



MCKAY TORCH

Vol. 9 -- No. 1

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February 1975



CHAMPS



The results of last spring's testing program has recently been made public. As you have probably seen in the newspapers we can be very proud of our school. Compared to the rest of the country the McKay School is above level in reading and mathematics at almost every grade. The figures showed that our 6th grade reading scores were the highest in the city and that our 2nd grade reading scores were the second highest in the city.

Our 8th grade reading scores were slightly above the national level. The average rate of growth for pupils in large city school systems is from seven to eight tenths of a full school year. This is expressed as a .7 to .8 gain per year. The average gain for our fifth to eighth graders was 1.5, or about two times the gain per year in most large city systems. The chart below depicts these figures for reading:

	2nd Grade	6th Grade	8th Grade	Average Gain
National	2.8	6.8	8.8	.7 to .8
McKay	3.9	8.4	8.9	1.5

Our success is based upon many factors. We have a group of hard-working, dedicated teachers. We have parents who are truly concerned about their children and who cooperate with the school completely. Our "transfer-in" and "transfer-out" rate is not excessive. We also believe that the teaching-learning atmosphere is seriously impaired when a teacher must constantly stop teaching to reprimand disorderly children. To this extent we insist upon good behavior from our children in school and on the playground. With your cooperation and interest our high standards can be maintained. Congratulations to our students, parents and faculty.

Daniel A. Zelazek, Principal

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The Students

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THANK YOU P.T.A.

Our thanks to the P.T.A. for all the things they did for McKay School in '74 and '75.

We enjoyed the movie that they financed last June. Everyone loves the plants and the centerpiece which they bought for our assemblies. Twice each year they wash the curtains throughout the school. In March we will see a play that will be presented by the Robin Hood Players. They are planning the graduation festivities for our eighth grade students. These and many other things make our P.T.A. a very strong and worthwhile organization.

Maria Tauras
Room 103



WINNERS' CIRCLE

Congratulations to Anne Kerr who won 1st place in Concordia Federal Savings Annual Thrift Art Contest and the \$40 that goes with it.

Congratulations to Mr. Shaughnessy who won \$20 in the 11/14/74 Illinois Lottery drawing. That's the luck of the Irish for you!

Congratulations to Madeline Butevicius and Maria Tauras who won 1st places in painting and photography and went to the finals at the Buckingham Fountain Air Fair where they both got honorable mentions.

Madeline Butkevicius
Room 104



A special welcome to Miss Geraldine Carpson, McKay's newest faculty addition in room 304. We are proud to have another fine teacher to keep up the McKay tradition.



THE WAY WE WERE

1. Karen Snyder
2. Sue Hehl
3. Frank Nemeth
4. Deanna Dunn
5. Maria Estrada
6. Suha Hassen
7. Diane Connors
8. Mary Chin
9. Tammy Foster
10. Patty Wells
11. Lisa Sternal
12. Rachel Aquirre
13. Kelly Lyon
14. Nancy Schaafsma
15. Nancy Impallaria
16. Ed Jankus
17. Tom Rocco
18. Carol Kirkwood
19. Mike Moore
20. Joy Wreglesworth
21. Denver Hammonds
22. Madeline Butkevicius
23. Colleen Kohn
24. Loretta Kuratis
25. Lyn Kenny
26. Maureen McHale
27. Debbie Kroll





Tiddlywinks



THANKSGIVING IS HERE

The Pilgrims celebrate Thanksgiving with the Indians. There were more Indians than Pilgrims.

Melissa Hammonds
Room 208



A WISH

I wish I might keep
Well and strong
All year long
And have lots of fun
Without annoying anyone,
That everybody in my family
Might be happier
Because of me,
That everyone I visit
Or play with
Might also be.



Danny Meske
Room 207



THE PLANETARIUM

At the Planetarium, we saw a show about the stars. We learned that stars explode with energy. The sun is our closest star. For many years men have been studying stars through telescopes. We saw very big telescopes and very old telescopes.

The class of room 201

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Since last fall the children have been working very hard in their three workbooks and to accomplish the habits and skills listed on their report cards.

The classes took time out from their regular work to get ready for Christmas. Santa Claus left everyone a surprise at the party on Wednesday, December 18th, and all had a good time. The morning class took part in the Christmas assembly and sang three songs using their jingle bells for one of them.

Starting Monday, January 27th, the morning class will attend afternoon kindergarten and the afternoon class will come in the morning.

The children and Mrs. Haberichter wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Mrs. Haberichter
Room 101



MY TRIP TO BROOFIELD ZOO

I like Drumstick.
I like Angie.
I like Vicki.
I like seals.



Kenny Hecht
Room 204

ROSES

Smell the roses!
See their poses.
Watch them bloom
Very soon.
See their fancy petals
Sprout.
Watch the ladies run and
Shout.



Cathleen Kohn
Room 207



AS WE SEE IT



WILDLIFE FEDERATION

I protest! You humans are supposed to save wildlife. Ha! You, the high and mighty, saving things I've never heard of! The Bald Eagle, who's he? Why can't you concern yourself with one of the greatest animals alive. Turkeys! Thanksgiving is coming and we need help. We're so beautiful. How can you dare Eat us? Ugh! One day we'll get even. When you sit down to your beautiful table with your beautiful food, and start, ugh, eating us, we might just bite back.

Terrified Turkey.



Carol Kirkwood
Room 103



THE EARTH'S INHABITANTS

This is Timmy the bumblebee speaking.

Why does man have to pollute the air? Soon I'll have to develop a mini-gas mask!

I can't even smell fresh air as I pollinate each little blossom.

The queen is getting sick and the nursemaids can't raise the children properly.

The buildings surrounding us are tall and even on warm summer days we are chilly because we live in a shadow.

Children on adventure hikes who discover our hive, reach inside. Stupid children!

Then they run home and tell their parents who come to spray gas of some kind in our faces.

Luckily for us, our new generation is becoming immune.

Signed - Timmy

Sophia Daukus
Room 103



CONQUEST OF THE BUGS

by: Sammy the Snake

Well, you see, it all started when a new young pilot came to town. He was a "husky" fellow, about 6'2" and weighed 220 lbs. He looked like he could play linebacker for the Washington Weirdos.

When we found out he was a crop-duster and not a football player, we started for the fallout shelter. It was a hole dug by a couple of earthworms and the praying mantia made a wall out of old corn stalks. But when the mean farmer came with a machine that dug up the ground and then the slashing blades came through the shelter station and killed Clara, the caterpillar, and Martha, the mantia. We were sad about their death but we had problems of our own. We were trapped 6 feet under ground. We couldn't break out through the clay. It looked like we had met our end, but we still had one hope left - Gonilla, the grasshopper! So, me and some of the boys, found some thread and tied it to Gonilla and she was supposed to jump out of the pit. She missed on her first try, but luckily made it on her second time up. As I was slithering up the thread I heard an airplane engine approaching, and I also saw Ellie, the eagle, circling us. I then told Ellie a plan, and to follow me. We slithered to the ammunition dump and picked up a few hand grenades. Ellie took off like a jet and caught up to the crop-duster's plane. Just as he was going to spray our neighbors, Ellie hurled a grenade into the cockpit and it blew the cropduster to pieces. Part of his plane crashed into the farmer who was admiring his machines and they were demolished, so the bugs of Bugerdam were saved forever.

Richard Rapnickas
Room 104





FROLICS

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The world is turning into a wasteland because of man. He dumps his garbage anywhere he pleases, having no concern whatsoever for insects. It will turn into a desert wasteland. We, the insects, will inherit the world one day.

Signed - Arnie the Ant

Robert Alis
Room 104



READING

Hi y'all. I was moseying' down the cotton plantation and I heard they are goin' to spray my cotton plants ag'in.

Those humans are terrible! I'm just tryin' to keep alive and raise a family then they give us a dose of DDT cause we eat cotton. They never thought that the easiest way to get rid of us is to stop plantin' cotton!. But what do you expect from a creature called Homo Sapien.

Belinda Bollweevil

Madeline Butkevicuis
Room 104



FISH FATALITIES

Most of my friends are dying from the doses of D.D.T. in their bodies. Some of them are dead. I am writing to you because I want you to realize how dangerous D.D.T. and other industrial chemicals are. You humans do not realize how dangerous it is. One day you will wake up, and find out that all the fish have died.

Freddie the Fish

Mary Chin
Room 104

A SPECIAL BIRD



Long ago a king had a beautiful bird. Every day he rang a bell for the bird. One day the bird was gone. The king went to the forest to find the bird. He found a lot of animals but he did not see his bird. Finally he came to a tree and found his bird sitting with his family. The king decided the bird would be happier with his family.

Mary Griffin
Room 205



MAGIC

Once there was a prince that lived in a castle. And one day a witch came along and turned the prince into a toad. He lived on a toad stool for one year.

One day a nice witch came along and the toad said, "Will you turn me back into a prince?" "Only if you marry me". "OK" said the prince. So she changed him back to a prince.

Then she said, "Meet me here in two hours and we will get married".

When she came back she was very pretty, and they lived happily ever after.

Kathy Penoyer
Room 205

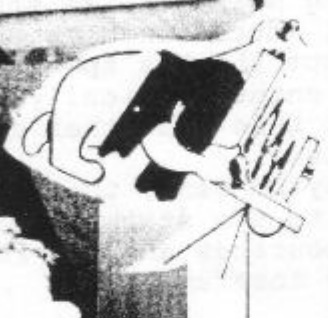


THE NUTCRACKER

Once upon a time there lived a little girl and her name was Clara. The next morning it was Christmas and she got a nutcracker doll. The doll was magic and came to life and Clara was happy.

Lisa Riha
Room 205





The Way
We Were





News Notes

SOCIAL CENTER

Social Center is a place where kids can go during the winter season. They have all sorts of games, crafts, dancing, and gym. The hours are 3:30 to 5:15. It's a good place to keep yourself busy after school.

Saulius Vitkauskas
Room 210



FIRE PREVENTION

On October 1st at 1:15 PM, there was an assembly about Fire Prevention. Mr. Grady, the speaker, from the Illinois Fair Planning Commission, came to speak to us on Fire Prevention. When he was done, we watched a movie called, "Fire-- Not in My House". It showed us how to keep our homes clean and safe from the possibilities of having a fire in our home, office or apartment.

So don't be a fire-bug, it's arson.

Nancy Schaafsma
Room 104

THE CHOIR AT THE MUSEUM

On December 5, 1974, Mr. Silhan took the choir to sing Christmas carols at the Museum of Science and Industry. Miss Shore, Miss Fornek, Mrs. Hassen and Mrs. Estrada also supervised the trip. The choir sang beautifully with Mrs. Haberichter accompanying on the piano. Rooms 201 and 204 brought good luck for our choir.

After the caroling, the choir members were allowed to look around the museum. The most fascinating exhibit was the International Christmas Tree display. Soon the trip ended and we were on the chartered bus going back to school.

Sophia Daukus
Room 103

LEARNING THROUGH MUSIC



Children in room 306 enjoy music so much singing has become the medium for learning subject matter in several areas including math, social studies, art, and physical education. They sing their song about the bus spontaneously every day and enthusiastically interpret the words to this and other songs in free movements.

In rhythm band, the children have learned to use sticks, bells, triangles, and tambourines and now request their favorite instruments.

Mrs. Brown



START A DAY RIGHT

The children in room 307 have started a breakfast program. Every Tuesday morning we make different breakfast foods. We are all learning about how we should eat well balanced meals

Room 307



OUR STUDENT COUNCIL

Early in November we elected our officers for the student council. All the candidates and their managers worked very hard on their campaigns. The winners were: Colleen Kohn - president, Sophia Daukus - vice-president, Norman Meske - secretary, and Eddie (Eyad) Eassa - treasurer. The campaign managers were: Patty Wells, Maria Taurus, Joe Rapnickas, and Glen Daniels.

I'm sure, as in past years, the student council officers will assist the school whenever possible.

Sophia Daukus
Room 103



Worth Thinking About . . .



SCIENCE FAIR



On January 31, 1975, McKay School held its annual school science fair. The organizer was Miss Shore of 103. All the participants were winners of their class fairs and here are the results:

- Intermediate Grades
- 1st - "What Is Sound"
Joyce Kenny - Janet Kroll
- 2nd - "Bees"
Julie Flathom - Pam Wagner
- 3rd - "Plants"
Kim Castillo - April Rydberg
- Honorable Mentions -
"Tooth Truths"
Francis Kerr
"The Heart"
David Burton - Mark Raimo
"Cancer"
Sandra Houlihan

- Upper Grades
- 1st - "Action and Reaction"
Tom Cernius
- 2nd - "How Aluminum is Made"
Suha Hassen
- 3rd - "How Mirrors Are Made"
Colleen McHale
Candy Kinstner
- Honorable Mentions -
"Pathways of the Heart"
Anne Kerr
"Erosion"
Terrance Maloney
Stephen Rosenberg
"Combination Lock"
Maria Tauras
"Foundations of Blood"
Danny Bennett
Charles Hansen

Tom Cernius will represent the school at the district fair. Good Luck!

Madeline Butkevicius
Room 104



MAN OF THE YEAR



This year the P.T.A. Man of the Year Award went to Mr. Silhan. It's the first year it ever went to a teacher. Mr. Silhan has been with us since 1968. He is involved in many activities.

Mr. Silhan has turned the chorus into a co-ed choir. Every year he collects canned goods for the needy. Ever since the age of 18 he has donated a pint of blood every 6 weeks.

The McKay choir, which he directs, sings at Ford City every year. This year they sang at the Museum of Science and Industry. On October 13, 1974, Mrs. Raimo presented to him the Man of the Year Award with many thanks from the P.T.A., teachers, and the students of McKay School.



Maria Tauras
Room 103

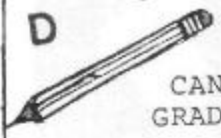
ESSAY CONTEST



The Marquette Manor Chamber of Commerce sponsored an essay contest titled, "What Christmas Means to Me." All eighth graders from 5 or 6 schools including McKay were entitled to enter. The rules were that the story or poem was to be in 25 words or less. Our judge from McKay was Miss Carpson, the teacher of room 304, grade 6. She did not know us very well because it is her first year here with us. Everyone did a very good job on writing their story. But there were only two winners, a boy and a girl. The winners were Madeline Butkevicius and Frank Nemeth. They did not win the top prize, a \$25 bond, but transistor radios.

Frank Nemeth
Room 104

Drop-Ins



CAN YOU FIND THE GRADUATES OF '75?

A I R A L L A P M I R E Y O N N E P
 B L A B E T T G O I K S R O B Y C R
 U Z I Y C E R N I U S R E N N O C E
 T Q M S W A H I L U O H X E W Y S T
 K T O N I H C T T A R R E S N T C S
 E R M S A K C I N P A R V N R B O O
 V T I P T O N B N H O K E A N E R F
 I H E H L K A C J D D K D H R N R M
 C I S T E R N A L N E A I O G N A E
 I K H D U N N A H O M T O H J E D F
 U J R G F K D M S T P C H K L T O S
 S E L O U E G S R L N Q H L L T Y D
 R K R S L R C F T S L M W A E M E N
 O M N E E L B A U V W E E E L F N O
 C N O B D P M A L L O N W N S E O M
 C O D Q R Y A H U T D I M H C S L M
 O Y S T Z F N C S I T I A R U K A A
 R L H T R O W S E L G E R W X Y M H
 K R S O X D O O W K R I K X R T P M

People from 301

C K V S N Y D E R C M N O Q V S P
 C A V S K C A S D K S W Y Z D T N
 Q V X S T N K B E Y L C P Y Q N B
 K K N V T W K L E R K C P G I K N
 Y A B S N P M Y V S R B C D E F G
 A V C H I N L A Z T U A L K J T H
 B W P D B O M X L U V M T R S T U
 C V Y P E G P W A L N V W X V Z Z
 O T N I P F Q V B V E A B C D E F
 D T B R K I G U C W O Y G H I J K
 E V N Q M R T H D X P L Q R S T U
 F D N O D M M C I H A M M O N D S
 G U W P O Q V T H J Q M O V Z Y Z
 H F U E O R Y S E E K N P V W X Z
 I F V P X S X R H T R E E D Y Z A
 J E T H O Y W Q L S R L Q P O N M
 A K B C D T Z P E F G H M I J K L
 K W X Y T U V L M N O Q U I G L Y
 L M N O D U V I C K P Q R S T U V

Find: Sacks, Reed, Pinto, Chin, Hehl, Butkus, Snyder, Pitcher, Malley, Duffek, Serratt, Duvick, Quigly

ALIS, AGIURRE, BENNETT, BUTKEVICIUS, CERNIUS, CHIN, CONNERS, CORRADO, CYBORSKI, DETHLEF, DUNN, ESTRADA, FOSTER, HAMMONDS, HANSEN, HASSEN, HEHL, HOULIHAN, IMPALLARIA, JANKUS, KEANE, KENNY, KIRKWOOD, KOHN, KROLL, KURAITIS, LYON, MALLON, MALLONEY, MCHALE, MOORE, NEMTH, PENNOYER, RAIMO, RAPNICKAS, REED, ROCCO, RYDBERG, SCHAAPFMA, SCHMIDT, SERRATT, SNYDER, STERNAL, TIPTON, WREGLESWORTH, WELLS

Tim Hammonds
Room 301



THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSON

On the morning of January 24, 1975, McKay School saw a movie called "The Wonderful World of Hans Christian Anderson". It was about Hans Christian Anderson, a little magical man, who has a world of imagination. The movie showed many imaginary places, for example, a palace where the king and queen of roses lived. Hans Christian Anderson had an umbrella of magic, also. He tells people to dream of what they always wanted through their imagination it will come true. I'm sure everyone enjoyed the movie, especially the younger children.

Suha Hassen
Room 104



Frank Nemeth
Room 104



THE PRESIDENT

We think that Mr. Ford should be a President. He can bring peace to this world. Mr. Nixon was a good President. He did his best to make peace among nations and at home. Some people of this country did not like the way Mr. Nixon was handling things, so they put pressure on him to leave his office, and he did. We wish Mr. Ford good luck in his work.



Nina Zayed
Room 208



Eye Witness



FALL

Fall is here
The snow is near,
The leaves turn, yellow, brown
and red,
The bears crawl off to bed,
The birds fly south,
With pretty music coming from
each mouth,
Fall is here,
The snow is near.

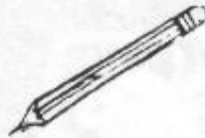


Cindy Duvick
Room 301



SCHOOL

School is fun,
School is hard,
Teacher gives work,
Teacher grades and grades,
It's hard sometimes,
It's easy all the time.
Tests we love,
Tests we hate,
70 and up, we past the test.
School opens,
School closes,
School closes, we have fun.



Alice Chin
Room 301

A MOOSE ON THE LOOSE

I saw a moose out driving
Speeding fast and far
I asked, "Why are you driving
In a dashing motor car."

The moose replied in a moosy
tone,
"I'll gladly tell you why:
I like these automatic brakes
They happen to suit I."

The moose then said "It is your
turn now"
"Speak clearly and don't stam-
mer"
I said to him, "Not I but me
You better watch your grammer".

Michael Pinto
Room 301



BUTTERNUT SPRINGS

Butternut Springs is a Girl Scout camp located near Valparaiso, Indiana. The camp has various lakes in which campers can swim, boat, or fish. If you enjoy sleeping in a tent Butternut has that to offer along with primitive and outdoor camping also. I have been there many times with my junior troop and loved each and every time.

This Fall I will be camping there with the Cadette troop. It is our first camp out together and I know that we will have a wonderful time in the outdoors at Butternut Springs.

Anne Kerr
Room 210



HALLOWEEN NIGHT

One Halloween night my friends and I went through a forest. We were so scared when we saw a man with no head! Blood was dripping down his neck.

Later in the forest we saw an envelope with a letter in it which said, "If you do not leave the forest you will die!"

We heard piano music coming from a house, and we went to see what was there. Inside sitting in the chair was the wolfman! We ran but we did not know where we were going. We found ourselves at the graveyard. All of a sudden we saw a hand coming out of the grave. It was the hand of Dracula! We were so scared we ran home and tried to forget all about it.

Dana Jurgilas
Room 301

