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LMES  
PTA

Volume 11, Issue 2

October, 2018

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Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their first month back at school getting to know your new teachers, classmates, and getting back into a routine. A big THANK YOU to all the grandparents who took time to attend our Goodies with Grandparents! We are overjoyed in how big this event gets every year. I know the students love having their grandparent here!

October is filled with lots of fun activities! International Walk to School Day is 10/3, followed by picture day on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, Riverbound Spirit Day, and the Variety Show. Our biggest event in October is **BOOSTERTHON!!** This is such a great event for the school, the PTA, and most importantly the kids. The energetic kick off pep rally and daily huddles all lead up to the grand finale – the Fun Run – Friday October 19<sup>th</sup>! Look for more information in Tuesday folders.

Don't worry if you have missed getting our newest Spirit Wear, we will have these all year. Order forms were recently sent home, or you can find the form in the office. Be on the look out for the winter spirit wear pre-order forms later this month.

Lastly, please don't forget to join the PTA if you haven't already. Membership is only \$6 per person per year. Your money not only helps fund our monthly events, but also supports the school and teacher's needs. And don't forget to fill out the volunteer form as well. Your help with our events is greatly appreciated!

Sincerely,  
Kristin Konopka  
PTA President

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**International Walk to School Day:** Laurel Meadow students are invited to participate in the International "Walk to School" event. Laurel Meadow was the recipient of a "Safe Routes to School Grant" several years ago. This grant provided more access to the school with the installation of sidewalks on Laurel Meadow Road. International Walk to School Day is a global event and it involves school communities from approximately 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day. Laurel Meadow students living within a half mile of the school, accompanied by an adult, are invited to participate in this fun event. In addition, we hope to build healthier habits for parents and students. Walking to school is a positive experience for the following reasons: it's fun, it develops healthier habits, promotes a strong sense of community, and provides another opportunity for parents to participate in a healthy activity with their child. So, join us **Wednesday, October 3rd and help the Laurel Meadow Community celebrate International Walk to School Day.**

**Boosterthon Fun Run:** This year, we will be having ONE fall fundraiser. We will be doing the Boosterthon Fun Run as a joint PTA and School Fundraiser. The Boosterthon Fun Run experience combines a fun fitness event, an interactive character program, and a highly profitable school fundraiser. It's all wrapped up in an unforgettable experience that is fun for students! The great thing is, there is nothing to sell and no door-to-door visits. Parents help your school simply by gathering pledges, a tax deductible gift, from friends and family. Pledges can be a per lap amount or flat donation. The lap average for all students on the day of the Fun Run is 30-35. The Boosterthon Fun Run program has three parts:

**Pep Rally (October 9)** This is the opening kickoff to the Boosterthon. The Boosterthon Fun Run team leads this exciting assembly-style meeting in the school gym. The team explains that the Boosterthon Fun Run will be happening the next week and how every student will run as a school.

**Team Huddle Days (15 minutes of their resource time October 10 - October 17)** The next six days are Team Huddle Days. This is the time when the Boosterthon Fun Run team makes the character theme come to life, rewards students for helping their school, and reminds classes about the upcoming Fun Run.

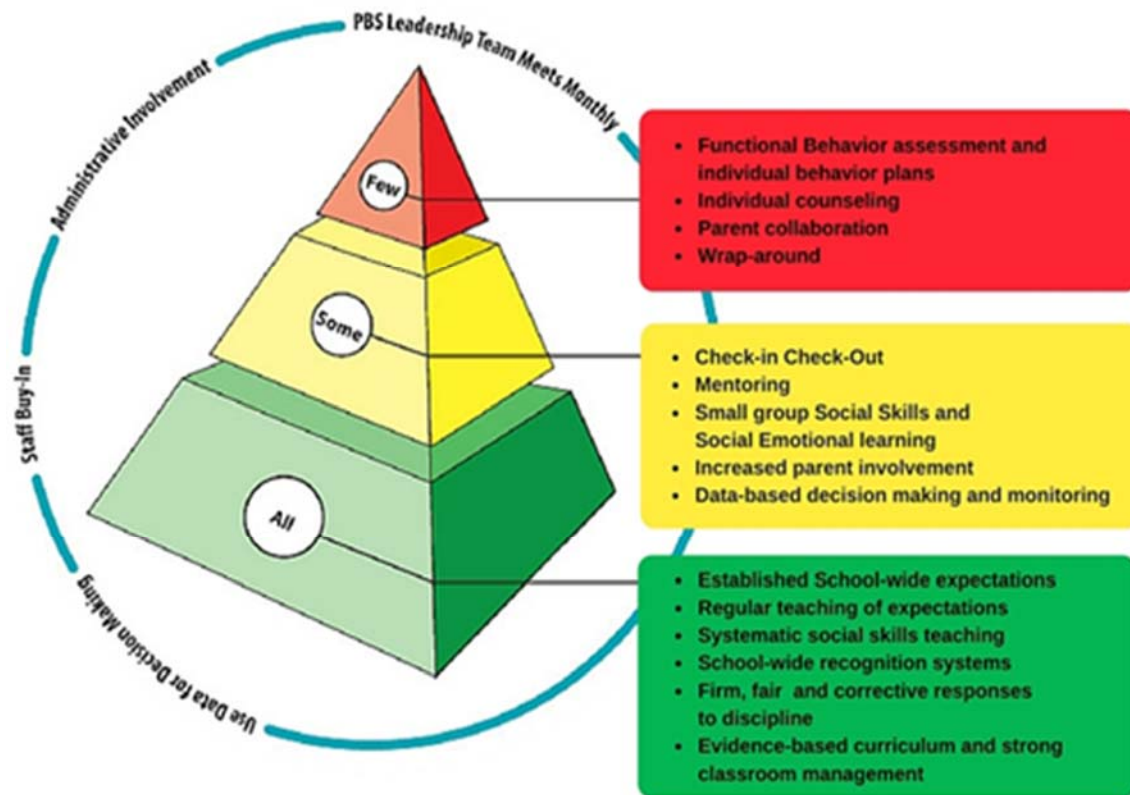
**Fun Run (October 19)** This is the day everyone's been waiting for! The Boosterthon Fun Run team begins setting up the speedway early in the morning. When students arrive to class, they prepare to come out to the speedway. Students run for 30 minutes to upbeat, themed music. Parents are invited to line the inside of the track as the official cheer squad. As the run ends, laps are tallied and students review the character lessons.

**Discipline at Laurel Meadow Elementary School:** LMES utilizes a Positive Behavior System. <https://www.pbis.org/school/swpbis-for-beginners>. Our practice is to teach discipline just as we teach core curriculum. We focus on four areas: Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Ready to Learn. Especially at the beginning of the year, our teachers instruct students on what those behaviors look like in each area of the school. Throughout the year, students review expectations from the matrices they created at the beginning of the year. We recognize positive behaviors by having students put paw prints in containers for a monthly drawing. Additionally, classes work toward class incentives that are non-tangibles, such as lunch with the teacher, additional recess time, dance party in the classroom, etc.

If students have difficulty with following our expectations, we move to "Tier 2" interventions. These include Checking In with a trusted staff member, working with our school counselor on social skills, meeting with parents, and looking at data for trends.

If students continue to struggle, more intensive interventions are put into place, such as individual counseling and working with community services.

Our philosophy is that children will do better if they know better.



## A Message From the School Counselors

Welcome to the 2018-2019 school year! The LMES school counselors are: Carol Anne Ziolkowski, full time counselor working with students in grades K, 1, 3, 4, and 5; and Katie Scott, part time counselor here on Wednesdays working with students in second grade. During the months of September and October, we are busy introducing ourselves in each classroom. We use the opportunity to inform students that our services include facilitating classroom lessons, teaching small groups of students, and working with students individually. During this introductory lesson, we also discuss perseverance, goal setting, and college/career readiness especially pertaining to our careers as school counselors.

In addition to the introductory lessons, Dr. Ziolkowski collaborated with Mrs. Martin (school nurse), Mrs. Domroes (ITRT), and Mr. Denslow (sysop), to present an interactive lesson to all fifth grade classes on hygiene. Additionally, the counselors are in the process of hosting lunches with students in grades 1-5 who are new to LMES. The lunches are designed to help the counselors get to know the students, to help the students feel welcomed at our school, and to help the students locate the counseling offices.

We look forward to working with you and the students of LMES as we begin another exciting and successful school year! We can be reached by phone at 723-2040 or by email at: [cziolkowski@hcps.us](mailto:cziolkowski@hcps.us) for Dr. Z or [kscott@hcps.us](mailto:kscott@hcps.us) for Mrs. Scott.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY TIPS

### Teach Kids How to Walk Safely

1. Teach kids at an early age to look left, right and left again before crossing the street. Then remind them to continue looking until safely across.
2. It's always best to walk on sidewalks or paths and cross at street corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
3. Teach kids to make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
4. Children under 10 need to cross the street with an adult. Every child is different, but developmentally, most kids are unable to judge the speed and distance of oncoming cars until age 10.
5. Encourage kids to be especially alert for cars that are turning or backing up.
6. Teach kids not to run or dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
7. If kids are walking when it's dark out, teach them to be especially alert and make sure they are visible to drivers. Have them wear light- or brightly-colored clothing and reflective gear.



### WALK TO SCHOOL WEDNESDAY

Please plan to join us on **Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>** for International Walk to School Wednesday, as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. If you live within one-half mile of Laurel Meadow and walk with a parent, you may join in this event. Walkers may sign-in and enter the building at the front door.

We hope to see you there!

## LIBRARY NEWS

We would like to invite you to access the Virtual Library at <http://hcps.lmes.us>. Click Resources and Library.

Through the Destiny Library Catalog, you can browse the collection, read an ebook, or use online reference sources.

Would you like to be a part of our exciting library? Contact the library, or sign up online through Google Forms through this link:

<https://goo.gl/forms/zzsREtmV3Gs3QXG82>

We are looking for Mystery Readers and Book Fair Volunteers. (Fall Fair-November 12-16th/ Spring Fair April 15-19th)

Reading Olympics-4th and 5th grades only.

The RO Kickoff will be Friday, October 5th from 8:10am-8:50am. Book titles, coaches, and teams will be announced.

Each participant will receive a folder packet with important dates, graphic organizers, book lists, and other details.

Please feel free to contact us!

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

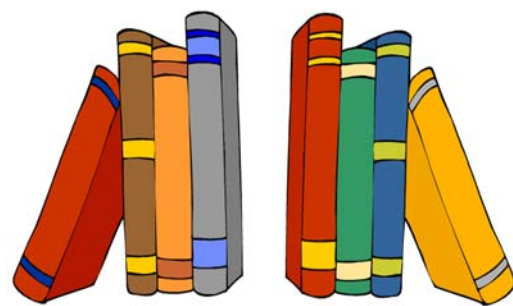
Beth Webel-Library Secretary: [ewebel@hcps.us](mailto:ewebel@hcps.us)

### Welcome Ms. McNeely

Happy October! I am settling in Laurel Meadow and am enjoying working with your students. In case they haven't told you, the STEM lab is now upstairs. Different venue, same creative learning environment! The STEM lab can use your help. Donations of items such as egg cartons, cardboard tubes, cardstock, and other recyclables are always welcome!

Please note that our gifted referral window is this spring. All referrals should be submitted by January 31. If you need the referral forms, please email me and I will send a packet home. ([tmcneely@hcps.us](mailto:tmcneely@hcps.us)) I am happy to answer any questions as well. Thank you for the warm welcome to Laurel Meadow!

-Teresa McNeely, Gifted Resource Teacher



The PTA Reflections Program gives students the opportunity to create theme-based artwork in dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, or visual arts.

This year's theme is "Heroes Around Me". Student submissions are due to the office by November 1, 2018. Visit the Virginia PTA website for complete rules and entry forms. <https://www.vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections>

Contact our Arts & Education Chair, Angela Parsley ([amp42200@yahoo.com](mailto:amp42200@yahoo.com)) with questions about the Reflections Program.

# Bus Driver Appreciation

National School Bus Safety week is October 15-19, 2018. During that week, show your bus driver how much you appreciate him/her driving you to school safely each day. Write a thank you note or just be sure to say thank you!



Hope you've got a big stash of Box Tops to turn in! Last year's contributions earned over \$1800 for Laurel Meadow! Your fall submissions are due by Friday, October 12th. Classes submitting the most Box Tops will win special prizes!

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