

# Wild About Learning



# LMES

Volume 8, Issue 1

**PTA**

September/  
October 2015

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## Upcoming events

Sep 15-29 - **PTA** Fundraiser  
Sep 16 - **sweetFrog** Spirit  
PREMIUM FROZEN YOGURT  
Sep 18 - Goodies with Grandparents  
Sep 22 - Back to School Night  
Sep 23 - No School  
Oct 2 - Pizza & Movie Night  
Oct 7 - Walk to School  
Oct 8 - Early Release  
Oct 15-16 - Fall Pictures  
Oct 15 - **Cricket** Spirit Day  
Oct 29 - Family Fitness Night



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

We would like to welcome all of the families and staff members back for another exciting year at LMES. I hope you all had a great summer and are ready to ROAR into a new school year.

The LMES PTA has been working hard to plan exciting activities and programs again this year. Our first event is Goodies with Grandparents on Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. This event always draws a big crowd of students wanting to show their grandparents the school and teachers! Also, be sure to join us for



our Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza & Movie night Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. This is a great time for all the Dads or other male role models to sign-up for our Watch D.O.G.S. program.

Another great way to help support the school and PTA are our monthly spirit nights. Please plan on joining us for our spirit nights at **sweetFrog** on September 16<sup>th</sup> from 5-8 p.m. and at **Cricket** all day on October 15<sup>th</sup>.

We have new T-shirts for sale this year and hope you had a chance to see them at the Open House. If you didn't, they will be available to purchase at many of our school events. The new paw-print blue tie dye T-shirts are \$12 and available in youth XS thru adult XL. We still have some Carolina Blue shirts available for \$10 and the traditional tie dye for \$12.



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. Let's try and beat that by at least 10% this year. We are also trying to get our Male membership to 25%. So Dads be sure to sign up! Please help us make this happen!

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

As always, be sure to look in your child's Tuesday folders for all the exciting events, offers and news that are happening at LMES!

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 eighth year as a school community and look forward to another 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.



When you call, 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 daily.

**Building Hours** - Students are permitted to enter the building at 7:30 a.m. Students entering the building between 7:30 a.m. - 7:45 a.m. will be supervised in the cafeteria until the morning 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 pull up and make a complete 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 traffic congestion. There will be someone on duty until the tardy bell at 8:05 a.m. to supervise children as they enter the building.

**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. This door opens at 2:20 unless there is a late assembly in the cafeteria area.

**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.



**Toys/Valuables** - Toys, trading cards and valuables are not permitted at school unless they are 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.

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## Principal's Corner (continued)

**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, please ring the bell next to the entrance door. Someone in the office will "buzz" you in, and then you must report to the office to sign in.

**Safety Procedures** - During the year we practice numerous safety drills. Reviewing and practicing safety procedures is important to ensure that our staff and students know how to respond in an emergency situation. We conduct fire, severe weather, lockdown, and bus drills during the course of the school year. In addition, our Crisis Team meets on a regular basis to review and refine our emergency procedures for all types of critical situations. If at any time you have any concerns or questions, feel free to contact the school administration at 723-2040.

### Welcome New Staff!

🐾 Natalie Cox - Grade 1

🐾 Meg Bost - Speech Teacher

### Other Important Information:

**Offender Registry and Family Watchdog Information** - The Hanover County School Board recognizes the danger sex offenders pose to student safety. Therefore, to protect students while they travel to and from school, and attend school or school-related activities, each school in the Hanover County school division shall request automatic electronic notification of the registration or re-registration of any sex offenders in the same or contiguous zip codes as any school within the school division. This information is obtained according to the procedure established by Virginia Department of State Police. Information on sex offenders and the "Crimes Against Minors Registry" can be located at <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov>.

**Annual Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Management Notification** - In accordance with the requirements of AHERA, Laurel Meadow Elementary School is notifying its employees, building occupants, and their legal guardians of the availability of the AHERA management plan for public review. The AHERA Management Plan contains documentation of all AHERA surveillance and inspections, employee training, and the Operations and Maintenance procedures. Questions regarding the AHERA Management Plan can be directed to Hanover County Public Schools Director of Operations, Ed Buzzelli, at 365-4573.

## Fall Gifted Referrals

October 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for fall gifted referrals. Teachers and parents may refer a child for screening. Teacher referrals most often occur during the spring testing window which closes January 30<sup>th</sup> to allow additional time to get to know children and to collect work samples. We encourage parents to discuss their child's performance with their teacher as they will have insight into gifted characteristics and above level benchmarks.

If you are interested in having your child evaluated for this program, which is designed to meet the academic needs of students demonstrating superior ability in learning, creativity, and task commitment, send an email to Alicia Broughton, Gifted Resource Teacher, at [abroughton@hcps.us](mailto:abroughton@hcps.us) or visit the LMES website and click on GT under special services.



Alicia Broughton, GT Resource Teacher

# STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

Attention all students in Grades 3-5! Are you a budding scientist with a cool experiment idea? Have you engineered a great product that meets a need? Join us for our

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Laurel Meadow STEM Fair!

Any student who wants to submit a project is encouraged to do so! The blue initial interest form is due to Mrs. Broughton no later than Tuesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. A copy of the form can be obtained from your child's teacher or from [mrsbroughton.weebly.com](http://mrsbroughton.weebly.com), and by clicking on "2015-16 STEM Fair".

## 2015-16 Reflections Theme: "Let Your Imagination Fly"

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 of the teachers will be offering opportunities to write about the 2015-16 theme "Let Your Imagination Fly" for entry into the literature category. We hope that through the array of opportunities more students can enter the program this year.

Introducing the new Visual Arts 3D expansion! The visual arts category, starting with the 2015-16 Reflections program, will allow students to enter three-dimensional artworks in addition to the traditional 2D entries. Go to <http://vapta.org/arts-in-education/reflections.html> to view more information regarding this expansion.

Please contact Heather Bronson with questions or concerns (804)248-5802 or [heatherwbronson@gmail.com](mailto:heatherwbronson@gmail.com).

Entry forms are available outside the Art Room and on the PTA 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>



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

### Fundraisers

Currently, the school is sponsoring a "No-Fundraiser-Fundraiser." This is a tax deductible donation to the school. Each \$20.00 donation will enter your child into a drawing for an I-Pad Mini. We will have 3 drawings - September 18<sup>th</sup>, September 25<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>.



The PTA will be sponsoring the following fundraisers this fall. They will be selling LMES T-shirts, Tervis tumblers, cookie dough and Yankee Candles.

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

Annual  
Snowflake Breakfast  
is on the way

Saturday, December 12th  
Food \* Entertainment \* Vendors

SUPPORT LMES @  
Chick-fil-e SPIRIT NIGHT  
THURSDAY, OCT. 15  
ALL DAY!!!



**Join us**  
**Wed., September 16<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:00 - 8:00 pm @**

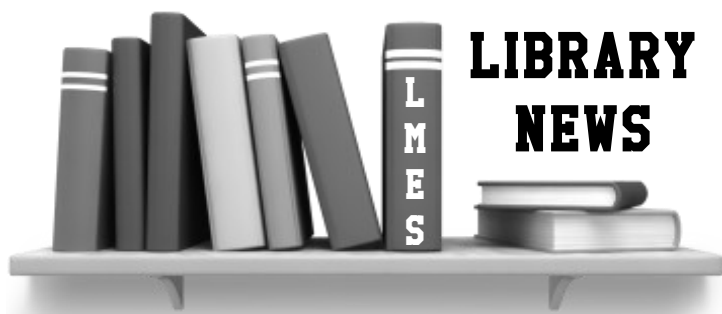


## CHARACTER CORNER

This year students and staff will, again, focus on the Six Pillars of **CHARACTER**.

**CHARACTER** Education is a national movement creating schools that foster ethical, responsible, and caring young people by modeling and teaching good **CHARACTER** through an emphasis on universal values that we all share. The **CHARACTER** traits that we will focus on are Respect, Fairness, Caring, Trustworthiness, Responsibility and Citizenship.

The Character Trait for the month of October is **RESPECT**. Students will learn to treat others with **RESPECT** by being tolerant of others and accepting of our differences, using good manners and not bad or hurtful language, and being considerate of the feelings of others. At home, parents can be supportive by teaching your child basic social interaction skills. It may sound old fashioned, but it's very important to teach your child basic manners like saying "please" and "thank you." When your child deals with his/her teachers in school or gets his/her first job and has these skills to fall back on, it will really go a long way. Understand that using manners—just a simple "excuse me" or "thank you"—is also a form of empathy. It teaches your child to **RESPECT** others and acknowledge their impact on other people.



Welcome to the Laurel Meadow Library!

We would like to encourage you to access our Virtual Library at <http://hcps.us/lmes/library.htm>.

Find out more about our library collection through Destiny Library Catalog, read an ebook, or use online reference sources that are up to date and reliable.



### **Volunteers Opportunities:**

- 📖 Book Shelves - We are looking for help in the mornings to re-shelve the books.
- 📖 Mystery Reader Program - Family members are invited to be a guest "surprise" reader once a month during library time. Books can be provided, or bring your favorites.
- 📖 Fall Book Fair - November 9-13<sup>th</sup>

### **Reading Olympics: Coming Soon!**

Invitations will be sent home on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and are due by Wednesday, September 30<sup>th</sup>. Teams and titles will be announced at the Reading Olympics Kickoff on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup> 8:15 - 9:15 a.m.

We look forward to seeing you in the library! Please feel free to contact us.

Michele Kaloski - Librarian: [mkaloski@hcps.us](mailto:mkaloski@hcps.us)

Beth Webel - Library Secretary: [ewebel@hcps.us](mailto:ewebel@hcps.us)











## **WANTED WANTED**

We're talking to all fathers, step fathers, grandfathers, uncles and important men in our students lives! Please join us by volunteering as a WatchDOG! It makes a huge difference to all of our students! This year's sign-up will begin September 14<sup>th</sup>. Look for the Watch D.O.G.S. link on the PTA website,

<http://lmespta.wordpress.com>. Also join us for Pizza & Movie Night on October 2<sup>nd</sup> to learn more and sign up!



# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6	7 Labor Day	8 	9	10	11  LMES Spirit Wear Day	12
13	14	15 <b>PTA</b> Fundraiser Begins	16 sweetFrog Spirit Night	17	18 Goodies with  Grandparents	19
20	21	22  Back to School Night	23 No School (Bike Race) 	24	25	26
27	28	29 <b>PTA</b> Fundraiser Ends	30	1  Kindergarten Principal Coffee & Chat	2  LMES Spirit Day Pizza & Movie Night	3
4	5	6	7  Walk to School Wednesday	8 Early Release	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day 	13	14  Newsletter Submissions Due	15 <u>PreK - 2<sup>nd</sup> Pictures</u>  Spirit Day	16 <u>3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Pictures</u> 	17
18	19	20	21	2	23	24
<b>Coming in November:</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> - No School 5 <sup>th</sup> - 1 <sup>st</sup> /2 <sup>nd</sup> Coffee & Chat 6 <sup>th</sup> - Early Closing 10 <sup>th</sup> - Veteran's Day Perf.		11 <sup>th</sup> - Early Closing 17 <sup>th</sup> - Riverbend Spirit Day 19 <sup>th</sup> - STEM Fair 25 <sup>th</sup> -27 <sup>th</sup> - No School	28	29 <u>Family Fitness</u> <b>PTA</b> Fundraiser Pick-up	30	31 Halloween 

The LMES **PTA** has a website!  
 Check us out at:  
[LMESPTA.wordpress.com](http://LMESPTA.wordpress.com)



**BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION**

We will be collecting **BOX TOPS** from each class on October 15<sup>th</sup>!

The class from each grade level with the most box tops will win a reward!  
 Start sending them in!

**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.

