

McAuliffe Monthly

MAY 2022



May 2022

Hello Parents,

Whereas April showers bring flowers, the month of May brings the SBA. As we look towards the end of the year the SBA, FastBridge, PTSA festivities, and school promotion events on the horizon. As usual, Spring is going to be a lot of fun and **VERY** busy.

I look forward to seeing our students continue demonstrating their excellent in the classroom and then celebrating as a community through some fun events in June. It's going to be a great finish to the year!

Included in this edition of the McAuliffe Monthly are the following updates:

- Associate Principal Change
- Field Day Volunteers Needed
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)
- COVID Testing
- Earth Month, Green Week, and Walk and Roll to School Day

As always, thank you for your continued support. I feel blessed to work with such amazing students, educators, and parents and am grateful to our entire McAuliffe community.

Go Challengers!

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Associate Principal Change

Christina Le, our current Associate Principal, will be leaving us at the end of the year to move to Olympia, Washington. Christina is getting married at the end of May and will be beginning a new and exciting chapter of her life. While we are sad to see Christina leave us, we are happy for the exciting future that awaits her. I want to thank Christina for her work the past two years as our Associate Principal. She has been an amazing support and advocate for our students.

As we say goodbye to Christina, I would like to introduce the McAuliffe community to our next Associate Principal. Please join me in welcoming Holly Knowles to the McAuliffe family! Holly successfully completed the interview process last week. Our interview committee, which included staff, parents, and myself, were pleased to select Holly as our next Associate Principal.

Christina Le will be finishing out the school year at McAuliffe, with Holly Knowles starting on July 1st. Included below is a picture of Holly and a brief introduction.

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From Holly Knowles:

I am Holly Knowles and I am so excited to be the new Associate Principal at McAuliffe Elementary! I graduated from the University of Washington, Seattle with a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Quickly after my graduation, I moved to Providence, RI and began my teaching career as a 7th grade math teacher at Gilbert Stuart Middle School. Over the course of the next three years I completed my Master's in Education at the Rhode Island College and Master's in Urban Education Policy at Brown University. After three years in the Ocean State, I knew it was time to return home to Washington state. I was hired to be a 7th grade math teacher at Destiny Charter Middle School which was located in Tacoma, WA (the school no longer exists). During my third year teaching math I began my coursework to complete my administrative certification at the University of Washington, Tacoma. I completed my certification in 2019 and was hired as the Assistant Principal at Naches Trail Elementary located in the Bethel School District. For the last three years I have learned the joys of working with elementary students and about all the amazing work teachers put into their students' learning experiences. I am thrilled to be joining the McAuliffe family for the 22-23 school year. I have always been in awe of the work that LWSD does to support its students and the community at large. Outside of work, I enjoy skiing, reading, and spending time with friends and family!



Field Day Volunteers Needed

We are looking for 55 parent volunteers to help us with Field Day on Wednesday, June 8th from 9:30am-11:30am. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact our PE teacher, Stacie Strong, at sstrong@lwsd.org. Volunteers will help set up, lead, and take down stations. The stations will be easy to run, with equipment ready and directions provided.

Per district protocol, all parents must fill out a volunteer application and provide proof of vaccination. Information on how to provide this information is included below.

- [Volunteer Application Process](#)
- [Online Volunteer Application](#)
 - upload driver's license/passport
 - send copy of vaccination to hcobb@lwsd.org
 - or show vaccination proof to Heather Cobb in front office
- [Hard Copy Volunteer Application](#)
 - print and submit fillable PDF to hcobb@lwsd.org or teacher
 - make a copy or bring your driver's license to be copied
 - make a copy or bring your vaccination proof
- [Volunteer Status Check](#) (if you have applied previously)
 - If you do not have a "yes" next to your name, you are not cleared to volunteer

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Teacher Appreciation Week

Christa McAuliffe Elementary is lucky to have dedicated and talented teachers providing instruction to our students each day. Students and families have an opportunity to recognize and thank their teacher the week of May 2 – 6 during our “Teacher Appreciation Week” celebration.

Our PTSA is organizing a variety of events to show appreciation to our teachers. will take place the first week in May. Families can sign up to support the various events listed below at the following link: [PTSA Website](#).

Here are the plans for celebrating our awesome teachers and staff:

- Tuesday, May 3rd lunch provided to teachers and staff
- Wednesday, May 4th: coffee and cookies
- Thursday, May 5th: individual gifts to teachers from students
 - Go to the [PTSA website](#) to see your teachers Favorites List

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the “Smarter Balanced Assessment” as their state assessment in April-May. Parents can help their children be successful on this assessment by making sure they are at school on the days listed below. Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be assessed in the areas of English Language Arts and Math. Our fifth grade students will also participated in a science assessment (WCAS). Assessments typically take 1-2 hours, with students being provided breaks during the testing period.

McAuliffe’s SBA and WCAS Testing Schedule will be as follows:

- 3rd Grade and 3rd Quest: April 26, 27, 28 and May 3, 4
- 4th Grade: May 9, 10, 11, 12
- 5th Grade and 4/5 Quest: May 16, 17, 18, 19, 20

Home Practice Resources:

You can support your child at home by having exploring practice tests and sample questions available on the Smarter Balanced link below.

[Smarter Balanced Assessment Resources](#)

Reminders:

- Please make sure to schedule appointments and family activities outside of our testing dates.
- Please make sure your child gets a good night’s sleep and has a healthy breakfast during their testing dates.
- If you have questions, please reach out to your child’s teacher or Mr. Howden (bhowden@lwsd.org)

COVID Testing

The Lake Washington School District is offering drive-up PCR and onsite school PCR testing for students. Testing is free and available by making an appointment. Please read the links below for more information.

- [Test Information](#)
- [Drive-Up Appointments](#)
- [Onsite School Appointments](#)

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Earth Month, Green Week, and Walk and Roll to School Day

Earth Month Challenge:

April is Earth Month! As a King County Green School, we implement many sustainability measures at McAuliffe. During Earth Month students can practice going green at home with 10 simple steps. Download our optional Earth Month Challenge to participate and earn a special reward from the PTSA!

- Earth Month Challenge form here: [Earth Month Challenge \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org/earth-month-challenge)
- McAuliffe's sustainability efforts here: [Sustainability \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org/sustainability)

At the end of the month, you can take a picture of your completed challenge form and email it to sustainability@mcauliffeptsa.org. Completed forms are due on Friday, May 6th.

Green Week and Walk and Roll to School Day:

Our ASB and PTSA are also partnering on a Green Week Challenge during the week of May 2nd – May 6th. Everyone can participate as outlined below!

- Monday, May 2nd: Wear Green Day! Wear green clothes to jump start the week.
- Tuesday, May 3rd: Recycle Day! Reuse paper and make sure to recycle paper, bottles and containers, juice boxes and milk cartons.
- Wednesday, May 4th: No Garbage Day! Bring food in reusable containers and try not to throw anything away! Reuse it or recycle it!
- Thursday, May 5th: Turn Off the Lights Day! Turn off the lights when you leave the room to save energy!
- Friday, May 6th: Walk and Roll to School Day! Walk, bike, scooter, ride the bus, or carpool to school! All students will receive a reflective zipper-pull from the PTSA to help keep them safe while walking and rolling and our Sammamish police and fire fighters will be here to greet us in the morning!



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- 3-5 Teacher Appreciation Days
- 6 PTSA Walk & Roll to School
- 13 Star Drawing
- 27 No School—All Day LEAP
- 30 No School—Memorial Day
- 31 Snow Make-Up Day—School in Session

JUNE 2022

- 2 Ice Cream Social/BINGO Night
- 8 Field Day, 10:00-11:30am
- 10 Star Drawing
- 14 Kindergarten Graduation, 2:20pm—3:50pm
- 16 Fifth Grade Promotion, 2:20pm—3:50pm
- 17 Last Day of School, 12:20pm Dismissal

MUSIC

Spring songs about flowers, butterflies and birds are in the air. What's not to love? 5th graders are learning the song they will sing for 5th Grade Promotion. Both 4th and 5th graders received a quick drumset lesson last week which was fun. (They LOVED it.) Barred percussion instruments will make their way into our music lessons this month and next. At some point in early June, the LWSD band and orchestra teachers will come to MCA to introduce the program to our 3rd graders.

Janet

jwarren@lwsd.org

LIBRARY

Happy May! This month in the library we are focusing on research skills, using the library catalog, and learning the Dewey Decimal system. While not the most exciting topic, knowing the Dewey Decimal system helps students transfer their knowledge of how to use a library from our McAuliffe library to most other libraries they visit in the world! May will also see us name a winner in Battle of the Books and will give students their final extra credit opportunity if they are hoping to earn a 3.5 or 4 as their grade in library class. Feel free to reach out with any questions about our library program.

Julie

jumartin@lwsd.org

PE

McAuliffe Families,

May will be very busy as 3-5 students are working on frisbee/disc skills and foot skills. K-2 students are starting volley skills and will move into foot skills as well. Field Day is coming! June 8th 10-11:15 is Field Day. I'll be looking for 60 parent volunteers to run stations and help Field Day be a success! If interested, email me but know that a volunteer application and vaccine status documentation is required. Look for more info to come! Here's to SPRING!

Stacie & Brandt

sstrong@lwsd.org, brataezyk@lwsd.org

COUNSELOR CORNER

Hello McAuliffe Families! This month, we are starting small groups for friendship, self-regulation (Stop and Think), self-esteem and assertiveness (Power Me Up) and handling changes at home (Changing Families). We will be meeting for six weeks together to help empower kids with tools and problem-solving skills. Next month, the counseling team will be teaching about career exploration and helping students to feel excited about their bright futures. We will also be working closely with the 5th Grade team to help with the transition to middle school.

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. Given how busy it has been, we also encourage you to CC emails to Ms. Daniel's counseling intern, Hannah Pomfret, hpomfret@lwsd.org, so that we can meet the needs of your student and family in a more timely fashion. Thank you for your patience and partnership.
Keeping Kids First,

Lisa Daniel , School Counselor

Hannah Pomfret , School Counseling Intern

