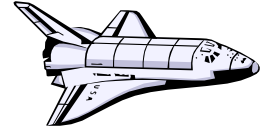




# LAUNCH PAD



**Christa McAuliffe Elementary at Cimarron Hills**  
**830 Hathaway Drive**  
**Colorado Springs, CO 80915**  
**Main Line: (719) 228-0900**  
**Attendance Line: (719) 228-0936**  
**Fax: (719) 574-8372**

**November 2009**

## **FROM MISSION CONTROL**

Hi McAuliffe Community,

Thank you for supporting McAuliffe's PTO McTeacher Night and Chick-fil-A Day. On behalf of the McAuliffe Staff, we thank you for attending Parent/Teacher conferences and supporting our Halloween celebration. Our McAuliffe community is the best and goes above and beyond for children! It is getting cold outside. It has to be below 15 degrees with wind chill for us to have inside recess or the weather flag out to come straight into the building in the morning. District weather policy is followed around all decisions for indoor or outdoor recess. Dress children in layers; you never know what the day will be like if you live in Colorado! Information on weather policies is in the Parent Handbook. This went home in first day packets to all families. Extra copies are in the office, or it can be viewed online.

Good News! McAuliffe is an accredited school in the State of Colorado. Each school has to go through a district and state accreditation process every two years. Accreditation is determined on 5 elements: 1) Achievement Growth and Status, 2) Gap Growth (differences in achievement between groups of children), 3) Post Secondary Readiness, 4) Financial and School Safety Compliance, and 5) Education Improvement Plan Quality. McAuliffe meets the criteria in all areas, and therefore the board of education has accredited McAuliffe. If you would like more information on this process, the district website is:

<http://www.d11.org/aero>

Have a family-filled November,

*Denise Rubio-Gurnett, Principal*  
*Julie Edner, Assistant Principal*



## **IMPORTANT PARENT REMINDERS**

Students are not allowed to be in the building prior to 7:45 a.m. unless it is an organized event or appointment. Playground supervision begins at 7:45. If your student eats breakfast at school, breakfast also starts at 7:45 a.m., and **students and parents should enter the cafeteria through the back (west) cafeteria doors, not the front entrance.**

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Fall Back!**

Don't forget to turn your clocks back one hour **Sunday, November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Veterans' Day Parade**

The 2009 Colorado Springs Veterans' Day Parade will be held on **Saturday, November 7, 2009**, in downtown Colorado Springs on Tejon Street. All are welcome and encouraged to join in this celebration in honor of our military veterans who serve our country.

### **School Choice Window**

The choice window for enrollment in District 11 will begin on **Monday, November 2, 2009**, and close **Monday, February 1, 2010**. If your child is currently a student on permit at McAuliffe and will be attending McAuliffe next school year, please stop by the office as soon as possible on or after November 2<sup>nd</sup>, to fill out a permit for the 2010-2011 school year.

### **Harvest of Love**

The Care and Share food drive will begin **November 2<sup>nd</sup> and run through November 24<sup>th</sup>**. Everyone is encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items during this time. See the attached flyer for items needed most. Also for each \$1.00 donated, Care and Share can produce up to 10 pounds of food. This year our school has set a goal of raising 30,000 pounds worth of food. Please help us help others in our community.

## Health Screening

Vision and hearing screening is on the calendar for **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, and Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup>**, for students in grades K-5. Re-screen day will be held **Thursday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, for Preschool students and students who failed or were absent on the first screening dates. This is a state-mandated program which screens all students for vision and hearing problems. A letter will be sent home to notify parents if their child failed the vision or hearing screening

## Art Strokes

Happy Halloween and felize el Dia de Los Muertos!!!! Students have loved seeing what a real Day of the Dead celebration looks like in Mexico, and have created some really colorful and fun *Calaveras* for the holiday! They are on display by the art room in a traditional *ofrenda* display. If you get a chance, come see them before fall is over! Ms. Reid is choosing 6 of these projects to go in the Hispanic Heritage Art Show for District 11. Winners are still to be announced.

The District Eleven Hispanic Heritage Art Show reception will take place **November 18<sup>th</sup>**, and artwork will be displayed from each school at Tesla from **November 10-23, 2009**.

Kindergarten has moved on to Kandinsky and painting with watercolor crayons to see the magic happen. First grade is exploring the primary colors and Jasper Johns number paintings. Second grade is moving on to glue monsters for the spooky holiday season, using chalk pastel blending. Third grade is studying three-dimensional shapes and how to create the illusion of depth through shading. Fourth grade is headed toward clay pottery and the Pueblo Native Americans, and fifth grade is moving on to shading and "dirt paintings" as a science-integration as we make our own paint.

**We are having a blast!!!!**

## Literacy News

### Writing Stories with a Twist

Encourage your children to write with new eyes and give a story a new Twist of some type.

Materials: favorite story, paper, pencil

Together, read one of your child's favorite stories, such as "Where The Wild Things Are." When you finish, work together to rewrite the story in some way, such as a different setting. It could be a large city, another country or even in your closet! Talk with your child about how it would change the story and what happened. Example: If all those wonderful creatures were living in a large city, how would they manage in and out of buildings and running through traffic!

Invite your child to share their new story with the whole family at dinner the next day.

## Notes from our School Nurse

### **Illness Guidelines: When to Keep Your Child Home**

- 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.**
- Do not send a child to school that has been **vomiting** within the last 12 hours.
- Do not send a child to school that 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.

## PTO News

Happy Fall Y'all! We hope everyone enjoyed their first quarter here at McAuliffe. We know we had a blast with all of our projects. We cannot wait to show you what we have in store for second quarter! PTO would like to thank everyone who came out for Chick-fil-A day. We were able to raise \$175.00 to put toward our track fund! We will be having another Chick-fil-A day on **November 3<sup>rd</sup>** at the Powers and North Carefree location. Again, that is **ALL DAY LONG** and all receipts must be placed in the McAuliffe box for us to receive credit. We appreciate all the support provided. We have many more fun community activities like this planned for the rest of the year; we sure hope you can make them all!

We would like to remind you that we are still collecting photos for the Military Appreciation Wall. If you were unable to get your photo taken at conferences, please call 719-228-0935, as soon as possible, to arrange for a time to have this completed. There will be a Wall dedication on **November 10<sup>th</sup>**, in honor of Veteran's Day.

November is our month of giving back. All month long we will be participating in the Care & Share Food Drive. PTO has turned this into a school contest. Each classroom will have a collection box and will be encouraged to collect non-perishable food items for the entire month. Every Monday, boxes will be weighed and items will be collected. A large progress chart will be located in the hallway so that everyone can see where classes are in the contest. The top **THREE** classes will receive very special prizes. Our school has set a goal of raising 30,000 pounds. Mrs. Rubio-Gurnett has agreed to transform herself for a day into a "rock-n-roll punk biker chick" if our school can meet their goal. Mr. Fuller has also volunteered to **shave his head** if our school reaches 100,000 pounds! The PTO has set personal goals for each grade level, based on their student count. The contest will run from **November 2<sup>nd</sup> through November 24<sup>th</sup>**. Winners will be announced on **Monday, November 30<sup>th</sup>**.


### Additional Important PTO information

The following Board Member positions are still open, Secretary, Fundraiser Coordinator, and Communications Coordinator. If you are interested in job descriptions or filling one of these important positions, please contact Susan Reeves at 719-228-0935 or [mcauliffe\\_pto@gmail.com](mailto:mcauliffe_pto@gmail.com).

Our next PTO meeting will be on **Monday, November 9<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm** in the cafeteria. FREE childcare will be provided by the YMCA for children ages 5 and up.

Susan Reeves  
PTO President

# November 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><b>Main Phone: 228-0900</b>  <b>Attendance Line: 228-0936</b></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p><i>Care &amp; Share Food Drive</i>  <b>November 2 - 24, 2009!</b></p> </div>  </div>						
<p>1 Daylight Saving Time Ends</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Election Day</p> <p>Chick-fil-A Day Powers &amp; North Carefree</p> <p>Choir 2:35-3:30 pm</p>	<p>4 Sports Challenge 2:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>5 Art Club 2:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Veterans' Day Parade Downtown Colorado Springs 10:00 am</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>9 Staff Meeting 2:45-4:00 pm</p> <p>BAAC 6:00-6:00 pm</p> <p>PTO Meeting 6:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>10 Veterans' Day Reading in 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade</p> <p>Choir 2:35-3:30 pm</p> <p>Autism Night 5:30-7:30 pm</p>	<p>11 Veterans' Day</p>  <p><b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p>12 Art Club 2:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 American Education Week</p>	<p>16 Staff Meeting 2:45-4:00 pm</p>	<p>17 Choir 2:35-3:30 pm</p>	<p>18 <b>Health Screening</b></p>  <p>Sports Challenge 2:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>19 National Parental Involvement Day</p> <p><b>Health Screening</b></p>  <p>Art Club 2:30-3:30 pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 National Family Week</p>	<p>23 Staff Meeting 2:45-4:00 pm</p>	<p>24 Choir 2:35-3:30 pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 Thanksgiving Day</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> 
<p>29</p>	<p>30 Staff Meeting 2:45-4:00 pm</p>					