Must Raise Funds by March 1

We need to raise over $120,000 by March 1 to secure staff!

Big thanks to all the Scottie families who’ve donated to the annual fund. With your support, we’ve reached 55% of our fundraising goal. We still, however, need to raise the last $123,000 by March 1 to secure staff for next year. March is when budget and staffing decisions are made, and if our PTA doesn’t raise enough funds, we can’t guarantee positions for our beloved Instructional Assistants, Guest Teachers, and Counselor.

Now is the time to donate if you haven’t yet! If you’ve already donated and it’s within your means, please consider donating again to support our unique global learning community. Click here to donate today.

Gift Card Drive for McDonald Family Support

Our school counselor, Ms. Katie, has been organizing ongoing assistance to families in our McDonald community hardest hit by the pandemic. To support this effort, we are asking for donations of $25 Target gift cards at our next pick-up day, February 4th.

Target gift cards have been the most flexible for meeting a variety of needs. They are sold at a number of stores besides Target, including QFC, Safeway, and Rite Aid. If we raise more than our families need, the rest would be donated in June to the Alliance for Education which supports all Seattle schools. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Please contact Katie Runions with any questions or if your family is seeking support.

Sign Up for the Talent Show

The McDonald International Spring Talent Show is on March 5th! This year’s show will be presented virtually with videos of our talented students to be submitted by families. We are
welcoming the first 30 submissions and individual, as well as group, acts are welcome!

The deadline to submit videos is February 15th. Get more information and sign up here.

**Discover Japan's New Year Celebrations**

Akemashite omedetetou gozaimasu (Happy New Year)! New Year's Day is the most important holiday celebrated in Japan. To introduce many aspects of Japanese New Year's celebrations, McDonald volunteers have created a webpage with videos, book readings, games, crafts, and other fun activities.

We welcome everyone at McDonald to check out the webpage and try out some activities!

**Ms. Katie's Parenting Hack of the Week: 3 Steps to Put a Stop to the Whining**

Why do kids whine? Because it works! Kids keep up with behaviors that work for them. By giving into demands or even by saying "Stop Whining!", we give them the attention they crave from us, even if it's not the positive attention they were going for.

If your kids have aged out of whining, use these same 3 steps to deal nagging or disrespect, or whatever the behavior du jour is in your home!

- **Make it NOT work.** Remain calm and don't give in. Don't give them your negative attention. Turn or walk away if you must. Every. Single. Time.

- **Let your child know what to expect from now on.** "When you use your whiny voice, I'm not going to answer. I'm going to continue with what I'm doing and I might walk away. When you talk in your normal voice, I will be happy to listen."

- **When your child uses their normal voice, respond immediately with warmth and positive attention.**

**Kids and Grief During Covid**

If your kids have questions and fears connected with this difficult topic, please join our parent-caregiver night "Kids and Grief during COVID" on Wednesday, February 10, from 7-8 pm.

Jen McCormick, the Clinical Director at The Healing Center, will present about helping children grieve during the pandemic. Link and details will follow next week.

**Host a Guest Teacher Next Fall**
A second native speaker in each classroom is shown to improve language acquisition in study after study. Interns from the Amity Institute have played an important role in our immersion program from the start. They are recent college graduates in education in their home countries, who volunteer in our classrooms to share their language and culture. The pandemic made it impossible to bring these teachers from Japan and Spanish speaking countries this year, but our teachers and staff would like to bring the guest teacher program back next year. It's only possible if we have host families lined up for fall! All it takes is a private bedroom and ability to provide meals.

Want to learn more? Visit the PTA website or reach out to Gwenn Fer and Erica Lerer for more information.

Free School Meal Program
Why should your family pick up free school meals during remote schooling?

The school meal programs are suffering from the pandemic and it is more important than ever to help them survive especially for those who need this program the most.

Even if you didn't participate in the free or reduced meal program before remote learning, there are so many reasons to participate now. Learn more about food justice in this article.

- You are not taking anyone else’s lunch! The district gets reimbursed for every meal served and thus you are securing more federal dollars into the system
- The more meals that are served, the more cost-effective the program is, which facilitates the use of better-quality ingredients and healthier meals
- This also helps prevent cutting jobs in the kitchen and cafeteria workforce
- And of course, it reduces time and financial stress for families and caregivers in our community

More information here about bus routes distributing the meals and the schools offering curb pick up open Monday-Friday from 11:15 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.

If you need assistance, please contact our school counselor.

Important Vaccine Information
DOH Washington State Department of Health has created a Getting Vaccinated flyer with basic information about the COVID-19 vaccine and what to expect when you get vaccinated.

It is also available in Japanese, and Spanish.

Participate in Hiring Our Next Principal
Interested in helping to find McDonald's next principal? Reach out to Will Ambrosini, PTA Secretary, if you're interested in being involved in the search. We're especially interested in finding some interested Spanish-track parents.
¿Estás interesado en ayudar a buscar al próximo director (principal) para McDonald? Ponte en contacto con Will Ambrosini si te gustaría participar.

Join the McDonald PTA

The McDonald PTA would like you to become a member this year. We are currently at 35% of a normal year's membership level. If you can support the PTA this year please do so now.

PTA membership is $25 per person. Your tax-deductible membership fees support National PTA, Washington State PTA, Seattle Council PTSA and McDonald PTA operations.

To become a member of the PTA please use this link.