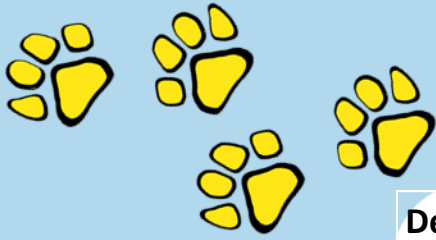


Wild About Learning



LMES

Volume 7, Issue 1



September 2014

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Sept. 24 - **sweetFrog** Spirit Night
Sept. 25 - Early Release
Sept. 30 - Granola with Grandparents
Oct. 1 - Walk to School
Oct. 7 - Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Night
Oct. 9 - Early Release
Oct. 13 - No School



Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff - Welcome back to school!!

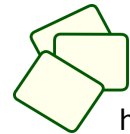
We would like to welcome all of the new families and staff members who are joining the LMES family. I hope you all had a great summer and are ready to ROAR into a new school year. If you are returning, you may notice the new theme for this school year "Wild about Learning".



The LMES PTA has been working hard to plan exciting activities and programs for this year. We hope that you will join us for our annual Snowflake Breakfast and Family Dinner and Dance along with our new Pizza & Movie night. Also, get ready to get your bodies moving with the new Rock-n-Roll 5K in April! We also want to encourage all Dads or other male role models to participate in our Watch D.O.G.S. program. This is a great way for males to be a positive and active role-model for students at our school.



New this year, we will have Spirit Wear T-Shirts available all year! If you missed getting a shirt at Open House, you can grab an order form from the office and have the shirt back in 1-2 days! Also, we have a new fundraiser this year! We are selling Discount Cards with discounts to 19 local businesses for only \$10. These cards will be good for 13 months with the offers being good all year. Be sure to check out these great offers from our 19 local businesses on flyers that were sent home. Don't hesitate to ask your family, friends, and neighbors if they would be interested in saving money all year and help support your child's PTA along with local Mechanicsville businesses!



We hope you will support the PTA by joining today! As always, our goal is to reach 100%, but in the years past, we have only reached approximately 60% membership. So this year, I would like to make a more realistic goal and try to increase our membership by 10% or, better yet, reach 75%. We are also trying to get our male membership to 25%; so Dad's be sure to sign up! Please help us make this happen and support the PTA!

What does your membership support? It supports our PTA school activities, grade requests, resource requests, school technology upgrades - just to name a few. Dues this year are \$6.00. Memberships are annual so you need to renew each year.

The LMES PTA is looking forward to working with all of you and to another great year!

Sincerely,
Dana Hughes
PTA President



Welcome to the Laurel Meadow Family. We are very excited to begin our seventh year as a school community and look forward to a successful year. The following tips will help families make the transition into school routines.

Attendance - Regular school hours are **7:45 a.m.** until **2:30 p.m.** Please call the clinic at 723-2046 before 9:00 if your child is going to be absent from school. Please give your child's name, teacher's name, and a reason for the absence. When your child returns to school, please send a note to the classroom teacher indicating the reason for the absence.



Tardy - A student is considered tardy if they have not reported to the classroom by 8:05 a.m. Students arriving to school after 8:05 a.m. must come to the main office to sign in and receive a tardy pass. A child who is consistently tardy is missing vital information at the beginning of the class period and causes a disruption to the entire classroom. Please strive to have your child at school on time.

Building Hours - Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:30 a.m. Students entering the building between 7:30 - 7:45 a.m. will be supervised in the cafeteria until the bell rings.

Student drop-off - In the morning, students may be dropped off in the loop in front of the school. Because the morning is a very busy time, please have your child ready to exit the vehicle when you stop. Move completely past the building towards the parking cone before stopping. This will allow two vehicles to unload at the same time and will help us eliminate congestion. There will be someone on duty until the tardy bell at 8:05 a.m. to supervise children as they enter.



Student Pick-up - A student may leave the school premises during the day only with the permission of the parent or legal guardian. We require written permission if anyone other than the students' parent or guardian picks them up from school. We will ask for a photo

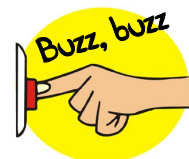
identification of the person signing out the child for safety reasons.

Afternoon student pick-up will occur in the school cafeteria. You will need to sign your child out and be prepared to show a photo id. This process will help to ensure the safety of our children. The best place to enter the cafeteria will be via the cafeteria door which opens at 2:20 unless there is a late assembly.

Toys/Valuables - Toys, trading cards and valuables such as iPods are not permitted at school unless they are required for a special project or activity.

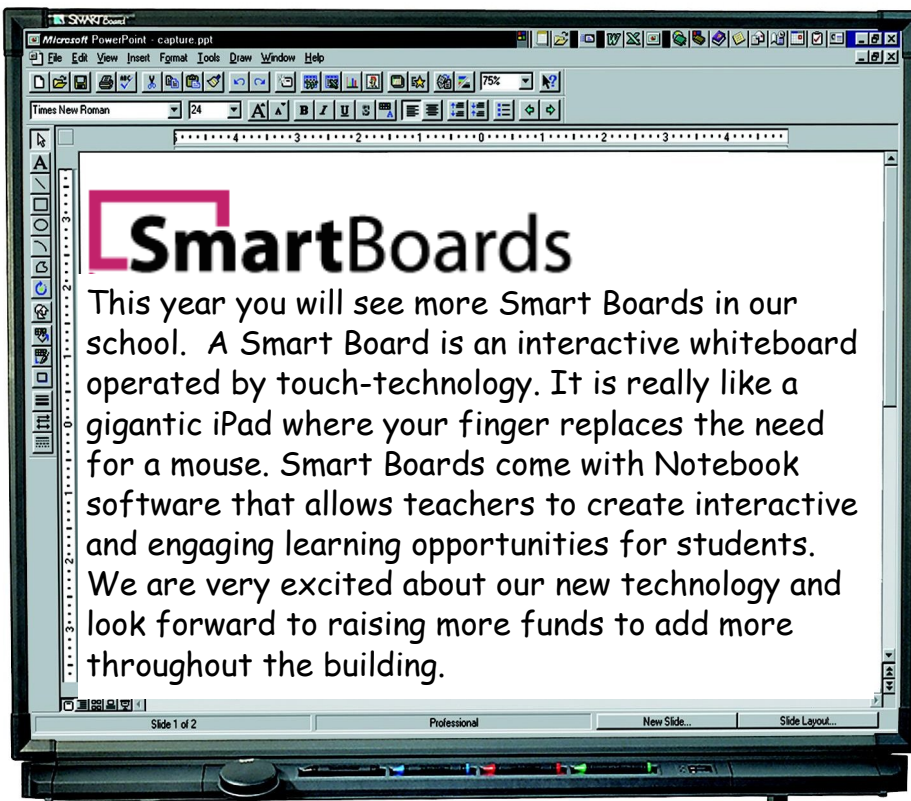
Student Dress - Students are encouraged to wear comfortable shoes and clothing. However, student attire must not be a distraction to the learning environment. Messages on clothing that relate to inappropriate topics including: drugs, alcohol, tobacco, vulgarity, violence, or that reflects adversely upon persons because of their race, sex, color, creed or national origin will not be permitted in school. Shorts, skorts, or skirts should be mid thigh or longer. Midriffs, spaghetti strap tank tops, and wide arm muscle shirts are not appropriate for the learning environment. Tank top straps should be the width of two adult fingers. Flip flops, crocks and high heeled shoes present a major hazard on the playground equipment and stairs. Children wearing inappropriate footwear will have limited access to some of the playground equipment due to safety concerns.

Front Doors - The front doors of the building will be locked at 8:15 and will remain locked all day. This practice will help ensure the safety of all students. To enter the school building parents must ring the bell next to the entrance door. Someone in the front office will "buzz" you in and then you must report to the front office to sign in.



If you have any concerns or questions feel free to contact the administration at 723-2040.





Welcome New Staff!

- 🐾 Ms. Bohajja - Grade 1
- 🐾 Mrs. Kuti - Grade 2
- 🐾 Mrs. Pocta - Grade 4
- 🐾 Shelley Shelton -
Instructional Assistant
- 🐾 Shannon Cash -
Instructional Assistant

\$ \$ Fundraisers \$ \$

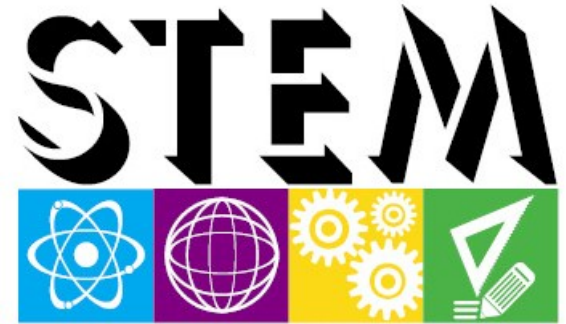
Fundraisers are a great way for our school to raise additional funds for instructional programs and equipment. Last year, we used the money raised from the school sponsored fundraiser to purchase 8 Smart Boards. Our goal this year is to purchase more Smart Boards for classrooms. Many thanks to the PTA for donating \$6,000 toward this project last year and many thanks to our school community for supporting our fundraisers.



This year, there will be several major fundraisers during the first semester:

- 🐾 School - Great American Fundraiser (begins September 30th)
- 🐾 PTA - Discount Cards (began August 28th)

Please do not feel obligated to participate in every fundraiser. We appreciate any support that you can offer for the enhancement of the instructional experience at our school.



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

Thanks to a generous grant from the Hanover Education Foundation, LMES will have its very own STEM (Science, Technology, and Engineering & Math) Lab this school year. This new lab will give our teachers and students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the world of 21st century skills in an innovative manner. During a STEM lesson, students are presented with an authentic problem (ex. How to clean up an oil spill). They are required to design a solution to the problem. During this learning activity; they must activate their scientific knowledge and apply their mathematical skills. During the process, they must utilize technology to research, design, test and present their ideas for a solution with their classmates. To learn more about the STEM lab, visit Mrs. Broughton's web site at mrsbroughton.weebly.com and click on STEM lab. Also, be on the lookout for home engineering challenges in Tuesdays Folders in the near future !!



Reflections 2014-2015 – The World Would Be A Better Place If...



Reflections Workshops
October 7th & 23rd
6-7:30 in the art room

Entries Due
November 7th to the
LMES Main Office

Theme-based artwork in:

- dance choreography
- film production
- literature
- musical composition
- photography
- visual arts

Our school's membership in the Virginia PTA provides LMES students the opportunity to participate in the National PTA Reflections program which encourages students to explore the arts and express themselves by giving positive recognition for their artistic efforts. Reflections Awards Program Students in Pre-K through grade 12 create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography or visual arts.

***LMES will offer two workshops to help students prepare entries and package entries for submission. During the workshops, students can have dance choreography pieces filmed for submission, have art work matted, use cameras to take photos for photography entries or have a piece of music recorded for entry. Some teachers will be offering opportunities to write about the 2014-2015 theme "The World Would Be a Better Place If..." for entry into the literature category. We hope that, through the array of opportunities, more students can enter the program this year. Feel free to contact Heather Bronson with any questions or concerns.*

Entry forms are available outside the Art Room and on the LMES website at:

<http://lmespta.wordpress.com/reflections/>

Forms are also available through the Virginia PTA website at:

<http://vapta.org/arts-in-education/reflections.html>

Arts and Education Chair: Heather Bronson

Phone: 804-248-5802; E-mail: Heatherwbronson@gmail.com



LIBRARY NEWS

Volunteers Wanted!

- 📖 Book Shelters
- 📖 Parent Mystery Readers
- 📖 Book Fair- Fall (November 10th-14th)
- 📖 Book Fair-Spring (April 27th-May 1st)
- 📖 Reading Olympic Coaches (4th-5th grades)

Contact the Library for more information.

- 📖 Michele Kaloski - Librarian
Email: mkaloski@hcps.us Phone: 723-2049
- 📖 Beth Webel - Library Assistant
Email: ewebel@hcps.us Phone: 723-2059



Dear Laurel Meadow Families,

It is my pleasure to be a part of the Laurel Meadow Family. I look forward to working with you and the students as we inspire a love for reading together. I have many exciting activities and events planned for this year. Check out our website and virtual library links! <http://hcps.us/lmes/library.htm>

Thanks, Michele Kaloski



Library Catalog & Checkout

The library catalog can be accessed from home! Go to <https://hanoverschools.follettdestiny.com/> and use student account numbers to search or hold books. Ebooks can be read too.


- 📖 Books may be renewed. Bring back the book(s) to the library to renew.
- 📖 Early Morning checkout 7:45-8:15am

Damaged/Lost Books


Please contact the library when a book has been lost or damaged. We appreciate your help in keeping our collection in good shape by replacing or paying for the book.



Last year, **LMES** received **\$4,623** from **BOX TOPS** collected!



Cut these






Get **CASH** for **LMES!**

This year, let's shoot for **\$5,000**

Digital Citizenship

All fifth grade students in Hanover County will be participating in a brand new pilot program called Digital Citizenship. The purpose of this is to help students use digital tools safely, responsibly, and appropriately. Instructional Technology Resource Teachers, Librarians, Guidance Counselors, and School Resource Officers will be addressing the following topics throughout the 2014-2015 school year:

-  Internet Safety and Responsibility including Hanover's Acceptable Use Policy and Online privacy,
-  Digital Communication including Netiquette and Cyber bullying, and
-  Research and Information Fluency including website evaluation, plagiarism, and citing sources.

Be on the lookout for more information on how to address the most common issues fifth graders are dealing with at home as well.



Summer is over, and now it is time to have some "FUN" again in the 2014 school year with the LMES Watch D.O.G.S. program.

I want to thank all the volunteers that took the time out of their busy

schedules to support last year's Watch D.O.G.S. program with 119 days filled. This year I'm looking forward to 100% days filled.

Again this year, it is so EASY to sign up for this program that supports the students and staff at LMES.

Three EASY steps

First step: You type in the following link:

<http://vols.pt/q94mr4>.

Second step: You need to enter your email address so a reminder will go out to you the week of your day of volunteering.

Third step: Please enter the name of your student(s) in the space for your phone number. This will help make your daily schedule so you can enjoy your day with your student(s).

If you have any question or concerns, please email me at davids1@hotmail.com.

Thanks,
David Stewart
Top Dog Director

Join us
Wednesday,
September 24th
5:00 - 8:00 pm @



on Bell Creek Road

At Laurel Meadow,

- I respect myself and others.
- I have the power to make good choices.
- I am responsible for my learning.
- I have pride in my school.



SEPTEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Labor Day	2 	3	4	5  LMES Spirit Wear Day	6
7	8	9	10	11	12  Red, White, & Blue Day	13
14	15  Newsletter Submissions Due	16  Back to School Night	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 sweetFrog Spirit Night	25 Early Release	26 PTA Discount Card Fundraiser Ends	27
28	29	30 Granola with Grandparents 	COMING IN OCTOBER:		1 st - Walk to School Wed. 2 nd - Kindergarten Coffee/Chat 7 th - Watch DOGS Pizza Night 13 th - No School	17 th - Picture Day 23 rd - Family Fitness Night 21 st - Spring Pictures 28 th - <i>Chick-Itz!</i> Spirit Night



Please "Like" the "Laurel Meadow Elementary School PTA" on Facebook.



Laurel Meadow Elementary
PTA
everychild. onevoice.

The LMES PTA board meetings are held monthly. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas and would like to attend a board meeting, please e-mail Dana Hughes at daveanddanahughes@comcast.net for dates and times. Thank you for your continued support!

The LMES **PTA** has a website!

Check us out at:
LMESPTA.wordpress.com



Medication - Hanover County's medication policy prohibits the transfer of any type of medication (prescription or over-the-counter) by your child. All medications must be brought to the clinic by an adult and a permission form to dispense must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Any medication taken at school for 10 days or more requires a doctor's written order.

