



November 18, 2022

Hello Parents,

I hope this update finds you and your family doing well. We've had a fantastic start to the school year and are grateful for your students, your partnership, and the outstanding support you've provided our staff. I've personally enjoyed seeing parents in the hallways volunteering in classrooms, holding in-person assemblies as a school body, and seeing students as they engage in school and extra-curricular activities as was not possible the past two years. What a joy this school year has been!

Our students have worked incredibly hard this year and will be rewarded with some well-deserved time off over the next two months. As we enter mid-November we can look forward to Thanksgiving and Winter Breaks. My hope is your family will be able to enjoy some quality time together during these breaks.

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:

- LWSD COVID-19 FAQ
- Arrival and Dismissal Reminders
- Indoor Recess for Students
- Thank You Volunteers!
- Get to Know McAuliffe Survey
- Walktober!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Brady Howden  
Principal  
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

### **LWSD COVID-19 FAQ**

The Lake Washington School District recently received updated guidance regarding COVID-19 from the State. Families can read about the updated guidance at the following link: [LWSD COVID-19 FAQ](#).

### **Arrival and Dismissal Reminders**

Please make note of the following reminders related to student arrival and dismissal:

- Students who arrive after 9:20am must check in at the front office.
  - Our teachers take attendance immediately and begin their morning work at 9:20am. Students arriving late at the outside doors disrupt teaching and learning. It is less disruptive when tardy students are checked in via the front office and enter the class via internal hallways.
- Students must leave campus no later than 10 minutes past the end of day bell.

- We have noticed an increase in students being picked up late at the end of the day. The school office closes at 4:00pm and we do not have supervision for students past this time.

### **Indoor Recess for Students**

Beginning December 1st McAuliffe will be offering an indoor recess option for students in grades K-5, three days per week. Each teacher will be to send up to two interested students to indoor recess on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays. While in indoor recess students will have the opportunity to read, finish homework, or play games. This is a chance for students to spend their recess indoors and partake in different activities. Parents can support this program by donating games to McAuliffe using the Amazon Wishlist link below. Any donations would be greatly appreciated!

[Amazon Game Donations Link](#)

### **Thank You Volunteers!**

One of the best things about emerging from COVID-19 is that we have been able to welcome our many parent volunteers back in the school building. Thank you to the many volunteers who have supported students and events this year. Our parents have supported students in the classroom, participated as MVP volunteers, led art lessons, organized school events (Fun Run, Bingo Night, etc.), helped with Vision and Hearing Screening, planned class parties, and more. The support we've received from parents has been outstanding. Thank you!

### **"Get to Know McAuliffe" Survey**

In an effort to meet the needs of our community we are considering hosting 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.

Two weeks ago we put out a survey to gauge parent interest in such an event. At this time only 2 parents responded with possible interest. We are extending the interest survey date to Wednesday, November 23rd. If we do not have greater interest we will not host such an event, instead would make ourselves available to individual families who may have questions about our school system.

Please take a moment to respond to the survey below as it will help us determine whether a "Get to Know McAuliffe Night" event is something of interest to your family:

["Get to Know McAuliffe Night!" Survey](#)

### **Walktober!**

Thank you to all the students who participated in Walktober! We had incredible participation this year, with over 100 students submitting a completed calendar and earning a voucher for a free ice cream cone from the Sammamish Dairy Queen. Rewards will be distributed at school in the coming days. Unfortunately, a handful of students did not put their name on their calendar, so we are unable to provide a reward for them. If your student submitted a calendar but did not receive an award, please contact Jayme Jonas at [sustainability@mcauliffepts.org](mailto:sustainability@mcauliffepts.org).

### **November/December Dates:**

Please update your calendars to reflect the following school events:

- November 23: Half Day, 12:20pm Dismissal
- November 24-27: No School, Thanksgiving

- December 2: Star Drawing
- December 14: Holiday Read Aloud
- December 15: PTSA Board Meeting, 7:00pm
- December 16: Winter Holiday Assembly, 9:40am
- December 17-January 2: No School, Winter Break