
September 19, 2017

The Wolftrap Connection

A biweekly newsletter jointly published by the Wolftrap Administration and PTA

From the Principal: STEAM, outdoor classrooms!

Dear Wolftrap Families:

I hope you enjoyed our Back-to-School-Night and it was wonderful to see so many parents here visiting our classrooms.

As I mentioned in my school-wide address, the Wolftrap staff is committed to streamlining communication to strengthen the partnership between school and home. In addition to the grade-level Monthly Updates, **Blackboard 24/7** will be an important tool to help students keep track of daily homework. They will also have access to additional curriculum resources such as study guides, websites for review and practice, etc. Teachers presented their communication plans to you at BTSN and I hope you find this new system an effective way to stay apprised of your child's academic progress and happenings in the classroom.

As a reminder, please remember to submit the following **important forms** to your child's classroom teacher: Student Rights and Responsibilities parent signature sheet, optional opt-out forms, and SOL retest permission form.

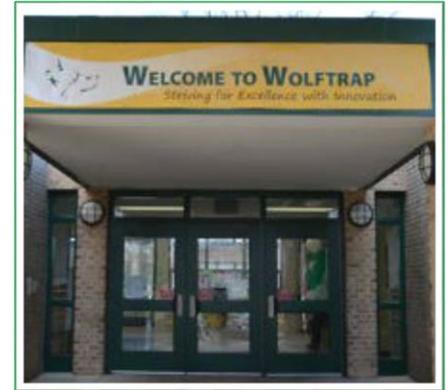
In exciting news, monthly lessons in the **STEAM Lab** are beginning next week with a timely focus on the impact weather can have and students will generate possible solutions to problems presented to them. Additionally, I have been working with the PTA Green Committee on the creation of **outdoor classroom spaces!** I look forward to featuring our first endeavor in an upcoming Wolftrap Connection.

Thank you again for all that you do to support our staff and students on a daily basis. I look forward to seeing you at The Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Night on Sep. 19!



Sincerely,

Teresa Khuluki,
Wolftrap Principal



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Staff Birthdays

Sept. 21: Scott Rosenfeld

Sept. 23: Chris Bussanich

Sept. 28: Maggie Grove

Sept. 29: Hope Bolyard

Oct. 1: Tae Ho Park

Oct. 8: Megan Kime

Oct. 10: Cathy Lee

Oct. 18: Hong Liang

From the PTA: How to support our programs

Greetings Wolfftrap Families!

We hope everyone has settled back into the routine and that your new school year is off to a great start! It's been a busy first few weeks for the PTA. Thanks to everyone who came out for our annual Wolfftrap Under the Stars event (see next page for photos). Thankfully, the weather cooperated for us and we had a great turnout of new and returning families joining us for ice cream, music, hamster balls, bounce houses, and more!

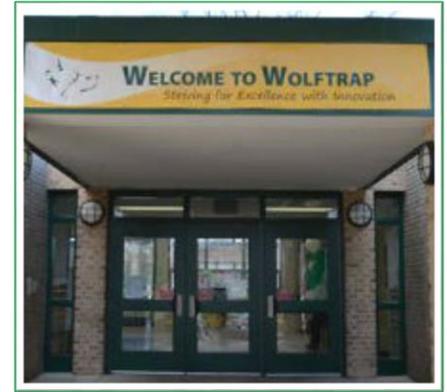
Hopefully many of you were also able to make it to Back to School Night to meet the staff and teachers and hear a little more about the upcoming school year. If you were there, you heard me announce on WTRP that the PTA still very much needs your support. We have a goal of raising **\$8,000 through PTA memberships** and **\$15,000 through our Friends of Wolfftrap** fundraising. We offer many programs and events (like Wolfftrap Under the Stars) thanks to your very generous continued support, and we hope to reach our fundraising goal early this year if possible, so that we ensure our ability to continue sponsorship of all of these important and enriching events. We are off to a good start, and we have to give a special thanks to the more than 30 teachers that have already signed up as of last week, as well as to the over 250 parents who've already joined, but to fully fund the programs we've planned for the year, we need to do better. To join the PTA, visit our website – wolfftrappta.org – and sign up for a Membership Tool Kit account. You will then be directed on how to join the PTA. Membership is \$25 for one parent or \$40 per family.

Our first PTA meeting was held last Thursday, Sept. 14th. Thanks to all those who made it! At that meeting, we approved our **2017–2018 budget**, which you can access on our website under our [PTA meetings tab](#). We also approved funding for administration and teacher requests for new wobble stools for every kindergarten and 1st-grade classroom, as well as microphones and cords for use by our 6th graders during the morning news show. For more information about other agenda items discussed at the meeting, you can access minutes of each PTA meeting [on our website](#). Please note that minutes are not finalized until after they are reviewed and approved at the following month's meeting, but I'm happy to answer any questions about topics of conversation from the meetings anytime!

Our Welcome Committee also hosted a **Welcome Coffee** last Friday for new parents looking to learn more about the PTA or school in general. Many thanks to Mrs. Khuluki for attending and answering questions from our Wolfftrap families.

Lots of great stuff is coming up in the weeks ahead, so keep checking out new editions of the Wolfftrap Connection to stay up to speed on what's happening at the school.

Michelle Ramos (president@wolfftrappta.org)



Faculty

New members in **bold**

KINDERGARTEN: Ellen Carbajal, Kristina Kroon, **Ellen Mekhagnomdara**

FIRST GRADE: Hope Bolyard, **Laura McBride**, Kelly McCoy

SECOND GRADE: Stephanie Burdett, **Jeremy Cohen**, Kathleen Mehari, Annie Van Hilst

THIRD GRADE: **Stephanie Case**, Debbie Clinage, Samira Newman

FOURTH GRADE: Dana Harlan (Perez), Shannon Stubbs, Shannon Stulb

FIFTH GRADE: Jessica Bennett, Cynthia Bush, Lydia Cabbage, Lisa Long

SIXTH GRADE: Brian Batsel, Amy Beans, Mary Beth Hazelgrove, Sharon Kassing

SPECIAL EDUCATION: Susan Robb, **Kate Piester**, **Christine Fraser**, **Cara Iselin**, Megan Kime, **Tracy Farrington**

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A great night for Wolftrap Under the Stars



The rain held off for our annual kickoff event. Thanks to all who came out and enjoyed being back at Wolftrap!



Volunteer! Library, GRACE Art, classroom and more!



The school year is now well underway, which means there have been lots of volunteer opportunities coming your way through the school, PTA, and your child's teacher – room parenting, library volunteers, [GRACE Art help](#), Strategies lab, and more. If you feel like you missed an opportunity to sign up somewhere

along the way, write president@wolfftrappta.org to be connected to the right person to contact. All of the many programs and activities run by the PTA can't take place without the support of dozens of volunteers throughout the school year, and we are so fortunate to have so many people willing to step in when needed! Visit the [Volunteer tab](#) on the PTA website for more information about additional volunteering needs that arise during the year.

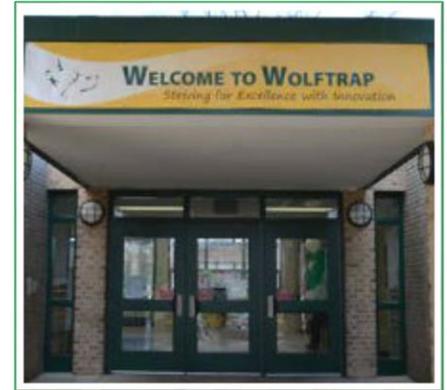
The Clinical Corner

School Social Worker Courtney Marques and **School Psychologist Kathy Truax** have joined the clinical team this year. Part of their role will be to participate in special education screening meetings and the eligibility process to identify student with disabilities. The clinical team also provides services throughout the school including **crisis intervention, behavioral consultation, and individual and group counseling**. Individually, Kathy Truax is a part of the 504 Knowledgeable Committee and the Responsive Instruction Core Team. Courtney Marques provides assistance to families with basic needs through appropriate referrals to community resources, and is a part of the Attendance Committee. Alongside the two **Wolfftrap Elementary counselors, Laura May and Lisa Johnson**, the clinical team will act as a liaison between family, school, and the community. Together, they will be providing you with resources and helpful information in this newsletter under the heading "The Clinical Corner."

Join Odyssey of the Mind

Have you heard of Odyssey of the Mind, but don't really know what it is? A parent information meeting will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Parents will learn about the value of the Odyssey of the Mind program, and will have an opportunity to gain some hands-on experience on how it works.

Visit Wolfftrap's [Odyssey of the Mind page](#), to find instructions on registration as well as links to some of our OM resources. Registration is open now, and will close on Friday, Oct. 6.



Faculty (specialists)

ART: Bethany Mallino

PE: Devon Dowell, Jason Polaha

LIBRARY: Karen DeHoratiis

MUSIC: Carolyn Barker, Sarah Chambers

BAND: Joseph McClure

STRINGS: Jill Wisinski

CHINESE: EunKyoung Kwon, Cathy Lee

SPECIAL ED IAs: Laurie Chuslo, Robin Kulko, Renee Ridgway

KINDERGARTEN IAs: Marissa Fuller, Pam Robertson, Jane Renshaw

GENERAL ED IAs: Susan Jones, Shirley Hickerson, Carol Ann Ohmberger

RESOURCE STAFF: Mat Campet (tech), Kevin Dabbondanza, Maggie Grove (Adv Academics), Jan Buckner (ESOL), Kathy Thiringer (Reading), Karen Devlin, Erin Berk, Scott Rosenfeld

(More staff in next issue)

Meet our new teachers!

See the previous [Wolftrap Connection](#) for more new teachers!

Tracy Farrington, Speech-Language Pathologist



Ms. Farrington earned her Bachelor's degree in Communication Disorders at Auburn University (War Eagle!) and her Master's degree at the University of Virginia. During her graduate studies, she had the opportunity to complete practicums in a wide variety of settings and populations where she gained experience with Autism Spectrum Disorder, speech sound disorders, language disorders, fluency disorders, apraxia, aphasia, traumatic brain injury, swallowing disorders and voice disorders. She is very excited to work at Wolftrap this year and get to know the wonderful students, parents and teachers of Vienna!

Laura McBride, First Grade Teacher



This is Mrs. McBride's first year teaching and she could not be more excited to be joining the amazing Wolftrap team because of the strong community feel that is here. Everyone is so kind and welcoming! She can already tell that everyone in this school community is committed to supporting each other and ensuring success for all of our students. She is originally from Kentucky, but moved to the area from Baltimore after her husband, Justin, was accepted into the MBA program at Georgetown University. She attended college in Utah at Brigham Young University and finished her undergraduate degree at Towson University in Maryland. She has previously worked in first grade through fourth grade classrooms in Baltimore City Public Schools and Baltimore County Public Schools. Mrs. McBride has a passion for learning and hopes to instill that in her students this year. It is going to be a great year!

Ellen Mekhagnomdara (Mrs. Mek), Kindergarten Teacher



Mrs. Mekhagnomdara (known as Mrs. Mek) grew up in Alexandria, Va., and went to Longwood University to get her degree in Elementary Education and minor in Special Education. She taught in Florida for five years, then came back to Fairfax County. She went to UVA for her masters in Social Foundations of Education. She has two wonderful boys, who will be a 2nd grader and preschooler. She resides with her family in Vienna and she loves to cheer on the Redskins, travel and go running! She has always taught kindergarten and is excited to start her 15th year of teaching at Wolftrap! Mrs. Mek is looking forward to a wonderful year!

Kate Piester, Special Education Teacher



Mrs. Piester is new to Wolftrap Elementary this year, but not new to teaching. She graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Elementary Education from the State University of New York at Potsdam and a Masters Degree in Special Education from the State University of New York at Oswego. She took her first job straight out of college and has been teaching ever since. This will be her 18th year teaching! She recently moved to Virginia with her family when her husband accepted a position in Alexandria at Red Peg Marketing. She loves to be a part of a school community and is so looking forward to making Virginia and Wolftrap her home!

Reflections: Dance, film, music, any form of art

The Reflections Arts Program is seeking student submissions for the upcoming school year in all grade levels and across all artistic abilities. Participation in the program allows students to explore the arts through the 2017-2018 theme, "Within Reach" and express themselves and their unique talents while receiving recognition for their artistic efforts by local judges. All students who submit work by Friday, Oct. 27, 2017 will be invited to attend a Spring Reception and Gallery Night where their works will be displayed. [See our flyer.](#)

Submissions may be in one or more category, including dance choreography, film production, literature, music composition, photography, visual arts and special artists. Submissions will be accepted in the front office at Wolftrap E.S. during office hours. An application must accompany every submission and may be found at the [Virginia PTA site](#), along with the [official rules](#).

Questions may be directed to Andrea Dahl or Stephanie Zeitlin at reflections@wolftrappta.org

Can we have class outside?



Why are large blocks of wood sitting in front of Wolftrap? The Green Team setting up an outdoor classroom! Thanks to JL Tree Service for their help, and look for more details on

our Facebook page and in the next Wolftrap Connection!

Watch D.O.G.S.: Volunteer, join us for pizza

It's not too late to RSVP for the Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) pizza party on Tuesday, Sept. 19th from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Enjoy pizza with your kids, learn about the program, and get first dibs on volunteer dates. A huge thank you to Tim Pierson of **The Tim Pierson Home Sales Team** for sponsoring the program this year including the pizza party event! [See our site](#) for more info.

We also need volunteers, including middle schoolers and high schoolers, for the pizza party. [Sign up here](#)



Thanks to JL Tree for helping with our Outdoor Classroom!

Upcoming Events

September 19

Watch D.O.G.S. Pizza Night, cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.

September 20

Walking Wednesday

September 22

STUDENT HOLIDAY

October 4

International Walk to School Day (Walking Wednesday)

October 4

GRACE Art orientation meeting, cafeteria, 8:45 a.m.

October 9

STUDENT HOLIDAY

October 10

Dining for Dollars, Social Burger, 4-9 p.m.

October 12

PTA meeting, 7 p.m.

Our calendar is on Google. To add to your Google Calendar, click the + sign at the bottom of the calendar frame [here](#).

PTA Happenings

Walk safely!: A quick safety note: If you're walking to school and **do NOT see a crossing guard** at the Beulah Road crosswalk, **please call the office!** Wolftrap staff cannot direct traffic, but the office can call the police.

Giant A+ Rewards Program: It is time to register your Giant card! Last year, Wolftrap raised \$7,471 from the A+ Rewards program. Using your loyalty card, you can earn money for our school every time you shop for groceries. Sign up now at <https://giantfood.com/school-rewards/> with our School ID: 02136. If you do not know your Giant number, please call 1-877-366-2668. Contact Amy Britton at rebates@wolftrappta.org with any questions, see the [Education Rebates](#) page and [see our flyer](#) for more ways to support Wolftrap!

Fall Box Tops contest: The fall Box Tops Contest has begun! Please turn in your Box Tops by Friday, Oct. 20. Place all box tops in an envelope or zip-lock bag and drop them off at the main office or "Feed the Wolf" in the front lobby. The bag must be labeled with your student's name and teacher's name in order for your Box Tops to be counted in the contest. The homeroom class that sends in the most box tops will win either extra recess time or a pajama day. The top individual contributor also will win a prize. Ask neighbors, grandparents, friends and small business owners to help you collect Box Tops. For a complete list of participating products, visit www.boxtops4education.com

GRACE Art: If you are interested in joining a team of parents spending one hour a month in your child's classroom leading or assisting a fun art-related activity, please consider helping out with GRACE Art! The October theme is Native American Art. Volunteers welcome for all classes. No experience necessary. Come to an **orientation meeting** Wednesday, Oct. 4, at 8:45 in the Wolftrap Cafeteria. Learn more and sign up on [our site](#).

PTA Closet: The closet is being cleaned out and reorganized, so if you have longstanding items in there and want a say in how/where they are organized, let the board know: president@wolftrappta.org

Whole Foods fundraiser: Whole Foods is donating a percent of sales to the Fairfax County Council of PTAs on Wednesday, Sept. 20.

GEMS: It's still not too late for fifth/sixth grade girls to join GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science), which meets with Ms. Burdett and Ms. Cubbage on the second Wednesday of every month beginning in October. Please send an email to afterschool@wolftrappta.org if you're still interested. Preference will be given to sixth graders.



Reminders

Join the PTA, get a directory: Remember to [join the PTA](#) for 2017-18. While you're on the PTA site, please update your directory information. And if you join the PTA now, you'll get a free directory when they're available.

Walking Wednesday: Learn more about walking or biking - and earning prizes - on the [Safe Routes to School page](#).

Spirit Wear: Get T-shirts, activewear, outerwear, caps, flannel pants, umbrellas and more through the month of September. Check out the Spirit Wear page for ordering info.

About This Publication

The Wolftrap Connection is jointly produced by the Wolftrap Elementary PTA and the Wolftrap faculty/staff. Send any concerns, questions, or ideas about the newsletter to the [Communications Team](#).

Past issues are archived on the [Wolftrap ES site](#) and [Wolftrap PTA site](#).

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