



MSM Bellringer

VOL. 3, NO. 1

NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

JAN/FEB 2025

Reconstruction Progress Inside and Out

The grading of the southwest quadrant of the playground to prepare the soil for upcoming planting of the natural prairie is complete. The grass seeds have been purchased from Valley Feed & Seed in Wichita with planting to take place soon. If you want to participate, call the museum and let us know. The Prairie Team is participating in the Earth Partnership for Schools mid-winter class on January 17 at the Dyck Arboretum in Hesston. Work is in progress on the south side of the limestone building to allow rainwater to drain away from the school building. All of this “dirt work” is being done by Bruce Sanderson, retired USD259 landscaper, and will augment the upcoming repair of the building guttering system.

Volunteers completed the 2025 Kansas Heritage Trust Fund (KHTF) grant application in the fall requesting funds to repair the windows of the 1930s building. KHTF awards will be announced as early as the end of February. Our 2024-2025 Light the Way for History fundraising campaign is currently ongoing, with received funds to be applied toward operational expenses such as electricity, heating, and cooling. Donations for this campaign may be made at the museum during regular hours, mailed to the address on the front of the newsletter, or you can go online at savemccormick.com. Remember, McCormick School Museum is a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

By the end of January, we will submit an application to the Kansas State Historic Preservation Office for approval on our next reconstruction project. This provides us with specific guidance for each task and allows us to receive tax credits for our expenditures. Work on the limestone building will include the reconstruction of the cornice guttering system, repainting of the windows and repair of water damaged interiors. We also plan to add an audio/video system to the multi-purpose room and a lighted sign on the premises. Once the project proposal is approved, work will commence.

As the building needs of MSM are extensive, donations from readers and friends and financial awards are essential to offset expenses. You can help through participation in one or more of MSM’s fundraising events and campaigns. We appreciate contributions of all sizes. There are opportunities to volunteer at the museum, as well, where you can find your perfect job. Call or text 316-708-0676 to find out more.



OUR MISSION

The mission of the McCormick School Museum is to showcase and protect its historical and architectural importance while telling the story of Wichita Public Schools through artifacts and archives.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to guide and assist in long-range planning, marketing, and development of the McCormick School Museum, seeking opportunities for growth and recognition through increased educational opportunities and significant fundraising efforts.

The Newsletter of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. is published six times per year to inform constituents of the Wichita Public Schools and other interested patrons of activities and events taking place at the museum. Contributions help us to produce this publication.

You may send your gift to
McCormick School Museum, Inc. at:

McCormick School Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 12881
Wichita, Kansas 67277
savemccormick.com

ABOVE, RIGHT: Bruce Sanderson, retired USD259 landscaper, prepared the southwest quadrant for the native prairie seeding. Photographer: Cynthia Davie

Editor: Cynthia Rhodes

Art Director: Brian L. Martin

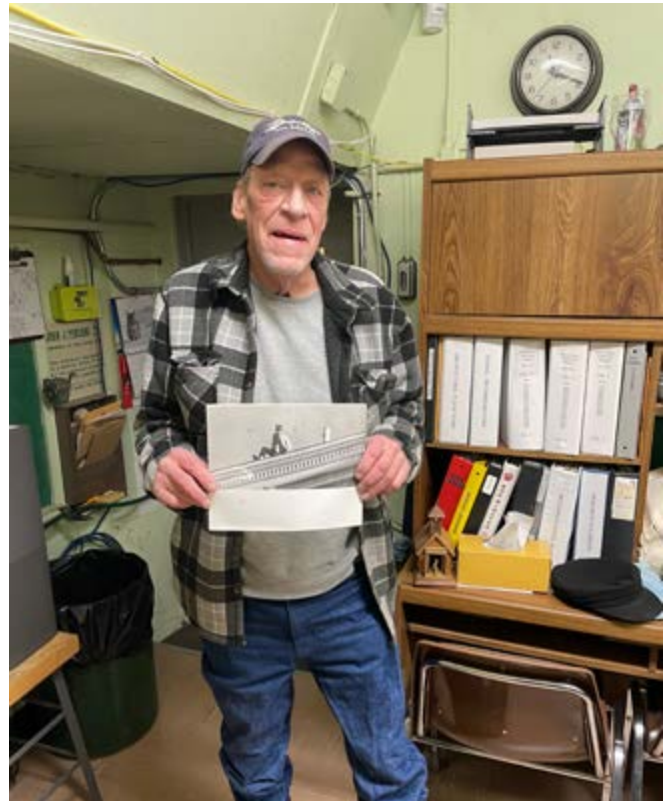
Museum Notes

Holiday events in December brought almost 500 guests and volunteers into the museum. After performing, the 350 students who sang or played at the Friday Open House received a tour of the museum followed by a treat of cookies and sweets as they departed. As a reminder, the MSM Holiday ornaments (wreath, tree, and tinkle bell) continue to be for sale at the museum.

The Wichita Herb Society held their monthly dinner and program meetings in the multipurpose room. About thirty members participated at each of the October, November, and December meetings. We invite you to consider the museum for your meeting and program needs.

A recent visitor of note was local Wichitan Jay Hecox who grew up in the McCormick neighborhood just blocks from the school museum. Jay regaled museum volunteers of the time he and several friends climbed to the roof of the limestone building. When they began to climb down, his friends knocked the escape route loose stranding Jay on the roof. The Wichita Fire Department had to be called to bring a ladder truck to rescue him that day! Jay donated his photos and story of that mischievous adventure to the museum.

We want to remind readers and friends to donate old Wichita Public School yearbooks to the museum. We gladly accept elementary, middle, and high school yearbooks to fill out the extensive collection in the MSM library. Extra yearbook copies are available to raise funds for the museum. Contact the museum for more information about how you can donate school memorabilia today.



Jay Hecox holds a 1968 "Wichita Eagle" photo of his MSM roof adventure. Photographer: Paul Oberg

EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesday from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sunday from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Park to the north of the building; enter through door #4 (closest entrance to the parking lot). Ring the doorbell if needed. You may call 316-708-0676 to confirm museum hours before your visit or to schedule tours outside regular hours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Currently, the stairway to the multipurpose room is handicap-accessible for events. Admission is by donation; your support is always appreciated.

SAVE THE DATES

JANUARY 25

Kansas Day Chili Feed. 5 to 7 pm

Celebrate Kansas Day with folk songs, homemade chili and toppings, cornbread, and cobbler.

Suggested donation: \$10; kids under 12 are \$5.

MARCH 15

Boiler-Cooked Potato Bake. 5 to 7 pm

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day and enjoy a large, deliciously-baked potato (freshly baked in the

museum boiler) with all the toppings, a green salad, and dessert. Live music and entertainment is provided. Suggested donation: \$10; kids under 12 are \$5. Wear green!

MAY (TBA)

16mm Film Fest. 5 to 7 pm

Enjoy freshly-popped popcorn and ice-cold lemonade from the concession stand as you watch entertaining and educational 16mm films from the McCormick School Museum film archives. Fun for all ages; families are invited. Watch social media sites for more information as the date approaches.

To reserve a room for your event, contact the museum office for reservation information and availability of dates.

For more information and to contact the museum:

Website: www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com

Donations: www.savemccormick.com

Facebook: McCormick School Museum

Gmail: mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com

Telephone: 316-708-0676 (call or text)

MSM Office: 316-558-5804 (leave a message)