

Christa McAuliffe Elementary

McAuliffe Monthly



MARCH 2020

A Note From Your Principal

Dear Parents,

I think we can all agree the past week was refreshing. Five full days of school. No shortened days, no in-service days, no snow days. Just plain 'ole school. It's been awhile since we had a full week of school. Honestly, I think everyone needed a full week so we could get back on a normal schedule (I know I did!).

Regarding the snow, we will let you know what the plan is for snow make-up days once we receive that information from the school district. This may be a few weeks down the road as it's best to make sure the snow is finished before making decisions regarding snow make-up days.

Have a great month!

Brady Howden
Principal

Reserve Your Spot at McAuliffe for Next Year!

"Reserve a Place" Forms will go home on March 20th and are due back to your child's teacher by March 31st. It's important that families return these forms on time as this information will impact the number of classes we are allocated for the 2020-2021 school year.

Parent Input Forms

Parents are invited to provide input regarding the educational environment they feel would benefit their child next year by filling out a Parent Input Form. **Specific teacher requests will not be accepted.** Parent Input Forms will be available in the kiosk outside the front office from March 23rd – April 3rd. All Parent Input Forms are due by 4:00pm on April 3rd. Late forms will not be accepted as the placement process will begin after Spring Break.

Tell your neighbors and friends: Register early for 2020-2021 Kindergarten Classes

If you live in the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) and your child will be five years old on or before August 31, 2020, now is the time to register them for Kindergarten! Registration takes place at McAuliffe during regular school hours through the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year.

We currently have 60 students registered for our 2020-2021 kindergarten classes next year, which puts us at 3 full classes next year. If we register another 10 students then it is likely a fourth class will be allocated, which would reduce class sizes for our students.

While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year. Visit the Kindergarten Information webpage for more information: <https://www.lwsd.org/students-families/registration/kindergarten-information>

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will take the "Smarter Balanced Assessment" as their state assessment this Spring. The assessment will consist of 2-3 days of English Language Art/Literacy testing and 2 days of mathematics testing. Fifth grade students will also take a 1-day science test. We ask that parents do not schedule vacations or appointments on testing days (please see the schedule below). More information on state assessments will come later.

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McAuliffe's SBA Testing Schedule will be as follows:

- 3rd Grade and 3rd Quest: April 28, 29, 30 and May 5, 6
- 4th Grade: May 11, 12, 13, and 14
- 5th Grade and 4/5 Quest: May 15, 18, 19, 20, and 21

Home Practice Resources:

You can support your child at home by having your student take SBA practice tests. This will help your child become more familiar with the testing format and related tools. Students will participate in similar practice sessions at school as well.

Practice tests can be found by visiting the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program webpage at:

<http://wa.portal.airast.org>

To access practice tests follow these directions:

- Click "Students and Families"
- Click "Practice & Training Tests"
- Click "Take the Practice and Training Tests" (this works best in Mozilla FireFox)
- Click "Sign In" (do not change any of the information in the boxes)
- Select a grade level
- Select a test (ex: "Start G5 ELA Practice Test")
- Click "Select"
- Click "I Heard the Sound" and "Continue"
- Click "Begin Test Now"

2020 Census

In mid-March homes will begin receiving invitations to complete the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you can respond in one of three ways: online, by phone or by mail. For more information, visit the 2020 Census website.

Why your participation matters

Getting an accurate census count is important for schools as it serves as the basis for, among other things, distributing assistance to schools and educational institutions such as:

- National School Lunch program
- Title I aid
- Special education grants
- Head Start program

Census results also determine how many seats the state gets in Congress, influence highway planning and construction, determine grants for public transit systems, secure funding for hospitals and fire departments and much more.



PE K-5 students are jumping rope! 4/5 students are creating routines and K-2 are perfecting their skills. In addition to jump rope skills, we are participating in an optional fundraiser for the American Heart Association. Students can earn prizes and gift cards to purchase equipment for PE! Look for a flyer to come home next week! March also means March Madness and at the end of March students will be working on basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. Stacie (sstrong@lwsd.org)



MARCH

6 NW Opera Assembly 9:40-10:40 am
 12 Choir Concert 6:30-7:30 pm
 13 No School—LEAP Day
 18 Wear BLUE for Kindness
 20 Class Pictures/All School Photo
 27 Spirit Day, Popcorn Sales

APRIL

3 Jump Rope Assembly 10-11 am
 3 Movie Night 6-8:30 pm
 6-10 No School—Spring Break
 23 PTSA General Membership Meeting
 24 School Play at Eastlake 6-7 pm
 25 School Play at Eastlake 3-4 pm
 27-30 Teacher Appreciation Week

MAY

7 5th Grade Camp Parent Meeting
 8 Walk & Roll to School
 22 No School—LEAP Day
 28 PTSA GMM Meeting 9-11am
 29 All School BBQ



MUSIC HAPPENS!

This month I'm happy to present the McAuliffe Challenger Choir in concert. All are invited to hear a talented bunch of 1st through 5th graders perform a handful of great music, Thursday, March 12 at 6:30pm, in the McAuliffe Commons. Choir members should arrive between 6:15 and 6:25. We will meet in the Commons. These students have given up one lunch recess a week to rehearse for this event. That's dedication! We'll be using our brand-new risers purchased by the McAuliffe PTSA! Thank you, PTSA, for your generosity. Janet (jwarren@lwsd.org)



LRC Lost a book? If your child believes they have lost their library book, the first thing I tell them to do is stay calm! Lost library books are almost never lost, they are usually just off on an adventure somewhere like under a bed, hidden in a desk, or on the classroom bookshelf. Before we jump to the step of replacing the book, I advise the students to just

look high and low for it. Once they are certain that a book is lost, there are a couple options. The first option is that you can send a replacement copy to school. Our library books are usually purchased from standard bookstores or Amazon, so you can buy a copy and have your child bring it to school. The second option is to send in money to replace the book. Once a book has been missing for a few months, we typically send home a replacement bill. You can send in a check (made out to McAuliffe Elementary) to cover the replacement or you can send in cash. If you pay with cash, please send exact change as we do not have a way to issue change. If you have any questions about the McAuliffe library feel free to contact me at jumartin@lwsd.org. Julie



ASB Last month, ASB partnered up with the PTSA to help promote carpooling and "Going Green" with the Cocoa for Carpool event. This month, ASB will be organizing the final spirit day of the year. The theme is TBD, but the date will be March 27th.

Popcorn will be for sale after lunch for 50 cents. ASB students are continuing to work on positive and kind leadership skills this month. Be on the lookout for these AWESOME 4th and 5th grade leaders. Jesse jmagraw@lwsd.org

