



# MSM Bellringer

VOL. 2, NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE MCCORMICK SCHOOL MUSEUM

MAR/APR 2024

## Progress You Can See!

Recent work at the McCormick School Museum is mostly centered in the 1930's building with the installation and certification of a platform lift and the floor refinishing project in Room 5. The completion of both projects will facilitate a wider use of the museum by volunteer staff, as well as the community at large. Here are some details of these and other projects.

We are delighted to announce that a Garaventa Artira inclined platform lift was recently installed on the stairs of the 1930's building to provide a safe and reliable way to travel between floors for the wheelchair-bound and for those with limited mobility. This platform lift was selected for its limited impact on the building and ease of installation. It is the ideal solution for the tight spaces in the winding stairway of the 1930's building allowing access for rider and wheelchair to the multipurpose room and the two upper floors from the ground-floor hallway that connects the two buildings. The lift is ADA-compliant, can be controlled by the rider or an attendant, and is equipped with safety features and sensors to keep rider and stair-pedestrians safe. Funding for this project is made possible by the Langel Family Foundation.

Contractors will begin the wood floor refinishing project in Room 5 of the 1930's building once the platform lift is officially certified. To prevent further damage, the maple floor will be stripped, lightly sanded, and sealed. This room is currently used for meetings and classroom presentations. Eventually, all the classroom floors in the 1930's building will undergo similar sand and seal restoration allowing them to be reserved by outside groups for workshops and events, as well as for much-needed volunteer work space. Funding for this project is made possible by LuAnna Peck, MSM board member.

A recently-completed restoration project that is visible both from the inside and the outside is the installation of the new window in the northeast corner of the 1890/1910 building. This window replaces the boarded-up fire escape doorway and restores the row of windows to the original building architectural design. The wooden reproduction window was constructed by Chuck Pegg of Cedar Canyon Wholesale, Inc, and was installed by Edvin Marroquin, employee of Reconstruction Services, LLC (Dan and John Rutherford). Funding for this project is generously provided by Reconstruction Services, LLC and the Langel Family Foundation.

Another exciting project well on its way to completion in the 1890/1910 building is the Dr. Donovan Moore Research Area. Located next to the archive room, this research area will be used by museum staff and interested patrons. The wood cabinets were custom-built and installed by Reconstruction Services, LLC. New lighting and electrical outlets were installed, and a carpet will be laid to formalize the space. The research area commemorates the late Dr. Donovan Moore, who served USD259 for thirty-five years as a teacher and Principal. Dr. Moore was passionate about the McCormick School Museum, leading the effort to establish the museum as a service project of the Wichita Retired School Teachers Association (now known as the Wichita Association for Retired School Personnel) and serving for more than twenty years. Monies for this project are provided by Kansas Rehabilitation Tax Credits through the Kansas State Historical Preservation Office.

Upcoming projects that are on the horizon include adding a sound system and audio-visual equipment to the multipurpose room of the 1930's building and re-painting the exterior woodwork of the 1890/1910 building. Watch for a new museum sign on the south side of the 1890/1910 building along McCormick Street in the upcoming months. Plans are in the works to install native wildflowers and prairie grasses on the southwest side of the property. We invite you to stop in and check on the progress of our restorations. Take in the school exhibits while you are here. We would love to see you soon!



The newly installed Garaventa Artira inclined platform lift.  
Photo: Paul Oberg

## 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

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## Recent Events at the Museum

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual St. Patrick's Day Potato Bake was held on March 16, bringing close to 125 people to the museum for a fun and delicious time. The entertainment during the evening was provided by Pat O'Connor reciting old Irish folk lore, and Paul Oberg singing folk tunes accompanied by the banjo. Patrons enjoyed potatoes freshly-baked in the museum boiler while seated at festively-trimmed tables for a rousing evening of good, old-fashioned FUN! Thank you to those who attended to support the museum.

On March 9, the Alpha Delta Kappa-Rho chapter enjoyed a tour of the museum given by Paul Oberg. Many of the members were former teachers in USD 259 Wichita Public Schools.

Our visiting hours on Sundays and Wednesdays have seen a recent uptick in attendance attributed to increased advertisement in the community through posted event flyers and social media sites. If patrons would like to stay informed on activities or upcoming events at the museum, check us out on our website at [mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com](http://mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com) or you can find us on Facebook. To join the museum's e-blast list, call 316-708-0676 or email [cdavie@cox.net](mailto:cdavie@cox.net) to be included. Call Paul Oberg at 316-841-6198 or email him at [McCormickSchoolMuseum@gmail.com](mailto:McCormickSchoolMuseum@gmail.com) to schedule a tour outside of regular hours. The museum is open from 2 to 5 pm on Sunday afternoons and 9 am to noon on Wednesday mornings. Come by and check us out!

The construction crew is installing and finishing the new north window which replaces the plywood panel that once covered the obsolete fire escape door.

Photo: Paul Oberg



## EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sundays 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.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Currently, the 1930s building, including the multipurpose room, is handicap-accessible. Admission is by donation, your support is always appreciated.

**JUNE 1, 2024**

**16 mm Film Fest, 5 to 7 pm.**

Rick Every will be our host for a showing of entertaining and educational 16mm films from both the McCormick School Museum film archives and Rick's own personal collection. Rick is the former projectionist at the Orpheum Theatre and technician at KAKE-TV and Century II; he is

a renowned reel to reel film expert and collector of 16mm films and equipment. The evening's feature film will be "They Said It Couldn't Be Done" produced in 1970 by Bell Telephone with narration by Lee Marvin and music by the 5th Dimension. This film features engineering feats such as the Hoover Dam, the Transcontinental Railway, the Golden Gate Bridge, Mount Rushmore, etc. During the 15-minute intermission, we will be highlighting pre-World War II science and geography high school curricula from our collection of lantern slides shown using our antique 1928 projector. Come enjoy freshly-popped popcorn and ice-cold lemonade from our concession stand. Admission at the door is by donation with proceeds going towards supporting the museum. This event will be fun for all ages, so bring your families. Check our social media sites for more information as the date approaches.

**For more information and to contact the museum:**

**Website:** [www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com](http://www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com)

**Facebook:** McCormick School Museum

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

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