

Thank You!

\$124,320



October 15, 2025

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 **\$124,320** towards this year's Fun Run, breaking last year's record of \$121,984. Our school and PTSA are humbled by your support and generosity.

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, reduce the cost of field trips, fund clubs and activities, provide in-school assemblies, provide students and teachers with educational resources, and more. All students and families will benefit from your donations. We are extremely grateful for your support as it provides opportunities our students would otherwise not have.

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, both in terms of volunteer hours and financial support. **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 16th
- Halloween Celebrations (**see attached letter**)
- Veterans Day Assembly Request
- Unity Day – October 21st

- McAuliffe Talent Show (**see attached flyer**)
- Boundary and Enrollment Realignment Process
- Christa McAuliffe Discipline Policy/Philosophy
- Reflections Entries
- Lost and Found
- Coat and Shoe Drive (**see attached flyer**)
- McAuliffe Fun (Spirit Wear and Community Events)
- October/November Dates

Take care,

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

No School: October 16th

As a reminder, there is no school on Friday, October 16th. This is a teacher in-service workday designed for learning, collaboration, and planning. We hope you and your students have a great day off!

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 30th.

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 to be worn during the school day, with the exception being during the Halloween Parade.
- 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.

Veterans Day Assembly Request

We will celebrate Veterans Day at an all-school assembly on Tuesday, November 10th (2:50pm-3:40pm). A special part of this assembly is recognizing McAuliffe family members who have served or are currently serving in a branch of the US Military. Our music teacher, Mrs. Johns, is collecting pictures of US Service members via email.

Please send pictures to Mrs. Johns via email at ejohns@lwsd.org by Friday, October 30th. 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 a picture last year you do not need to resend the picture again this year.

Unity Day – October 21st

Unity Day is a nationwide signature event that recognizes National Bullying Prevention month. Students are encouraged to wear orange on Wednesday, October 21st to send a visible message that bullying is not acceptable and that all students deserve to be safe. Our School Counselor, Mrs. Daniel, will be reading to students during lunch on October 21st and has aligned her classroom lessons with our antibullying message. Please encourage your student to wear orange on October 21st in support of kindness, acceptance, and inclusion through our antibullying efforts. Thank you!

McAuliffe Talent Show

The McAuliffe Talent Show is back, and we're ready to see our students shine! Whether your student sings, dances, performs magic, tells jokes, plays an instrument, or has a talent we've never seen before—we want to see it!

- Date: The Talent Show will light up the stage on November 19th, from 6:00pm-8:00pm
- Student Sign Up: Students can sign up for auditions on 10/20 and 10/21 at the following link – [auditions](#)
- Volunteer Support: Parents can sign up to volunteer at the following link – [volunteers](#)

Boundary and Enrollment Realignment Process

Dr. Holmen will host a series of 30-minute online "Information Sessions" to share information with our community about topics related to the Boundary & Enrollment Realignment process. Attached is a flyer with dates, links to the online sessions, and directions on how to submit questions. I encourage families to attend one of the information sessions so they are informed about this process. Additional information about this process can be found at: [Realignment - Lake Washington School District](#).

Christa McAuliffe Discipline Policy/Philosophy

McAuliffe staff works daily to support students both academically and socially. There are times when students need support and guidance to make appropriate and safe choices, which may include intervention in the form of discipline. 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)
○ Not following directions ○ Isolated name calling ○ Profanity ○ Blurting ○ Classroom disruption ○ Isolated minor physical aggression (shove, hit, etc.) ○ Isolated classroom vandalism	○ 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	
Teacher Managed (Minor): Classroom Issues ○ <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. Classified Managed (Minor): Recess and/or Lunchroom Issues ○ <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 lunchroom. 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). Admin Managed (Major): Recess, Lunchroom, or Classroom Issues ○ <u>Step 1:</u> Notify administration, who will then assign a Discipline Slip and contact parents.	

Reflections Entries

Let your creativity shine! The 2026–2027 National PTA Reflections Program invites all McAuliffe students to express themselves through art, photography, literature, music, dance, or film. This opportunity is open to all students. Details can be found on the attached flyer and the McAuliffe PTSA website at: [Reflections - MCAULIFFE PTSA](#)

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, October 28, 2026

Note: Students must submit digitally through McAuliffe PTSA to advance in the competition

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. If your child is missing an item, please stop by the Lost and Found bin before or after school. Items not collected will be donated to a local organization on Friday, October 30th.

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 (October 12 - 23). 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 23rd. If you have any questions, please email fallcoatdrive@mcauliffeptsa.org.



McAuliffe Fun (Spirit Wear and Community Events)

Spirit Wear: McAuliffe Spirit Wear

Families can show their McAuliffe spirit by ordering items from our “McAuliffe Store” at the link provided above. Included are T-shirts, sweatshirts, hats, and other McAuliffe-themed items. Our store offers a variety of brands, colors, and styles for families to choose from.

McAuliffe at the Seattle Kraken: McAuliffe Kraken Tickets

McAuliffe families are invited to join in a night of fun at the Seattle Kraken. Discounted tickets are available for five Seattle Kraken games at the link provided above.

October/November Dates:

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

- No School (Teacher LEAP): October 16
- Fall Cultural Assembly: October 22 (9:40am)
- Spelling Bee, Grades 1-3: October 29 (6:00pm)
- Halloween Parade: October 30 (10:05am-10:35am)
- Picture Retakes: November 3
- Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5 (6:00pm)
- Spirit Day (Twin/Triplett Day): November 6
- Veterans Day Assembly: November 10 (2:50pm-3:30pm)
- No School - Veterans Day: November 11
- Spelling Bee Final, Grades 1-5: November 12 (6:00pm)
- MVP Day #2: November 13
- Movie Magic - \$200 Fun Run Incentive: November 13 (6:00pm-8:00pm)
- PTSA General Membership Meeting: November 16 (6:00pm-7:30pm)
- Giving Tree Collection: November 23 – December 4
- Early Release: November 25 (Dismissal at 12:25pm)
- No School – Thanksgiving: November 26 - 27