>			<p>1 NO SCHOOL Fitness Center Closed New Year's Day</p>	<p>2 NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>3 NO SCHOOL</p>
<p>5 SCHOOL RESUMES CE - Personal Training - 3:30 & 4:30 GB - Two Harbors - 5:45 - Away</p>	<p>6 BB - Two Harbors - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 GB - Moose Lake - 5:45 - Away</p>	<p>9 BB - ML-WR - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>12 CE - Personal Training - 3:30 & 4:30 GB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Away JH GB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Away</p>	<p>13 ECFE - Family Gym Night - 5:30 BB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Home JH BB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>14 CE - Stock Market - 1:30 or 6:00</p>	<p>15 GB - Esko - 5:45 - Home JH GB - Isle - 4:30 - Away</p>	<p>16 BB - Esko - 5:45 - Away End of 2nd Quarter</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>19 NO SCHOOL CE - Personal Training - 3:30 & 4:30 GB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Away JH GB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Away Martin Luther King, Jr. birthday (observed)</p>	<p>20 EARLY RELEASE - 12:45 BB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Away JH BB - Floodwood - 5:45 - Away</p>	<p>21 CE - Stampin' with Holly - 6:00 Spelling Bee - 6:00</p>	<p>22 GB - Barnum - 5:45 - Away JH GB - Aitkin - 4:30 - Home</p>	<p>23 BB - Barnum - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>26 CE - Personal Training - 3:30 & 4:30 School Board Mtg. 5:00</p>	<p>27 BB - Hill City - 5:45 - Home JH BB - Hill City - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 GB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Home JH GB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Home</p>	<p>30 BB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Away JH BB - Cromwell - 5:45 - Away</p>	<p>31</p>

FEBRUARY

2009

MON

2

GB - Carlton - 5:45 - Away
JH GB - Aitkin - 4:30 - Away

9

GB - Ogilvie - 6:00 - Away
BB - Ogilvie - 6:00 - Away
JH GB - Isle - 4:30 - Home

16

NO SCHOOL

GB - Hill City - 5:45 - Away
JH GB - Hill City - 5:45 - Away

Presidents' Day

TUE

3

BB - Carlton - 5:45 - Home

10

CE - Genealogy Class - 6:00
ECFE - Sing & Dance with Me - 5:30

17

BB - Barnum - 5:45 - Away
JH BB - Barnum - 5:45 - Away

WED

4

11

CE - Financial Fitness - 1:30 or 6:00

18

THU

5

12

GB - North-Remer - 5:45 - Home
JH GB - North-Remer - 5:45 - Home
JH BB - Aitkin - 4:00 - Away

19

GB - Carlton - 5:45 - Home

FRI

6

GB - Silver Bay - 6:00 - Home
BB - Silver Bay - 6:00 - Home
SWEETHEART

13

GB - Cook County - 5:45 - Away
BB - Cook County - 5:45 - Away

20

Early Childhood Screening
GB - East Central - 6:00 - Away
BB - Carlton - 5:45 - Away

SAT

7

14

Valentine's Day

21

CE - Chanhassen Diner Trip
Leaves Aitkin 8:45 am

28

27

BB - East Central - 5:45 - Home
JH BB - Aitkin - 4:30 - Home

26

25

24

23

GB - Onamia - 6:00 - Away
BB - North-Remer - 5:45 - Away
JH BB - North-Remer - 5:45 - Away

School Board Mtg. 5:00



McGregor Community Education

LISA KRUSE, Director

Phone: 218-768-2111 x233 • Fax: 218-768-3901

E-Mail: llkruse@mcgregor.k12.mn.us

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday

EARLY CHILDHOOD FAMILY EDUCATION

FAMILY GYM NIGHT

Children have so much energy. Family Gym Night is a perfect time where they can run and play in the gymnasium releasing some of their energy and excitement as they ride trikes, toss balls, express themselves with the parachute and so much more. Take in some family fun together during the winter months.

Tuesday, January 13, 2009 from 5:30 - 6:30pm

Early Childhood Classroom/Cafeteria Gymnasium

Instructor: Melanie Guida

1, 2 and 3! COME SING AND DANCE WITH ME!

Music and Movement Class for Ages Birth-age 5

Just like a language, children start learning music when they are born. At first, they watch and listen. Eventually, they rock to the beat and mimic the sounds they hear in their environment. Once they start walking and talking, you've probably noticed that they have a natural tendency to skip, dance, and sing! Because toddlers and young children tend so naturally towards music, this is the perfect time to expose your child to the basic concepts of music and movement, and lay the groundwork for future musical understanding and growth in later years. Come experience a night of fun, music, dance, and play! No musical experience necessary! Come and learn with your infant, toddler, or child, in a completely non-threatening, casual environment. Each participant will receive a packet of finger-plays, poems and songs, and a C.D. of music to sing at home.

Tuesday, February 10 from 5:30-6:30

Ages: Birth to age 5

Instructor: Julie Jacobsma, Music Specialist

LOVE AND LOGIC MAGIC

Book Club for Parents of Young Children

Join Melanie Guida as she guides and leads a book club for parents of young children. Attend the first discussion session to get a feel for how the book club will work and to set the schedule that works best for families. Sib care will be provided! If you need sib care or cannot attend the first session but would

like to be a part of the book club please contact Lisa Kruse for more information.

Tuesday, December 2, 2008 from 5:30 - 6:00pm

Early Childhood Classroom

ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (GED PROGRAM)

Adult Basic Education is for people who want to review or improve basic academic skills and also basic life skills, GE preparation and English as a second language.

Services are free of charge and open to all adults, 16 years of age and older and not enrolled in public school and have educational needs below the 12th grade completion level.

Some of the services provided include:

*GED preparation and classes *College readiness

*Improve basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematic*Basic computers

SESSION 2: DECEMBER 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17

SESSION 3: MARCH 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 24, 30; APRIL 1, 6, 8

Where: M.O.R.E. BUILDING

Instructor: Larry Doten

Time: 3:30pm

GED ONLINE PROGRAM

AEOA ABE is excited to offer our new distance learning initiative, GED-i. Study GED online, anywhere, anytime. The FREE program is available to ABE eligible learners - 16 years or older and not enrolled in public school - who meet the criteria for online learning. A trained, licensed online teacher will guide students through the curriculum, score their assignments and give feedback to help them strengthen the skills they need to pass the GED test. Interested students must register at a local ABE classroom and take a test to determine their eligibility. Student must be able to read at a 9th grade level, since this is a prep class, not a basic skills program.

WEB BASED COURSES

...taught on the internet through Central Lakes College. Makes it easy and convenient for those wishing to go back to college. It is easy to get started. Contact an admission counselor at CLC at 1-800-933-0346. For more information visit the college web site at www.clcmn.edu for the latest on applications, schedules, registration and possible financial aid.

THE MERCURY

A publication in cooperation with McGregor ISD#4 and McGregor Printing & Graphics, Inc.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Eric Kulju - Chair

Mike Kruse - Clerk/Treasurer

Angela DeWitt - Director

Roy Hietalati - Director

Julie Orbeck - Director

William Warner - Director

Dated Material

Please Deliver Promptly



Post Office or

Rural Route Box Holder

YOUTH ENRICHMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

MINI MERC CHEERLEADING

The Mini Merc cheerleaders perform at halftime of girls/boys basketball games. These mini cheerleaders are very entertaining performers. Max: 25 students
Practices include Mon, Nov 17, 24, Dec 1, 8 & 15 from 5:30 - 6:30pm
\$40/includes shoes
Cafeteria Gymnasium
Mariah Pepera & Stephanie Roth, Instructors
Ages: 3 -3rd grade

ELEMENTARY BASKETBALL (Girls and Boys)

Register your child for the 2008/09 elementary basketball season. 5/6th grade boys and 4/5th girls will travel. Please contact Lisa Kruse if interested.
In House (practices on Saturday mornings)
4 - 6 grade - Weekday practices and Saturdays (some travel and home tournaments)

BIG SANDY WATER INSTITUTE WINTER FUN AT LLCC

— Spend the day at LLCC enjoying the outdoors as well as a great challenging indoor game for youth. Here is what the day will entail.

DEER BROWSE: When the ground is blanketed in snow, lakes are covered by ice, and forests have gone dormant for the winter, white-tailed deer must still find food. In this activity, students role-play as deer, foraging browse to fill their "rumen." Meanwhile, they must stay vigilant predators. Whether they "survive" or not, students come to understand the challenges wildlife face in winter.

SNOWSHOEING: Vast expanses of untrammled woods are open to those who travel on snowshoes. When students have begun to master the challenge of walking with "big feet," we venture into the breathtaking beauty of LLCC's forest, rolling glacial hills, and bogs. Snowshoe tramps lead off the beaten track, into the realm of winter wildlife.

COOPERATIVE CHALLENGE GAMES: To achieve these and other challenges, students have to think creatively, communicate independently, and cooperate effectively. After discussing their successes and ways they might improve, students will want to do each station again.
Monday, December 22, 2008 from 9:30am - 2:30pm (bus will depart the school for LLCC at 9:00am and return at 3:00pm) Ages: 7 and up

PIANO LESSONS

Piano lessons will be taught after school for all children 8 and up. If you are interested please contact Liz at 218-426-4167 to set up a schedule plan.

GUITAR LESSONS

Learn the basic fundamentals of guitar, strumming, chords and accompaniment. Lessons are taught after school in the high school band room.

If interested please contact Jan at 218-426-4519.
\$10/lesson

YOUTH BOWLING

Looking for something to do after school? Youth bowling will start the last week in September for all ages kindergarten and up. For more information call 218-768-2345.
Monday & Wednesday from 3:30 - 5pm * Saturday at 11:00am * Sunday at 6:30pm (high school only)

ADULT ENRICHMENT AND RECREATION

WATER AEROBICS

Enjoy a full hour of refreshing and exhilarating water aerobics while you tone and improve your cardiovascular system. This class has so many social and health benefits including a great rehab exercise. You do not need to know how to swim to attend this class.

Monday, Wednesday and Friday Dec 1 - Feb 13 from 10:15 - 11:30am at Country Meadows Pool
\$30/mth payable to Community Education (pool fee paid each session at Country Meadows)
Paula Garrett, Instructor

PERSONAL FITNESS TRAINING

Jump start your new year by getting healthy and fit. Here's how Community Education can assist you. #1 by joining the McGregor Community Fitness Center which is equipped with Precor and Cybex equipment for strength and cardiovascular training. And #2 join Lon Baumgardt on Monday's for added value to your workout as he gives additional fitness assistance to fine tune certain areas of your fitness routine or answer any fitness questions you may have. Lon will be in the fitness center for new and current members giving you that extra push or encouragement as you work to improve your health and physical fitness.

Mondays starting January 5, 2009 - January 26, 2009 @ 3:30pm and 4:30pm
McGregor Community Fitness Center
Free to members or \$5 non members (including fitness center daily pass)
Instructor: Lon Baumgardt

OPEN EXERCISE GROUP

This session is just an open exercise group to enjoy an hour of exercising and socializing in the water with other women. There is no instructor for this class.

Every Monday and Wednesday @ 7:30am @ Country Meadows
Pool fee each session paid to Country Meadows

GENEALOGY CLASS

genealogy n line of descent from ancestors; pedigree; study of this. Does this fascinate you? If so this class would offer tips for beginners as well as provide an open forum for genealogists of all levels to share suggestions and ideas.

Tuesday, February 10, 2009 from 6:00 - 7:00pm
McGregor High School Room 114
Janet Miller, Instructor



FULL FIRST RESPONDERS CLASS

If you are interested in becoming a First Responder classes will be held in December. The test will be given on the 17th. If you pass the test and join McGregor First Responders the \$250 fee will be reimbursed.

Classes will be held December 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16 & 17 from 6 - 10pm

McGregor High School - Room 119 (class on the 6th will be held at the Fire Hall)

Fee: \$250/includes book

For more info contact Annie Kangas 218-768-2575

COMPUTER BASICS CLASS

Join us at the library for a free hands-on computer class. This class is geared toward those with little or no computer experience. In this class you will practice navigating a mouse, opening software programs & saving files. We will access the internet, set up an email account and cover terminology specific to computers (hardware) and Web browsers & other programs (software).

Space is limited and registration is required. Contact McGregor Public Library at 218-768-3305.

Thursday, December 4, 2008 @ 2:30pm

This class is FREE!



RUSTIC FURNITURE CLASS

(Take The Class And Give As A Holiday Gift Or Yours To Treasure) Do you like the look of bent willow? You can complete your project all in one day. You do not need to be experienced to attend the class. All you need is a partner to work with. The first instructional session will be spent discussing the gathering of materials, material list, and a short demonstration on collecting and bending willow as well as deciding what you would like to make. Prior to the first building class you will need to gather willow from the woods. The only tools you will need are a saw, pruning shears, hammer, tape measure, marking pen and screw gun. Some tools will be provided if needed.

Samples will be on display in the CE office.

Instructional Class December 2 from 5:30 - 7:30pm

Construction Class December 16 & 17 @ 5:00pm

Cost: \$30/person for one project

McGregor Shop Classroom

John Bajda, Instructor

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

For beginners to intermediate users...learn to use more than just "auto" on your digital camera...PASM? Learn how to put your photos into holiday mail and in creating gifts for family and friends.

Saturday, December 6, 2008 from 9:00am to Noon

Long Lake Conservation Center - Red Schoolhouse

Cost: \$5

RSVP to carol@llcc.org or

call 1-800-450-5522



STAMPIN UP WITH HOLLY

Make 10 cards for \$12 in 2 hours.

Wednesday, January 21 from 6-8pm

Home Ec Room

Holly Boyd, Instructor

COMPUTER 101 TROUBLESHOOTING

Are you looking for a Computer 101 course? Or maybe all you need is a little troubleshooting? We will come to you or meet with you individually or as a group. If interested please contact Lisa Kruse for more information.

TAX PLANNING FOR 2008

What steps can you take yet this year to help reduce income tax? Could current stock market fluctuations become a tool to reduce the tax payable?

Wednesday, December 10, 2008 from 1:30 - 2:30pm or 6 - 7pm

Where: McGregor High School Auditorium

Cheryl, Haapoja, Instructor

Cost: \$5



DOES THE STOCK MARKET HAVE YOU WORRIED?

*A brief review of current markets.

*A historical overview of past crisis events & subsequent market performance

*Importance of diversification

*How to weather market turbulence

Wednesday, January 14, 2009 from 1:30 - 2:30pm or 6 - 7pm

Where: McGregor High School Auditorium

Cheryl, Haapoja, Instructor

Cost: \$5

FINANCIAL FITNESS - LET'S DETERMINE WHAT SHAPE YOU'RE IN!

*Saving and Building

*Preparing and Protecting

*Accessing and Preserving

Wednesday, February 11, 2009 from 1:30 - 2:30pm or 6 - 7pm

Where: McGregor High School Auditorium

Cheryl Haapoja, Instructor

Cost: \$5

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL

Did you know there are 800 million players worldwide that play volleyball once a week? Join this group of folks for some co-ed volleyball. This program will give you a recreational outlet as well as a fun social event as the winter months approach.

Sunday, January 4, 11, 18 & 25 from 6:00 - 7:30pm

McGregor High School Gymnasium

\$3/person (teams will be put together equally based on attendance)



TRIPS & FAMILY OUTINGS

CHANHASSEN DINNER THEATER BUS TRIP

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers

Book by David Landay and Lawrence Kasha
 With lyrics by Al Kasha, Joel Hirschhorn and Johnny Mercer and music by Gene de Paul and Joel Hirschhorn.
 The Oscar-winning musical, Seven Brides For Seven Brothers comes to Chanhassen Dinner Theatres' Main Stage in glorious fashion! The classic boy-meets-girl love story of Millie and Adam has it all - award-winning musical score, amazing dancing and a romantic happy ending seven times over! Set in the Oregon wilderness, it begins with love at first sight between Millie and a handsome backwoodsman who sweeps her off her feet and whisks her away to his cabin in the mountains. There she discovers

she is expected to keep house not only for her new husband, but also for his six sweet, but delightfully uncivilized brothers. Her plan to civilize and marry them off backfires when they kidnap six women from a neighboring town to be their brides. Audiences will be swept away by this charming musical comedy laden with thrilling choreography and music that will have you humming along. Featuring songs including, "Wonderful, Wonderful Day," "Goin' Courtin'" and "Love Never Goes Away."

1:00 p.m. matinee. Leave from Aitkin 8:45 am across from Moose Lodge. Return about 6pm
 Saturday, February 21
 Cost: \$78.50, includes bus, dinner, gratuity and theater.
 Deadline to Register January 23.

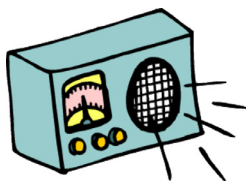
HOW TO REGISTER	REGISTRATION FORM
1. CALLING: 218-768-2111 x233	NAME _____
2. FAX: registration form to 218-768-3901	ADDRESS _____
3. MAIL: registration form to ISD #4/Community Education PO Box 160, McGregor, MN 55760	HOME PHONE _____
4. DROP BOX: outside CE office	WORK PHONE _____
5. E-MAIL: llkruse@mcgregor.k12.mn.us	FEE _____ CASH _____ CHECK _____
	CLASS _____
	YOUTH _____ ADULT _____ 55+ _____

Community Education

Winter Weather Closings

Throughout the school year in Northern Minnesota a major consideration is the closing of school due to weather conditions. The criteria for closing school is the safety of students and employees. The decision to close school is made by the Superintendent.

When school has been canceled, radio stations KKIN/KEZZ, KDAL, WCCO, WEBC, WKKQ, WTBX and KBEK, as well as TV stations KBJR, WDIO, KDLH, KARE 11, KMSP, KSTP & FOX 9 will be used to inform the public as soon as the decision is made. Parents are urged to listen to these stations when a weather emergency is probable. The announcement will be "McGregor ISD #4" and will include elementary, high school, early childhood & the ALP.



When school is to be dismissed early due to weather conditions, the radio stations will also be notified. If possible, the decision to dismiss early will be made by 12 noon.

SCHOOL PHONES



Superintendent.....	Paul Grams.....	226
Principal K-12.....	Bob Staska.....	235
Business Manager.....	Sandy Marsyla.....	223
Supt. Secretary/Payroll.....	Sue Salo.....	221
High School Secretary.....	Deb Swedberg.....	236
Elementary Secretary.....	Paulette Passer.....	225
Activities Director.....	Robert Staska.....	247
Bus Dispatcher.....	Bob Merritt.....	248
Community Education.....	Lisa Kruse.....	233
Early Childhood.....	Melanie Guida.....	300
Facilities Supervisor.....	Rick Christensen.....	262
Fitness Center.....		305
Food Service.....	Gary Foix.....	230
Lunch Billing.....	Greta Kulju.....	240
Counselor.....	Marsha Doten.....	237
Nurse.....	Heather Nistler.....	232
Technology.....	Jack Brula.....	287
21st Century Learning Center.....	Cheryl Meld.....	239
Alternative Learning.....	768-3505 Judy Cirilli	

