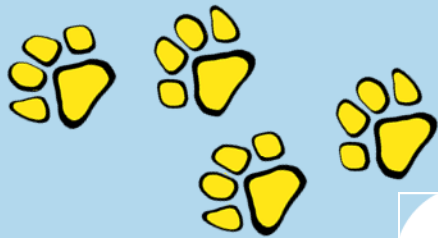


# Wild About Learning



# LMES

Volume 8, Issue 2

**PTA**

November 2015

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Nov 5 - 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> Coffee/Chat  
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Reflections Entries Due  
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Performances (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)  
Nov 11 - Early Release  
Nov 17 - Riverbound Café  
Spirit Day  
Nov 19 - STEM Fair  
Nov 25-27 - No School



## Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff,

It is hard to believe that it is almost November. This is always my favorite time of year - filled with fun watching football games, apple picking and pumpkin picking along with getting ready for the Holiday season! We hope you plan to join us this year to see the talent of our 3<sup>rd</sup> graders in the Veteran's Day Performance on Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. Plus you won't want to miss the talent from our "scientists and engineers" at the STEM Fair on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>.



We hope you will still consider joining the PTA as we are only at 46% parent participation this year! Please understand that joining the PTA does not require a time commitment. It involves paying the \$6.00 annual dues to a local community-based, non-profit organization that spends every penny to improve the lives of our children. As a PTA, we work to put technology in the classrooms (smartboards), books in the hands of our students (summer points cart and reading resources), equipment for resources such as music, art and PE, along with taking care of endless other behind-the-scenes needs for our teachers, staff and principals! Again, if you have not joined, please consider supporting your child's PTA!

Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> for our 8<sup>th</sup> annual Snowflake Breakfast! This is always an awesome event with a pancake breakfast, performances from 5<sup>th</sup> graders, vendors for shopping and of course our auction baskets which can make a perfect gift for someone. Information and ticket order forms will be coming home soon. I also encourage you to consider volunteering for this event. We can't make these events successful without the help of the parents.



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

Sincerely,  
**Dana Hughes**  
**PTA** President



## SOL Grant:

Laurel Meadow receives an SOL Grant annually. We utilize the funds to provide additional instructional support in the areas of reading and math by employing Mrs. Loretta Gordon and Mrs. Karen Thracker. Both of our tutors have had a wealth of classroom experience and are experts in implementing strategies that support student learning. They typically work with small groups in grades 3-5 to reinforce critical skills in the areas of reading or math. Their support enhances our ability to differentiate instruction in these two critical instructional areas.



## School Improvement Goals:

Laurel Meadow Elementary School is accredited by the state annually based on the results of the annual SOL Assessments administered in grades 3-5. In addition to receiving state accreditation, Hanover County Public Schools are reviewed every five years by AdvancED. This organization conducts rigorous, on-site external reviews of PreK-12 school systems to ensure that every learner realizes their full potential. Part of the process revolves around each school developing overarching goals that meet and exceed the State Accreditation Goals. As always, LMES will continue to focus on individual student achievement and continuous school improvement. However, as a school community, we will focus on the following three goals in order to meet the expectations of AdvancED.

**Goal 1.** To increase the SOL Pass Rate of current students from an 81.4% overall pass rate to a 84% overall pass rate on the 2016 Reading SOL test.

**Goal 2.** To increase STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning opportunities for all students in an effort to promote 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Skills such as collaboration and communication.

**Goal 3.** To increase parent participation in informational sessions designed to enhance their understanding of the instructional process.

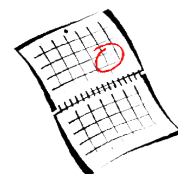
## Celebrate!!

Over 80 students participated in International Walk to School Day on October 7<sup>th</sup>. The weather cooperated; and students, parents and even family pets started their day with a brisk walk to Laurel Meadow. Research indicates that walking to school builds a sense of community by giving parents and students a chance to socialize and fosters school spirit.



## Save the Date:

- November 3<sup>rd</sup> - Student Holiday / Parent Teacher Conferences - 8:15-3:30
- November 5<sup>th</sup> - Principal Coffee - Grades 1 & 2 - 7:45 a.m.-8:45 a.m.
- November 13<sup>th</sup> - Report Cards
- November 23<sup>rd</sup> - Parent Information Session - Homework Issues - 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- November 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> - Holidays



Support **LMES** on

**Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**

**All Day**

Join us at **Riverbound CAFE**



# DON'T LET YOUR VACATION DAYS GO UN-USED!

The WatchDOGS are looking for more "DADS". (Uncles, Grandpas, & Others Included) The school year is under way, and we could really use your help by volunteering for 1 or more days. Take one of those un-used vacation days and come be a WatchDOG. You will get to see what really goes on in the life of the kids and staff at Laurel Meadow. As an



added bonus you will get the satisfaction of providing a positive influence on your children. Did I mention you will be home earlier than you would from work?

Sign-up is easy and online!

<https://LMESPTA.wordpress.com/watch-d-o-g-s/>



This year, November 17<sup>th</sup> will be the inaugural **National Healthy Lunch Day.**

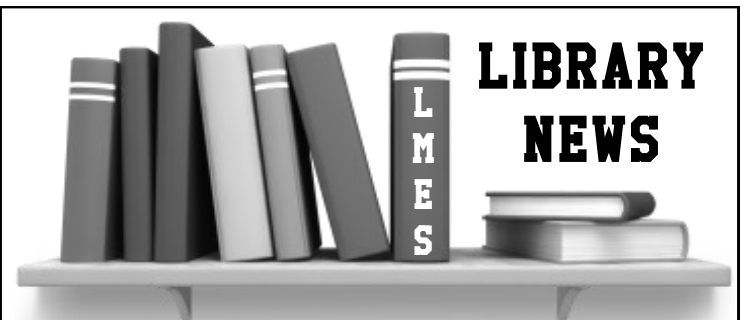
This is a time to help raise awareness about the need to make healthy lunch choices. The foods that are chosen are often full of calories, yet they lack the nutritional value our children need to sustain their bodies for long periods of time. This can lead to increased weight, low energy, and type 2 diabetes. Therefore, it is important to promote a healthy lifestyle at school and at home.

Tips for a healthy lunch include:

- ♥ fresh, raw vegetables and fruit
- ♥ lean, low sodium, minimally processed protein
- ♥ whole grains
- ♥ dairy
- ♥ healthy fats
- ♥ and plenty of water

# CHARACTER CORNER

Throughout the months of November and December, we will be focusing on the trait of **FAIRNESS** in Character Education. We will work to help your child have a deeper understanding of what **FAIRNESS** "looks like" in our actions, as well as "sounds like" with our words. We will read books and discuss the characters' approach to **FAIRNESS**, and we will take part in class activities that encourage your child to take turns and share, play by the rules, be open-minded when listening, and to take ownership of mistakes when made. At home, some ways to encourage your child to display **FAIRNESS** include: following rules in games when an adult is not present, sharing chores or responsibilities with siblings and taking turns when selecting an evening story or TV show. We look forward to rewarding acts of **FAIRNESS** in our classroom and throughout LMES over the coming months!



## Reading Olympics:

- 📖 Team Meetings  
Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> 7:50 - 8:15 a.m.
- 📖 Pamunkey Library (Mechanicsville Branch)  
Reading Olympics Read-Aloud  
Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.



## Fall Scholastic Book Fair:











- 📖 November 9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>
- 📖 Family Night - Tuesday,  
November 10<sup>th</sup> 2:30-6:30 p.m.
- 📖 Want to help?  
Go to this Sign Up Genius Link:  
<http://tinyurl.com/nns9wsq>



## LMES Virtual Library:

<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.

# NOVEMBER 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
1	2	3 No School / Parent Teacher Conferences	4	5 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Principal Coffee & Chat (7:45 a.m.) 	6 LMES Spirit Wear Reflections Entries Due Early Release 	7	
8	9 Book Fair 	10 Veteran's Day Perf. Book Fair Family Night (2:30-6:30) 	11 Early Release	12	13 →	14	
15 Newsletter Submissions Due 	16	17 NATIONAL HEALTHY LUNCH DAY Spirit Day Riverbound CAFÉ 	18	19 STEM Fair (6:30 p.m.)	20	21	
22	23	24	25 No School - Thanksgiving Break 	26	27	28	
29	30	<b>Coming in December:</b>  1 <sup>st</sup> - Skate Night - Ashland Skateland 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Principal Coffee & Chat 8 <sup>th</sup> - Reading and Writing Night 12 <sup>th</sup> - Snowflake Breakfast 				17 <sup>th</sup> - 3 <sup>rd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Winter Parties 18 <sup>th</sup> - K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Winter Parties 21 <sup>st</sup> - Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> - No School / Winter Break 	

## STEM



Science • Technology • Engineering • Math

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

Come see our very own budding scientists and engineers Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 pm

## Lost & Found

Each year, we collect an abundant amount of coats, jackets, sweaters, hats, lunch-boxes, and water bottles in our Lost & Found. Please remember to check the Lost & Found often to see if there is anything your child has left behind.



At the end of each year, we donate all unclaimed items to a local charity. This summer, we donated FOUR large boxes of clothing etc. to Green Drop Charitable Donations which will benefit Purple Heart Veterans and the Federation for the Blind.



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

Reflections awards students in pre-K through grade 12 who create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography or visual arts.

LMES will offer a workshop on October 29<sup>th</sup> in the art room from 6:30-7:30 p.m. to help students prepare and package entries for submission. During the workshop, 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.

**Entries Due Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> to the LMES Main Office**

