



## Spanish Club by: Lauren Taylor & Libby Brooks

Spanish club sold popcorn to raise money for a field trip to Six Flags. There were 10 flavors available at a cost of \$2 per bag.

This is the first year for Spanish Club at McNiel.

The group members are on their second run of selling popcorn. The first order of 1000 bags sold very quickly. Club sponsor Mrs. Mendoza said vanilla was one of the most popular flavors.

Students or staff interested in joining the club may do so for a \$3 fee. Seventh grader, Chandler Winn said, "I enjoy being in Spanish Club. We get to do all kinds of fun activities while still learning about Spanish culture."

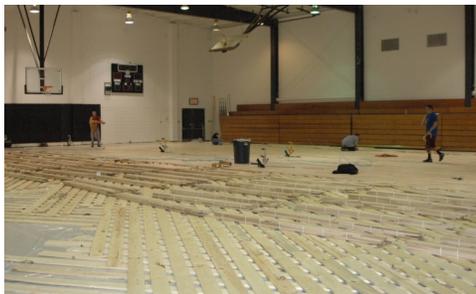


McNiel Spanish Club 2014– 2015

The club meets in the library every Thursday after school and traveled to Six Flags on Saturday, April 18th.

## Big Gym Gets a New Floor by: Autumn Wells & Marcus Matus

For the first time since 1979 McNiel received a new gym floor. On April 10, 1979 McNiel was truck with a massive tornado that destroyed majority of the city and even damaged surrounding communities.



Construction on the wood floor began on February 10. Students were not allowed to Continued on pg. 3



Sequence of the gym floor being built

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STAAR Prizes

## STAAR Testing

by: Coach Cross

The first round of STAAR testing finished on March 31st. Seventh grade students tested on Monday & Tuesday while 8th graders only had one day of testing on Tuesday. The next round of testing will be April 20th through 22nd.

For the April testing, students are advised to go to bed earlier than normal, eat a good breakfast, and get here a little earlier than usual.

Students need to stop by their lockers, put their phones on silent and up, or do not bring them at all. If you do not stop by your locker your teachers will give you an opportunity to turn in your phone in your testing room without any repercussions.

Students will be asked to sign an oath stating they do not have any electronic devices on them. Any student who is caught with a phone during testing could have his or her test invalidated.

Students also need to bring a book to read. No other materials will be allowed. If bringing your lunch from home, take it to your testing room. Students will not be allowed to go to lockers once testing has begun.

Don't forget that students are eligible for the prize drawings. Items include a TV, candy, and a polaroid camera. There will be separate drawings for both 7th and 8th graders. Students have a chance to be entered for every test they take, if they pass, and also if they earn a commended score.

## NJHS Pet Drive

by: Idriana Williams

McNiel Jr. High's chapter of NJHS raise over \$250 for the pet drive.

Several students and teacher helped with the drive. Items collected consisted of leashes, collars, pet food, treats, toys, and clothes.

The NJHS group was trying to do something different in the form of volunteer work.

When asked if NJHS would raise money for other organizations club sponsor and librarian Mrs. Wolf responded by stating, "We didn't, but we could at some point."

Wolf also added that NJHS may do a school supply drive in April.

For more information on how you can donate please see Mrs. Wolf in the library.

**STAAR Testing  
April 20-22**

**Last Dance  
May 1st**

## Water Bottle Ban

By: Peter Chiem

Students are no longer allowed to leave the cafeteria with water bottles and bring them to the student center.

The main reason for this new policy is because of an abundance of students consistently leaving partially empty bottles on the tables and on the floor. Students have also been spilling water without cleaning up their messes.

Any students caught with water bottles in the Student Center after lunch will be asked to finish it in the cafeteria or put it

**Please pay your cafeteria and library fines**

## Beginning Band Concert

By: Grace Palma

McNiel Jr. High's Beginning Band students performed a concert on March 12th. There are a little over 100 students that played a total of three songs along with two songs from each individual section.

McNiel Band Director Mr. Gaiten says his favorite song they play is "Rock This Band."

Gaiten also said that each section has their own unique strengths and they will all bring something different. "The band as a whole has improved a lot and proved themselves as an impressive group. They've shown dedication to the procedures and the process."

Gaiten thinks this group will make a fantastic advanced band next year.

Any students that are interested in band should seek information on auditions from Mr. Gaiten.

## Floor con't.

Enter the gym until all construction was completed. There was a 21 day curing period before activities could resume. The floor was ready to go after students returned from Spring Break on March 23rd.

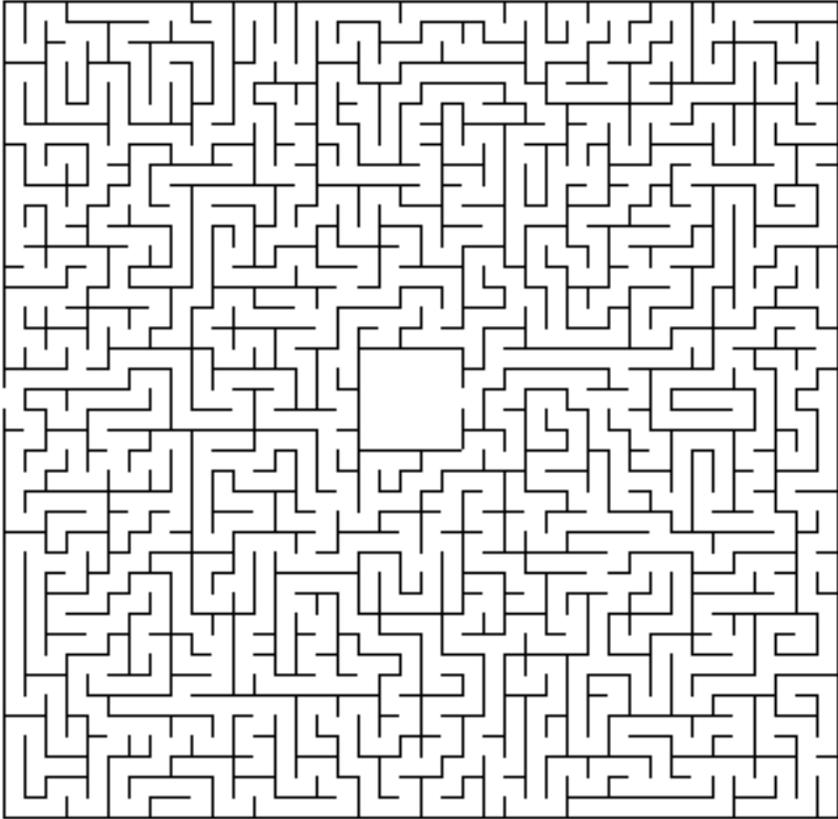
The floor was built by Courts and Sports, an athletics flooring company. All of the funding for the floor was provided by the district. When asked about how much she thought it cost to build, Coach Stegall responded with, "I think it was about a six figure job!"

The new court is all wood and has the Mustang logo on the center of the court. On the east end of the court the baseline reads "LADY MUSNTAGS," while the west baseline reads "MUSTANGS" to represent the locations of the boys and girls locker rooms.

The basketball goals all had to be raised 2.25 inches to allow for the slight increase in height of the stacked wood.

The floor will have better grip and be better for athletes to play on in respect to knee and ankle injuries. Only athletic shoes will be allowed on the floor to keep it from deteriorating.

Escape Maze



Contact Us

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