



# MSM Bellringer

VOL. 2, NO. 6

NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

NOV/DEC 2024

## Needs of the Museum

Recently, MSM was awarded \$5,000 from the City of Wichita Division of Arts and Cultural Services to be used for Operational expenses in 2025. Also, the MSM grant writing committee submitted an application on November 1st for the 2025 Kansas Heritage Trust Fund (KHTF) grant requesting funds to repair the windows of the 1930s building. KHTF awards will be announced in the spring. Our 2024-2025 Light the Way for History fundraising campaign is currently ongoing through January 12, 2025 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](http://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.

The building needs of MSM continue to be extensive even though recent donations and financial awards have helped to remedy some building deficiencies. In addition to repeated vandalism incidents, the cornice guttering system is in need of repair. Water ingress in various locations has caused interior plaster damage in several classrooms. A portion of the ceiling in the principal's office has recently fallen, causing damage to artifacts and furnishings below. One urgent need is to restore the wooden bell tower atop the 1890s building. Upon recent inspection, the tower base was found to be in such a deteriorated state that it is no longer safe for visitors to ring the bell. Finally, the capstones of the 1930s building parapets have lost their original mortar and new mortar needs to be reapplied to preserve the integrity of the red brick building.

MSM volunteers are working hard to find funds to further the reconstruction progress and to cover operational costs. You can help through participation in one or more of MSM's fundraising campaigns. We appreciate contributions of all sizes. Please come by and visit us soon, so we can wish you a happy and prosperous holiday season.



**ABOVE RIGHT:** The MSM belltower base was found to be in such a deteriorated state that it is no longer safe for visitors to ring the bell. Photographer: Logan Pajunen

### 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](http://savemccormick.com)

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# Museum Notes

Curtis Kralicek, Alingsås, Sweden, was a recent visitor to the museum. A former Wichita resident, Curtis was interested in viewing the educational exhibits. Kathleen Oster, MSM Collections Registrar, reported that the museum recently acquired several school-related collections including the following: 1) A collection of photographs, scrapbooks, and other PTA items compiled by Corinne Kirkhart was delivered by Craig Kirkhart, Corinne's son, and Mike Bean, both of Wichita. While her children were in school at Booth Elementary in the 1960's, Corinne was President of the Wichita PTA and Vice-President of the Kansas PTA. 2) Kimberly Lowmiller, daughter of Nelda Edwards-Goodwin, donated a framed picture of the Wichita Eagle article written by Josh Funk celebrating Nelda's 38 years of teaching first and second graders in the same classroom at Payne Elementary School.

Kathleen would like to remind readers and friends to donate old Wichita Public School yearbooks to the museum. She will 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.



## 2024 MSM Wreath Holiday Ornament

The 2024 MSM Wreath Holiday ornament is available for sale now for \$20. The quantity is limited, so come by the museum to purchase your collectible keepsake before they are all gone.

## 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

#### DECEMBER 6

Annual Holiday Open House. 9 am to 5 pm  
Musical performances by USD259 students from 9:30 am to 3 pm.

#### DECEMBER 7 & 8

Holiday Open House Weekend. 12 pm to 5 pm both days. See what it was like to experience an old-fashioned festive season in school.

#### DECEMBER 12

Carol Sing Around the Tree. 6:30 to 8 pm  
Sing and be merry at this seasonal holiday evening event.

#### 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.

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](http://www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com)

**Donations:** [www.savemccormick.com](http://www.savemccormick.com)

**Facebook:** McCormick School Museum

**Gmail:** [mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com)

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

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