



Christa McAuliffe Elementary **McAuliffe Monthly**



FEBRUARY 2012

A Note From Your Principal and School

Dear Parents,

What a crazy month January was! We had snow days, half days, conferences, late arrival, early dismissal, and report cards. Thank you for your support of our students during this unusual schedule. Let's cross our fingers that February provides for a more normal routine for our students.

Have a great February!
Brady Howden
Principal

Early Dismissal Procedures

Last month our emergency dismissal procedures were put to the test when snow began falling during the school day. Within minutes of receiving a district announcement, over 300 parents showed up at our school looking to pick up their child early. I would like to thank our parent community for their patience and understanding during this unpredictable situation. I also appreciated the work of McAuliffe staff and parent volunteers. Because of their efforts, we were able to dismiss over 425 students in 1 hour and 15 minutes, while at the same time following proper check-out procedures.

I also wanted to provide further clarification of our emergency check-out procedures should we need to use this process again in the future. All students must be checked out through the front office so that emergency cards can be checked to ensure that we are releasing students to adults authorized by parents. Teachers are not allowed to release students directly to parents from their classroom. Also, as is the case with any situation, we want to reflect upon how we could do things better. In the future, to help speed up the process of releasing students, we will have 2-3 tables in the commons area organized by alphabet for parents to check out their child. Parents will then go into the gym area where their child will be delivered for dismissal.

Once again, thank you for your understanding during this unpredictable situation. I'm most happy that everyone made it home safe, hopefully getting an opportunity to enjoy the snow.

Watch DOGS

This year our school started a new program, called "Watch DOGS", which is designed to increase the number of male volunteers at our school. Dads, grandpas, uncles, or other male influences volunteer 5 ½ hours on a single school day. Their volunteer activities include helping in their child's classroom, assisting PE and music specialists, monitoring lunch, and helping out during recesses. We've had 30 Watch DOGS sign up so far this year, which will translate into 165 male volunteer hours (far exceeding last year's total). In comparison, we had a total of approximately 20 hours of male volunteer time last year. If you're interested in volunteering as a Watch DOG feel free to contact Eileen Fenick at mcauliffewatchdogs@hotmail.com. We'd love to have you volunteer at our school!

Reconfiguration Updates

Next year the Lake Washington School District will reconfigure to a K-5 elementary, 6-8 middle school, and 9-12 high school model. McAuliffe Elementary has already felt the impact of these changes as our current sixth grade teachers, Kristin Ramey and Donna Goggin, will transition to Inglewood Middle School next year. Final staffing for McAuliffe will not be determined until late Spring or Summer. In the meantime, we will continue planning for items such as Outdoor Education (fifth grade will go next year), extracurricular activities, safety patrol, lunch/recess schedules, room assignments, and more.

Congratulations Mrs. Jaross

Congratulations to Anna Jaross, first grade, for earning her National Board for Professional Teaching Standard (NBPTS) certificate. Obtaining this certificate is a huge accomplishment. It takes an incredible amount of work and dedication to complete and is one of the highest honors that a teacher can receive.

Kindergarten Registration

Children who have turned 5 years old by August 31, 2012 are eligible for next year's kindergarten classes. Please contact Cathryn Brown in the school office if you missed Kindergarten Registration on February 2nd.



PE

During the month of February, students in physical education class will participate in Jump Rope for Heart. We will focus on our jumping and landing skills while learning about our hearts. There is also an option to donate to the American Heart Association by visiting our online homepage (<http://honor.americanheart.org/goto/mcauliffe>) or by using the JRFH packet that will be sent home in Payload Packets. Over the past five years our wonderful school has donated \$15,000 to the American Heart Association! Donations are completely optional and are due by March 2nd Sincerely, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. McCorkle



FEBRUARY

15	Last day for Lost and Found Items
16-20	No School
24	Family Dance

MARCH

12-15	MS Awareness Week
16	No School

APRIL

2-6	Spring Break
13	Art Walk 6-8pm
20-21	School Musical



MUSIC HAPPENINGS

Let's celebrate Valentine's Day! Singing the songs and playing all the games associated with Valentine's Day is super fun! In addition to this, students in the music room will enjoy a bit of the beach as we prepare for the Family Dance sponsored by the McAuliffe PTSA. Puili sticks, ukuleles and more. Also, coming in early March, I've scheduled Norm Hollingshead, opera previewer extraordinaire to come give a preview of the opera *Hansel and Gretel* to our 4,5,6th graders. I invite you to come hear Norm. He's fabulous! Mar 2, 10:15 in the Commons. Janet



LIBRARY

Thank you for your continued support of the Birthday Book Club. We have added 35 great new books to the library and have received over \$360 in donations. Look for one more flyer to go out in Payload packets soon or download the form from the library webpage. Battle of the Books battles are in full swing. We have had some great battles. Questions or comments, please contact J. Ahern (jahern@lwsd.org). Janet Ahern, Teacher/Librarian



LEADERSHIP CLUB

Save some money because Leadership has some awesome events coming up!! March 23rd & April 20th we're having Popcorn sales. Up-coming spirit days are February 14th show your Valentine's spirit by wearing red, pink, purple or white and on March 15th show your green side and wear green. EVERY Friday is McAuliffe Spirit day so wear your blue and gold! You also might want a friend to hold onto when you go skating at Skate King Night coming up (\$5.00 admission) on March 21st 6:30-8:30 PM! Family Fun Night at McAuliffe Weds, February 8th, 6:30-8:00 PM so bring your family & play some games (Xbox Kinect, Wii, board games, juggling, jump roping, basketball and more)! Once again a big thanks to the McAuliffe community who helped raise \$1,352 for Landon, our sparrow, we can't wait to collect more through donations. Thanks for participating!! By Eryn and Kiswa



LOST AND FOUND

Last day to pick up Lost and Found Jackets, Shirts, Lunch-boxes etc will be on February 15th at 2:30pm. Any items left will be donated to charity on Thursday Feb 16th.

