



September 16, 2022

Hello Parents,

It's been a busy start to the school year with many events taking place the past two weeks. We've held an all-school assembly, PTSA Welcome Back Coffee, welcomed Kindergarten students to their first day of elementary school, hosted parents at Curriculum Night, and went on a 3 day Outdoor Education trip with our Fifth Grade students. Whew! And the fun is just starting. As you will read in this week's Principal Update, we have our Bingo/Ice Cream Extravaganza next week and the Fun Run the following week. So, as you can see, the 2022-2023 school year is moving full steam ahead!

Please take a moment to read through this week's update so that you are caught up on all that is going on at McAuliffe. Included is the following information:

- Bingo/Ice Cream Extravaganza!
- Christa McAuliffe Fun Run
- McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP)
- Highly Capable Testing
- McAuliffe Parent Student Handbook
- PTSA Membership and Directory
- Nurse Alert Form
- School Communication Update: Parent Square
- YMCA Before/After School Care
- September Events/Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden  
Principal  
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

### **Bingo/Ice Cream Extravaganza!**

Families are invited to join us at our PTSA's "Bingo/Ice Cream Extravaganza" on Thursday, September 22nd from 5:30pm-7:30pm. The event will be held outside on the blacktop (weather permitting). If we feel it could be a bit rainy we will hold the event in the gym/lunchroom. However, at this time, the forecast is for 70 degrees and sunny!

This is a **free** event for all families that will include ice cream/popsicles, cash prizes for Bingo, and free raffle prizes throughout the evening. Teachers will be on hand to distribute popsicles and ice cream and call Bingo Numbers. I hope you will join us at this great event!

### **Christa McAuliffe Fun Run**

The Fun Run is our PTSA's one and only fundraiser of the year. Donations to our PTSA will be used to pay for supplies, reduce the cost of field trips, fund clubs (ASB, Choir, etc.), pay for assemblies, and much more. We appreciate your support of this important fund raiser. Fun Run envelopes were sent home with students on Friday, September 16th.

Our Fun Run will take place on Friday, September 30th at 2:35pm with all students receiving a free Fun Run t-shirt. Parents are invited to join us at this great event, which will take place outside. Prize drawings will be held the week of October 3 – 7 to thank our students for participating (all students are entered). Our Fun Run Prize Assembly will take place on Friday, October 14th. This is an exciting assembly where we award prizes, reveal the total amount donated, and douse teachers in the famous "Pitch Burst".

### **McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP)**

MVP is a program for parents and guardians to volunteer in their child's classroom for a half day. This program is designed to provide volunteer opportunities for parents who are unable to support our school as a volunteer on a regular basis. MVP opportunities will take place approximately once a month on Friday's.

Parents and students are invited to join us for our "Kick-off" event on Thursday, October 6th from 8:15am – 9:05am. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the program and to sign-up for available dates. By attending this event you are not committing to signing up for a volunteer day.

All families are welcome and students are encouraged to attend with their parent or guardian as we spend a few minutes together before school enjoying each other's company and a donut! Please RSVP for this event at the link below so that we can get an accurate count for donuts.

[MVP Event RSVP Link](#)

### **Highly Capable Testing**

The Highly Capable (HiCap) division of LWSD's Accelerated Programs has some important news to share with families. Please read below regarding these updates.

- The HiCap website received a make-over! Our new site features a simplified design, this year's assessment calendar and eligibility matrix.
- Applications for HiCap eligibility will open on September 19 and close on October 20. The application will be posted as a live form on the HiCap website.

### **McAuliffe Parent Student Handbook**

We are asking that all families review the McAuliffe Parent Student Handbook so they are familiar with our school and district processes and procedures. A link to the handbook can be found below.

[Parent Student Handbook](#)

After reviewing the handbook, please fill out the forms survey below (2 questions) indicating you have completed this request. Families only need to fill out the forms link one time for the entire family.

[Forms Link](#) – Verifying handbook has been reviewed

We are asking this to be done by **Friday, September 16th**. Thank you for your help in this area!

### **PTSA Membership and Directory**

Families are encouraged to support our PTSA by signing up for a membership. It is our goal each year for 100% of our families to become members. All PTSA members will receive a free printed student directory. If you'd like to receive a directory, please sign up to be a PTSA member at [PTSA Membership \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org).

If you would NOT like your student/family contact information included in the directory, please send your student's name and teacher to the PTSA Directory Chair, Amie McCarth, at [directory@mcauliffeptsa.org](mailto:directory@mcauliffeptsa.org). If you want to be sure your student/family contact information is included in the directory, please ensure you have marked "YES" for "Allow Publication of Student's Name" in Skyward's Student Info section.

### **Nurse Alert Form**

If you have not yet done so, please fill out the nurse alert form included at the link provided. We need to receive this form from families indicating if their child has or does have a health concern. This also helps us monitor changes in health situations. [Nurse Alert Form](#)

### **School Communication Update: ParentSquare**

Lake Washington School District will be using an new communication platform this year called "ParentSquare". This platform provides options for families for how they want to receive information (email, text, and/or app notifications). Communication within this platform will automatically be translated into the home language indicated on your student's profile. Parents can select their communication preferences by creating an account at the following link: [Parent Square Account Creation](#)

### **YMCA Before/After School Care:**

McAuliffe will be hosting the YMCA Before/After School Care program on site this year. Parents can sign up for this program and/or ask questions at: [School Enrichment | YMCA of Greater Seattle \(seattleyymca.org\)](https://www.seattleyymca.org).

### **September Events/Dates:**

Please update your calendars to reflect the following school events:

- Fun Run Envelopes: Friday, September 16 (passed out) – Friday, September 30 (returned)
- Fire Drill: Monday, September 19 (3:10pm)
- PTSA Bingo Night and Ice Cream Social: Thursday, September 22 (5:30pm-7:30pm)
- PTSA GMM: Thursday, September 29 (7:00pm-8:15pm, via Zoom)
- Fun Run: Friday, September 30 (2:35pm-3:35pm)