

Christa McAuliffe Elementary

McAuliffe Monthly



September 27, 2024

Hello Parents,

Welcome to October (almost)! September has been a busy month, with many school and PTSA events taking place. I hope you and your student have had a great start to the year. Thank you to our entire community for your support!

Attached to this email is our McAuliffe Monthly update. Included are updates from myself, our specialists, and our school counselor. Please take a moment to read through this newsletter so that you are caught up on all that is going on at McAuliffe.

Included are the following updates:

- Challenger Chase Fun Run
- Fun Run Incentives
- Walktober
- PTSA Reflections
- McAuliffe Volunteer Program (MVP)
- PTSA Membership
- October Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Challenger Chase Fun Run: Friday, October 4th

The Fun Run is our PTSA's one and only fundraiser of the year. Donations to our PTSA will be used to pay for supplies, reduce the cost of field trips, fund clubs (ASB, Choir, etc.), pay for assemblies, and much more. Fun Run envelopes are due on Friday, October 4th. We appreciate your support of this important fundraiser!

The Fun Run will take place on Friday, October 4th at 2:35pm, with students running around the exterior of our school campus. The Fun Run Prize Assembly will take place on Thursday, October 17th at 2:30pm in the gym/commons. This is an exciting assembly where we award prizes, reveal the total amount donated, and douse teachers in the famous "Pitch Burst". Parents are invited to join us at both of these great events.

Fun Run Incentives:

Our entire school community benefits from our collective fundraising efforts. PTSA events are free, field trip costs are reduced, the cost of school supplies is supported, and school events/activities are funded (assemblies, choir, ASB, etc.).

In order to achieve fundraising goals, we have put into place a number of incentives to motivate our students and families to participate in our annual Fun Run Fundraiser. Some incentives are based on the amount raised by students, others are awarded to all students regardless of their fundraising contributions. Having a mix of financial and non-financial incentives helps our PTSA reach fundraising goals, while at the same time providing an equitable experience for all students.

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The results of our fundraising efforts benefit our entire community. Should we not reach fundraising goals, our PTSA would need make decisions on which activities to fund, charge for PTSA events, and the cost field trips would increase.

Our PTSA is thankful for any support your family can provide. Included below are some of the efforts we've made over the years to refine our fundraising practices to ensure we reach fundraising goals, while at the same time providing opportunities for all students to earn prizes, regardless of the amount they are able to raise.

Incentives offered this year:

- New this year – “Most Creative Fundraising Effort” Prize (see McAuliffe PTSA website for details)
- All students will receive a free Fun Run t-shirt and treat
- All students will be entered in daily prize drawings the week of October 7 -11
- Students who raise the most money at each grade level will receive a prize
- Students who raise the most money in the school (matching and non-matching) will receive a prize
- Students who raise \$75 or more will be entered into a drawing for the Pitch Burst
- Students who raise \$200 or more will earn a “Rad Recess” (family maximum of \$500)
- If we earn \$100,000 or more as a school we will have an all-school “Foam Party” in June
- All students will be entered into random drawings for other prizes and school experiences

Thank you in advance for your support of our school and PTSA!

Walktober:

Families are invited to kick off “Walktober” with a week long “walking school bus” September 30th – October 4th. Students and families are invited to meet at Summer Ridge Park each morning at 8:45am and walk to school together (starting at 9:00am). The Sammamish Police Department will be joining our students as the walk to school. The Mayor of Sammamish, Mr. Howden, and Ms. Wright will be joining on Friday morning. We hope to see you there!

PTSA Reflections:

Reflections 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 submit their original works of art in **one** or **all** of these categories: Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts and Dance/Choreography.

Please go through the following link for rules and guidelines of entries before working on entries: <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/reflections/>.

Entries will not be accepted if they do not follow the guidelines. All entries must be submitted to your child's teacher or dropped off at the front office by **November 4th, 2024**. If you have questions, please email the PTSA at Reflections@mcauliffeptsa.org

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 and families members who are unable to support our school as a volunteer on a regular basis. MVP opportunities will take place approximately once time a month on Friday's.

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Parents and students are invited to join us for our “Kick-off” event on Thursday, October 10th from 8:15am – 9:05am. This will be an opportunity to learn more about the program and to sign-up for available dates. By attending this event you are not committing to signing up for a volunteer day.

All families are welcome and students are encouraged to attend with their parent or guardian as we spend a few minutes together before school enjoying each other’s company and a donut!

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. Parents can join at the following link: [PTSA Membership \(mcauliffeptsa.org\)](https://mcauliffeptsa.org).

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.

- Fun Run Envelopes due – October 4
- Fun Run (2:35pm) – October 4
- MVP Kick-Off Event (8:15am) – October 10
- PTSA Board Meeting (2:15pm) – October 14
- Fun Run Prize Assembly (2:30pm) – October 17
- No School: All-Day LEAP – October 18
- PTSA Spelling Bee (6:00pm) – October 24
- MVP Day #1 – October 25
- Fun Run “Rad Recess” Incentive (3:10pm) – October 25
- Halloween Parades (10:05am) – October 31

October



LRC Hello and welcome to the library! The first month of school saw students get into the routine of using the library regularly to check out books. Each class visits the library once per week to be taught a lesson that focuses on one of the LWSD library standards (Reading Engagement, Information Skills, and Media Literacy). In addition to being available for book checkout and lessons during the school day, the library is often open both before and after school for families to visit. Take a peek at our library website to see the library hours and learn other details about the goings-on in our McAuliffe library. <https://mcauliffe.lwsd.org/academics/library>. Feel free to reach out with any questions about the library or the library program.

Julie Martin

jmartin@lwsd.org

PE Welcome back!

As we are getting back into a routine, the focus for all K-5 students is reviewing and learning PE expectations, signals, routines and having some fun! K-2 students are focused on spatial awareness, safety and equipment play. 3-5 students are focused on fitness, teamwork and cooperation during game play. Thank you for supporting your student with tennis shoes on PE days—we appreciate it! Stacie sstrong@lwsd.org

Stacie Strong

McAuliffe PE Specialist

sstrong@lwsd.org

MUSIC HAPPENS Veterans Day PowerPoint Presentation Featuring our Veterans!

Mrs. Johns would like to add to the PowerPoint Presentation for our Veterans Day Assembly. The presentation features Veterans from our community! **If you already submitted your Veteran last year, there is no need to send them again; they will still be included in this year's presentation.**

For newly submitted Veterans, please email Mrs. Johns with the following information about the Veteran in your life:

- Picture
- Name
- Rank
- Branch of Military
- Dates of Service (or events during service)

Students/family at McAuliffe they are connected to and how (example: Sargent John Smith is grandfather to Johnny and Daisy Smith)

Thank you in advance for helping with this project!

~Mrs. Johns, ejohns@lwsd.org

OCTOBER 2024

1-4	PTSA Challengers Walktober
4	Fun Run, 2:35pm
10	MVP Volunteer Kick-Off Event, 8:15am
14	PTSA Board Meeting, 2:15-3:45pm
14-25	PTSA Coat & Shoe Drive
17	Fun Run Prize Assembly, 2:30pm
18	No School—LEAP Day
24	Grades 1-3 Spelling Bee 6:00-9:00pm
25	Rad Recess Fun Run Incentive 3:10pm
31	Halloween Parties & Parade

NOVEMBER 2024

1	Star Drawing
5	Picture Retakes
7	Grades 4-5 Spelling Bee 6:00-9:00pm
8	Veteran's Day Assembly, 9:40am
11	No School—Veterans Day
14	Spelling Bee Final Grades 1-5 6:00-9:00pm
18	PTSA GMM, 6:00-7:30pm
21	Talent Show 6:00-8:00pm
27	Half Day, 12:20 Dismissal
28-29	No School—Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2024

6	Star Drawing
16	PTSA GMM, 2:15-3:45pm
17	PTSA Holiday Lunch for Staff
18	Holiday Read-Aloud
20	Winter Holiday Assembly 9:40am
23-31	No School—Winter Break

COUNSELOR CORNER Hi McAuliffe Families! Happy Fall! It's been a busy September but a fun start to the new school year! In September, I taught a counselor introduction lesson in all classrooms to share what I do as the school counselor, when they will see me this year and some of the fun things we will do in our lessons together this year! I met all our new Kindergarten students as well as our new students to the school (grades 1 – 5) and let them know about our Newcomer groups they can be a part of starting the week of September 30. **New families** – you will receive information on this so you know when your child will come to this fun and welcoming group. Our classroom lessons are every 3 weeks throughout the school year. Please check Parent Square where I will post more detailed information about what your child is learning in our lessons together. Have a great year and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions for me. Email me at - ldaniel@lwsd.org or you can message me on Parent Square.
Kindly, Lisa Daniel, McAuliffe School Counselor