



## McAuliffe International School

McAuliffe School News | September 1, 2016

### Principal's Message

Hello, McAuliffe Parents!

As a middle schooler, your child is learning to take full responsibility for managing his or her school work. During the first week of school, all McAuliffe students received a student planner to assist with this task. Students use their planners to track their assignments and to make note of important reminders. We encourage you to talk to your student about how they're using their student planner and to see if they are tracking their assignments and deadlines for their classes. This skill will be put to great use in high school and beyond!

I would also like to recommend that you set aside some time every few weeks to go through your student's academic binders. Choose an evening when you can sit down at the kitchen table with your student and he or she can show you the work they're doing for each of their classes. This will be a great opportunity for you to ask questions of your



Home of the Sun Devils

#### IMPORTANT DATES

**Fri 9/2**

First Friday Coffee,  
8:00am in library

**Mon 9/5**

No school - Labor  
Day

**Wed 9/7**

Social Committee  
Meeting, 5:00pm

**Mon 9/12**

Tryouts start for

student and to learn more about the skills and knowledge that he or she is acquiring at McAuliffe.

Thank you and enjoy the three day weekend!

Principal Kurt Dennis

*Note: If this newsletter is truncated by your email program, click to 'view in browser' to see the whole newsletter.*

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## TOP NEWS

*Check out our Coming Events section below for info about our First Friday Coffee tomorrow morning, our Social Committee meeting, the first Math Team practice, and more!*

### **Labor Day - Monday, Sept. 5th**

This is a reminder that Monday, September 5th is Labor Day and there is no school.

### **McAuliffe Spirit Wear for Sale - Today After School**

We will be selling spirit wear on Thursday after school. Cash or check made out to McAuliffe at Smiley Foundation accepted.

- All-Access Wristbands to Theatre Performances: \$10
- Socks: \$15 pair
- Hats: \$25

Students on Stage

#### **Thur 9/15**

Collaborate School Committee (CSC) meeting, 7:00pm, library

#### **Thur 9/22**

Late start at 10:30am

#### **Fri 9/23**

Picture Make-Up/Retakes

#### **Wed 10/19 - Thur 10/20**

Students on Stage talent show, 6:00pm

**GET THE MCAULIFFE APP!**

For [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices





### **Lost & Found**

Lost & Found, which is located in our school office, is typically donated or disposed of on the last day of each month. Lost & Found will be donated Friday, September 2nd at 3:00pm. Please mark items such as backpacks and binders with your child's name; in the winter, we collect a lot of lost McAuliffe sweatshirts and jackets! Expensive items such as jewelry and digital electronics are stored separately by Mrs. Pittman in the office and are not donated at the end of each month but are kept until the end of the school year.

### **8th Graders - Emcee Tryouts Next Week!**

Have you ever wanted to host Saturday Night Live or American's Got Talent? We are looking for 8-10 outgoing 8th graders to emcee Students on Stage. Emcees' responsibilities will include hosting the shows, judging of acts during tryouts, writing skits to perform between acts, and the overseeing of

acts (with parental help) to ensure that all acts are performance-ready. Emcee tryouts will be during 8th grade lunch the week of Sept. 6th in room B12. Sign-up for emcee tryouts will be posted outside the auditorium doors. Emcees should prepare an original 2-minute monologue, story, impersonation, etc., for their tryout. Selected emcees will be announced on Friday, September 9th. Find more info about Students on Stage [here](#).

### **Intramural Sports - Early Fall**

See dates and times below for our fall Intramurals.

Times are 4:00-5:00pm with Coach Keeney.

- Soccer: Tuesday, August 30 & Thursday, September 1
- Gaga Ball: Tuesday, September 6 & Thursday, September 8
- Basketball: Wednesday, September 14 & Friday, September 16
- Ultimate Frisbee: Tuesday, September 20 & Thursday, September 22

### **After-School Enrichments Now Posted!**

We have now posted our new Fall After-School Enrichments! Visit our [Enrichments page](#) for details. Families register directly with the Enrichments instructor, and each class has a minimum number of students needed to run as well as a maximum number capacity. If your child is interested in one of these classes, please don't delay registering with the instructor; classes that do not meet minimum enrollment may be cancelled. For questions about our Enrichments program, please contact [sherry\\_beardshear@dpsk12.org](mailto:sherry_beardshear@dpsk12.org).

### **La Raza Club**

La Raza Club is a student club geared towards

Hispanic and Latino students. Our goal is to help students connect with their heritage and culture by introducing them to peers and community leaders with similar backgrounds. We will meet on red day Fridays during advisory (9:25-9:45 am) in room 202 (Ms. Gonzales' classroom). For more information about this and other clubs, visit our [Clubs page](#).

### **Bee/Wasp Alert!**

Our school nurse, Kathy Lehman, has reported that several students have been stung by a bee or wasp hovering low on the grass fields at McAuliffe. She is able to help treat these stings with ice and alcohol swabs, but recommends that students be careful if they're wearing sandals and might be better off wearing sneakers for now.

### **Lighten the Load**

With the start of school, parents and students should make sure heavy backpacks aren't too much of a burden. If a backpack is too heavy, back pain can result when muscles and joints are strained. How much is too much? Most physicians and physical therapists recommend that kids carry no more than 10-15% of their body weight in the backpacks. See tips below, and read more at [KidsHealth.org](#). - *Kathy Lehman, School Nurse*

- Choose backpacks ending above the waist, with padded shoulder straps and a belt.
- Wear backpacks on both shoulders
- Pull the shoulder straps snug
- Place heavier books closest to the back
- Bend your knees when lifting the backpack
- Carry only what's necessary each day

### **IB Learner Corner**

- **The Learner Profile trait for the month of September is Thinkers**, which means “we use critical and creative thinking skills to analyse and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.” How do you problem-solve with your family, or in your workplace? How do you make ethical choices – especially in circumstances when that isn’t easy? Why is thinking an important skill for global citizens to exercise? Please discuss this trait with your family throughout the month of September.
  - **This month’s 'reason why' the MYP** encourages you to become a creative, critical, and reflective learner is that “The MYP encourages critical thinking: It teaches you to analyse and evaluate issues, generate novel ideas and consider new perspectives.” We want our students to be actively engaged in their learning at school so they can make a difference in our global community.
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## COMING EVENTS

### **First Friday Coffee - September 2nd**

Please join us for our First Friday Coffee on September 2nd at 8:00am in the library. Hosted by Activities Coordinator Sherry Beardshear and held on the first Friday of each month (except holidays), this is a chance to learn about upcoming school events, how to get involved, hear from different staff members, and socialize with other parents. On September 2nd our coffee will begin with a quick introduction and welcome from our

administrative team. Hope to see you there!

### **Social Committee Meeting - Sept. 7th**

Jackie Michaelsen, chairperson of the Social Committee at McAuliffe, is forming the Social Committee for this calendar year. The committee's main responsibility is the winter dance, scheduled this year on December 16th for 6th graders and December 21st for 7th and 8th graders.

The first meeting to kick off planning for the winter dance will be held at the school on Wednesday, September 7th from 5:00-7:00pm. Please email Jackie at jamichaelsen14@gmail.com to join the committee if you did not already at Back to School Night, let her know you will or will not be at the first meeting, provide your ideas, or even offer your services as a chaperone. Please email prior to September 6th so we know how many people to expect for the initial meeting. Please consider joining this fun committee! Thank you!

### **Math Team - First Meeting Thurs., Sept. 8th**

The McAuliffe Math Team will start morning practices on Thursday, September 8th at 7:00am in the library. Please have students enter through the front door this year. The doors will be open from 6:50-7:00 and will be locked promptly at 7:00am. There will not be donuts at each practice this year, so please either send your student with something in their belly, have them carry a small snack to consume during practice, and/or remind them that they can pick up a free bagged breakfast in the lobby after practice to consume during homeroom. We're excited for another great Math Team year! Find more information and subscribe to our Math Team news at <http://www.mcauliffemath.org>.

## **Wellness Team - September 6th**

Our first Wellness Team meeting of the 2016-17 school year will be on Tuesday, September 6 from 4:15- 5:15. We welcome any and all of you with an interest in health & wellness! This is a partnership with Be Well, and we hope to continue to make improvements at McAuliffe in regards to staff, student and community health and wellness. Please contact Kendra Collings at [Kendra\\_collings@dpsk12.org](mailto:Kendra_collings@dpsk12.org) if you have any questions or concerns.

## **Collaborative School Committee - September 15, 7:00pm**

Our Collaborative School Committee meets the third Thursday of every month in the library at 7:00pm, with the first meeting taking place on September 15th. This meeting is open to any of members of our McAuliffe community – you do not need to be a member of the CSC to attend.

## **Students On Stage! - October 19th and 20th**

Got talent? Calling all actors, musicians, singers, magicians, and talented McAuliffe students to show your stuff at the 2nd annual *Students on Stage* talent show. This two-night performance will be Wednesday, October 19th and Thursday, October 20th at 6:00pm. All proceeds from this event will go to the student trip scholarship fund. Go [here](#) to learn more about tryouts, performance schedules and more!

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## **WEEK IN REVIEW**

### **Thanks to Lockheed Martin for the Mars Experience Bus!**

On Tuesday, all our 8th grade students were able

to ride on the Mars Experience Bus through the Generation Beyond program with Lockheed Martin. We learned that there is a manned mission to Mars planned for 2028, and a child currently in school will one day be able to take part in that mission! Check out this video of the event [here](#)! Thanks to the DPS Foundation for this opportunity, and thanks to Sherry Beardshear for organizing this event.



### **McAuliffe 6th Graders Take Top Spots in Triathlon!**

Congratulations to 6th graders Ezra Caplan (1st Place, 11 y.o. boys) and Ryan Hajek (2nd Place, 11 y.o. boys) for their success at the 2016 Stapleton Kids Triathlon last weekend!



## REMINDERS

### **Picture Re-Takes - September 23rd**

Make-up/Retakes picture day is September 23rd. Unlike on our first picture day, students must wear their McAuliffe uniform on September 23rd but can change into their picture outfit for their picture, then return to wearing their uniform.

If you did not already submit your order envelope and payment for school pictures, the McAuliffe office is no longer accepting orders but you can still order online. To order, go to [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) and use school code CG946588Y0. Please note the [mylifetouch.com](http://mylifetouch.com) website accepts picture day

orders and payment several business days after picture day but closes orders temporarily while pictures are being processed. LifeTouch sends McAuliffe sample proof sheets about 2-3 weeks after picture day that will come home with your student; this proof sheet includes a Portrait ID and Access code so you can access your child's images online and place your order. LifeTouch holds the images for 11 months from picture day.

### **GT Update**

Parents, if you have a student who is identified as gifted and talented, you should have received an email this last weekend. The email contained information about the program, a code for the GT Edmodo page and a flyer for the academic enrichments. If you did not receive this email, please first make sure it is not in your spam folder then email [becky\\_middleton@dpsk12.org](mailto:becky_middleton@dpsk12.org).

### **Service Learning Trips**

We are excited to start the service learning trips with our students in September. Fall trips will be to Dahlia Square, Ronald McDonald House, local elementary schools, Metro Caring, and Montbello Manor. Students can access information and the Google sign-up form via the Activities Edmodo group to be included in the trips. Our goal is to get everyone on a trip this year, but we need you to complete the form in order to participate. Any questions to Laura Rogers at [laura\\_rogers@dpsk12.org](mailto:laura_rogers@dpsk12.org)

## **East High School – Shadowing for Current 8th Graders Opened Today**

This morning, 9/1/2016, East High School opened the online scheduler for Shadow Day appointments. If a student is interested in shadowing at East HS this fall, parents/guardians will need to sign students up at <http://east.dpsk12.org/incoming-9th-graders-3/> no earlier than 8am tomorrow. Shadow days fill up very quickly, so if your child is interested, please act quickly to reserve a spot. If you are unable to get a shadowing appointment, there will also be a group tour and information session on Thursday, December 8th at 9:00am. Visit the [East website](#) to confirm current information.

## **Northfield High School Shadowing and Tours**

Interested in knowing more about Northfield High School? We encourage current 8th graders to shadow! You will have the opportunity to meet our freshmen students and teachers, visit our core and elective classes, and take a tour around the school. Our shadow days are every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:00-11:00am. Please contact our Parent Liaison, Heba Nabhan at 720.423.8016 or [Heba\\_Nabhan@dpsk12.org](mailto:Heba_Nabhan@dpsk12.org) with any questions regarding specific classes you would like to visit or any accommodations in which we can assist. Please click [here](#) to sign up for student shadowing.

We also invite parents to come tour Northfield HS. You will have the opportunity to meet our Principal, Amy Bringedahl, and Assistant Principal, Polica Houston. Our parent tours are every Friday from 9:00-10:00am. Please click [here](#) to sign up for Parent Tours.

## **George Washington HS - Shadowing and Open House**

GW is offering shadowing on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays from September 12 – December 13.

There will be no shadowing in January. Shadowing is booked on a first come first served basis. Open House events will be held on the following dates:

- October 12, 2016 – 6:00pm
- December 7, 2016 – 6:00pm

Learn about our academic programs, take a tour, meet the principal, explore electives, and discover student clubs – GW's open houses are a whirlwind tour of everything George has to offer! We also have Parent Coffees and other information on our website [here](#).

## **GreenLeaf Farm-Raiser Event - September 17th**

Join us on Saturday, September 17th for the 2016 Farm-Raiser Benefit Concert featuring the amazing world dance band Pink Hawks! Click [here](#) for more information.

WHEN: September 17, 2016, 5:00-9:00pm

WHERE: The Art Garage, 6100 E. 23rd Ave.,  
Denver, CO 80207

WHY: To support GreenLeaf's year-round youth leadership development programs

TICKETS: Starting at just \$15

## **DPS Bond and Mill Levy**

This fall, the Denver Public Schools Board of Education is putting an initiative on the ballot seeking voter approval of bond and mill levy proposals to increase funding for our schools. We are sharing [this letter](#) to address common questions about what this might mean for your family and your community.

## Lead Testing in DPS

Denver Public Schools and Denver Water are partnering in a proactive effort to sample drinking water in all DPS buildings to ensure it meets Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) guidelines for schools. In recent months, there have been a number of news stories about high lead levels in school drinking water. Lead isn't present in the water Denver Water sends to our schools, but lead can get into water as it moves through lead-containing plumbing and fixtures. While we do not have evidence at this time that our schools have elevated levels of lead in their water supply, the safety of our students and staff is our top priority.

This week, on Aug. 23, we began our effort to sample the water in drinking fountains, kitchen food prep sinks, lounge sinks and any other fixtures used for drinking water in all DPS school facilities. Gathering samples for testing is taking place before the start of the school day. We plan to complete sampling of all elementary schools by the end of October and all remaining schools by the end of the year. Analysis of the water samples will not be available for some weeks after that. [View this link](#) for more information.

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## THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

Thank you to our new Supernova sponsor, [Sexton Lawton Architecture!](#)

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See all our wonderful sponsors [here](#)!

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## HELPFUL LINKS

**Website:** <http://mcauliffe.dpsk12.org/>

**Calendar and Bell**

**Schedule:** <http://mcauliffe.dpsk12.org/about-mis/calendars-bell-schedule/>

**McAuliffe app:** Available for [iOS](#) and [Android](#) devices!

**Order school uniforms:** [McAuliffe store page](#) on [www.saiteamsports.com](http://www.saiteamsports.com)

**McAuliffe Facebook**

**page:** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/702585036483556/>

**DPS Parent Portal:** [myportal.dpsk12.org](http://myportal.dpsk12.org)

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