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LMS PTA News and Events

Fairfax County Public Schools sent this bulletin at 03/26/2019 01:57 PM EDT

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Longfellow Middle School PTA

Parents Needed for the 2019-2020 PTA Executive Board

We begin recruiting for the PTA for next year by advertising our open board positions. The great news is three of our board members are returning next year, while several of our board members age out of Longfellow. Don't be shy about stepping up even if you only have one year left or have never served on the PTA board before. The positions have all the support, information and materials needed for success. Our PTA board will have several openings for the fall to include **VP of Fundraising, President-Elect, Treasurer,** and **Secretary**. The PTA has a long tradition of supporting Longfellow teachers, staff, and students with diverse programming and community



outreach. Please contact Jennifer Von Elm at president.ptalms@gmail.com to discuss any of the above openings. [Click here for for more information about PTA positions.](#)

McLean Madness – Thank You!



We want to say THANK YOU to the players, chorus, volunteers, LMS staff, and those who attended the McLean Madness Basketball game for making the event a success. It was an exciting night for our community to come together and cheer on our team. We definitely showed our Lancer PRIDE.

Congratulation to the players for winning the game. We look forward to next year's game.

Go Lancers!

Celebrate Our Diversity at Heritage Night

Friday, March 29, 6 - 8:30 p.m.

Come take a trip into the rich diversity that makes Longfellow what it is. Enjoy interactive cultural/multicultural displays, performances, and delicious food that our Longfellow students and parents have been working hard to share. It is surely an event for the entire family that you don't want to miss.

[Sign up here to show off your family's heritage with a dish to share and/or to volunteer.](#) Students who

make a dish from scratch or volunteer to help can receive one service hour for their time.

Questions? Please email Mel Tillotson at vpprograms.ptalms@gmail.com.

Thanks to Our Hospitality



Committee



We would like to thank our amazing Hospitality Committee -- they have been busy! They hosted a Valentines Chili Luncheon on February 14 and a delicious Italian Buffet Spring Luncheon on March 20. The faculty and staff at Longfellow were extremely grateful and raved about the food. Thank you to all the generous parents who provided donations for these lunches. We could not put these wonderful lunches together for our teachers and staff without everyone's help. Special thanks to Sara Hobbs, Cathy Sarris, Victoria Lippincott, Lisa Fraser, and Amy Pedulla. You all are such a great team.

Send \$3 for Zinga

It's finally spring and that means frozen yogurt is back! Yogurt will be sold for \$3 a serving at dismissal on the following dates:



Thursday, April 4
 Thursday, April 11
 All Fridays in May
 Friday, June 7

Tell Your Friends and Neighbors with Rising 7th Graders

How to Thrive at Longfellow
 April 25, 7 - 8:30 p.m.

If your child is new to Longfellow next year, please join us for this informative program. Hear from the LMS Counseling Staff about the ins and outs of Life at Longfellow: from lockers and clubs to late buses and lunch. Uncover the meaning of "Polaris" and "Lancer Time." Learn from our School Psychologist what really goes on in the adolescent brain. Current Longfellow students and parents will be available to answer questions and share their experiences. This is a can't miss event for all new Longfellow parents - hope to see you there!

Competition Success!

NATIONAL PTA® REFLECTIONS®

8th grader Peter Hinckley has won 1st place at the state level of the PTA Reflections Contest for music composition in the middle school division. Peter's entry will now compete on behalf of Longfellow at the National level. Congratulations Peter!



Longfellow's contestants were outstanding at the Fairfax County Spelling Bee! Elliott Lee was the second runner-up. We are so proud of Elliott!

Attention 8th Grade Parents

The 8th Grade Party Organizing Committee has started planning for this year's party which will be held Tuesday, June 11 from 7 to 9:30 p.m.

We are looking for volunteers that are interested in planning and/or volunteering the evening of the dance.

If you are interested please contact Cathy Sarris at clsarris@hotmail.com or Susan Thomas at sdthomas906@gmail.com.



McLean High School Overcrowding Update



As a community, we have been discussing the overcrowding issue at McLean for the past several months. McLean is currently at 114% of capacity with 14 trailer classrooms and the current forecast is for it to reach 127% of capacity by 2023. We have heard from Superintendent Dr. Braband and our School Board member Janie Strauss regarding

the need to have a plan to help relieve McLean's overcrowding situation. McLean is the only high school that is over capacity without a plan to relieve the overcrowding with a renovation or addition. The short-term plan calls for a modular building to be installed on the practice softball field that would have 14 self-contained classrooms. This will bring McLean's capacity outside the school to a total of 28 classrooms. The longer-term solution is a boundary change between McLean and Langley which is newly renovated and currently at 82% of capacity.

We need to make sure the McLean community is making their voices heard and fighting for McLean High School. No school does more with less physical space. The school continues to turn out amazing, college-ready students and they are worth fighting for. A parent/community group has formed called **McLean High Students, Parents And Community Expect Sensible School Size** (McSPaCES). This group has formed in order to engage the community with our school board members and FCPS administration to bring the necessary relief to McLean High School so our students have the safe and sensible learning environment they deserve. [Click here](#) and [here](#) to read more about the issue. Send an email to mcspace1955@gmail.com to join the group. [Watch the local news story on overcrowding at McLean here.](#)

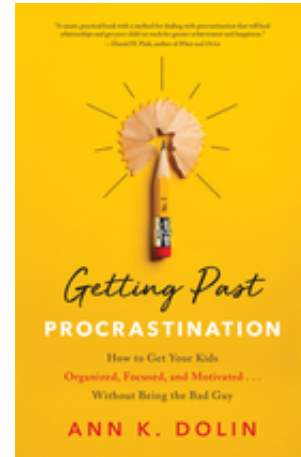
There will be an update at our last PTA meeting in May on any progress that has been made and the next steps to bring change to our community. We are also hoping to have Janie Strauss come and speak to parents about this important issue affecting our student's learning environment. Stay tuned for further details.

Habits for High School Success: How to Get Your Middle Schooler Organized, Focused, and Motivated...Without Being the Bad Guy.

Resources from Ann Dolin Following PTA Meeting Presentation

The founder of Educational Connections, Ann Dolin spoke at our March 8 PTA meeting about how to help our students improve their study skills to be ready for high school success. Find her [presentation here](#), a relevant [article from the](#)

[Washington Post here](#), and an [article she wrote about learning apps here](#).



Study Tour of Japan



Educational Tours

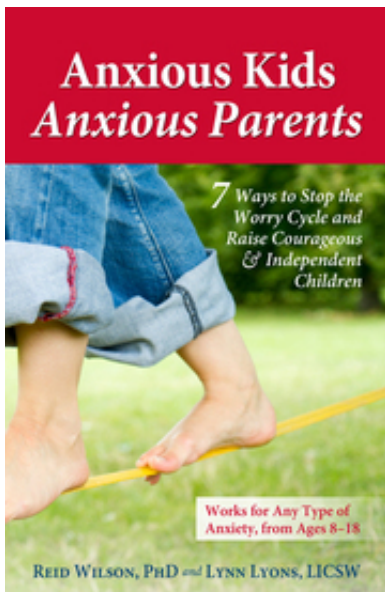
Mr. McElroy (8th grade Civics teacher) is organizing an 11-day whirlwind [Education First](#) study tour of Japan, "[The Land of the Rising Sun](#)", scheduled for late June 2019. Tour stops will include Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Kyoto, Nara, Hiroshima, Osaka, and more! If you are at all interested and would like to attend a parent information meeting, please e-mail Mr. McElroy (MBMcElroy@fcps.edu) ASAP. Space is limited and the registration deadline is approaching!

Reducing Anxiety: Strategies to Interrupt the Worry Cycle, featuring Lynn Lyons, LICSW

April 1, 7:00 p.m.
McLean Community Center

Childhood should be a joyful time of carefree play, active learning and spontaneous exploration, yet a growing number of children are trapped in a cycle of anxiety that literally paralyzes them with fear and affects whole family. The good news is that anxiety disorders are highly treatable, and current research shows that children, teens and adults can be trained to successfully manage anxiety given the proper tools.

As part of a yearlong focus on youth anxiety, the Safe Community Coalition is



pleased to present an evening with nationally-recognized speaker Lynn Lyons, LICW and author of *Anxious Kids Anxious Parents: 7 Ways to Stop the Worry Cycle and Raise Courageous and Independent Children*. Lynn will provide practical and straightforward strategies that parents and educators can use to break the cycle of anxious worrying.

Tickets are available at <https://reducinganxiety.brownpapertickets.com/>

A limited number of books, as well as a companion book, *Playing with Anxiety: Casey's Guide for Teens and Kids* will be for sale. A book signing will

follow the presentation.

Please visit the Safe Community Coalition website (<http://mcleanscc.org/>) for more information on the evening event or book talks.

Have Questions About How Technology is Used in Our Schools?

The Fairfax County Council of PTAs is hosting a technology forum on Wednesday, March 27th from 6:30-9 pm at the Gatehouse Administration



Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road. The meeting will be held in the Gatehouse Cafe which is on the first floor. The goal is to create a resource to help inform parents about the various facets of technology, and help them navigate the resources available within Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). [Please click here to RSVP](#) and to submit concerns or topics in advance!

FCCPTA Listening Tour



PTA members are invited to attend one of the Fairfax County Council PTA Listening Tour events to share thoughts about education in Fairfax County. Information from parents, teachers, and students will complement the FCCPTA Education Survey and inform their work. Each session will be open-house style, from 7 to

9 p.m. Please join the last event on April 1 at [Marshall High School](#).

Questions? Contact Stella Pekarsky, vp.outreach@fccpta.org.

The Fairfax County Special Education PTA unites, educates, and strengthens the network of resources, information, education, and social opportunities for our special needs community. Find [more information here](#) and a [list of community events here](#).



Longfellow Middle School PTA: Web | PTA Contacts

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