

Christa McAuliffe Messenger

October 2011

REMEMBER SCHOOL STARTS AT 7:55 – Students should be in the classroom at this time. If arriving at 7:55 or after, you need to sign your student in at the office.

Safety First!

The first few weeks of school have gone well. Both students and staff are energized and eager to learn.

The safety of our children **must** come first! Please require that your child walk only at crosswalks and with crossing guards. Please be sure to continue to follow our entrance/exit procedures contained in the McAuliffe Parent/Student Information Guide that you received at Open House. Everyone who drops off or picks up a student must be familiar with our arrival and dismissal procedures. We ask that you inform grandparents, aunts, friends, or anyone you designate to transport your child of these procedures. Also, **please do not bring pets up to the school;** there are students who can be frightened by them.

REMINDER

This is a reminder to all students, parents, and caregivers of the laws that affect driving while in school zones and construction zones. Effective January 1, 2010:

- A person under the age of 19, who holds an instruction permit, or a graduated Driver's License, may not drive a vehicle on a roadway while using a wireless phone. This does not apply to persons under the age of 19 years, using a wireless telephone for emergency purposes.
- A person, regardless of age, may not use a wireless telephone at any time while operating a motor vehicle on a roadway in a School Speed Zone, or on a highway in a Construction Zone or Maintenance Speed Zone.
- A person may not operate a motor vehicle on a roadway while using an electronic communication device to compose, send, or read an electronic message or "text message".

The Tinley Park Police Department will be enforcing these laws. The safety and well-being of all our students is of primary importance. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Police Department.

Nurse's Note

Proper hand hygiene is the most effective way to stop the spread of germs and allergens. With flu season just around the corner, we want to remind everyone to cough or sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your elbow, wash your hands frequently, and don't forget your flu vaccine! Good hand hygiene also prevents the spread of allergens. With food allergies on the rise and Halloween coming soon, it's important to discourage your child from sharing food during lunch and snack times. Let's all stay healthy! Any questions, please call Lois Murphy at 708-429-4565.

CHARACTER COUNTS

Character Counts is a character education program that has been and will continue to be used at McAuliffe School. This year, Character Counts will be used district-wide as a guideline for all schools to help our students maintain good character. Character Counts embodies the following Pillars of Character:

TRUSTWORTHINESS: Tell the truth, keep your promises, and do the right thing.

RESPECT: Treat others the way you want others to treat you.

RESPONSIBILITY: Make good choices, do what is right, and be accountable for your behavior.

FAIRNESS: Play by the rules, be open-minded, and treat people right.

CARING: Be kind, helpful, and giving and value the feelings of others.

CITIZENSHIP: Work to make your school and community a better place to live.

It is in the best interest of our students, families and community to implement and encourage good character. Character Counts is a good guide for our students to make wise choices today and in the future. You will continue to see the Six Pillars of Character throughout the year in our school as well as throughout the district. As with any program, Character Counts works best when supported in the home.

Picture Retake Day

Picture Retake Day is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 10th. If your child missed picture day in September, you may send the money envelope on November 10th and have your child photographed. Students already photographed will be receiving their pictures soon. If you are not satisfied with your student's picture, send the entire package back on November 10th and your child's picture will be retaken.

Student Council News

Our Student Council has gotten underway. One of their first projects will be a charitable fundraiser for both cancer and childhood diabetes. Look for more information to be coming home. Our new Student Council Reps. will be sharing information with their classes and their buddy classes. We ask your support in empowering our children to help others.

P.T.O. News

Thank you to everyone who supported the Entertainment Book fundraiser. We hope your child enjoyed "The Wizard's Apprentice" assembly. Keep sending in your Box Tops and Campbell's labels. Our school earns money from them. Our fall fundraiser will be selling Yankee Candles, watch for more details to come home.

The next P.T.O. meeting will be held on Thursday, October 6th at 9:30 a.m.