



LMES PTA

Volume 12, Issue 4

December, 2019

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Dec 10 Riverbound Spirit Day

Dec 10 Spelling Bee 9am

Dec 13 Interim Report Day

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Dec 23-Jan 3 Winter Break

Jan 16 PTA meeting 5:30pm

Jan 17 Donuts for Dad

7:30-8:00 A.M.

Jan 20 School Holiday

Jan 23/24 Early School Closing/End

Of Semester

Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff,

As the winter season approaches, I know the kids are getting ready for winter break. But before we have two weeks off to enjoy the holidays, I wanted to give a BIG thank you to all who came to Goodies with Grandparents. We had 475 grandparents and students join us again this year! I know the students love having their grandparents here! I also want to thank the Hospitality committee for all their hard work planning this PTA sponsored event.

Don't forget to join us at Riverbound Café on Tuesday, December 10th for our all-day Spirit Day! Look for information to come home about winter class parties in Tuesday folders. All class parties are on the same day, Friday, December 20th.

I can't wait to see everyone in the new year, 2020!!!

Sincerely,
Kristin Konopka
PTA President



Published by the Laurel Meadow Elementary School PTA

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Veterans Day Program: 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.



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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). 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.

HOLIDAYS

It's that time of year again when we enjoy festive meals with family and friends, deck our halls with colorful decorations and listen to squeals of delight as our children open their brightly-wrapped presents. To help ensure your kids have fun and stay safe this holiday, here are a few tips to remember.

Top Tips

1. Natural trees look beautiful and smell great, but if they're not watered regularly, needles can dry out and pose a potential fire hazard. Make sure your tree has plenty of water by checking it regularly.
2. Keep holiday candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and don't forget to blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.
3. Consider your child's age when purchasing a **toy or game** this holiday season. It's worth a second to read the instructions to make sure the gift is just right.
4. Keep a special eye on small pieces, including **button batteries** that may be included in electronic toys. While these kinds of games are great for older kids, they can pose a potential danger for younger, curious siblings.
5. Kids love to reach, so to **prevent burns** from hot holiday food or liquid spills, simply use the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge.
6. Kids are curious and will want to play with the ornaments on the tree, so you might as well prepare. Move the ornaments that are breakable or have metal hooks towards the top of the tree. That makes room at the bottom for the ones that are safer for young kids.



Help Wanted for our LMES Family Art Fest!

Calling all Artists and Art Supporters,

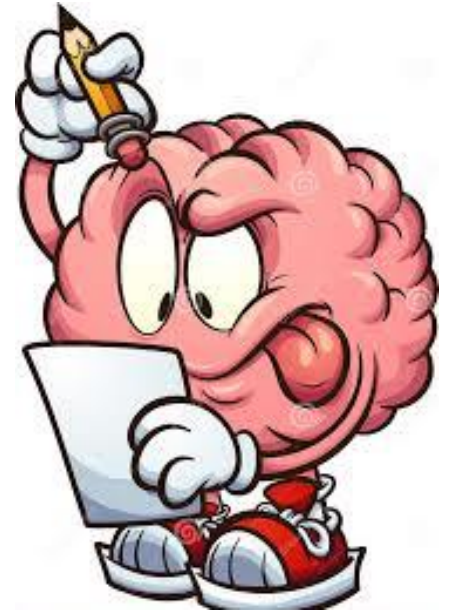
Coming soon... The LMES F.A.N. (Family Art Night)! Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 27, 2020 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The LMES Art Night Committee is looking for volunteers to run art stations. Please contact Ms. Hairston at jhairston@hcps.us if you would like to volunteer.

MindUp

What is mindful awareness? The MindUp Curriculum defines mindful awareness as “attending to the here and now – other people, the environment, a concern or challenge – in a considerate, nonjudgmental way.” To develop this skills, kids need practice tuning in to their present situation through their senses. By doing so, kids will be able to make better choices.

How can you help your child be more mindful at home?

- Have them draw a picture of something they enjoy doing. Talk about how they could be mindful when doing that task.
- Give them a scenario (i.e. A child is playing baseball. His shoes are tied in a sloppy way.) Discuss what could happen next if the child was mindful (will stop and tie his shoes) or unmindful (may fall and hurt himself).
- Have your family sit together and not move or talk for 30 seconds. Discuss what you heard. Repeat for smell and sight.



Spring 2020 Gifted Referrals

Screening is conducted in the spring semester for the Gifted Program 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 the testing deadline (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.

If you are interested in referring your child, please contact Teresa McNeely at tmcneely@hcps.us and the referral form will be sent home in January.

DECEMBER 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 Riverbound Spirit Day/ Spelling Bee 9am	11	12	13 Interims	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 Winter Parties	21
22	23 WINTER BREAK	24 WINTER BREAK	25 WINTER BREAK	26 WINTER BREAK	27 WINTER BREAK	28
29	30 WINTER BREAK	31 WINTER BREAK				

Laurel Meadow Teacher and Staff Breakfast

December 16, 2019

The LMES PTA will be coordinating breakfast for our awesome teachers and staff on Monday, December 16th! Please consider donating breakfast items such as breads, muffins, casseroles, fruit, yogurt, juice, etc. to help make this breakfast a success. Hot Casseroles are a favorite!

Please send/bring your donations to school on Monday, December 16th beginning at 7:30 a.m. Thank you in advance for your support of our wonderful teachers and staff.

Contact Elizabeth Elza at elzaelizabeth@yahoo.com with any questions.

Please use the following link on **SignUp Genius** to sign up for various breakfast items or send your items in the morning of December 16th.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094caea82fa0fc1-staff>