



October 17, 2024

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 more than **\$104,000** towards this year's Fun Run. Yes, you read that correctly, more than \$104,000!!! Our school and PTSA 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 our students' school experience. 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 18th
- McAuliffe Night at the Seattle Kraken
- PTSA Reflections Program
- Halloween Celebrations
- McAuliffe Volunteer Program
- Veterans Day Assembly Request
- Lake Washington School District Preschool
- Christa McAuliffe Discipline Policy/Philosophy
- Lost and Found
- October Dates
- Coat and Shoe Drive
- Building Excellence Capital Construction Levy – November 2024

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

No School: October 18th

As a reminder, there is no school on Friday, October 18th. This is a teacher in-service workday designed for learning, collaboration, and planning. We hope you and your students have a great day off!

McAuliffe Night at the Seattle Kraken

Back by popular demand is our “McAuliffe Night at the Seattle Kraken” event. Families are able to purchase tickets for the Monday, December 30th game vs. Utah at a discounted price of \$32/ticket. The Kraken are offering a limited number of tickets at this price, so make sure to purchase yours soon!

Ticket Purchasing Link: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/group/Christamcauliffe>

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 inside and outside of school.

Students can submit their original works of art in **one** or **all** of the following categories:

- Literature: works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, prose, drama, short stories and lyrics.
- Music Composition: original musical composition, with or without words.
- Photography or black and white, included techniques: photogram, negative sandwich, and multiple exposure.
- Visual Art: drawing, painting in tempera, oil, acrylic, watercolor & t-shirt paints, computer generated art, two-dimensional collage, printmaking, needlework & leather tooling.
- Choreography/Dance: originally choreographed dance composition.

Please note that we **DO NOT** accept Film Production and 3D art under Visual Arts at our school.

Prior to working projects, please review the information contained at the following link 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.

If your student has an allergy, please work with your teacher/room parent to ensure your student has an alternative treat that is safe for them to eat.

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.

If you are interested in volunteering, please sign up at the following link: [MVP Signup Link](#)

If you have any questions, please contact our Associate Principal, Joelle Wright, at jowright@lwsd.org.

Veterans Day Assembly Request

We will celebrate Veterans Day at an all-school assembly on Friday, November 8th (9:40am). A special part of this assembly will recognize 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 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.

Note: If you sent in a picture last year you do not need to resend the picture again this year.

Lake Washington School District Preschool

Lake Washington School District has openings for 3 and 4 year olds at each of their preschool locations. Locations include Bell Elementary, Juanita Elementary, Sandburg Elementary, Wilder Elementary, Carson Elementary, and Old Redmond Schoolhouse. AM (8:40am-11:10am) and PM (12:10pm-2:40pm) sessions are offered at a cost of \$475/month. If interested, please call 425-936-2845. Attached to this week's update is a related flyer. More information can be found at <https://www.lwsd.org/preschool>.

Christa McAuliffe Discipline Policy/Philosophy

McAuliffe staff works daily to support students both academically and socially. With regards to discipline, there are times when students need support and guidance to make appropriate and say choices. A key tenant of our discipline policy to support students by helping them learn from their mistakes.

In most instances discipline is considered "minor" and handled via the teacher's classroom management plan. Parent communication for one-time minor instances is not always necessary and handled through in-class reminders. However, when issues become repetitive or serious, parents are notified by either the classroom teacher or school administration for the purpose of communicating the concern and collaborating together in support of the student.

Listed below is our school discipline plan. Please know that because discipline is not always prescriptive there will be times when unique situations occur that warrant steps outside of the stated plan. However, in all cases, our discipline plan is designed to support our "Reach for the Stars" program by keeping students safe, helping students grow and learn socially, and supporting students in being kind, respectful, and their best at all times.

TEACHER MANAGED (MINOR)	ADMIN MANAGED (MAJOR)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Not following directions ○ Isolated name calling ○ Profanity ○ Blurting ○ Classroom disruption ○ Isolated minor physical aggression (shove, hit, etc) ○ Isolated classroom vandalism 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying (HIB) ○ Threats of Harm to self or others ○ Fighting (Mutual physical aggression between two students) ○ Violence (One sided physical aggressions toward another student) ○ Common space vandalism
STEPS	
<p>Teacher Managed (Minor): Classroom Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Step 1</u>: Address minor behaviors using classroom management plan/strategies. ○ <u>Step 2</u>: When behavior continues, use classroom management plan/strategies, contact parents to make them aware of the behavior, and involve the school Counselor to provide strategies to support the student with behavior goals. ○ <u>Step 3</u>: Write a Discipline Slip and notify administration for Brady/Joelle to speak with the student and contact parents. <p>Classified Managed (Minor): Recess and/or <u>Lunch Room</u> Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Step 1</u>: Address minor behaviors with a warning/reminder. ○ <u>Step 2</u>: When behavior continues, give a second warning/reminder and direct the student to another area of the playground or <u>lunch room</u>. If needed, contact the school Counselor to provide strategies to support the student with behavior goals. ○ <u>Step 3</u>: Write a Discipline Slip and notify administration for Brady/Joelle to speak with the student and contact parents (admin will communicate with teachers). <p>Admin Managed (Major): Recess, <u>Lunch Room</u>, or Classroom Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Step 1</u>: Notify administration, who will then assign a Discipline Slip and contact parents. 	

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. There are 3 times that parents can view the items:

- Before or after school
- Fun Run Assembly on Thursday, October 17th at 2:30 pm
- Spelling Bee on Thursday, October 24th at 6 pm

Items not collected will be donated to a local organization on Friday, October 25th.

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 Coat and Shoe Drive: October 13 - 25
- No School: October 18
- Spelling Bee (Grades 1-3), 6:00pm: October 24
- MVP Day #1: October 25
- Halloween Celebrations: October 31

Coat and Shoe Drive

Families are invited to donate coats and shoes to students in need at an area LWSD elementary school via our PTSA's annual Coat and Shoe Drive. Attached to this week's message is a flyer advertising this drive, including how to donate the specific items in need. Donations are due to the school entrance by October 25th. If you have any questions, please contact Debbie Lervick at debtran@gmail.com.

Building Excellence Capital Construction Levy – November 2024

A capital construction levy will be on the ballot in the November 5 election. This levy continues our Building Excellence Plan by rebuilding our four oldest facilities, which no longer meet the health, safety and learning standards of the 21st century.

The levy addresses:

- Four aging schools that have not been updated in the last 40 years:
 - Alcott Elementary (Redmond),
 - Evergreen Middle School (Redmond),
 - Kamiakin Middle School (Kirkland) &
 - Smith Elementary (Sammamish)
- Upgrades to the fieldhouse and community pool at Juanita High School. This facility was not included as part of the 2016 bond to rebuild and enlarge Juanita High School.

Please join us! LWSD Superintendent Dr. Jon Holmen and Associate Superintendent of Business and Support Services Barbara Posthumus will offer a series of online town hall events about the 2024 Building Excellence Capital Construction Levy. Each town hall meeting will offer an opportunity for question/answer sessions. We still have three events left.

- Wednesday, October 16, 2024, 7-8 p.m., [Meeting link](#)
- Thursday, October 24, 2024, 12-1 p.m., [Meeting link](#)
- Tuesday, October 29, 2024, 6-7 p.m., [Meeting link](#)

[Learn more about the levy.](#)