

Washington Weekly News

What Day Is It?



Monday	October 10	Day 4
Tuesday	October 11	Day 5
Wednesday	October 12	No School
Thursday	October 13	Day 1
Friday	October 14	Day 2

Principal's Message

Wow, it is hard to believe we are in October already! It has been a fantastic start to the school year. It is so nice to have students back in the building. Thank you to our parent volunteers who have been so hard at work coordinating our first several events. Each one has been masterfully planned and very well attended.

Please join us on **October 20** for an exciting evening as we begin to explore new opportunities to enhance the Mt. Lebanon School District elementary libraries. The program *Dare to Dream: REIMAGINING OUR ELEMENTARY LIBRARIES* will take place at 7:00 pm in the High School Center Court. Our speaker for the evening will be Keith Webster, Dean of University Libraries at Carnegie Mellon University. Mr. Webster will share the latest thinking in 21st Century school libraries.

Our libraries have always been a vibrant learning space in our schools and a valued part of a Mt. Lebanon education. This new initiative will explore ways we can enrich our current libraries with a view to the future. All Mt. Lebanon parents are invited to attend. We hope you will join us to learn more.

For parents attending the program, we will have supervised Maker Space activities provided by Assemble Pittsburgh available for children K - 5 during the event.

~Mary Kay Davis, Principal

Important Dates

October
12 **No School:** Yom Kippur

- 17 School Board Meeting, 7:00 pm, High School Room D205 - Correction
- 19 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm, WES Auditorium
- 19 Lebo Stars Bonfire, 7:00 pm, Bird Park
- 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

November

- 8 No School: Election Day - Teacher In-Service
- 8 Election Day Bake Sale, WES & Mellon
- 11 Veteran's Day Celebration, 7:45 - 9:00 am, WES Gym

PTA News

Read-A-Thon



Great job Washington you completed the hard part of the Read-a-thon: The READING. I hope you were able to find some great stories and discover some new authors that you can continue to read throughout the year. Now it's time to reconnect with your sponsors. Let them know how much you read and collect your earnings. Pledges

are due **Monday, Oct 10**. All winners will be announced on **Friday, Oct 14**. Congratulations to all.

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

Calling All Washington Bakers



We need your help!!

Our annual Election Day Bake Sale is fast approaching and we need your help to make it a success! Every year the 5th grade class has a bake sale on Election Day to raise money for their trip to Camp Lutherlyn and all of the fun 5th grade activities. We are in need of cookies, brownies, breads, cakes and pies for both the Washington and Mellon polling locations. Please consider donating a tasty treat and help our 5th graders. It will be a big election--we will need lots of tasty treats. Please package your treats so they are ready to sell (one to two cookies per baggie). All items should be properly labeled if they contain nuts. You can drop off your items at the table located in the front hallway between 9:00 am - 3:30 pm on Monday, November 7. Please sign up through VolunteerSpot: <http://signup.com/go/RNxkU9>

Additionally, 5th grade families, please consider volunteering an hour or two of your time on Election Day. We need to fill 26 slots for both schools. That means we need two volunteers per hour per school.

Please sign up through VolunteerSpot: <http://signup.com/go/fpQVv4>

Thank you for your help!

~Heather Damron, Joyce Kraemer, Nickie Manning, Fran McAuley, & CharLynn Wertz, *Fifth Grade Fundraising Committee Co-Chairs*

Welcome to Washington

New classmates continue to arrive. Let's be sure to give them & their families a warm, Washington welcome!

1st grade: Gracie Michalski- Ms. Folmer

2nd grade: Mia Michalski- Mrs. Higgins & Alekhine Ferber - Mrs. Higgins

3rd grade Alejandro Satterfield- Mrs. Morsillo

4th grade Yike (Coco) Zhou- Mrs. Crouthamel

~Sharon Hartung & Christina Coulter, *Human Relations Chair*



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, & Joelle Schultz, Co-Chairs, Volunteer Committee

School News

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

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

District News

Annual Lebo Stars Bonfire

Where: Bird Park

When: **October 19, 7:00 - 8:30 pm**

Lebo Stars (*formerly Best Buddies*) is a high school club that encourages friendships between students with intellectual disabilities and the general high school population. We have a great time and are trying raise funds for our monthly activities!

We will have a bonfire, a pie eating contest and a great raffle! If you want to buy tickets for the raffle, but can't attend, please click on the following link (or paste it into your browser): <http://forms.mtlsd.org/F/?56242>

***There may be more prizes added to this form as we receive donations. We are accepting forms and payment through October 18.*

Thanks for your support!

Reflections: What is Your Story?

This year's reflection theme is "What is Your Story?" We all love to tell and hear stories at all ages. We all can have a lot to share about our daily experiences. This is the year for you to enter if you have not in the past. Just remember you do not have to be a professional artist or dancer or photographer this is all about expressing and being creative! For more information and for an entry form, visit the [reflections](#) webpage.

Get Creative!

This is your chance to express who you are as an individual through one or more of the following:

- Dance Choreography
- Film Production
- Literature
- Music Composition
- Photography
- Visual Arts

Your work will be reviewed by experienced arts and education volunteers. Judges look for the following:

- **Interpretation:** How closely the piece relates to the theme, based on the artwork itself and the artist statement.
- **Creativity:** How creative and original the piece is in its conception of the theme and its presentation.
- **Technique:** The level of skill demonstrated in the basic principles/techniques of the arts area.

For inspiration, visit our nation award-winning [Art Gallery](#).

Tell Us About Your Work

In your artist statement, tell us about your work and what it means to you.

- How does your work relate to the theme?
- What is your personal connection to the theme?
- What did you use to create your work (e.g. supplies, technology, instrumentation, props, etc.)?
- What/Who was your inspiration?

Win Awards & Prizes!

Be recognized as an artist and enter to win awards and prizes provided by your local, regional, state and National PTA!

Follow your school's PTA deadlines and instructions on how to enter. Additional guidelines and forms may be available by your State PTA. Awards and prizes will vary by PTA.

Learn more about [state-level](#) and [national-level](#) awards and events.

Enter the Theme Search Contest

The search is on for a future National PTA Reflections theme!

One exceptional theme will be chosen on **February 1, 2017** to inspire creativity for the 2018-2019 PTA Reflections program theme. The winner will receive \$100 and recognition at the Annual National PTA Convention. Theme Search judges look for a



focused and clear theme promoting PTA values that is appropriate for all grades and applicable to all arts categories. [Past themes](#) are not considered.

Any questions please Contact Heather Damron: Damrongirls3@gmail.com

All projects are due November 4 please turn the projects into the school office

Community News

Mt. Lebanon Public Library will be Closed

Heads up parents and students! The Mt. Lebanon Public Library will be closed on **Monday, October 10**, for a staff development day.

Collections Corner

Box Tops



The Fall [Box Tops](#) deadline is **November 1**. I will be sending in any Box Tops you submit to the school. Please take a moment to make sure you do not have any Box Tops that will expire in 2016 (before our spring contest). If you do, please send them in this week.

Looking for a way to get collect even more Box Tops? You might want to try signing up for the [Pillsbury](#) “kid-friendly” recipe list to receive recipes that use Box Tops products. You can also visit the Box Tops coupon webpage to access print and digital coupons. Every Box Top member is eligible

for \$573.80 in [couponsavings](#) each year! Click on the links to learn more. And remember, we’re always happy to help at Collections Corner – just send me an [email](#). And thank you all!

- Amy Olson and Samantha Dick, Collections Corner Chairs

Links

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School Links

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Collections Corner

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[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 Recreation Center

Babysitting Class, 9-15 years old
Holiday Glass Block Painting, Ages 4-8th
Play Date on Ice, Preschool-Kindergarten
Developmental Ice Hockey League, Ages 5-12
Basketball, Boys & Girls, 2nd-8th Grades -
New

Outreach Teen and Family Services

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

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
Reflections - **New**

Washington Elementary School

Principal: Mary Kay Davis

PTA President: Allison Carey

Newsletter Editors: Soncerae Yeager & Stacy de las Alas

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Deadline to Submit:

Tuesday, 5:00 pm

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