



Christa McAuliffe Elementary

MCAULIFFE MONTHLY

A Note From Your Principal

Dear Parents,

November gives us the opportunity to pause and remember the sacrifices made for our country and the people and things we are thankful for. November 11th is Veteran's Day, which our students will observe via an asynchronous presentation in music during the week of November 9-13. November 26th is Thanksgiving, which gives us the opportunity to reflect and celebrate the many blessings in our lives.

In a time when it is easy to focus on the challenges presented by COVID, I encourage students and families to instead focus on the many positive things taking place in their families, school, and lives.

Personally, I am thankful for my family, our wonderful McAuliffe teachers and staff, our outstanding students, and the amazing McAuliffe parent community I work with each day. Christa McAuliffe Elementary is a special place, one that everyone should be proud of and thankful for.

Go Challengers!

Brady Howden
Principal
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

Fun Run: Event on Nov. 4th, Envelopes due Nov. 13th

Students are invited to join their teacher at a LIVE Teams meeting on Wednesday, November 4th at 9:20am for our annual Challenger Chase Fun Run. Although this year's event will be held virtually, many of our McAuliffe traditions will remain. Our virtual celebration will consist of teachers doing the "Cha-Cha Slide", sharing this year's prizes and incentives, a few laughs, and more.

The Fun Run is our PTSA's one and only active fundraiser, which supports a variety of activities, resources, programs, and events that will take place this year. Our PTSA's fundraising goal this year is \$65,000. Our all-time record is \$90,001. Let's break some records! Thanks in advance for your generosity towards our PTSA and school.

Fun Run envelopes were passed out on Wednesday, October 28th with Fun Run t-shirts. For families that were unable to pick up their child's t-shirt and envelope they can pick them up any time at the school office between the hours of 9:00am-3:30pm. Envelopes can be dropped off at the main office front door between October 29th – November 13th.

Quest Application: Due November 30th

The 2020-2021 Accelerated Programs application is now open. Applications will be accepted through 4:30pm on Monday, November 30th. Families can find the application at the following link:
<https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/accelerated-programs>

Students who are currently registered in 1st grade in Lake Washington School District will be provided initial screening through their regular classroom this year and should not apply at this time.



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McAuliffe Family Affinity Group Discussions: November 19th

Our students, staff, and families are fortunate to be a part of a diverse McAuliffe school community. Our diversity is a strength of our school as it brings a variety of perspectives and learning opportunities for everyone at McAuliffe.

In order to continue our growth as a school, including implementing culturally responsive teaching strategies, we would like to host racial affinity group discussions. An affinity group can be defined as “a gathering of people who share a common identity”. The purpose of using an affinity group format to gather information is to provide a safe space for McAuliffe families with like backgrounds to share input about their experiences at McAuliffe.

The information gathered via our affinity group discussions will inform our next steps as a school in terms of further implementing equitable practices for all students. This information will also be helpful as we determine the needs of our community, provide related resources and/or professional development for parents and staff, and continue to welcome new families to McAuliffe.

Although we will be hosting affinity group discussions, it is important to note that the work of our school involves everyone linking arms together in a collaborative manner. Affinity group discussions are not designed to divide our community, but instead collect information from families who may have different experiences at McAuliffe due to their backgrounds. Please know this is only one piece of the work we are doing to ensure that all students, families, and staff are welcome and feel supported at McAuliffe.

Our affinity group discussions will take place on **Thursday, November 19th from 5:00pm-6:00pm** as follows (see Microsoft Teams hyperlinks). For those interested in participating in our discussion, please join the affinity group that matches your identity.

[People of color affinity group](#)
[White/Caucasian affinity group](#)

Affinity group guiding questions and prompts will include the following:

- Q: What are some things that are going well at McAuliffe for your student and family?
- Q: What are some areas of growth that McAuliffe can address as a school to meet the needs of your family when it comes to race/equity?
- Q: Has your student/family felt respected and welcome at McAuliffe?
 - If yes, what has McAuliffe done as school to support your family in this area?
 - If no, what challenges has your family faced and what suggestions do you have for McAuliffe.
- Q: Inclusivity of all students and families is our goal (race, program, ability, etc.).
 - Where have we succeeded in this area?
 - What more can we do to support students and families in this area?
- Q: Do you have any feedback regarding our affinity group discussion?



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Christa McAuliffe School Improvement Plan (SIP)

Each year McAuliffe teachers create a School Improvement Plan (SIP) to address school academic and culture goals. These goals are determined based upon SBAWCAS results, DIBELS data, staff/student surveys, and other data sources. Last year our teachers worked together to create 3-year goals in the areas of math, writing, social/emotional well-being, and school culture based upon this data. Although these are the areas of focus as written in our SIP, our staff continues to monitor progress in all other academic areas as well.

Although last year's end of year assessments were cancelled due to COVID, past strategies that have proven to be effective will be continued. New strategies and data points will also be implemented as well.

Teachers will meet throughout the year to assess student progress towards goals, making adjustments to instruction as needed. Resources and professional development activities will be designed to support teachers and students in our focus areas. Our PTSA and parent community are an important part of this work as the funds provided through your donations will support any financial needs related to our school goals.

This is an example of the behind-the-scenes work that our teachers do to ensure that McAuliffe students are moving forward in the area of academics and that we have a positive school culture. We want parents to be aware of the work we are doing. As a result, our school's SIP plan will be posted on the school web site later this year for parents to view.

Upcoming Dates/Events

Please mark the following dates/events on your calendars:

- *Wednesday November 4th: Fun Run Assembly (virtual)
- *Monday, November 9th: Veteran's Day Assembly (virtual presentation during asynchronous music)
- *Wednesday, November 11th: No School, Veteran's Day
- *Thursday, November 12th: Library Book Pick-Up 12:15-2:15
- *Friday, November 13th: Fun Run Envelopes Due
- *Thursday, November 19th: Affinity Group Discussions, 5:00pm-6:00pm
- *Tuesday, November 24th: Library Book Pick-Up 12:15-2:15
- *Wednesday, December 9th: Fun Run Prize Assembly, 9:20am (virtual via LIVE class Teams meeting)
- *Monday, December 14th—Friday, December 18th: Holiday Pajama Party (virtual presentation during asynchronous music/PE/library)

COUNSELOR CORNER

Dear McAuliffe Parents/Guardians, Wow, it's hard to believe it's November already - the holidays are just around the corner. The past several months have been a challenge unlike anything we've ever experienced. You might feel alone in your heartache as you watch your children struggle with the melt downs, shut downs, and ups and downs of remote learning. You are NOT alone! Again, you are NOT alone! Now is the time to stick together and reach out to each other. Email me at ldaniel@lwsd.org for support. I'll be setting up a drop in parent meeting for you to ask questions and/or chat with one another. Details on a day and time will be coming soon. One way to help students during their school day is to make sure they engage in Brain Breaks. These are simple, short breaks during the day where kids can move or relax in order to regain focus and release frustrated or uncomfortable feelings. I've attached a Brain Break Menu where students can pick and choose what works best for them. A brain that has breaks is a calm, productive, and happy brain! Don't forget caregivers need brain breaks too. Stay strong and brave!

Lisa Daniel, McAuliffe School Counselor



MUSIC HAPPENS!

Music Happens...Virtual Style! Seasonal activities continue in the Music Room. We have much to be thankful for and we will celebrate through song. Grateful for our many Veterans, students will participate in a salute to them during the week of November 9. As a reminder, your child's report card grade in music is based on participation. They should be accessing the music SWAY each week. One last plug...if you haven't seen the Virtual McAuliffe Music Recital Flipgrid, check it out. We have great talent at McA. These performances are sure to brighten the cloudiest day!

Happy Fall!

Janet Warren jwarren@lwsd.org

Erynne Smith esmith@lwsd.org



NOVEMBER

4	Virtual Fun Run
6	PTSA Reflections Due
9	Veteran's Day Assembly, Virtual
11	No School—Veterans Day
9-13	Fun Run Prize Drawings
12	Library Book Pick-Up 12:15-2:15
13	Fun Run Envelopes Due
16-30	Scholastic Book Fair, Online
19	Affinity Group Discussions
24	Library Book Pick-Up 12:15-2:15
26-27	No School—Thanksgiving
30	Quest Application Due Date

DECEMBER

9	Fun Run Virtual Assembly
14-18	Holiday Pajama Party! (Virtual Presentation during asynchronous Music/PE/Library)
21-31	No School—Winter Break

WINTER BREAK
DECEMBER 21 – JANUARY 1



PE

Hello McAuliffe Families, Wow-we can't believe it's November! In PE this month, we're introducing the Skill Related Fitness components: Balance, Agility, Power, Speed, Coordination and Reaction Time. Suzanne and I are tracking student participation/effort/engagement through Forms Surveys (NOT turning in assignments). ALL September/October Forms survey are due by November 8th and we will enter grades for the month of September and October in Skyward. PLEASE email with any questions.

Stacie: sstrong@lwsd.org or
shart@lwsd.org. Have a restful and Happy Thanksgiving!!



LRC

Book checkout has begun! If you need more information about how your child can check out books from the McAuliffe library you can visit the library page of the McAuliffe website at <https://mcauliffe.lwsd.org/academics/library>. Book pick up takes place the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month. That means our next pick up day should be Nov. 11th. Due to Veteran's Day however, that week's pickup will take place on Nov. 12th.



As a reminder, students' report card grade for library is based upon their participation. Your child should be attending a library lesson every Wednesday. In November our library lessons are going to continue to focus on use of the online catalog tool, Common Sense Media lessons and read-alouds of fun picture books. If you have any questions regarding our library program don't hesitate to contact me at jumartin@lwsd.org. Julie