Dear Students and Parents of McKinley Elementary:

It's time for the **54th Annual McKinley Variety Show** and we are looking for students, teachers, and even parents to participate in the show. This year's Variety Show will be on **Thursday, March 5th**, at Lincoln High School.

Try outs will be after school on **Monday, January 26th** (after school by arrangement). Although we are calling these "try outs" no one will be turned away. We just want to see what folks would like to do…..or if you want to be in the show and don't know what you'd like to do that's fine as well. Just let us know and we'll be happy to work with you.

If you do know what you'd like to do, please let us know what you'll be doing (e.g., singing, dancing, acting, playing an instrument, etc.) and the name of the song/act. Please submit the attached form by **Wednesday, January 21st.**

Those who know what they want to do should be prepared on **Monday, January 26th** to show off their talent. If they are singing or dancing, please bring a CD with the song you will be performing. (karaoke if singing). If you are playing an instrument please bring your sheet music and your instrument (we have a piano ☺), props for skits would be helpful, as well as a script for any spoken talents. If you have any questions or concerns about these dates or about what needs to be ready, please contact Janine Whitaker (619-208-2667).

Acts will be accepted on a first-come basis. There will be no repetition of songs and spaces for act types will be limited so we may work with kids to combine acts. Please try and choose something unique and different; poetry readings, joke telling, magic tricks, story-telling, instrumental pieces, multi-cultural dances and songs, or something of the like.

Time allotment for acts will be determined based on how many students audition for acts. Come prepared with acts of up to 2 minutes, solo acts should be around 1 minute. It may be cut shorter, but we will help you to do this during rehearsals. Students will be allowed to be in 1 act only- with the exception of large acts.

All performances, lyrics, dance movements, language, and costumes MUST BE elementary school appropriate and respectful.

REHEARSAL SHEDULE: Rehearsals will be held on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00 and on Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 and will start on January 21st (we'll work with Prime Time). Attendance at the Wednesday rehearsals is mandatory if you wish to participate in the group performances, but we might be able to work with kids who are unable to attend the Monday rehearsals. Students attending after school academic programs should speak with Ms. Ashton-Gray about making arrangements.

TENATIVE PERMORMANCE LAYOUT: K-2nd graders will be in the first half of the show. All K-2nd graders in the show will be in the opening act in addition to their own act. Afterwards they will be able to watch the show during the second act and then come back on stage for the grand finale. 3rd through 5th graders will be able to watch the first half of the show in the auditorium and then will be in the opening act of the 2nd half of the show as well as in their individual acts and will be in the grand finale as well. These large acts are choreographed by parent volunteers.

PARENTS WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are trying to make the rehearsals shorter and much more enjoyable for all. We are going to be breaking out the Monday rehearsals into small groups of 4-5 acts and we need parents to volunteer to help out with these small groups…giving the kids ideas, feedback, support, and getting them ready for the big stage. Then on Wednesday's we work on our large group performance. We need assistance managing 120+ kids to learn the dance moves and songs and general crowd control! We need at least 12 parents to help with this. Come one or both days to help out, it's only one hour for six weeks and is actually a BLAST!

SIGN UP: To sign up, fill out the attached sheet.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS: Tentative schedule from auditions to performance:

- Wednesday, January 21st.– Kickoff Day 4:00 to 5:00 in the auditorium
- Monday, January 26th – Try Outs from 4:00 to 6:00 in the auditorium
- Mondays from 4:00 to 5:00, February 2nd to March 2nd, Rehearsals
- Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30, January 28th to March 4th, Rehearsals
- Monday, March 2nd from 4:00 to 5:30 MANDATORY Rehearsal
- March 4th from 4:00 to 6:00 Full Rehearsal MANDATORY
- Thursday, March 5th 9:30 to 11:30 Dress Rehearsal before full school
- Thursday, March 5th, Performance Day
  - 4:30 - Drop off at theater
  - 5:30 - Theater opens
  - 6:00 - Performance

PERMISSION SLIP VS2014:

I give my child _____ permission to stay after school and to participate in the 2014 McKinley Variety Show.

Parent Signature: _____
Phone Number: _____
Email: _____
Alternate Contact: _____
Phone Number: _____

ACT INFORMATION

My name is: _____
My teacher is: _____
I am doing a: _____
(List type of act) _____
My act is with: _____
(list friend names) _____
My music is: _____

I want to be in the show but don't know what to do. I like.....

_____ Singing _____ Jokes _____ Other
_____ Dancing _____ Magic Tricks

PARENT VOLUNTEERS

Name: _____
Phone Number: _____
E-mail: _____

Please consider volunteering. Your child will love having you there watching them perform and we would love having your assistance.

Thank you,

The Variety Show Committee