

McFarland Learning Center

Oct. / Nov. / Dec. 2015, Volume 2

599 Fifth Street, McFarland, CA 93250, 661-792-3178 or 661-792-6312

Dates to Remember:

Nov.

- 01 Daylight Saving time Ends!
- 01 All Saints Day
- 02 Principal's Mtg.-D.O.-8:00 a.m.
- 03 CAHSEE ELA 11th & AE-8:30 a.m.
- 03 MUSD Safety Committee Mtg-MLC-Rm.1-2:00p.m.
- 03 MLC Staff Mtg.-7:45 a.m. - Rm. #1
- 3-5 ELD Professional Development-MMS-PDR
- 04 CAHSEE MATH 11th & AE-8:30 a.m.
- 06 Copier Reset
- 10 MLC Staff Mtg.-7:45 a.m. - Rm. #1
- 10 School Board Mtg.-MHS-MPR
- 11 Veteran's Day-NO School
- 13 Pupil Service Academy-Fremont - Ms. Schultz
- 17 MLC Staff Mtg.-7:45 a.m. - Rm. #1
- 17 Migrant Parent Advisory Com. Mtg.-MMS-PDR-6:00 p.m.
- 20 Min. Day Schedule
- 23-27 Students & Staff out on vacation
- 26 Thanksgiving Day!



Principal's Letter

The McFarland Learning Center offers many alternative learning options for students outside of the traditional high school setting, and our staff members are committed to student success. We understand that student needs vary, and we support a student-centered environment to meet those needs while implementing a curriculum that incorporates 21st century skills of communication, critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Our high school teachers collaborate with teachers at the traditional school site to implement curriculum with common core state standards.

Blended learning options at San Joaquin High School (SJHS) and McFarland Independent School (MIS) range from traditional bookwork to the site-based computer online learning. Students are encouraged to work quickly at their own pace, and if diligent, they can complete courses in a shorter period of time than at the traditional high school. This opportunity makes San Joaquin High School and McFarland Independent School ideal for the student who is presently off track for earning enough credits to graduate with his or her peers at the traditional high school. Here, perseverance, hard work, and determination enable those students to earn credits necessary to graduate. Teachers are available before and after the student school day to tutor and to supervise online learning. Students are encouraged to take advantage of this support.

Mid-semester is the time to review high school student progress and to make sure each student is earning credits at a pace that will allow him or her to be on track for graduation by a pre-agreed upon target date set at enrollment. Students are encouraged to check their transcripts to monitor progress. Transcripts can be obtained at the front desk or from Mr. Veiss, the counselor. To stay on track each semester, a student needs to pass six classes which earn him or her thirty credits. Most students need to recover credits lost in prior semesters, so we encourage students to strive to earn forty to fifty credits.

Daily attendance is vital to the success of students. Parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor student attendance. Attendance information can be accessed in "real time", online, from a phone app. (Call Violet Murguia for additional information.) We encourage limiting holiday travel to the one week allotted for Thanksgiving and to the three weeks allotted for Christmas. All other absences hurt students academically, especially those during finals reviews and testing periods.

When students have earned sufficient credits to be on track for graduation with their peers, they have the option to graduate from M.I.S. or S.J.H.S. Or, if it is prior to the last semester of their senior year, they can return to McFarland High School to complete their education. Thank you for allowing us to provide your student with ongoing learning opportunities.

Sincerely,

Ms. Lori Schultz
Director of Alt. Options/Child Welfare & Attendance



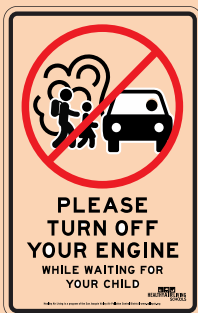
Dates to Remember:

Dec.

- 01 Safety Comm. Mtg.
MLC-Rm. #1- 2 p.m.
- 03 ELA RCD K-12-
MMS-PDR-8:00a.m.
- 04 Copier Reset
- 07 Happy Birthday
Dolores G.
- 07 Pearl Harbor Re
membrance Day
- 07 Principal's Mtg.-
D.O.-8:00 a.m.
- 07-09 ELD Professional
Dev.-MMS-PDR
- 08 School Board Mtg.-
MHS-MPR
- 10 MATH RCD K-12-
MMS-PDR-8:00a.m.
- 17 Initial ELL Testing
Deadline/Woodcock-
Muñoz
- 18 End of 2nd QTR./2nd
Semester Grades
Due
- 18 Min. Day/ Staff &
Students
- 21 **Winter Begins –
Student Winter
Break Begins**
- 25 **Christmas Day**
- 31 **New Year's Eve**

Jan.

- 11 Staff Development
Day
- 12 Students Return



M.L.C. Happenings...

San Joaquin High School is now participating in the Healthy Air Living Schools (HALS) program. A program to help protect students from air pollution. The HALS program is a school-based educational program that provides schools with free healthy air living tools.

The following tools are being used at your child's school:

Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN):

RAAN was developed to help schools and individuals make decisions on whether current air quality is acceptable for outdoor activities. RAAN offers 24-hour access to current hourly air quality information for your neighborhood through automated email or text messages.



Anti-Idling Campaign:

A growing topic of concern regarding the Valley's air pollution and its health effects is "idling vehicles." Engines left idling for more than 30 seconds pump a large amount of harmful pollution into the air, posing a threat to our students' health. The message is simple:

While you drop off or pick up your child, please turn off your engine.

How to Protect Yourself Against Air Pollution

- If possible, remain active indoors until the air quality improves.
- Plan to exercise indoors by going to a gym, a mall, or a local recreation center.
- Reduce your level of physical activity and avoid being outdoors for long periods of time.
- Avoid traffic-congested areas.
- Consider wearing face or dust masks during high level smog.
- Seek medical assistance immediately if you experience difficulty breathing, have chest pains, or dizziness.

S.H.J.S Field Trip

WE HAVE RESERVED 4 VANS WITH ROOM TO TAKE 9 STUDENTS IN EACH VAN AND WANT TO REWARD ATTENDANCE AND CREDITS EARNED THIS SEMESTER. THE REWARD WILL BE A DAY OFF TO GO WATCH A CONDORS GAME AT RABOBANK ARENA IN BAKERSFIELD. THE GAME STARTS @ 10:30AM AND WILL LAST UNTIL ABOUT 1:30PM. OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD AND WE WANT TO SHOW THEM SOME APPRECIATION.



National Custodial Recognition Day
Oct. 2nd!
Hats off to our custodian for keeping our school clean!



**Fidel
Lara!**

M.L.C. Happenings...

ATTENDANCE
AWARENESS
MONTH
AUG. 17TH TO
SEPT. 11, 2015



For Attendance Awareness Month, students formed teams of 4 or 5 to and named each group after a college or university. The teams were to compete for the best attendance for each week as well as the month. There were weekly prizes/incentives which consisted of a free lunch from any restaurant of their choice and an extended lunch period. The grand prizes were \$25 Maya Theater gift cards for each student in the group. Leonel Martinez, Agustin Lopez, Samuel Oliva, and Jose Gaspar team UNLV (not pictured) won week 4. Denise Perez, Maria Hernandez Mulato, Andres Rodriguez, and Jonathan Rodriguez team UCSD (pictured below) won weeks 1, 2, 3 and the grand prize. Congratulations to those who won an incentive/prize. To the rest, thank you for participating and continue to strive for perfect attendance.



M.L.C. Happenings...

CAHSEE'S

SB 172, Liu. Pupil testing: high school exit examination: suspension.

Existing law requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to develop a high school exit examination in English language arts and mathematics in accordance with state academic content standards. Existing law requires, commencing with the 2003–04 school year and each school year thereafter, each pupil completing grade 12 to successfully pass the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school.

This bill would suspend the administration of the high school exit examination and would remove the high school exit examination as a condition of receiving a diploma of graduation or a condition of graduation from high school for each pupil completing grade 12, for the 2015–16, 2016–17, and 2017–18 school years. The bill would, until July 31, 2018, require the governing board or body of a local educational agency, as defined, and the State Department of Education on behalf of state special schools, to grant a diploma of graduation from high school to any pupil who completed grade 12 in the 2003–04 school year or a subsequent school year and has met all applicable graduation requirements other than the passage of the high school exit examination.

October was a month of showing our Support during Red Ribbon Week, Breast Cancer Awareness, Domestic Violence, No to Bullying and to a Safe Halloween!



Education Connection...

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month, National Breast Cancer Awareness Month is a chance to raise awareness about the importance of early detection of breast cancer. Make a difference! Spread the word about mammograms and encourage communities, organizations, families, and individuals to get involved.

How can National Breast Cancer Awareness Month make a difference?

We can use this opportunity to spread the word about steps women can take to detect breast cancer early.

Here are just a few ideas:

Ask doctors and nurses to speak to women about the importance of getting screened for breast cancer.

Encourage women ages 40 to 49 to talk with their doctors about when to start getting mammograms.

Organize an event to talk with women ages 50 to 74 in your community about getting mammograms every 2 years.

- **What Is Cancer?**

Cancer is the general name for a group of more than 100 diseases. Although there are many kinds of cancer, all cancers start because abnormal cells grow out of control. Untreated cancers can cause serious illness and death.

- **How cancer starts**

Cancer starts when cells in a part of the body start to grow out of control. Cancer cell growth is different from normal cell growth. Instead of dying, cancer cells continue to grow and form new, abnormal cells. Cancer cells can also invade (grow into) other tissues, something that normal cells can't do. Growing out of control and invading other tissues are what makes a cell a cancer cell.

- Cells become cancer cells because of changes to their DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). DNA is in every cell and it directs all its actions. In a normal cell, when DNA is damaged the cell either repairs the damage or dies. In cancer cells, the damaged DNA is not repaired, but the cell doesn't die like it should. Instead, the cell goes on making new cells that the body doesn't need. These new cells all have the same damaged DNA as the first cell does.
- People can inherit abnormal or faulty DNA (it's passed on from their parents), but most DNA damage is caused by mistakes that happen while a normal cell is reproducing or by something in the environment. Sometimes DNA damage may be caused by something obvious like **cigarette smoking or sun exposure**. But it's rare to know exactly what caused any one person's cancer.
- In most cases, the cancer cells form a tumor. Over time, the tumors can invade nearby normal tissue, crowd it out, or push it aside. Some cancers, like **leukemia**, rarely form tumors. Instead, these cancer cells involve the blood and blood-forming organs and circulate through other tissues where they grow.

What is breast cancer?

Breast cancer is a malignant tumor that starts in the cells of the breast. A malignant tumor is a group of cancer cells that can grow into (invade) surrounding tissues or spread (metastasize) to distant areas of the body. The disease occurs almost entirely in women, but men can get it, too.

For more information on Breast Cancer visit the link below:

<http://www.cancer.gov/types/breast>

Education Connection

Veteran's Day

Veterans Day gives Americans the opportunity to celebrate the bravery and sacrifice of all U.S. veterans. However, most Americans confuse this holiday with **Memorial Day**, reports the Department of Veterans Affairs. What's more, some Americans don't know why we commemorate our Veterans on Nov. 11. It's imperative that all Americans know the history of Veterans Day so that we can honor our former servicemembers properly.

A Brief History of Veterans Day

Veterans Day, formerly known as **Armistice Day**, was originally set as a U.S. legal holiday to honor the end of World War I, which officially took place on November 11, 1918. In legislation that was passed in 1938, November 11 was "dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be hereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day.'" As such, this new legal holiday honored World War I veterans.

This year McFarland Unified School district will be observing Veterans Day on **Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2015**.
No School for the whole school district.



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day has been an annual holiday in the United States since 1863. Not everyone sees Thanksgiving Day as a cause for celebration. Each year since 1970, a group of Native Americans and their supporters have staged a protest for a National Day of Mourning at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts on Thanksgiving Day. [American Indian Heritage Day](#) is also observed at this time of the year.

There are claims that the first Thanksgiving Day was held in the city of El Paso, Texas in 1598. Another early event was held in 1619 in the Virginia Colony. Many people trace the origins of the modern Thanksgiving Day to the harvest celebration that the Pilgrims held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. However, their first true thanksgiving was in 1623, when they gave thanks for rain that ended a drought. These early thanksgivings took the form of a special church service, rather than a feast.

In the second half of the 1600s, thanksgivings after the harvest became more common and started to become annual events. However, it was celebrated on different days in different communities and in some places there were more than one thanksgiving each year. George Washington, the first president of the United States, proclaimed the first national Thanksgiving Day in 1789.

This year our Thanksgiving Break will fall the week of Nov. 23 to Nov. 27, 2015. Students and Teachers will off the whole week. Our office will be open during this week, however our office will be closed Thursday, Nov. 26 and Friday, Nov. 27, 2015.

thanksgiving
gather
thankful family
blessed grateful
together blessings
november

Education Connection

Christmas meals around the world...

Christmas meal in Argentina

The main Christmas meal is eaten during the evening of Christmas Eve. It might be served in the garden or be a barbecue! Some popular dishes include roasted turkey, roasted pork, stuffed tomatoes and Christmas bread and puddings like 'Pan Dulce' and Panetone. At midnight there will be the sound of lots of fireworks! People also like to 'toast' the start of Christmas day. Some people like to go to midnight services, but other prefer to stay at home and let off fireworks and then open their presents under the tree.

Christmas meal in Jamaica

The Christmas day meal is usually prepared on Christmas Eve. The traditional Jamaican Christmas meal include fresh fruits, sorrel and rum punch and meat. The Christmas Day breakfast includes ackee and saltfish, breadfruit, fried plantains, boiled bananas, freshly squeezed fruit juice and tea. Dinner is usually served in the late afternoon and this may include chicken, curry goat, stewed oxtail, rice and peas. Jamaican red wine and rum fruitcake is traditional and is eaten in most homes. The fruits in the cake are soaked in red wine and white rum for months before Christmas. (I have some friends who come from Jamaica and Jamaican Christmas Cake is really nice!)

Christmas meal in Brazil

Favorite Christmas foods in Brazil include pork, turkey, ham, rice, salad, pork and fresh and dried fruits, Brazil nuts and Panettone.

Christmas meal in Cuba

This includes the lechon asado (roasted pig), Moros y Cristianos (Black beans and rice), and plenty of Cuban cider to drink. The biggest tradition is to have a pig roast. The day before Christmas Eve, a pig would be selected, slaughtered, cleaned and would begin marinating for the cookout the roast the next day. Drinks should include refreshing [Mojitos](#) and Cuban cider. Cuban eggnog, known as [crema de vie](#), is also a popular Cuban Christmas beverage. Along with the pork, you'll want to serve up [Moros y Cristianos](#), the seasoned black beans over a blanket of white fluffy rice. You'll also want to have some [Mariquitas](#) on hand, fried plantain slices dripping with mojo sauce. You can conclude the meal with a delicious [Rum Custard dish](#), as well as the [Pudin Diplomtico](#), which is a Cuban bread pudding.

Christmas meal in USA

All of these Christmas foods are enjoyed up to and at the big Christmas dinner. However, the foods that are normally reserved for the big day are a much anticipated event. Traditional Christmas dinners will likely have a meat like turkey which is the most common, ham, roasted duck or goose to a lesser degree. Along with the meat, Christmas foods found at the traditional dinner include [stuffing](#) which is also called dressing, and a number of different vegetables like corn, creamed onions, broccoli, squash, potatoes and [cranberry](#) sauce. Spread out in front of all the diners will be Christmas cookies, fruit cakes, figgy pudding, pumpkin bread and an assortment of pies. Some of the most popular types of pies are apple pie, pumpkin, [mincemeat](#), chocolate and lemon [meringue](#) pie. Desert is incomplete unless it is accompanied by coffee, tea, eggnog and any variety of after dinner liqueurs.

This year our Winter Break will begin with a Min. Day on Dec. 18th and students will return on Jan. 12, 2016.



The McFarland Learning Center would like to wish all of you a very Merry Christmas and a very Prosperous New Year 2016!

May Peace
be your gift
at Christmas and
your
blessing all year
through!

Author Unknown



Office Hours

Monday-Thursday
7:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
Fridays
7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Office will be closed

**Nov. 11th, 26th, 27th
Dec. 24th, 25th
Jan. 1, 2016**

