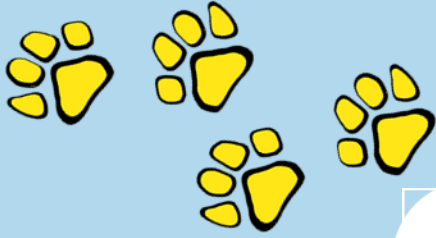


# Wild About Learning



# LMES

Volume 7, Issue 4

**PTA**

December 2014

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## Upcoming events

Dec. 2 -  McDonalds Spirit Night  
Dec. 3 - Walk to School Wednesday  
Dec. 4 - Carpenter Coffee & Chat (3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup>)  
Dec. 5 - Spirit Wear Day  
Dec. 13 - Snowflake Breakfast  
Dec. 18 - 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Parties  
Dec. 19 - K-2<sup>nd</sup> Parties  
Dec. 22 - Jan. 2 - Winter Break (No School)



## Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff,

As the winter season approaches, I know the kids are getting excited for their winter break! But before we have two weeks off to enjoy the holidays, I hope you are planning on joining us for 7<sup>th</sup> annual Snowflake Breakfast on Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>. This is such a fun event with yummy breakfast, shopping, entertainment and pictures with our very own LMES mascot, "Ryan the Lion"! This is a huge fundraiser for the PTA, so we do hope to see you there. We also hope you will consider donating some of your time and sign up to volunteer. We always need help from you, the parents.



The PTA is working hard to plan even more events for you and your family this year. Please join us in January for our annual Watch D.O.G.S. Donuts for Dads. And our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Family Dinner and Dance is Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>! We are excited with the theme the committee selected this year. So be prepared to go hunt for treasures, Pirates!



Congratulations to all the participants in our Reflections program this year. It is great to see all the talent our students have in the Arts. I also want to congratulate those who participated in the STEM fair this year! I think we have some future Scientists, Engineers and Mathematicians in our school! I know the students also enjoyed all the hands-on experiments, games and activities that were available for them.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas at [daveanddanahughes@comcast.net](mailto:daveanddanahughes@comcast.net).

**Support LMES PTA at**  
**Spirit Night**  
 **5:00 - 8:00 pm**  
**Tuesday, December 2nd**

Sincerely,  
Dana Hughes  
**PTA** President



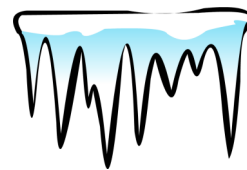
The season of giving and remembering others began last month at Laurel Meadow with an outstanding Veterans Day Program. This program, performed by our third graders, was a wonderful tribute to all of the men and women who have served this country and protected our lifestyle. It is critical that students understand the importance of patriotic holidays and realize that service to the community and the country is a wonderful way to help others. Building a sense of pride in one's community and country is a crucial factor as we develop future productive citizens.



We are now into the second nine weeks of the school year. Our students are learning every day and we continue to appreciate the support of our parents and volunteers. Student attendance is a critical part of school success. Please remember that Hanover County does have an attendance policy which specifies that students cannot be absent over 20 days at the elementary level. If your child reaches that point, the parent must apply for an attendance waiver. The waiver is reviewed and a determination in reference to promotion is made based on numerous factors. Prior to applying for an attendance waiver, a meeting will be held at school with an administrator and the school social worker. During the meeting, the reasons for the absences will be reviewed and a plan of action to improve attendance will be developed.

Something that will affect attendance at school for all of us this time of year is the weather. Due to the unpredictable nature of the weather, please be aware of possible

delays or closures by listening to the radio and checking the Hanover County Public Schools website ([www.hcps.us](http://www.hcps.us)).



School closing information is shared with the local media by the Superintendent of Schools typically by 6:00 a.m. If schools close early due to changing weather conditions, your child's classroom teacher will follow the directions you specified at the beginning of the school year. You may update or change this plan by contacting the classroom teacher. Hopefully, it will be a mild winter and school closures will not be needed this school year.

### **Middle School Transition Meetings**

As we look forward to the future, we realize that change is an ongoing part of life. Parents of our fifth grade students will begin the transition from elementary school to middle school. Please place these dates on your calendars.

- 🐾 Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> - Middle School Counselors will visit Grade 5 classrooms
- 🐾 Monday, December 8<sup>th</sup> - Rising Grade 6 Parent Night at Stonewall Jackson Middle School at 6:30 pm

### **Thought for the Month: Developing Grit**

At Laurel Meadow Elementary School, we strive to develop each student's willingness to take risks, tackle extra-hard problems, and accept small and large challenges. This is achieved daily through problem solving tasks and challenging students to stretch themselves academically. Most important in this process is the idea that it is fine to make a mistake and that we can all learn



something from our mistakes. This is our belief when there are academic and behavior issues. We always strive to make students aware of their mistakes and learn by discussing the reasons or how they can approach that situation the next time. For example, if a friend hurts your feelings, then what can you say to make them aware that their words were hurtful. If you don't understand an assignment, then first try rereading the directions and then ask for assistance. By developing grit at a young age, students will be able to face the varied challenges that they will face in the future.

# CHARACTER CORNER

**What is FAIRNESS?** Taking turns? Treating others the same? As parents we've all heard our children at some point say, "That's not fair!" **Fairness** should not be defined as favoring one person above another. Rather, **fairness** is about allowing everyone involved an equal opportunity to succeed.

During the month of December, LMES Lions will continue to learn about fairness, our second character trait this year. Teachers will be on the lookout for those students who exemplify this trait, and those students will be recognized in December.

At home, you can teach **fairness** by encouraging your child to offer a friend the chance to choose the first toy or instructing your child not to blame others for his/her mistake. Ask your child to give examples of showing **fairness**.



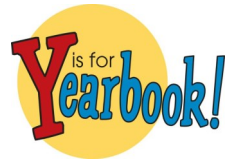

**LIBRARY NEWS**

- 📖 Volunteers Wanted - Parent Mystery Readers
- 📖 Reading Olympics Meeting - December 5<sup>th</sup>, 7:50-8:10 am
- 📖 Thank you for supporting the Fall "Sir Readalot's Book Fair"! We put over 1,000 books in the hands of our children.
- 📖 Access the library catalog from home at <https://hanoverschools.follettdestiny.com/> Use student account numbers to search or hold books. E-books can be read too.



## Would you like to see more candid photos of your children in the yearbook?

You can use eShare! eShare is an easy way for parents to upload pictures of their children to a secure website for possible use in the yearbook. Parents can go to [www.yearbookcenterorder.com](http://www.yearbookcenterorder.com) and enter Laurel Meadow to get started. The school code for eShare is lmes10058. There is also a FREE app that can be used to easily upload photos directly from your phone called **Herff Jones eShare**. This app can be downloaded on Android phones and some iPhone models. Please start adding photos today!

So far we have collected over **10,000 BOX TOPS!**

In each grade level, the class with the most **BOX TOPS** will get extra recess. Keep sending in those **BOX TOPS!**

**TICKETS FOR SALE**

*Annual Snowflake*

*Breakfast*

**Saturday, December 13<sup>th</sup>**

Food \* Entertainment \* Shopping  
8:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. seating  
\$5 per person  
Email Carter: [cafrantz@nwpsc.com](mailto:cafrantz@nwpsc.com)



# DECEMBER 2014

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2  Spirit Night	3  Walk to School	4 Carpenter Coffee & Chat (3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> ) 	5  Spirit Wear Day	6
7	8	9 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Middle School Trans. Coffee 	10	11	12	13 Snowflake Breakfast 
14	15  Newsletter Submissions Due	16	17	18 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Winter Parties 	19 K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Winter Parties	20
21	22	23	24	25 	26	27
← Winter Break →						
28	29	30	31	<b>COMING IN JANUARY:</b>		
				9 <sup>th</sup> - LMES Spirit Wear Day    19 <sup>th</sup> - No School 13 <sup>th</sup> - Donuts with Dad        20 <sup>th</sup> - Stevi B's Spirit Night 15 <sup>th</sup> - Reading/Writing Night   22 <sup>nd</sup> & 23 <sup>rd</sup> - Early Release		

## No Batteries Required

It is time to **UNPLUG** our children from digital screens and give them toys that will occupy more than their eyes and thumbs! The following is a list of items that you might want to consider when making out your Christmas shopping list. They're guaranteed to get your child moving **and** having fun!

- |   |               |                         |
|---|---------------|-------------------------|
|  | Pogo stick    | Frisbee                 |
| Scooter   | Hula hoop     | Skip it                 |
| Jump rope   | Balance board | Ping pong table         |
|   | Jacks         | Bat/glove               |
| Swing/swing set   | Tetherball    | Chalk                   |
| Trike   | Juggling set  | Trampoline              |
| Kettcar   | Fishing pole  | Cornhole board and bags |
| Unicycle  | Kayak         | Can jam                 |
| Stilts  | Badminton set | Golf clubs              |
|   | Croquet set   | Basketball hoop         |
|   | Hockey stick  | ANY kind of ball!       |

Or surprise them with a family trip to an ice skating rink, ski resort or rock climbing wall.

Active children are healthy children! **Happy Holidays!**

## Congratulations to Alicia Broughton!

Ms. Broughton has earned National Board Certification (an advanced teaching credential).



Walk to School  
Wednesday,  
December 3<sup>rd</sup>!

Mark Your Calendar  
for the  
**Rock n' Roll 5K**  
May 2, 2015

