



Christa McAuliffe Elementary

MCAULIFFE MONTHLY

A Note From Your Principal

October 28, 2022

Hello Parents,

November gives us the opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices made for our country and the people and gifts we are thankful for. November 11th is Veteran's Day, which our students will observe via an in-person assembly on Thursday, November 10th. November 24th is Thanksgiving, which gives us the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the many blessings in our lives.

Personally, I am thankful for my family, our wonderful McAuliffe teachers and staff, our outstanding students, and the amazing McAuliffe parent community I work with each day. Christa McAuliffe Elementary is a special place, one that everyone should be proud of and thankful for.

Go Challengers!

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

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:

- Record Breaking Fun Run!
- Student Behavior Support
- "Get to Know McAuliffe Night!" Survey
- Attendance
- Volunteer Procedures - Changes
- Classlink
- School Halloween Policies
- PTSA Membership
- November Events/Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Record Breaking Fun Run!

Thank you again to our entire community for your support of our PTSA's one and only fundraiser. Our school was able to raise an **incredible \$91,515**. This amount will go to fund supplies, activities, materials, and programs that will directly benefit your student and our school.

Listed below are a few of the items that will be funded as a result of your donations:



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- Art Start
- Student Activities (Field Day, Choir, ASB, Fifth Grade Outdoor Education)
- Field Trips
- Scholastic News, Time For Kids, and Student Planners
- School Supplies (paper, copies, water for portables, etc.)
- Supplemental Programs (Accelerated Reader, Stars, Mystery Science)
- Books to support our library, equity work, and school-wide reading programs
- Assemblies
- MVP Program
- Reach for the Stars Program
- Teacher classroom supplies
- Community Programs and Events (Benevolent fund, Sunshine Fund, etc.)
- PTSA Events (Bingo Night, Ice Cream Social, Art Walk, International Night, Talent Show, etc.)
- Staff Appreciation

Student Behavior Support

The school setting is a place for students work on both academic and social skills. Students, as we all do, make mistakes from time to time. Mistakes provide us an opportunity to learn, reflect, and improve going forward. This is a natural part of growing up. Supporting students in these areas requires a partnership between home and school.

Recently we have seen an uptick in inappropriate student behaviors at school, which provides us with an opportunity to partner in this particular area. You can support us by having a conversation with your student about being respectful to teaching staff, appropriate in their interactions with other students, and mindful of the personal space of their peers. We also ask that parents evaluate what students are watching on TV or accessing via various forms of technology. The exposure that students have at home in terms of TV shows, video games, and social media can at times be a negative influence that fosters inappropriate and disrespectful behavior at school.

We have amazing students and want to make sure we are doing all we can to guide them as they mature. Your support in this area will have a positive impact on the school setting, ensuring that students have respectful interactions with staff and peers. Thank you for your partnership!

“Get to Know McAuliffe” Survey

Our school population is made up of families who come to us from all over the United States and World. We realize that school processes, systems, and resources can look different from school to school. Understanding this, our staff is considering offering a "Get to Know McAuliffe Night" event.

This event would consist of teachers answering parent questions and providing information on topics of interest for families new to our school system. It would take place after Winter Break on a Thursday evening.

The purpose of this survey is to do the following:

- 1) Gauge parent interest in attending a potential "Get to Know McAuliffe Night" event
- 2) Determine what topics would be helpful to cover at this event
- 3) Collect feedback on the format of this event



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Please take a moment to respond to the survey below as it will help us determine whether a "Get to Know McAuliffe Night" event would be helpful and how we could best meet the needs of our parents at this event.

Please complete the following survey by Friday, November 18th: ["Get to Know McAuliffe Night!" Survey](#)

Attendance

Attached to this week's update is a letter from the district outlining LWSD's attendance policies. Please take a moment to review this letter so you are aware of these policies.

As a reminder, having your child attend school on a regular basis is crucial for their growth. In-person instruction cannot be replicated. As a result, we ask that parents do their best to minimize non-essential absences. We will periodically check attendance, sending home letters to students who have a combined 10% or more absentee/tardy rate. Absences excused due to illness will not be included when calculating the 10% threshold for school letters. Our first attendance letter reminders will be sent home on November 4th.

Volunteer Procedures - Changes

As of November 1st proof of COVID vaccination will no longer be required in order to volunteer at school. Standard background checks and volunteer applications will still be required.

Classlink

Parents are able to access various technology tools and applications available to students via "Classlink". This resource is located on the LWSD homepage under the "Students and Families" tab.

School Halloween Policies

Students are allowed to wear Halloween costumes to school on Monday, October 31st. Classes will host parties and we will also have an all-school outdoor Halloween Parade. Please read the attached letter regarding our Halloween policies and events. **In particular, please make note of school expectations regarding costumes.** Thank you for your support!

PTSA Membership

Parents can show support of our PTSA and school by joining our McAuliffe PTSA. Our goal as a PTSA is to have 100% participation. We currently have 200 members and invite everyone to join! Being a member not only shows support of our PTSA and school, but members also receive a PTSA directory.

- Parents can join at the following link: [PTSA Membership \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org).
- To be updated on all PTSA events and news, please sign up for their Newsclik email on the McAuliffe PTSA homepage: [Home \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org).

November Events/Dates:

Please update your calendars to reflect the following school events:

- Halloween Parade: Monday, October 31st
- Veteran's Day Assembly: Thursday, November 10th
- No School (Veteran's Day): Friday, November 11th
- Hearing and Vision Screening: Tuesday, November 15th
- PTSA Meeting (in-person): Thursday, November 17th (7:00pm-8:30pm, Library)
- Early Dismissal: Wednesday, November 23rd (12:20pm dismissal)
- No School (Thanksgiving Holiday): November 24th – November 25th

LRC

Happy November! First, thank you for your support of our library program through attendance at the Scholastic Book Fair! As a result of your purchases, our library program earned over \$2,000 which will be used to purchase new books to add to the library collection. A HUGE thank you goes to the PTSA for their assistance with the book fair. Without their help, the event simply could not have happened.



This month in the library our learning is going to be around the standard of *Information Skills*. Students are going to focus on the skill of finding evidence to answer a question. One way we are going to get at this skill is by having a weekly trivia question students can research. Their answer, and the source they used to find it (yes, discussion with you can be listed as a source!), can be entered into a drawing to win a prize.

As always, feel free to reach out with any questions (jumartin@lwsd.org) or take a peek at our library website (<https://mcauliffe.lwsd.org/academics/library>). Julie

COUNSELOR CORNER

Dear McAuliffe Families,
We had a busy month of October at school. We learned about bullying and celebrated Unity Day on October 19th by wearing orange! We took the Unity Day pledge and will re-read the pledge throughout the year. Please click here to read the parent letter to learn more about our bullying prevention program. [Bullying Parent Letter 2022.docx](#) [Bullying Recognize Report Refuse Mini-Poster.docx](#)
In November we will continue to practice calming strategies to help recognize and regulate our emotions. Here are some helpful strategies for calming big feelings [Calming Strategies dot.docx](#).



Below is the Unity Day pledge we took on October 19th. I love seeing so much kindness and compassion from your children. They make McAuliffe a beautiful place to be!
Kindly,

Lisa Daniel, McAuliffe School Counselor
ldaniel@lwsd.org

I pledge to:

- **SUPPORT** others who have been hurt or harmed
 - Treat others with **KINDNESS**
 - Be more **ACCEPTING** of people's differences
 - Help **INCLUDE** those who are left out
- NOT BULLY** others and stand up for those who are bullied.

Happy Thanksgiving!

NOVEMBER 2022

4	Star Drawing
8	Picture Retakes
10	Veteran's Day Assembly, 9:40am
11	No School—Veterans Day
15	Hearing & Vision Screening
17	PTSA GMM, 7:00-8:30pm, Library
21-30	Giving Tree
23	Half Day, 12:20 Dismissal
24-25	No School—Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2022

1-2	Giving Tree Week
2	Star Drawing
13	PTSA Holiday Lunch for Staff
14	Holiday Read Aloud
15	PTSA Board Meeting, 7:00—8:15pm
16	Winter Assembly, 9:40am
19-31	No School—Winter Break

WINTER BREAK DECEMBER 19 – JANUARY 2



PE

Hello! Wow it's hard to believe it's November! K-2 students are working on throw/catch skills and playing games such as Battleship, Catch the Critters and Throw/Catch stations. 3-5 students are finishing up Fitness tests and will be setting fitness goals for the year. They will also be working on throw/catch skills and play games with an emphasis on those skills. We appreciate your children wearing rubber soled shoes on designated PE days. Happy Thanksgiving!

Stacie: sstrong@lwsd.org

Deanna: dburmester@lwsd.org



MUSIC HAPPENS!

Welcome to November! In the music classroom, we have begun to practice our songs for the Veteran's Day Assembly on November 10th. K/1 are learning "Oh, I Love America," 2/3 is learning "One Nation," and 4/5 is learning the Armed Forces Medley. Additionally, all students will sing the Star-Spangled Banner and "God Bless America." We're also in the middle of our Fall celebrations of Día de los Muertos and Diwali. Students will learn about the musical side of both celebrations. Musically yours,

Erynne and Melissa

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