



LMES PTA

Volume 12, Issue 2

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- Nov 5 Student Holiday

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.

October is filled with lots of fun activities! International Walk to School Day is October 2nd, followed by Reading Olympics Kick-off on October 4th, Picture Day is October 24th and Chipotle Spirit Night is October 29th from 4 to 8 p.m. 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 18th! 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 \$8 per person or \$15 for family in same household. 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! Our next PTA general meeting is October 24th at 5:30 p.m. before Family Fitness Night.

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 2nd 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, tax deductible, 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 8) 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 (October 9 - October 17) The next seven 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 18) 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. 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 on the Pawsitive Praise Wall. Additionally, classes work toward class incentives that are nontangibles, 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.

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 2nd** 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.

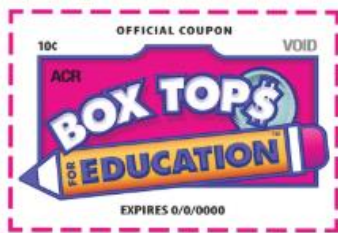
We hope to see you there!



Dear Families,

The Box Tops for Education program is changing the way we can earn cash for our school!

Over the summer, participating brands have begun to change their packaging from the traditional Box Tops clip to the new Box Tops label.



SEE THIS...
CLIP IT



SEE THIS...
SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

Going forward, instead of clipping from packages and checking expiration dates, all Box Tops will be earned digitally by scanning your receipt. The Box Tops for Education team has worked hard to build a NEW-and-improved, user-friendly Box Tops mobile app, available now.

The new app features state-of-the-art technology that allows you to scan your store receipt, find participating products and instantly add Box Tops to our school's earnings online.

**BE SURE TO DOWNLOAD THE NEW APP
OR UPDATE YOUR EXISTING APP:**



If you still have traditional Box Tops clips at home, make sure to send them to school. We will still earn cash for all clipped Box Tops until they expire. Better yet, you can “double dip” during the packaging transition by clipping traditional Box Tops AND scanning your store receipt containing participating products.

Thanks for helping our school get what it needs!

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THESE CHANGES AT
BTFE.COM**

LIBRARY NEWS

What an exciting start to the 2019-2020 school year! The books are flying off the shelves with eager readers! We've been learning how to find good fit books and how to access information through our library resources. You are invited to visit our Virtual Library where you can access our collection through [Destiny Library Catalog](#) and use valuable reference sources and databases.

[Click here to access the Library Catalog](#)



Volunteer Opportunities- Would you like to be part of our library program? There are many opportunities throughout the year. Click this link to sign up! [Library Volunteer Form](#)

Mystery Reader Program-October 28-November 1st Family members are invited to be a surprise guest reader during their child's library time.

Fall Book Fair-November 18-22nd; Family Night November 19th 2:30-6:30pm

Birthday Book Program

You are welcome to donate a new hardback book in honor of your child's birthday. We will recognize your child with a special book label inside the cover and treat bag. Look for the birthday letter during the month of your child's birthday.

A message from Ms. McNeely

Screening for the Gifted Program is conducted in the spring semester for K-12 in the areas of General Intellectual Aptitude and Specific Academic Aptitude. In order for a student to be considered for the Gifted Program, he or she must first be referred for evaluation. A referral can be initiated by:

- a parent
- a teacher, counselor, or staff member
- a peer
- a community member
- by the student

An Initial Referral/Permission for Evaluation form **MUST** be completed and submitted by January 31 which is obtained through the Gifted Resource Teacher. Testing **CANNOT** begin until we have a signed permission form. All referrals that come in after the deadlines will be held until the next scheduled testing period. Please contact Teresa McNeely at tmcneely@hcps.us if you are interested in referring your child for the program or if you have any questions.



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 "Look Within".

Student submissions are due to the office by November 1, 2019.

Contact our Arts & Education Chair, Amy Kuti and Theresa Smither, 804-723-2040, akuti@hcps.us, tsmither@hcps.us with questions about the Reflections Program.

Bus Driver Appreciation



In honor of National School Bus Safety Week October 21-25, don't forget to thank your bus driver! Have your child write a thank you note to his/her bus driver for getting students to school safely each day, or give your bus driver a piece of fruit or sweet treat to show your appreciation.



Thank you to our Boosterthon Sponsors!



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OCTOBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Walk to School Wednesday Custodian Appreciation Day		Interims Reading Olympics Kick- Off 8:15-8:45 AM	
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Boosterthon Pep Rally	Boosterthon Team Huddles			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Student Holiday	Boosterthon Team Huddles			Boosterthon FUN RUN!!!! 	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Early School Closing			Picture Day PTA Meeting 5:30 PM Family Fitness Night 6:30 PM		
	National School Bus Week					
27	28	29	30	31		
		Chipotle Spirit Night 4-8 PM				



In Search of....

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 ★ **Save the Date for the Boosterthon** ★
 ★ **Fun Run!** ★
 ★
 ★ Friday, October 18th
 ★ PreK - 1st grade 8:20 - 9:20 a.m.
 ★ 4th & 5th grade 9:25 - 10:25 a.m.
 ★ 2nd & 3rd grade 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
 ★
 ★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

I am looking for a parent with a spray paint gun to spray paint the fence with a blue sky and green grass. The paint (of course) will be provided if approved by the school and County. Any parent who does have a spray paint gun and who would like to volunteer can contact me at jhairston@hcps.us or call the school's office at 723-2040.

Thank you. Ms. Jamesha Hairston