

Washington Weekly News

What Day Is It?



Monday	October 3	No School
Tuesday	October 4	Day 5
Wednesday	October 5	Day 1
Thursday	October 6	Day 2
Friday	October 7	Day 3

President's Message

Happy Fall Everyone!

Thank you all for helping our PTA get the year off to such a great start! Our first big event, the Fall Family Picnic, was a success. The weather cooperated and everyone had a great time. Thank you Joyce Kraemer for all your hard work.

As we enter the last week of our annual Read-A-Thon, it's so great to see how much fun our kids are having. They are reading up a storm and they have the tickets to prove it. Thank you to Kelly Latona, Kyla Reighard, and Traci Smith for counting all those minutes!

If you were unable to attend our Homeroom Parent/Classroom Volunteer meeting, and you would still like to volunteer in your child's class, no problem! Contact either [Netty Bourdeau-Ott](#) or [myself](#) and we will get you on the list.

Finally, I'd like to invite everyone to our next PTA meeting on **Wednesday, October 19**, at 7:00 pm in the auditorium. We welcome your input and are always eager to hear your ideas!

All the best,

~ Allison Carey, PTA President

Important Dates

October

3 **No School:** Teacher In-Service

- 7 Read-a-Thon Ends
- 7 Wear blue to "Blue it out for Tourettes"
- 8 Learning Garden Clean-up, 1:00 pm, Learning Garden
- 12 **No School:** Yom Kippur
- 19 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, WES Auditorium
- 19 School Board Meeting, 7:30 pm, High School Room D205
- 20 D.E.A.R - Travel - Wear Something from Vacation
- 20 Speaker: Keith Webster - "Trends in 21st Century Libraries," High School
- 31 Halloween Parade, 2:30 pm, WES
- 31 Halloween Parties, 2:45 pm, WES

PTA News

Learning Garden Clean-Up ?

Join us this **Saturday, October 8**, for our Fall Learning Garden Clean Up! We will meet at the garden in front of the school at 10:00 am. Please bring garden gloves and any small tools (e.g. trowels, garden scissors) you have at home to help us battle the weeds. We will be working outdoors, rain or shine, so please dress for the weather. Children are welcome to help, as long as they are accompanied by an adult.



Please email [Sarah Sangameswaran](mailto:Sarah.Sangameswaran@mtlsd.org) if you are able to make it. Feel free to call (612) 206-1511 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there!

~Sarada Sangameswaran, Learning Garden & Playground Clean-up Chair

Read-A-Thon



The Olympic Read-A-Thon is in full swing. The runners are racing across the bulletin board toward the finish line. I wonder which class is going to come out ahead?

Keep those tickets coming to keep your class's runner moving. Long weekends are an excellent time to read.

Remember **Friday, October 7**, is the last day to turn in tickets. Pledge money is not due until **October 10**. Announcement of all winners will be **Friday, October 14**.

Thank you for all your support in encouraging your students to read and supporting our wonderful school.

~Kyla Reighard, Traci Smith, Kelly Latona, Read-A-Thon Committee

Volunteer Clearance

To ensure the safety of our students, MTLSD requires volunteers to comply with the Mt. Lebanon School District Policy IJOC School Volunteers. Therefore, if you would like to volunteer at Washington

Elementary this school year, you will need to meet the necessary requirements stated below. We are providing this information to you now so that you have ample time to obtain any necessary clearances prior to volunteering.



CASUAL VOLUNTEER - A Casual Volunteer is a volunteer who comes to school infrequently and works in the presence of a teacher/administrator when with students. A casual volunteer **does not** have direct contact with children and is **NOT REQUIRED** to obtain criminal history reports or child abuse clearances, but is required, on an annual basis, to sign the Casual Volunteer Affirmation Form in the presence of the principal or principal's designee affirming they have not perpetrated or been convicted of specific offenses.

- To complete a Casual Volunteer Affirmation Form, please see Mrs. Jones in the front office.
- Even if you completed this form for the 2015-2016 school year, you will still need to do it again to serve as a casual volunteer this school year.

PROGRAM VOLUNTEER - A Program Volunteer is a volunteer who: 1) works under the general direction and supervision of a teacher or administrator employed by the district; and 2) provides direct services to students or may, from time to time, have or may be reasonably expected to **have direct contact** with children. A program volunteer **IS REQUIRED** to obtain a PA State Police Criminal History Report (Act 34) and a Child Abuse Clearance (Act 151), along with either an FBI Background Check or a Resident of Pennsylvania Affidavit Form.

- There is no cost for the PA clearances.
- The links for the required clearances are as follows:
 - [Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance \(Act 151\)](#)
 - [Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check \(Act 34\)](#)
- Please note that these clearances must be updated every five (5) years. If you have never obtained these documents before, or if you have done so prior to 2012 you will need to do it again now to serve as a Program Volunteer this school year (contact Mrs. Jones if you're unsure about when you last submitted your forms).

If you have been a resident of Pennsylvania continuously for the past 10 years, in lieu of the FBI Background Check, you may sign a 10-year Resident of Pennsylvania Affidavit Form in the presence of the principal or principal's designee affirming you have not perpetrated or been convicted of specific offenses. The 10-year Resident of Pennsylvania must be signed on an annual basis.

- To complete a Resident of Pennsylvania Affidavit Form, please see Mrs. Jones in the front office.
- Even if you completed this form for the 2015-2016 school year, you will still need to do it again to serve as a program volunteer this school year.

If you have been not been a resident of Pennsylvania continuously for the past 10 years, you will need to obtain an FBI Background Check in accordance with the FBI Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114).

- The cost for the FBI Background Check is \$27.00.
- Visit www.pa.cogentid.com for information and locations of fingerprint sites.
- If you have never completed this process before, or if you have completed this process prior to 2012, you will need to do it again now to serve as a Program Volunteer this school year (contact Mrs. Jones if you're unsure about when you last submitted your forms).

What should I do once I receive my clearances?

Originals of the **Pennsylvania Child Abuse History Clearance (Act 151)** and **Pennsylvania State Police Criminal Record Check (Act 34)** will be mailed to the applicant's home address. Those originals must be presented to Mrs. Jones in the front office no later than when you arrive for your first volunteer activity requiring clearances. A copy of each background check will be made from the original and kept on file in the school office.

For the **FBI Federal Criminal History Record (Act 114)**, applicants should provide Mrs. Jones in the front office their PAE Registration # that they receive when they register online for the FBI finger print clearance. Mrs. Jones will share the PAE # with the Human Resources Department so the applicant's report can be reviewed online. Applicants may request a paper copy of the federal FBI Criminal History Record Information when they register to be fingerprinted, however, the School Administrator is required to review the official record online.

What if I cannot afford the clearance fees?

In the event financial hardship may deter you from volunteering when clearances are required, please contact [Mrs. Davis](#) or the MTLSD Director of Human Resources [Katie Devine](#) at (412) 344-2080 for financial assistance. All information regarding your request will be kept confidential.

If you need additional information regarding clearance requirements, or volunteer opportunities, please feel free to contact us. Thanks, in advance, for volunteering for the WES PTA!

~Jennifer Hetz, jenniferhertz@gmail.com and Joelle Schultz, toddngo@comcast.net, Co-Chairs, Volunteer Committee

Call for Pictures

The Washington Yearbook Committee would love to see your First Day of School, Pool Party, and Fall Family picnic photos.

If you have pictures to share, please email them to wesyearbook2017@gmail.com

A few things to remember when submitting pictures:

- Please include the name and grade of students in the photo if possible
- Make sure the resolution is 400KB or higher - If the picture is low resolution we can't use it
- Do not send a link to a website - the picture needs to be a jpeg attachment

~Jen Query & Christina Shaffer, Year Book Committee

School News

National Custodian Appreciation Day - October 2

Thank you Mr. Dale, Mr. Tim, and Mr. Ron!

This day is set aside to show appreciation to custodial workers across the nation for all the work they do "behind the scenes" to keep our buildings clean and well maintained. Mr. Dale, Mr. Tim, and Mr. Ron work endless hours throughout the year and are a very important part of the success at Washington Elementary!



So please tell your children to show their appreciation by stopping them in the hall and saying, "Thank you!" for all the wonderful things they do everyday for our school, staff, parents, and the students. They will truly appreciate it!

~Erin St. John, Staff Appreciation

Wednesdays We Wear Pink



October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Every Wednesday throughout the month of October we will be wearing pink. We invite students and staff to join us in our weekly pink out!

~Mary Kay Davis, Principal

Dress for Acceptance - "Blue it Out for Tourettes"

October 7, wear blue to show your acceptance of Tourette Syndrome.

Tourette Syndrome causes a person to move and make sounds that are out of their control. These symptoms make them appear different. You can show them that in blue we are all the same!



We invite our students and staff to join the "Blue it Out" on **Friday, October 7**.

~Mary Kay Davis, Principal

21st Century Libraries

Please save the date for an exciting event to explore new opportunities for our elementary libraries on the evening of **Thursday, October 20** at the high school. We will learn about the latest trends in 21st Century libraries and the impact they will have on our libraries in the coming year. We are fortunate to have internationally recognized library visionary Keith Webster, Dean of Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University, and an expert in building libraries of the future as our keynote speaker. Maker activities and childcare will be available for children during the event. I hope you can join us for this special evening to learn more. More information to come. If you have questions, please call 412-325-8201.

~Mary Kay Davis, Principal

Community News

Mt. Lebanon Council PTA invites you to a community-wide Parent Education event, a free screening of the nationally acclaimed educational film "Screenagers." **Wednesday, October 5, 7:00 pm** in the Mt Lebanon High School



Auditorium (155 Cochran Road, use entrance A2). [High school campus map](#).

About the movie: Are you watching kids scroll through life, with their rapid-fire thumbs and a six-second attention span? Physician and filmmaker Delaney Ruston saw that with her own kids and learned that the average kid spends 6.5 hours a day looking at screens. She wondered about the impact of all this time and about the friction occurring in homes and schools around negotiating screen time - friction she knew all too well.

In SCREENAGERS, as with her award-winning documentaries on mental health, Delaney takes a deeply personal approach as she probes into the vulnerable corners of family life, including her own, to explore struggles over social media, video games, academics and Internet addiction. Through poignant, and unexpectedly funny stories, along with surprising insights from authors, psychologists, and brain scientists, SCREENAGERS reveals how tech time impacts kids' development and offers solutions on how adults can empower kids to best navigate the digital world and find balance.

Learn more about the movie at the [Screenager's website](#)

Collections Corner

What is the Tyson Project A+ Program?



Tyson Project A+ Labels can be found on over 40 Tyson chicken products. If you see a black or red "Support Our Schools" rectangle, clip it! Each one earns 24 cents for Washington Elementary!

What can I do to help? Good thing you set aside that envelope or bag to collect Box Tops and Labels! All you need to do is clip the "Support Our Schools" tags from Tyson bags and boxes and add them to your stash of Collections. Send the whole envelope or bag in with your child or leave it in the front office at Washington. I'll pick them up and do the rest!

If you have any trouble figuring out where to find "Support Our Schools" on Tyson products, I'm happy to help. Just send [me](#) an email. And thank you all!

- Amy Olson and Samantha Dick, Collections Chairs

Links

Quick Links

[Lunch Menu](#) - *New*
[Mt. Lebanon School District](#)
[Washington Elementary School](#)
[Washington PTA](#)
[2016-2017 District Calendar](#)

District Links

[High School Renovation](#)
[PA State Health Requirements](#)

School Links

[Counselor's Corner](#) - *New*
[FLES Newsletter](#) - *New*
[FLES Facebook Page](#)
[Crossing Guard Information](#)
[Crossing Guard Information - 2 Hour Delay](#)
[Playground Safety Guidelines](#)
[Parent Right to Know Notification](#)

Collections Corner

Volunteer Clearance Policy Information
Emergency Medical Contact and Release
Information
Health Services Information

Giant Eagle
Shop 'N Save
Office Depot/Office Max
Box Tops for Education
Labels for Education
Tyson Project A+ Labels
My Coke Rewards Points

Community Flyers

Mt. Lebanon Aqua Club
Adult Swim

Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center

Art Factory, Age 4 - 8th
Babysitting Class, 9-15 years old
Dance, Ages 4-Teen
Holiday Glass Block Painting, Ages 4-8th
Jr. Tennis Clinic, Age 5-17
Karate, Age 7- Adult
Father & Son Campout, Boys K-5
Learn to Skate Evaluations, Preschool-
Kindergarten
Play Date on Ice, Preschool-Kindergarten
Developmental Ice Hockey League, Ages
5-12
Ice Hockey School, Ages 4-12

Outreach Teen and Family Services

Fall Parenting Discussions, 9/29, 10/13, &
11/9

TOPS Soccer, Age 6-Teen

Cub Scouts, Registration Information

Mt. Lebanon Basketball Association

Pre-Tryout Player Development Series,
Boys & Girls, Grades 4-8

PTA Forms, Flyers & Links

2016-2017 PTA Calendar
Welcome Back
PTA Volunteer
Read-A-Thon
Odyssey of the Mind
Traffic and Safety Information
Amazon Smile

Washington Elementary School

Principal: Mary Kay Davis

PTA President: Allison Carey

Newsletter Editors: Soncerae Yeager & Stacy de las Alas

washingtonweekly@gmail.com

Deadline to Submit:

Tuesday, 5:00 pm

By allowing contact information to appear in this newsletter, permission is given
for it to be viewed as part of the newsletter on Dashboard.

**Sign Up for an Electronic Copy of Washington Weekly
News**