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Colorado Springs, CO 80915

## Christa McAuliffe Elementary at Cimarron Hills

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# Launch Pad

*Home of the Comets*



We're on the Web!  
Visit us at:  
[www.d11.org/mcauliffe](http://www.d11.org/mcauliffe)

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## From Mission Control

Dear Parents:

Exciting times are here as the intensity and level of expectations rises during second semester! The students are doing a fantastic job focusing and learning. Thanks so much for your support!

We are beginning to think about staffing for next year. Soon we will send home a form, requesting information from you as to your plans for next year. Thanks for your responses! It will help us immensely. I appreciate it!

Parents, please remember that the Wounded Warrior jean day fundraisers are only **twice each month and participation is optional**.

Please remember to follow McAuliffe procedures for drop-off and pick-up. It is very important as we want to help you keep your children safe. Also, please do not leave your children at school in the morning before **7:45 AM** as there is no supervision until that time. Thanks for your understanding.

Have a great month!

Sincerely,

*Carla Auld and David Morris*

## From the Office

### Planning for Next School Year

You should receive a form in March asking about your plans for next school year and whether or not your student(s) will be returning to McAuliffe Elementary in the fall. The information on these forms is vital to creating class lists for the 2017/2018 school year and will assist us in determining whether or not we are able to grant new choice permits. Please return these forms to your child's teacher as soon as possible. The information provided on these forms helps

teachers create balanced classes by size, gender, and student needs for the upcoming school year. **Please return one form for each student.** If you have not received a form for each of your students, please contact the office at 228-0900.

**Phone Messages** - Please inform your students of after-school plans before they leave for school in the morning. The office can be very busy at times, and there is no guarantee that last-minute messages will be delivered to your child. Thank you for planning ahead.

### McAuliffe T-shirts and Hoodies

McAuliffe T-shirts and hoodies are once again available for sale. We have long and short-sleeve t-shirts available in small, medium and large youth sizes. Short-sleeve shirts sell for \$9.00, and long-sleeve shirts sell for \$13.00. Youth hoodies are available for \$21.00. T-shirts and hoodies may be purchased (**cash only**) from the office during business hours. We also have a limited supply of adult size t-shirts and hoodies for sale. Pricing for adult sizes varies, depending on size. Please remember that McAuliffe t-shirts can only be worn by students on Mondays and Fridays.

## Important Parent Reminders

### Inclement Weather Delays/Closures



Winter weather is still here! You can check for delays and/or closures on the D-11 Website at:

<http://www.d11.org/Pages/weather.aspx>. You can also tune in to Comcast Channel 16 and Falcon Broadband Channel 73, or call 520-2300 (select the General Information Option) at any time for delay and closure information. Did you know that you can also sign up to receive e-mail or text notifications about delays and/or closures on this website?

Please remember to send your children to school with coats, hats and gloves, as weather conditions in Colorado can change rapidly and drastically, and students will be going outside to recess when temperatures, to include the wind-chill factor, are above 15°F and conditions are dry.

District 11 Board of Education Policy EBCD-R, Weather-Related Emergencies states under the section titled, "**Guidelines concerning students safety during inclement weather conditions**" that:

- Students will be allowed entry into the building ten minutes before classes convene when outside temperature at the school

site is less than 15 degrees/F and/or conditions of precipitation are present. Wind currents must also be considered under other conditions.

- b. With temperatures less than 15 degrees F and/or conditions of precipitation present, elementary students will be permitted to remain indoors during recess and lunch periods. Wind currents must also be considered under other conditions.
- c. Parental requests for students to remain indoors for health reasons during school hours will be honored.
- d. The principal is responsible for prudent decision making for conditions not presented in these guidelines.
- e. These guidelines are to be published in elementary school parent handbooks

#### Information Regarding 2-Hour Delays

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion regarding the differences between a District 11 2-hour delayed start and a 2-hour delay at Peterson AFB. The following information should be of some help:

- If District 11 calls a 2-hour delayed start, all D11 school buses will pick up students from their regular stops 2 hours later than their normally scheduled times. This means that school begins at 10:00 am at McAuliffe Elementary.
- If Peterson AFB has a 2-hour delay, but District 11 does not, all D11 school buses will pick up students from their regular stops at their normal times. This means that students attending the Peterson Youth Center (PYC) can be picked up in the youth center parking lot at their regularly scheduled time. Parents must take their students to the PYC and wait for buses to pick up students. If your student attends the PYC and you live off-base, you may or may not be able to get your student to the PYC. In this instance, you should bring your student directly to school at the regular start time; school begins at 8:00 am at McAuliffe Elementary.

Please remember: You as a parent make the final decision concerning the safety of your child. If you think conditions are unsafe when the district keeps schools open, you may keep your child at home. Your child's absence will be excused, and all work may be made up without penalty. **Please call the McAuliffe Attendance Line at 228-0936, if your student will not be attending school due to weather concerns.**

#### Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

If you have been notified by a District 11 middle school that your child's permit has been approved for next school year, please let the office know which school they will be attending as soon as possible. The District 11 middle schools need to have next year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders future-tracked to their buildings in order to create next year's class schedules. If we do not hear from you, your child will remain future tracked to their "home" school, and their records will be sent to that D11 building at the end of this school year. If you live outside of District 11 boundaries and your student will not be attending a District 11 middle school, your student's records will remain at McAuliffe until we receive a record request from the receiving school, or October, 2017, whichever is sooner.

#### Immunization Requirement for Students Entering 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

All 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who will be entering Middle School in the Fall are required to obtain a **Tdap** immunization. This is a Colorado State

requirement for all students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If your student already received or will receive a Tdap immunization before the end of this school year, you may bring your student's updated immunization record to the office and their school record will be updated. If your student's school record is not updated before the end of this school year, proof of the immunization is to be given to the middle school before the first day of school, in order to receive a schedule of classes.

#### Lost and Found

Parents, please check the Lost & Found whenever you are in the building for items that may belong to your children. By checking on a regular basis, we may be able to keep our Lost & Found closet from overflowing. **Remember that items left in the Lost & Found over Spring Break will be donated to a local charity.**

## Comet Safety!

**Playground Supervision** - Staff members will supervise children on the school playground during school hours. Before and after school, there is supervision for 15 minutes. **Please do not send your child to school before 7:45 am, and do not allow them to stay on the playground to play after 2:45 pm.**

#### Kiss-n-Go Lane & Parking Lot Safety

Proper use of the Kiss-N-Go lane will ensure safety for students, parents and staff. Remember, the outside lane is never to be used to drop off or pick up students. This lane is for entry or exit only. When dropping your students off, please drive to the curb and have them exit the vehicle on the sidewalk side. Never stop in the crosswalk, and always give pedestrians the right-of-way. **Please, never park in the Kiss-N-Go lane and leave your car unattended, as it is a fire lane and must be kept clear at all times.** When possible, use the parking lot or park on the street and always walk in the crosswalk. Please do not block cars parked in the parking lot by parking behind them. Also, please do not park by the fire hydrant. This is illegal and unsafe. Legally parked cars need to be able to exit their parking slots, as needed, and not have to wait for someone blocking them to move their vehicle.

**Our children are far too valuable to take a chance with!**



#### Visiting McAuliffe Elementary

The Board of Education encourages parents and other community members of the district to visit classrooms at any time to observe the work of the schools. The Board of Education believes that there is no better way for the public to learn what the schools actually are doing as long as such visits do not disrupt the educational process. In order to help ensure that no unauthorized persons enter buildings with wrongful intent, all visitors to the schools will report to the school office when entering to receive authorization before visiting elsewhere in the building. The principal has final authority to authorize a visitor.

**All visitors must report to the Office before going to a classroom or any area on school grounds.**

- All visitors are required to sign in.
- All visitors will wear a visitor's badge at all times they are on school grounds.
- All visitors will not interfere or intrude upon the educational program.

## Other News

# Important Parent Reminders Colorado Measures of Student Success (CMAS)

McAuliffe students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will be participating in the Colorado Measures of Student Success (CMAS), our Colorado State assessments, this month and next. These assessments measure student proficiency on the Colorado State Model Content Standards. The first CMAS assessment, [Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers](#) (PARCC) measures student learning in English language arts, and mathematics. The other CMAS assesses student knowledge in Science; only 5<sup>th</sup> grade students take this. We encourage our third, fourth, and fifth graders to lead by example and do their absolute COMET best when our testing begins on March 15th. Our teachers have worked all year to help the children gain the skills necessary to be successful. Now is the time to be confident - please help your child with this as they begin testing!



**Parents: please take special note of your child's CMAS testing schedule. All third, fourth and fifth grade students will be taking CMAS exams. We are required by law to give these exams during uninterrupted periods. If your child**

**comes to school late and testing has already started, we cannot let him or her come in late and start testing. The test will have to be given in a make-up session instead. With that in mind, please be especially careful in setting up appointments (especially morning appointments) during this time frame. Here are the weeks affected by CMAS testing:**

- 3/15/17 - 3/17/17 (5<sup>th</sup>)
- 3/20/17 - 3/24/17 (3rd)
- 4/3/17 - 4/7/17 (5<sup>th</sup>)
- 4/10/17 - 4/14/17 (4<sup>th</sup>)
- 4/17/17 - 4/19/17 (5<sup>th</sup>)

It would be especially helpful if you would pay close attention to attendance during these time periods. We don't want to encourage children who are ill to come to school as there will be make-up dates and times available, but we do want to make sure we have all healthy students here *on time, well rested, well fed, and ready to go*. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.



### TCAP Tips

It is CMAS time and we have the following suggestions for helping your student feel confident and capable:

- ✓ Get plenty of rest the night before the test.
- ✓ Eat well, avoid caffeine and sugar snacks before the test.
- ✓ Don't rush – this will just make you anxious.
- ✓ Don't talk to others before the test – anxiety spreads easily.
- ✓ Think of the test as a challenge or game to be solved.

Above all – relax and do your best! The CMAS is important, but it is nothing to be scared of.

### Class Picture Day is Coming!

On **Wednesday, April 12th**, Lifetouch will be here to take class pictures, as well as spring individual pictures. Students may wear non-uniform clothing and big smiles. Look for order form flyers in your child's backpack. You should receive two separate flyers, one for Class Group Pictures and one for Individual Pictures.

### Yearbooks Now on Sale

Don't forget to buy your child a 2016-2017 McAuliffe Elementary School yearbook for only \$20. Order deadline is March 17, 2017 and yearbook **packages** will only be available through March 17, 2017. After March 17, 2017 the standard yearbook will be \$22. You can purchase your yearbook online [Click here to purchase one online](#). McAuliffe's ID code is **9544817**. You can also place your order with cash, or a check made payable to McAuliffe Elementary, at the school. You don't want to miss out on the preservation of your child's elementary school memories. Delivery will be in May. We encourage you to order early because last year the yearbooks were sold out!

### Food & Nutrition Services



Did you know that you can check online to see how much money is left on your student's meal account? Visit [www.myschoolbucks.com](http://www.myschoolbucks.com) to monitor their account. You can also add funds to their account on this same website. Thank you for being diligent in maintaining your child's meal account.

For more information on District 11's Food and Nutrition Services, [click here](#).

If you have questions or concerns about your child's meal account, please call the Kitchen Manager at [228-0932](tel:228-0932).

Victor Ransom, Kitchen Manager

### News from our School Nurse



Please help us minimize illnesses in our school setting. **These guidelines should be used to help parents decide whether or not their child should come to school.**

- ✓ Children **with severe cold symptoms** should not attend school. **Cold symptoms may include:**

a constant runny nose, especially with abnormal color or consistency (this is especially important if your child is unable to use a Kleenex by him (her)self

nasal or lung/chest congestion coughing that is constant or persistent

recurrent sneezing that is not allergy related

- ✓ **Do not send a child to school with an abnormal temperature-any temperature over 100 degrees F.** Symptoms to watch for might be a flushed face, chills, paleness or skin abnormally warm to the touch. One or all of these symptoms might be present. If in doubt at all, please take your child's temperature. Please keep an obviously sick child at home. **A child with a temperature needs to stay home for at least 24 hours. Remember, if you reduce your child's fever with medication like Tylenol, your child is STILL ill. Please do not medicate your child and send them to school. Children spread their illness most during the time they have a fever.**
- ✓ Do not send a child to school that has been **vomiting** within the last 12 hours.
- ✓ Do not send a child to school who has had **diarrhea** in the last 12 hours.

Flu symptoms: fever over 100 degrees (usually high) **and** one or more of the following: body aches, sore throat, cough, headache.

**Do not send your child back to school until he has had no symptoms for at least 24 hours.**

#### Stay Connected



McAuliffe NTouch is a digital communications system that allows us to send targeted announcements and messages by email and text message to our parents and community members interested in news and events at our school. If you are new to McAuliffe NTouch and would like to receive these communications, [please sign up now](#). If you are a returning user, please use your email address and password to login. If you forgot your password, click on the 'I cannot login' link and your password will be sent to the e-mail address you registered.

District 11 also has a mobile app that you can download to your smartphone

#### Volunteer Opportunities

All persons wishing to volunteer must first complete a Volunteer Registration form online. [Click here to register as a volunteer at McAuliffe Elementary](#). A separate form needs to be completed for each volunteer. Completed registration forms should be printed and brought into the office, along with a picture ID. If you do not have access to a computer and/or printer, you may complete your volunteer registration form at McAuliffe. If you have previously completed a Volunteer Registration form, there is no need to complete another one. The office can check to see if you are still a registered volunteer.

If you have questions regarding the volunteer registration process, please call the McAuliffe office at 228-0900.




Also, please remember to sign in on the **gold** Volunteer Sign-in Form in the office, every time you volunteer at McAuliffe. In order for our Volunteer Coordinators to properly keep track of our volunteer hours, it is important that you log your volunteer hours online through the McAuliffe VMS Kiosk. [Click here to log your volunteer hours](#). There is also a link to the Kiosk on the community computers in the hallway at McAuliffe.

#### Coming in April

Apr 1	April Fool's Day
Apr 3	Motor Mouth Dental CMAS Testing 4/3-4/19
Apr 6	Pre-School Jean Day Fundraiser for Soldiers in Need
Apr 7	K-5 Jean Day Fundraiser for Soldiers in Need
Apr 10	SAAC Meeting – 5:00-5:30 PTA Meeting – 5:30-6:30
Apr 12	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Overnight Fieldtrip to Denver Museum
Apr 13	5 <sup>th</sup> grade Overnight trip returns from Denver Museum
Apr 14	Mid-quarter Progress Reports Go Home
Apr 21	Data Collaboration Day – No Students Kindergarten Registration



# March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
<b>Main Phone: 228-0900</b> <b>Attendance Line: 228-0936</b> 				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Pre-School Jean Day Fundraiser Student Council 2:30-3:30 NAYLA Club – 2:30-4:00 Kindergarten Cooking Club 2:45-4:00 Homework Club 2:50-4:00	<b>3</b> Grades K-5 Jean Day Fundraiser for Soldiers in Need	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Robotics Club 2:45-4:00  Theater Club 2:50-4:00	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter  5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Trip to Fine Arts Center Student Council 2:30-3:30 NAYLA Club – 2:30-4:00 Kindergarten Cooking Club 2:45-4:00 Homework Club 2:50-4:00	<b>10</b> Teacher Work Day No Students	<b>11</b>	
<b>12</b> Daylight Saving Time Begins  	<b>13</b> SAC Meeting 5:00-5:30  PTA Meeting 5:30-6:30  Beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	<b>14</b> Robotics Club 2:45-4:00  Theater Club 2:50-4:00	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Student Council 2:30-3:30 NAYLA Club – 2:30-4:00 Kindergarten Cooking Club 2:45-4:00 Homework Club 2:50-4:00	<b>17</b> Report Cards Go Home Today  St Patrick's Day 	<b>18</b>	
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Robotics Club 2:45-4:00  Theater Club 2:50-4:00	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Pre-School Jean Day Fundraiser Student Council 2:30-3:30 NAYLA Club – 2:30-4:00 Kindergarten Cooking Club 2:45-4:00 Homework Club	<b>24</b> Grades K-5 Jean Day Fundraiser for Soldiers in Need	<b>25</b>	
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		
<h2 style="color: green;">Spring Break Schools Closed</h2>							