

Gift Giving Practices

We wanted to share with you an upcoming change in the PTA plan for gift giving. We hope to simplify the process of giving gifts to the teachers and staff who make McKenzie a wonderful school for our children. In the past, room parents collected donations toward a classroom teacher gift that was divided into a winter holiday gift and an end of the school year gift. Paraprofessionals who assisted classroom teachers received a small portion of the collected donations. There was no collection for “specials” teachers such as music, art, gym, etc., or for staff such as custodians, secretaries, nurses, etc.

1. The new plan aims to:
Request donations at the beginning of the school year, in the PTA storefront where PTA memberships, iGNITE donations, birthday books, etc. are also available for purchase.
2. Include all teachers and staff at McKenzie in the gift disbursement.
3. Divide the proceeds so classroom teachers receive 60% of the proceeds while specials teachers, support services, and all other staff receive 40% of the proceeds.
4. Distribute gifts once, at the winter holiday break.

We recognize that there is no perfect way to manage gift giving, but we realized that the burden on room parents in this effort is high. We also want to make it easier to show our appreciation to all the teachers and staff who teach and help our children – rather than having to purchase and distribute multiple gifts, parents can choose to make one contribution that will cover all gifts. We will suggest a \$40 per student gift donation, and this collection will be optional. Many families may choose to give independently, and many families may choose to donate a different amount. We will pilot this plan for the 2017-18 school year, and we will evaluate its success thereafter.