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LMS PTA News and Events

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Longfellow Middle School PTA

Tonight! Last Book Talk About The Self-Driven Child

Wednesday, April 10, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.
MHS Lecture Hall

Join the McLean High School PTSA for the third and last book talk about *The Self-Driven Child* hosted by Kathleen Otal, McLean School Counselor

We will discuss:

- How to support your child through the standardized testing process.
- How to talk about college with your children (even those as young as kindergarten)



- Themes from the March 20th author talk

Donate Gift Cards to Show Our Teachers How Much We Appreciate Them



Teacher Appreciation Week is the week of May 6th. The teacher appreciation team has several fun events planned throughout the week, including thanking each teacher with a gift card. Principal Kihm raffles the cards off throughout the week. The students love it when their teachers' names are called over the loudspeaker to come to get their gift card. We need your help now to collect enough gift cards for the 140 teachers, staff, and bus drivers at LMS. [Please sign up here](#) to donate a gift card today. Place gift cards in an envelope marked "For Teacher Appreciation Week" and drop them off in the LMS PTA "Longfellow Love" mailbox on or before Friday, April 26.

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 11
All Fridays in May
Friday, June 7



Executive Board Nominees for 2019-2020

We are excited to announce our executive board for 2019-2020. We have a fantastic group of nominees who are of diverse backgrounds and volunteer experiences. Together, this group will work to support excellence at Longfellow and engage with our community. [Click here to find bios of the nominees.](#) Please come to our last PTA meeting of the year on May 3 at 9 a.m.

to vote for the 2019-2020 executive board.

President – Jennifer Von Elm

President-Elect – Open

1st Vice President, Programs – Mel Tillotson

2nd Vice President, Fundraising – Shelly Breslin

3rd Vice President, Communication – April Wade Turk

Treasurer – Neetha Rao

Secretary – Somer Cross

LMS PTA Bylaw Renewal

It's time for the LMS PTA to update our Bylaws! The Virginia PTA provides a template with minimal opportunities to make changes. However, we are excited to announce that our NEW Bylaws include two (2) NEW board positions for 2019: a President Elect and Vice President of Communications! The committee also adjusted the quorum number to ten (10) to meet our voting needs.

We encourage all PTA members to [click here to review the Bylaws](#) prior to voting at our May 3rd PTA meeting.

If you have any questions or comments please contact the PTA Secretary, Jen Wormser (jennywormser@hotmail.com).

We look forward to seeing you at our May 3rd meeting to adopt LMSPTA's Bylaws!

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!

Last PTA Meeting of the Year

May 3, 9:00 a.m.

Join us for the last PTA meeting of the year as we elect new officers, vote on updated by-laws, and celebrate everyone who volunteered throughout the year.

We will be joined by our school board member, Janie Strauss, as she presents the current McLean and Langley High School situations and some possible solutions. Don't miss this critical presentation as it affects the future for all of our kids. She will speak immediately after the PTA meeting around 9:30 a.m.



Volunteers Needed for Teacher Appreciation Mexican Fiesta Luncheon

May 7



Teacher Appreciation week is almost here and the PTA plans to show our appreciation by hosting a Mexican Fiesta Luncheon on May 7. The PTA Hospitality Committee will provide a taco bar. [Please sign up here](#) to provide some of the side dishes, desserts, or your time to help us make this luncheon a success. 8th grade students can earn 1 service hour by providing a **homemade** dessert, side dish, or salad. Donations should be dropped off by 9:30 a.m. in the front office or the library. Thank you for your time and generosity.

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](#).



Special Education PTA Events and Resources



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](#).

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