

McAuliffe International School Weekly News

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McAuliffe School News | October 5, 2023

Dear McAuliffe Community,

Hello from the 8th grade culture team! One of the many special things about McAuliffe is how our culture teams rise every year with our students while they attend McAuliffe. This presents a special opportunity for us to get to know our students and learn how we can best support them and prepare them for high school and beyond.

In 8th grade, this includes completing their middle school [ICAP \(Individual Career and Academic Plan\)](#) lessons, mentor groups that pair students with high schoolers, lessons on high school readiness (time management, organization, grading information, graduation requirements, etc.), and most importantly, continuing to hold them to high expectations and accountable for their attendance, assignments, and overall actions and choices.

We also hold an annual High School Showcase each year and are excited to invite all 8th graders and their families to the Showcase next Wednesday, October 11th, at 5:30pm. Students will have the opportunity to hear from McAuliffe Alumni about their transition to high school and can speak with 23 Denver High Schools to learn more about their instructional models, expectations, specialities, college-level programming, and extracurricular activities. Information about the high schools that will be in attendance can be found on the [HS Showcase Info Page](#).

~ The 8th Grade Culture Team

IMPORTANT DATES

For a full list of upcoming events visit our [website](#).

Saturday 10/7

Campus Clean-up, 9:00am-12:00pm

Wednesday 10/11

High School Showcase, 5:30pm

Thursday-Monday 10/12-10/16

Fall Break, No School

Thursday 10/19

Picture Retake Day

Dine & Donate @ Mod Pizza

CELEBRATING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

To me, Hispanic Heritage Month means recognizing and celebrating various aspects of my background. By recognizing the hardships my family has endured and celebrating their hard work, I aspire to make them proud by reconnecting with my roots. My family is a very important part of celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month because without them I would not have learned the cultural traditions we celebrate, the language we speak, or the food we eat. One of my favorite traditions that we celebrate is called a Quinceanera. A Quinceanera is a big milestone for young girls to recognize their womanhood and to celebrate their 15th birthday. Many quinceanera's start off with a special mass as a way of blessing the birthday girl. Later in the evening the party starts with food, treats, family, and music at a fancy venue. The birthday girl wears a beautiful big dress, has a theme to the party, and has a court of her closest friends/family with chambelanes (boys) and/or damas (girls) to dance with her during the Valz (Waltz) and Baile Sorpresa (Surprise Dance). One of my favorite traditions at a Quinceanera is when the birthday girl passes down one of her favorite dolls to their little sister or cousin. This represents that the birthday girl is not a little girl anymore and is growing up into a young adult. As the night goes on, the birthday girl is filled with laughter, dancing, food, and more! This past weekend my family and I celebrated my cousin's Quinceanera and had a blast! My cousin's special night reminded me of when I had my Quinceanera 7 years ago and I gave her my favorite doll. Here is a photo of all of my cousins with

the beautiful birthday girl and a photo of me on my Quinceanera day.



I love learning new things about my culture and being able to celebrate traditions like Quinceanera's with my family. I think it is important to understand our families background and traditions they celebrate because it helps shape us into who we are. Being a young Latina woman I am honored to work with students and share my culture with them not only during this month but throughout the year. I also am very passionate about helping students connect with their cultural roots through clubs like Hermanas Unidas and La Raza. Hermanas Unidas is a club for students to learn about their identity and meet other peers with similar backgrounds. We also go on field trips, learn what it means to be a leader, and participate in community service. La Raza is a new club that will start this October for any students who would like to join to connect with their culture through listening to community guest speakers, learning how to use their voice, and going out to support the community. If you are interested in joining please feel free to email me for more information. I aspire to be a voice for all of our students through creating these spaces because it is important that all cultures and backgrounds are recognized.

~ Cecilia Pablo Martinez, 6th grade Mentor

TOP NEWS

Campus Cleanup - October 7th

Join us this Saturday, October 7th from 9:00am-12:00pm for our annual Campus Cleanup! Bring your tools and help us with weed pulling, trash removal, cleaning our garden, clearing the planter boxes, and more. Thank you!



Late Fall Prep Sports Sign-ups

This season, we will be offering 7th & 8th Flag Football and 7th & 8th Grade Girls Volleyball. 6th-grade girls volleyball information will be



released at a later date. **The deadline to [register](#) is Friday, October 6th.** For all information, including sign-ups and tryout dates click [here](#).

Day of the Dead Materials Needed

We are busy planning our 2nd annual Hispanic Heritage and Day of the Dead Celebration! This fun event will be on Wednesday, November 1st from 6:00-8:00pm. We will have many fun stations to learn and experience Hispanic Culture such as Sugar Skulls, Salsa Lessons, and food!

We need donations of materials and parent volunteers to make this event a success! Sign up [here](#) to donate sugar skull materials. We also need donations of Agua Fresa donations (Horchata, Agua de Jamaica y Agua de Limon), Esquites (corn in a cup), and help purchasing, ordering, and delivering Day of the Dead bread. If you can help with any of these items, please email Señora Gonzales at adriana_gonzales@dpsk12.net.

High School Showcase - October 11th

On the evening of October 11th, McAuliffe will host our 6th annual High School Showcase event for 8th grade families. All 8th grade students are expected to attend the student panel (at the least) and can visit with high school representatives afterward. The student panel will begin promptly at 5:30pm, and at 6:00pm students and families will be released to visit with over 20 local DPS and private high schools to learn about their programming, clubs, athletics, events, and opportunities. We will also host resource booths from the Office of School Choice, FACE, and Substance Abuse and Prevention.



Theatre Spirit Store - Closes October 9th

Back by popular demand is our [McAuliffe Theatre Spirit Store](#)! Here you will find an assortment of tops that celebrate McAuliffe Theatre and are uniform-approved. These make wonderful gifts or break-a-leg presents! The store is open now and will close on October 9th.

Picture Retake/Makeup Day - October 19th

Picture makeup/retake day is Thursday, October 19th. If your student is retaking their picture they must return the original picture package to the photographer. You can still purchase a picture package online at: mylifetouch.com with your student's ID# or picture day code EVT6P6HFF. Order forms are in the main office. Students need to be in uniform for the