
October 2, 2017

The Wolftrap Connection

A biweekly newsletter jointly published by the Wolftrap Administration and PTA

From the Principal: Monthly Update and Coffee

Dear Wolftrap Families:

Welcome to October and we hope to start enjoying some cooler weather on the playground!

MONTHLY UPDATES: Each grade level team has created an update on our website to inform you about specific grade level content that will be covered in the month of October in math, language arts, science, and social studies. Each specialist has created an update so that you have a window into what your children will be doing in PE, music, art, Chinese, band/strings, and library. You will find additional information from our counselors, AAP, ESOL, and STEAM. Please take a few moments to read the updates at

<http://www2.fcps.edu/WolftrapES/updates.html>

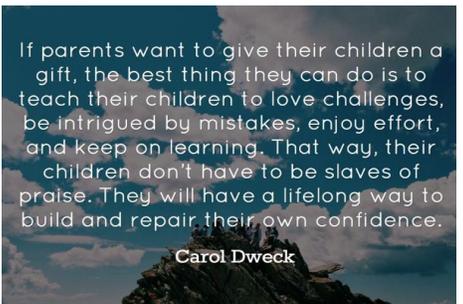
PRINCIPAL'S COFFEE: Although I present items of interest to parents at monthly PTA meetings, additional times have been set up for parents to ask questions and learn more about our instructional programs. Therefore, I will be hosting several informal gatherings this year to provide a forum for discussions about Wolftrap and FCPS news and events. The first Principal's Coffee will take place on **Wednesday, Oct. 18, at 8:45 a.m.** I hope to see you there!

Thank you again for your ongoing support. Here is a quote on the upper left of this section from renowned psychologist Carol Dweck that I wanted to share.



Sincerely,

Teresa Khuluki,
Wolftrap Principal



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Staff Birthdays

Oct. 1: Tae Ho Park

Oct. 8: Megan Kime

Oct. 10: Cathy Lee

Oct. 18: Hong Liang

Oct. 22: Donna Orasin

Oct. 24: Kate Piester

Oct. 27: Marissa Fuller

From the PTA: Update from the President

Greetings Wolftrap Families!

THANKS FOR A GREAT SEPTEMBER! Hard to believe the first month of school is already behind us! September was a big success with great turnout at our welcome back festivities, parents and kids participating in large numbers at our PTA events, and PTA dollars already being spent on improvements to the school and classrooms (see "October PTA News" below). In case you missed any of the highlights, check out the first two editions of our Wolftrap Connection at wolftrappta.org. Minutes from our September PTA meeting will also be available online once approved at our Oct. 12th PTA meeting.

PTA MEMBERSHIP & FUNDRAISING. We are getting close to reaching our goal of raising \$8,000 through PTA membership, with over 60 parents joining in just the last two weeks. So if you've been meaning to sign up, now is the time to do it! To join the PTA, visit wolftrappta.org and sign up for an account. You will then be directed on how to join the PTA. Membership is \$25 for one parent or \$40 per family. Also, **we are less than halfway to our \$15,000 fundraising goal for Friends of Wolftrap.** Please consider donating today -- any amount would be appreciated. We won't be able to fully fund our planned activities for the year unless we reach our fundraising goals.

OCTOBER PTA NEWS:

- We approved plans to upgrade two water fountains in the cafeteria and outside the gym at our last PTA meeting. These water fountains will feature no-touch sensor-activated bottle filling stations which will help reduce the spread of germs and also reduce the number of disposable water bottles used on campus.
- Wobble stools have been purchased for all the kindergarten and 1st grade classrooms and should be arriving soon.
- New microphones for use on the morning news show have come in and are already being used by our 6th grade news teams.
- Students have also started spending time in the newly renovated STEAM lab, so if you haven't had a chance, go check out the new space and activities.
- And last but not least, I'm sure many of you were curious to see a large pile of logs being moved around the school grounds in the last two weeks. Keep reading through this edition of the Wolftrap Connection to learn about the roll-out of an outdoor classroom space!

UPCOMING PTA MEETING. Our next PTA meeting will be held on Thursday evening, October 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Wolftrap Library. We expect to present our annual audit report and recommendations at that meeting. We had a large turnout of new and returning parents at our September meeting, and we hope you can all join us again next Thursday!

Thanks again for all the support in the first weeks of school. October should be a fun month with field trips, spirit days and other Wolftrap traditions in full swing. Check the Wolftrap Connection for all the latest!

- Michelle Ramos (president@wolftrappta.org)

Spotlight: Activities in Mrs. Bolyard's 1st Grade Class



Mrs. Bolyard's class welcomed a Mystery Reader and worked in the STEAM Lab to create a house that can sustain a hurricane.



GRACE Art: Native American pottery



GRACE Art features the work of Native American artists for the month of October. We will focus on clay pottery, and discuss specifically the clay work of celebrated Mexican artist Juan Quezada as featured in the children's book *The Pot That Juan Built* by Nancy Andrews-Goebel. When Juan Quezada was a young child he moved to the village of Mata Ortiz where he rediscovered the pottery making process of the Casas Grandes people who had vanished from that part of Mexico six hundred years earlier.

Juan tries to stay as true to the original pottery making ways of the Casas Grandes people as he possibly can. He digs, soaks, strains and kneads his own clay. He makes all of his pots by hand and polishes the clay with stones so he can create a "canvas" to paint on. He makes paints from minerals found in the hills above the village of Mata Ortiz. After painting the pots with complicated designs, Juan fires his pots in cow manure or cottonwood bark stacked around a quemador or inverted clay tub that covers the pot. After the fire is lit, the fuel burns, then the quemador is removed so the pot can cool.

Students will use air dry clay. They will use their hands to create a pinch pot. After they have created a pinch pot with a thick enough wall around the top, they will roll out coils and will attach the coils to the top of the pinch pot by using the slip and score technique. After they have smoothed out the clay with their fingers, students will use toothpicks to gently carve Native American symbol into the wet clay. When the pots are dry, students may take them home!

The first jam session for GRACE Art will be held in the cafeteria next Wednesday, October 4th at 8:45. It is important for docents to attend the jam sessions so, if possible, please join us!

Pizza Bingo: Volunteer and donate prizes, then get ready to eat and win!

Friday, Oct. 20: Students, teachers, parents and families are all welcome to join in this community building PIZZA BINGO Night in the school cafeteria (no charge). Doors open at 5:30pm. **Pizza and Scoops2U ice cream** are once again being sold (all proceeds go to the PTA) so don't forget to bring cash to this exciting and fun night that the students, teachers and families enjoy! Prizes are available. We are asking families to donate not only their time at the actual event by **volunteering** (including older children looking for service hours) but also **prize donations** (look for the Bingo Prize box in the school office in early October). Clean out your junk drawer and closet (one man's trash is another man's treasure!) and donate those birthday party favors taking up space. Check the PTA website for volunteer Sign-Up Genius in early October.



For questions, please email bingo@wolftrappta.org

PTA Green Team and volunteers help students and teachers get outside!

Wolftrap installed its first ever “outdoor classroom” this month in response to teacher interest in taking learning outside! Learning outdoors in nature can actually increase academic performance – not to mention provide the mind and body benefits of all that fresh air, natural light and sounds, and space for kids to move. Teachers are eager to teach a variety of subjects outside.

The PTA Green team worked with Mrs. Khuluki and Ms. Bussanich to select a prime location – behind the school just next to the quad area along the fence under shady trees. Log stumps provide seating for a whole class, with a special chair of honor for the teacher. Local company **JL Trees** generously donated the time to cut the wood and transport it to school. The space consists of 30 log stump chairs and a special teacher’s log seat all from mature local oak trees.



With the work of five Wolftrap families, this space has become a reality in less than a month. Trees and people-power came from the Meren family. The Wintermute family used its ride-on John Deere tractor to pull logs from the front schoolyard to the back. The Choate family was happy to roll logs to the back schoolyard and organize people to sand and seal the stumps so they last. The Gramann-Willis and Brown-Farquharson families helped clean up the space and position logs in place.

Teachers are already experimenting with how to use. Students are thinking about related project based learning activities. Here are some questions already raised:

- How will the school share the space? What guidelines or rules should be set?
- What decorations or additions should be included?
- How can the school as a community take ownership to ensure that the space is maintained?
- Do teachers want permanent or moveable easels for lessons?
- Can we install other outdoor learning spaces elsewhere in the school yard?
- How can we celebrate and officially launch this space?

This is a creative experiment, and just a first step in bringing our children outside for learning. The more families who can get involved to help with ideas, the more amazing this space can be for our children and community, especially in the areas of pulling weeds, preserving installed structures (sealant, artwork) or special projects (attention Scouts!).

Help can happen during the school day, afterschool, and on weekends. Contact Melanie Meren at gogreen@wolftrappta.org to get involved!

Food Services Newsletter

As Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) enters our second full year of the new initiatives, our message and mission have not wavered. We believe a school nutrition department can be a catalyst for change in a community, and are committed to influencing a generation through healthy eating behaviors.

While there are numerous holidays throughout the school year, the month of October marks one that is very special to FNS: National Farm to School Month. FNS is committed to providing a visionary program that is rooted in fresh and locally sourced items and linked to nutrition education. FNS recently made its first official "Farm to School" (F2S) purchase from a local Virginia farmer.

F2S programming gives our students access to nutritious food while enhancing classroom education through experiential learning related to food, agriculture, nutrition and health. During October, speak to school administrators about starting a school garden. There are over 70 gardens in Fairfax County Public Schools, and your school could be a part of this great learning and health opportunity. FNS is developing procedures to then use these items in our school nutrition program, so students can reap the benefits of their hard work.

National School Lunch Week is October 9-13, 2017 with the theme of "School Lunch: Recipes for Success." FNS has taken this theme to heart and wants to serve food that is not only nutritious but appeals to student appetite. With the recent hire of an experienced Chef, we will continue to create and innovate new meal options that promote student health.

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) serves more than 30 million children in the United States every day, and is composed of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and low-fat dairy options. If your child has not eaten school lunch in a while, many changes have been made over the last 2 years and FNS is excited to bring students better options.

Whether it is National Farm to School Month or National School Lunch week, the new school year is sure to be full of exciting health and wellness themed celebrations.

For more information on how you can celebrate healthy eating in your school food environment, please contact the Food Service Office at (703) 813-4800.

Sign up to deliver weekly food donation

The PTA Green Team continues managing the popular **Food Recycling program**, where unopened food and drinks and fresh fruit from lunch is delivered weekly to the Food for Others food bank, located near Mosaic District in Merrifield. Students place food donations into containers at lunch daily, and all food is transported from school weekly via volunteer drivers. The program reduces waste and promotes compassion towards others who do not have such food to spare. [Sign up](#) for a weekly food delivery and read more about the program on the [Wolftrap PTA site](#).

Full Wolfrap staff and faculty list

Principal: Teresa Khuluki

Assistant Principal: Chris Bussanich

TEACHERS

- **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

SPECIALISTS AND INSTRUCTIONAL ASSISTANTS

- **Art:** Bethany Mallino
- **PE:** Devon Dowell, Jason Polaha, Scott Rosenfeld (adapted)
- **Librarian:** Karen DeHoratiis
- **Chinese:** Eun Kyoung Kwon, Cathy Lee
- **Music:** Carolyn Barker/Sarah Chambers
- **Band:** Joseph McClure, Erica Hirt
- **Strings:** Jill Wisinski
- **Special Education:** Tracy Farrington (Speech), Hannah Biskup (Speech), Susan Robb (4th), Kate Piester (1st/2nd/6th), Cara Iselin (3rd/5th), Christine Fraser, Megan Kime
- **Special Ed instructional assistants:** Laurie Chuslo, Robin Kolko, Renee Ridgway
- **Kindergarten instructional assistants:** Marissa Fuller, Pam Robertson, Jane Renshaw
- **General Ed instructional assistants:** Susan Jones, Shirley Hickerson, Carol Ann Ohrnberger

STAFF

- **Technology:** Mat Campet, Kevin Dabbondanza
- **Counselors:** Laura May, Lisa Johnson
- **Psychologist:** Kathy Truax
- **Physical Therapy:** Erin Berk
- **Social Worker:** Courtney Marques
- **Advanced Academics:** Maggie Grove
- **Reading:** Kathy Thiringer
- **ESOL:** Jan Buckner
- **Occupational Therapy:** Karen Devlin
- **Office:** Syd Murphy, Donna Orasin, Samantha Williams
- **Custodians:** Kwadwo Adjapong, Cynthia Irias, Tae Ho Park, Rubia Ramos
- **Cafeteria:** Sung Kim, Hong Liang, Jullien Tsui
- **Clinic:** Sharon Wolf
- **Crossing guard:** Edie Adcock

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

- Is Art your child's favorite subject in school?
- Does your child like to paint, draw, or write?
- Is your child always grabbing your cell phone to take videos or pictures?
- Can your child dance or play an instrument?



The National Reflections Art Program is seeking student submissions from all grade levels and across all abilities. There is even a separate category for children with special needs. Submissions may be in one or more areas including: Film Production, Dance Choreography, Music Composition, Literature (Writing Poetry or a Short Story), Visual Arts, Photography, and Special Artists. This year's theme is "WITHIN REACH". Please submit entries to the office by **Friday, Oct. 27**. All students who submit an entry will be invited with their families to attend a Spring Reception and Gallery Night where their works will be displayed. Any questions, please email reflections@wolftrappta.org or see [our page on the Wolftrap PTA site](#).

Cultural Arts Assembly coming in mid-October

On Wednesday, Oct. 18th, we will have our first assembly beginning right after morning announcements. *A Perfect Balance* is a multimedia theatre performance that explores and celebrates the artistic process. We follow Sandy, an artist/inventor, on a journey to find his masterpiece. The play, which integrates music, movement, text, puppetry and visual art, celebrates the sometimes rocky road of discovery – of creating something that is wholly new and wholly your own. We hope *A Perfect Balance* will inspire your students to make connections between Sandy's inventive journey and their own creative endeavors.

We welcome a few parents to help manage the students as they enter and exit the assembly, set up for lunch, and to take pictures during the assembly. If interested please email the cultural arts committee, culturalarts@wolftrappta.org.

Yearbook needs your pictures

Get your pictures in the yearbook! The Yearbook Staff invites students and parents to submit photos for the yearbook.* If you've got great photos of school events, we'd like to see them. Our photographers can't be everywhere. Help us get as many photos as possible to create a terrific book everyone will want to have.

To submit photos, go to <https://images.schoolannualonline.com/409403601>, browse to select the photo(s) you wish to upload, enter information about the photo (grade of those pictured is super helpful), provide contact information in case the staff needs additional information, and click "Save Details". It's that easy! Submit your photos today! The last day to submit photos is Feb. 28.

* *The Yearbook Staff will review all photos and determine final yearbook content. We cannot guarantee that all submissions can be used in the book.*

Safe Routes to School: First grade takes Golden Sneaker



Walking Wednesdays are off to a great start this year and we are seeing great numbers of walkers and bikers. The first Golden Sneaker was handed out last week, and 1st grade was the big winner. At left: Kinsley Wintermute and Shelby Smith present 1st grader Kaiden Griggs with the trophy.

As a reminder, **Walking Wednesdays** will be held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month. Kids can collect toe tokens and parents can enjoy the coffee kindly donated by Caffe Amouri. The Safe Routes committee is coming up with other incentives for more kids to bike/walk to school.

International Walk to School Day is coming up on Oct. 4, and we will also hold our first bike train of the year beginning at 8 a.m, on the corner of Liberty Tree Lane and Beulah Road. Fairfax County Police Department bike officers will be there to lead us. Please join us there or anywhere else on the map. As an added bonus on Oct 4, in addition to the tokens, every biker and walker will receive a coupon for a FREE Ledo's Pizza.

Safety reminder: No pickup on Talisman Drive!

Please, please, please! DO NOT PARK ON TALISMAN during restricted hours as a means of dropping off/picking up your child. It is not safe for your child, and it is not safe for our student safety patrols and the many walkers who cross that area on the way to and from school. Our patrols endeavor to place cones out to mark the restricted areas, but even if the cones are not in place, that does not mean it is acceptable to park in those locations. Many parents (and nannies/au pairs/babysitters) have been asked to move their vehicles during the first few weeks of school.



In addition, if for some reason the crossing guard is not present at the Beulah Road crosswalk, please immediately notify the Front Office so they can contact the Fairfax County Police Department for assistance. The Front Office staff cannot see the crosswalk area from the school building and may not be aware of the absence of a crossing guard unless notified. Please note that Wolftrap staff are not legally permitted to direct traffic themselves on Beulah Road.

School Happenings



Dining for Dollars: The next Dining for Dollars event is on Tuesday, Oct. 10th at Social Burger on Maple Avenue in Vienna. From 4 to 9 p.m., 20% of all checks go to Wolftrap ES. No flyer required.

Watch D.O.G.S.: Thank you to all of the dads, Grandpas, uncles, Wolftrap administrators and kids that attended the Watch D.O.G.S. pizza night. And a huge thank you to The Tim Pierson Home Sales Team for sponsoring the night and the program! For those of you who missed the event, you can sign up for a day to volunteer [here](#). Check out the information covered at the event on [our website!](#)

FCPS Mental Health and Wellness Conference: This will be held on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Fairfax High School from 8:00 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. Dr. Scott Brabrand, our new FCPS superintendent, will open the conference, and Dr. Jonathan Dalton, founder of the Center for Anxiety and Behavioral Change, will be the keynote speaker. Participants in this conference will be able to choose from over 50 breakout sessions, and there will be many resource tables available representing public and private offices and agencies providing services within our schools and community. To register, [please see this link](#).

Chess tournament and snack sales – save the date: Silver Knights will hold a chess tournament at our school from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 28. More details to follow soon, but we can tell you this should be an opportunity for a group to raise funds selling snacks to hungry chess players!

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.

Upcoming Events

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.

October 18

Principal's Coffee, 8:45 a.m.

October 19

Picture Day

October 20

Bingo

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

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](#).

Next issue: October 16