

# Christa McAuliffe Elementary

## McAuliffe Monthly



Hello Families!

Welcome to October! I hope that your student has settled into an effective remote learning routine. Our staff continues to understand and appreciate the work families are putting in to make remote learning successful for your student. Thank you for your continued support!

October will be an exciting month as we hold student goal setting conferences, begin our Fun Run celebration, and await news from the district regarding the potential return to school for K/1 students.

Have a great month!

Brady Howden  
Principal  
Christa McAuliffe Elementary

### **Principal Chat: Wednesday, October 7th**

Parents are invited to join Mr. Howden and Ms. Le for a “Principal Chat” on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. We will be hosting three separate “LIVE” Teams events on this day for the purpose of answering parent questions. Parents will be able to submit questions via a private chat. The chat will be recorded and sent to families who are unable to join us at the scheduled times. Parents can find the chat links in the body of the “McAuliffe Monthly” intro email.

- Kindergarten Parents: 2:00pm-2:45pm
- Grades 1-5 Parents: 3:00pm-3:45pm
- Quest Parents: 4:00pm-4:45pm

### **Conference Week Schedule and Information**

The week of October 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> is conference week and will consist of an alternative schedule. Teachers will be holding student goal setting conferences on October 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>. These days will be “early release”, with instruction/activities being provided from 9:20-12:20. There will be no instructional activities provided in the afternoons due to the half-day conference schedule. Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> will follow our standard “Wednesday asynchronous” schedule. Lastly, there will be no school on Friday, October 16<sup>th</sup> as that is a teacher in-service day. This will be a “no school” day so students will not be provided with instructional activities on 10/16. Please be on the lookout for communication from teachers regarding the scheduling of conferences.

- Oct 12: Conference Day, 12:20 dismissal. No afternoon instruction/activities.
- Oct 13: Conference Day, 12:20 dismissal. No afternoon instruction/activities.
- Oct 14: Standard Wednesday asynchronous schedule, 2:20 dismissal.
- Oct 15: Conference Day, 12:20 dismissal. No afternoon instruction/activities.
- Oct 16: No School, Teacher In-Service Day.

### **Birthday Celebrations!**

Student birthday celebrations are back! Students will receive a card and “Challenger” pennant to celebrate their birthday. Their birthday gift will be placed in the “Materials Pick-Up/Drop-Off Carts” in front of the school at the end of the month. We will celebrate all summer birthdays in June. Happy Birthday Challengers!

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### International “Walk to School Month”

October is International Walk to School month. Although we are unable to celebrate together, we can still be active in our neighborhoods! Our PTSA is sponsoring a new virtual event called "Challengers Walktober." Parents can download a tracking calendar to track your minutes walking, rolling (using a bike, scooter, skateboard, etc.), or being active in any way throughout October. At the end of the month you can submit your final numbers for a special reward from our partners at Sammamish SchoolPool! The calendar and details for submitting your totals are available on the following website: <http://www.mcauliffeptsa.org/walktober.html>

### Materials Pick-Up/Drop-Off Carts

As a reminder, please leave the file folder with your student's name in the materials pick-up/drop-off cart. We will need these folders to place/collect future materials. If you accidentally took the folder home with you, please return it to the cart or front office. Thank you!

### Fun Run Updates

As mentioned in previous communication, our annual “Challenger Chase” Fun Run is on! This year's Fun Run will take place in a virtual setting. Although we will be holding the Fun Run virtually, many of our traditions will continue. Students will still receive Fun Run t-shirts, have opportunities to earn class and individual prizes, and be eligible to splash teachers in the Pitch Burst (in-person!). The plan is to provide taped assemblies for both the Fun Run (11/4) and the Fun Run Prize Assembly (12/9). T-shirts and Fun Run envelopes are tentatively set to be distributed on October 28th (envelopes due on 11/13).

If you have not already done so, please let us know what size t-shirt your student will need. You can indicate your student's preferred size by filling out the “Microsoft Forms” link included in the body of the “McAuliffe Monthly” intro email. **Responses to the form are due by Monday, October 5th.**

Thank you in advance for your support of our PTSA's one and only active fundraiser. Our goal this year is to raise \$65,000. Please be on the lookout for more information about our Fun Run. Let's break a record!

### Grading Update

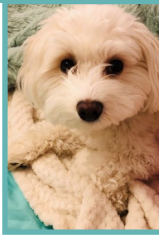
One of the challenges presented in a remote learning environment is that of assessing student progress. While our teachers are providing ways for students to demonstrate understanding of concepts, the number of “events/assignments” recorded in Skyward are fewer than if we were holding in-person school. As a result, our teachers will be prioritizing the quality of graded work over the quantity of graded work. As we enter our October conferences, we wanted to make you aware of how remote teaching has impacted grading. Thank you also for understanding that much of September was spent getting to know your child and teaching our students how to access remote learning. Due to these factors, there will be less assignments scored in Skyward than usual come October conferences.

### School Hours: Playground

We have seen an increase in students on campus during school hours. McAuliffe's campus is closed between the hours of 8:00-4:00 as there are staff and students in our Learning Center program on site. Thank you in advance by ensuring your son/daughter is respecting our school hours and not taking breaks from learning on the McAuliffe campus.

## COUNSELOR CORNER

Hello McAuliffe Families, I hope you are doing well and finding a routine that works for your family this fall. I know it's not easy, but you are all rock stars as you navigate this overwhelming remote learning time! I hear you and I am here for you. New Student small groups have started and I have been in all classrooms to do my first lesson, welcome back returning McAuliffe students, and meet our new friends. During October, students will attend my lessons in both recorded and live format, and the lessons will be in these social emotional learning areas; mindfulness, belly breathing, calming strategies and making connections. I have a Counselor Team that many students have already visited where I will be posting my recorded lessons for all grade levels, along with other activities, read aloud stories and more. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions at [ldaniel@lwsd.org](mailto:ldaniel@lwsd.org). Take care, Lisa Daniel



## OCTOBER

1-31	PTSA Challengers Walktober
5	Fun Run T-Shirt Order Due
7	Principal Chat
12-15	Conference Week
16	No School—LEAP Day
28	Fun Run Envelope Distribution
28	Fun Run T-Shirt Distribution

## NOVEMBER

4	Virtual Fun Run
11	No School—Veterans Day
9-13	Fun Run Prize Drawings
13	Fun Run Envelopes Due
26-27	No School—Thanksgiving



## PE

Hello McAuliffe Families, During the month of October we will be introducing muscular strength and muscular endurance. These 2 concepts are part of the Health Related Fitness components. The last week of October we are going to team up with other McAuliffe specialists for some Halloween fun! If you have any comments or questions please email me at [sstrong@lwsd.org](mailto:sstrong@lwsd.org) or Mrs. Hart at [shart@lwsd.org](mailto:shart@lwsd.org) Stacie and Suzanne



## MUSIC HAPPENS

Music Happens...Virtual Style! We are "Falling for Music." Students can look forward to engaging seasonal activities in the Music Room. We will continue to explore melody and rhythm using Fall and Halloween songs. Toward the end of the month look for a special SWAY created just for McAuliffe students by Library, Music and PE! 4th and 5th graders will begin a recorder unit as well. Happy Fall!

Janet Warren [jwarren@lwsd.org](mailto:jwarren@lwsd.org)  
Erynne Smith [esmith@lwsd.org](mailto:esmith@lwsd.org)



## LRC

The focus in library class so far has been on book access. Students have learned how to use their Sora and KCLS student accounts to find eBooks and audiobooks. Be aware that you may want to supervise your child's use of their KCLS student account as those accounts are not filtered and do allow students to check out a wide variety of reading material. While our current book access is limited to online materials, the district is working on putting together an equitable, safe checkout plan that will allow all schools in the district to do curbside book checkout of library materials. As soon as that plan is in place, students will be able to access physical materials from our library.

In October our library learning focus will be on the *Common Sense Media* curriculum which teaches about safe and balanced internet use. In addition to the CSM curriculum, students will get to listen to stories, and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn how to sign up for Battle of the Books. Remember that library class takes place every Wednesday through prerecorded lessons. Students can access the lessons under the "Assignments" tab in Microsoft Teams. Please feel free to contact me at [jumartin@lwsd.org](mailto:jumartin@lwsd.org) with any questions. Julie