



October 13, 2023

Hello Parents,

Today was a great day at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. This afternoon we came together as a school and community to celebrate the fundraising efforts of our students and families. Students in grades 3-5 performed the Thriller dance, prizes were awarded, teachers were doused in the Pitch Burst, and the total amount raised in this year's Fun Run was revealed.

It feels surreal to be writing this, but our community donated an incredible **\$97,355** towards this year's Fun Run. Yes, you read that correctly, \$97,355!!! Our school is humbled by your support and generosity. Thank you, thank you, thank you!!!!

Because of your donations, the PTSA will be able to fund programs, community events, and supplies that enrich the school experience students have at McAuliffe. We will continue to have free PTSA events, be able to reduce the cost of field trips, fund clubs and activities, provide in-school assemblies, and more. All students and families will benefit from your donations. We are extremely grateful for your support as it provides opportunities for our students that would not be available should we rely solely on our school budget.

Again, thank you so very much for your incredible generosity. We do not take for granted how fortunate we are to have such a supportive parent community. Thank you!

As always, this week's update has some helpful reminders. Please read through so you are caught up on all that is going on at McAuliffe. Included this week is the following information:

- No School: October 20th
- PTSA Reflections Program
- Halloween Celebrations
- Annual Free and Reduced Applications for 2023-2024
- Unity Day: October 18th
- Lost and Found
- McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP)
- Veterans Day Assembly Request
- McAuliffe Elementary at the Seattle Kraken
- October Events/Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

No School: October 20th

As a reminder, there is no school on Friday, October 20th. This is a teacher in-service workday designed for learning, collaboration, and planning. We hope you and your students have a great day off of school!

PTSA Reflections Program

The Reflections program is back at McAuliffe this year! Reflections is a National PTA arts recognition program that helps students explore their own thoughts, feelings, and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence, and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful not only in school but in life.

Students can submit their original works of art in **one** or **all** of the following categories: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts and Dance/Choreography. Student entries are due on/before Monday, November 6th.

Prior to working projects, please review the information contained at the following link you're your student as it outlines the rules and guidelines of entries: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/reflections/>.

All entries must be submitted to your class teacher or dropped off with Heather Cobb at the front desk. If you have questions, please email the PTSA at Reflections@mcauliffepta.org

Halloween Celebrations

Attached to this week's update is a letter outlining McAuliffe's Halloween policies and expectations. Please read through as you prepare your student's costume for October 31st. Some specific guidelines regarding costumes include:

- Costumes must be worn for the entire day.
- Costumes with knives, swords, guns, or other weapons are not allowed.
- Masks are not allowed at school.
- Violent costumes that contain blood, gore, etc. are not allowed.
- Costumes that target a particular group or culture are not allowed.

Annual Free & Reduced applications for 2023-24

The Lake Washington School District highly encourages all families who think they may qualify for meal benefits to complete and submit a free and reduced application. Please go to [MySchoolApps](#) to fill out an application or visit our website [Nutrition Services](#) for more information.

A new free and reduced application must be submitted and renewed annually. Families that previously qualified for free or reduced-priced benefits in school year 2022-2023 will need to reapply for the current school year to continue receiving these benefits. **Applications from the 2022-2023 school year are set to expire on October 16, 2023.** A new application must be filled out for the 2023-2024 school year.

Unity Day: October 18th

Wednesday, October 18th is Unity Day 2023! This is a day where students and staff are encouraged to wear **orange** to show their support kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Our ASB will be making posters to put around the school to remind students and parents about Unity Day and share what it means. Mrs. Daniel will be proving teachers with activities to share with students in class (videos, read alouds, etc.). She will also read a book to all students about kindness/bullying on that day.

Lost and Found

Our Lost and Found bin is overflowing with student lunchboxes, coats, sweatshirts, and other items. If your child is missing a clothing (or other) item, please stop by the front office and they can direct you to our Lost and Found bin.

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.

Information on this program and available dates was provided in a Parent Square email from our Registrar, Heather Cobb, on 10/12. Parents interested in signing up as an MVP can contact Associate Principal, Holly Knowles, at hknowles@lwsd.org.

Veterans Day Assembly Request

We will celebrate Veterans Day at an all-school assembly on Thursday, November 9th (9:40am). A special part of this assembly will be recognizing McAuliffe family members who have served or are currently serving in a branch of the US Military. Our music teacher, Mrs. Johns, will be collecting pictures of US Service members via email.

Please send pictures and the information below to Mrs. Johns via email at ejohns@lwsd.org. When emailing your picture, please also include the following information: Name, rank, branch of military, dates of service, and students/family at McAuliffe the service member is connected to.

McAuliffe Elementary at the Seattle Kraken

McAuliffe Families will have three opportunities to attend a Seattle Kraken hockey game as a school community this year. The Kraken have set aside a limited number of discounted tickets for McAuliffe Families on November 22nd vs. the San Jose Sharks (7:00pm), December 7th (7:00pm) vs. the New Jersey Devils, and February 26th (7:00pm) vs. the Boston Bruins. Tickets can be purchased at the link provided below, with prices starting at \$25/ticket .

- TICKET PURCHASE LINK: [Christa McAuliffe Elementary x Seattle Kraken \(fevo.com\)](#)

October Dates

Included below are the many events and activities taking place over the course of the month of October. Please take a moment to read through and update your calendar accordingly.

- PTSA Board Meeting: Monday, October 16th at 2:15pm
- No School: Friday, October 20th (all-day teacher in-service)
- PTSA Coat and Shoe Drive: October 23rd – 27th
- Walktober Week: October 23rd – 27th
- Grades 1 – 3 Spelling Bee: Thursday, October 26th
- RAD Recess Fun Run Incentive: Friday, October 27th at 3:10pm
- MVP Day #1: Friday, October 27th
- Halloween Parade: Tuesday, October 31st at 10:05am