



Christa McAuliffe Elementary

MCAULIFFE MONTHLY

A Note From Your Principal

October 27, 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. As we step into the month of November, we have a lot to look forward to at Christa McAuliffe Elementary. It's also a time to express our gratitude and celebrate the wonderful community we have.

First and foremost, I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our Veterans for their dedicated service to our country. To honor them, we invite you and your families to join us for our Veterans Day Assembly on Thursday, November 9th, at 9:40am. It's a special occasion to come together and show our appreciation for their sacrifice.

In the spirit of Thanksgiving, we're also taking a moment to express our gratitude for our incredible students, dedicated teachers, and our supportive community. I am truly thankful for the many people who make Christa McAuliffe Elementary a special place.

I encourage you to 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:

- McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP)
- Attendance Reminders
- Fall FastBridge Information
- Family Support
- Christa McAuliffe Elementary School Improvement Plan (SIP)
- November Events/Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

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 Fridays. Parents interested in signing up as an MVP can contact Associate Principal, Holly Knowles, at hknowles@lwsd.org.

Attendance Reminders

Preapproved Attendance Form: Families are asked to submit a Preapproved Attendance Form prior to going on vacation or an extended trip over the holidays. These forms can be found on our website at: [Preapproved Attendance Forms](#). A copy is also attached to our McAuliffe Monthly email.



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Absences: If your student will be absent, please report the absence to both your teacher and the office via email. The office attendance email address is: McAuliffeESAttend@lwsd.org. If you do not have access to email you can notify the school of your child's absence via phone at 425-936-2621.

Attendance Letters: Regular attendance is crucial to a student's success at school. Students who have chronic absences or tardies will receive an attendance letter the first week of November. Students with a combined 10% or greater absentee/tardy rate will receive this letter. This letter is a reminder to parents and students of the importance of being at school on a consistent basis. Continued attendance issues may trigger district intervention.

Fall FastBridge Information

The Lake Washington School District administers a reading and math screening assessment 3 times/year called FastBridge. This assessment helps provide teachers with information that informs teacher instruction and student interventions. The FastBridge assessment is administered by teachers in September, January, and May. Results for the Fall assessment have been posted in Skyward for parents to view. Attached to the "McAuliffe Monthly" email are letters explaining more about the assessment provided at your child's grade level and how to access results.

Family Support

There are a variety of programs provided by McAuliffe that are designed to provide support to families who are experiencing financial difficulties. If you wish to receive more information about these programs, please contact our School Counselor, Lisa Daniel at ldaniel@lwsd.org.

Our support programs include: *Pantry Packs* (weekly food packs of non-perishable items to provide food and snacks for the weekends), *Holiday Giving Tree Program* (provides gifts for families during the busy holiday time), and *scholarship support from the Sunshine Fund* to help with school related costs.

Christa McAuliffe School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Each year McAuliffe teachers create a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address school academic and culture goals. These goals are determined based upon SBA/WCAS results, FastBridge data, staff/student surveys, and other data sources.

Teachers meet throughout the year to assess student progress towards goals, making adjustments to instruction as needed. Resources and professional development activities are designed to support teachers and students in our focus areas. Our PTSA and parent community are an important part of this work as volunteer hours and funds provided through Fun Run donations support needs related to our school goals.

This is an example of the behind-the-scenes work that our teachers do to ensure McAuliffe students are moving forward in the area of academics and we build upon our positive school culture. We want parents to be aware of the intentional work we are doing as a school. As a result, our school's SIP plan will be posted on the school web site later this year for parents to view.

November Dates

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



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- Grades 4-5 Spelling Bee: Thursday, November 2nd (6:00pm-9:00pm)
- Retake Pictures: Tuesday, November 7th
- Veterans Day Assembly: Thursday, November 9th
- No School: Friday, November 10th
- PTSA General Membership Meeting: Monday, November 13th (6:00pm-7:30pm, Library)
- McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP) #2: Friday, November 17th
- Half-Day: Wednesday, November 22nd (12:20pm Dismissal)
- No School: Thursday, November 23rd – Friday, November 24th (Thanksgiving Holiday)
- PTSA Reflections: Thursday, November 30th



NOVEMBER 2023

- 2 Grades 4-5 Spelling Bee, 6:00-9:00pm
- 3 Star Drawing
- 7 Picture Retakes
- 9 Veteran's Day Assembly, 9:40am
- 10 No School—Veterans Day
- 13 PTSA GMM, 6:00-7:30pm
- 14 Hearing & Vision Screening
- 17 MVP Day (McAuliffe Volunteer Program)
- 20-30 Giving Tree
- 22 Half Day, 12:20 Dismissal
- 23-24 No School—Thanksgiving
- 30 PTSA Reflections Night, 6:30-7:30pm

DECEMBER 2023

- 1 Giving Tree Week
- 1 Star Drawing
- 6 Stem Fair, 6:00-8:00pm
- 11 PTSA Board Meeting, 2:15—3:45pm
- 12 PTSA Holiday Lunch for Staff
- 13 Holiday Read Aloud
- 15 Winter Assembly, 9:40am
- 18-31 No School—Winter Break


JANUARY 2024

- 1 No School—Winter Break
- 8 PTSA Board Meeting, 2:10—3:45pm
- 15 No School—Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 18 Jump Rope Assembly
- 23,25,26 Half Day: Conferences
- 23-26 Used Book Rodeo
- 27 Christa McAuliffe Day, Observed

WINTER BREAK
DECEMBER 18 – JANUARY 1



PE
November is a busy month in PE. 3-5 graders are finishing up Fitness Testing. All grades are working on throwing/catching skills and playing a variety of games using the skills of throw and catch. Please help your child remember their PE days and pack tennis shoes. The last day for Fall Running Club is Tuesday, November 7th. We will be doing a spring session Friday mornings starting sometime in March. Look for signups this winter. Thanks! Stacie and Deanna
Stacie: sstrong@lwsd.org
Deanna: dburmester@lwsd.org



LRC
Welcome to *Dinovember!* This month in the library we are exploring dinosaurs. All grades will hear the book *What the Dinosaurs Did Last Night, a Very Messy Adventure* by Refe and Susan Tuma when they visit the library. That story will be followed by a few weeks of finding hidden dinosaurs around the school, reading more dinosaur stories, conducting dinosaur research and in general, having a fun, prehistoric time!
In addition to working with dinosaurs, students in grades 2-5 are going to learn about how to earn extra credit to boost their library grade to a 3.5 or 4, and 4th and 5th grade students participating in ARC will have their first organizational meeting to get going on their reading. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions at jumartin@lwsd.org and check out our website for more information about our library program. <https://mcauliffe.lwsd.org/academics/library>
Julie
jumartin@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
ejohns@lwsd.org
memontoya@lwsd.org

