



A Note From Your Principal

Dear Parents,

Wow, I feel like we blinked and November was gone!

The winter months of November and December are a time when many families celebrate holidays special to them. Last year many of our celebrations were adjusted due to COVID precautions. My hope is that your family will be able to resume past traditions this year. Enjoy your time together as a family!

As for school, there are still a few weeks remaining before Winter Break. Please remind your child to do their best over the next couple of weeks as there is work to be done that will count towards January report card grades.

Have a safe Holiday Season and a Happy New Year!

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

PTSA Giving Tree

For many of us December is filled with food, gifts, and family. The McAuliffe community wants to make sure this is possible for everyone. As a result, the PTSA will again be providing a "Giving Tree" to help families in need. You can support these efforts by selecting a gift card to donate via a link below. Gift cards can be dropped off in a PTSA box located in the front entry of the school from November 22 – December 10 between the hours of 9:30am-3:30pm.

[Giving Tree Sign-Ups](#)

Snow Procedures – Early Release

As we enter the winter months, the chance of snow during the school day increases. The following information reviews Christa McAuliffe's early release procedures should the Lake Washington School District shorten the school day due to snow.

Parent Notification:

- Parents will be notified by call/email/text by District
- District will post an alert on District and McAuliffe Web sites
- McAuliffe will email our school's snow release procedures

Student Release Procedures:

- Parents are to pick up students at the outside classroom doors
- Teachers will verify that the person picking up the student is listed as a parent/alternate contact on the student's emergency card.
- Teachers may ask for ID, if needed
- Teachers will have parents sign out the student
- Teachers will only release students to parents/alternate emergency contact
- If adult picking up student is not listed as an emergency contact, the teacher will send them to the office. The front office will then call the parent/guardian to get a verbal "ok" to release the student.



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You may check your emergency contact information on Parent Access. Parents are allowed to have up to 5 emergency contacts. Please email Heather Cobb at hcobb@lwsd.org if you would like to change/update your emergency contact information.

Travel Reminders

November and December are a time when families travel to visit loved ones. Whereas families are not required to quarantine after travel, we ask that students return to school healthy after travelling. Included below are travel recommendations and information provided by the CDC.

Domestic Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-during-covid19.html>

International Travel:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

Covid Conditions by Location:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/map-and-travel-notice.html>

PE

Hello McAuliffe Families, PE is going so well this fall! I'm thrilled to have Brandt Rataezyk, our itinerant, at school now! We team teach a few classes, but he has: Wellington, Coskey, Sutherland, Reilly and Camera. You can reach him at brataezyk@lwsd.org. The month of December is always reserved for bowling skills and Midnight Bowling the last week before break. I'm so happy to be able to do it again!! Happy Holidays! Stacie, strong@lwsd.org & Brandt, brataezyk@lwsd.org



DECEMBER 2021

1-3	Giving Tree Week
3	Star Drawing
14	PTSA Holiday Lunch for Staff
15	Holiday Read Aloud
16	PTSA Board Meeting, 7:00—8:15pm
17	Winter Assembly, 9:40am
20-31	No School—Winter Break

JANUARY 2022

13	PTSA Board Meeting, 7pm
17	No School—MLK Day
19-21	Use Book Rodeo Book Collection
25,27,28	Conferences—12:20pm Dismissal
25-28	Used Book Rodeo
28	Christa McAuliffe Day (Observed)

LRC

Last month's book fair was a success! Thanks to your support, we earned \$2,400 in Scholastic Dollars which can be used to purchase new books for the library. We are also having a lot of fun adding new books to the collection through the Birthday Book Club. Thanks for your support of both those programs. They help us keep new items flowing into the library.

December in the library will see students in grades 2 through 5 focus on becoming increasingly independent users of the library catalog and developing a better understanding of how the catalog can lead them to find a book's location on a shelf. Students in grades K and 1 will focus on locating fiction and nonfiction books in the library. In addition to learning those skills, we will all have some holiday fun on December 15th with "Story time with Mr. Howden and Ms. Le." Students will visit the library to hear some educational and fun stories about Hanukkah, Christmas and Kwanzaa. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Julie jumartin@lwsd.org



Counselor Corner

Hello McAuliffe Families! This month, students had the opportunity to explore themes of problem-solving and calming down strategies. In our lessons, we start with a mindful minute to help us check in on our feelings. [This calendar](#) about mindfulness is a great tool to practice some of the coping skills we learned. We continued to discuss empathy and were impressed by students' examples of compassion. At home, please feel free to ask your student about ways that they can express kindness towards friends, family, and classmates. It is lucky that we can play together again! In December, our lessons will focus on themes of diversity and respect. We will start small group sessions in late November through winter break. For the fall semester, these groups will help teach strategies to:

1. Build friendships.
2. Cope with stress and worry.
3. Deal with changes at home.

As always, students and families are welcome to visit our office for individual supports. Please feel free to reach out to us via email at: ldaniel@lwsd.org. Keeping Kids First,

Lisa Daniel, School Counselor
Hannah Pomfret, School Counseling Intern



MUSIC HAPPENS!

13 days! Yes, beginning December 1 there are 13 school days to be filled with Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa activities. Students will be learning songs from each of these holidays along with seasonal songs such as "Jingle Bells." Activities using everything from paper plates to cans, bells and drumsticks will help us learn about the ballet, "The Nutcracker."

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