



## *A Note from the Principal*

Dear Parents,

As I sit here and write you all this evening, it gives me tremendous pleasure to welcome everyone back to school. We have gotten off to a tremendous start! All our students showed up ready to learn and full of excitement for the new school year.

I want to extend a warm welcome to all our new Discovery families joining our community for the 1st time. I hope you have been able connect to our caring, dedicated, and friendly community. We are very fortunate to have such a great school.

Beginning this Fall, Discovery will implement **BYOT, Bring Your Own Technology**, which encourages students to bring their personal technology tools to school for learning. As students utilize their personal technology devices in school, they can learn new ways to use them for collaborating and interacting with their teachers and each other to research information, solve complex problems, create original products, and publish their work. Please come out and learn more about **BYOT** at Discovery as we will be hosting a 2 information sessions on **Tuesday, October 4th and Wednesday, October 12th at 5:30.**

Also, October is Disabilities Awareness Month and Loudoun County Public School recognizes the importance of increasing public awareness and respect for persons with disabilities. As a school system that serves a growing number of students with some type of disability, LCPS and Discovery Elementary school prides itself in offering its students the chance to be accepted and embraced by their peers and to fully participate in every phase of the school. We are planning a celebration that isn't meant to last for just one day, but is a part of Discovery's school culture. **On Friday, October 21st** Discovery will engage our students in Celebrating Our Differences Day! Often differences are viewed as a barrier or hindrance. This day is specifically designed to teach our children that differences can bring us together and that we need to take the time to celebrate the unique gifts that we have! Additional information about this exciting day will be coming home soon.

Next, I would like to thank our wonderful PTO, which is led by Nikki Bello, our President and her incredible board. Our PTO has worked diligently to ensure a smooth start to the school year. Discovery and our PTO are united and work together to ensure the success of our students! Our goal is to have 100% PTO membership from the school staff and community. Please see any PTO member should you wish to join or you may visit the [PTO website!](#)

This year we will continue to conserve the use of our paper and we will offer a joint PTO/Discovery newsletter electronically this year. If you would like a hard copy simply e-mail your child's teacher to request one or send in a note. We will ensure that you receive a copy upon its monthly distribution.

Finally, I am so fortunate to be working with such a dedicated staff, outstanding community, and most importantly with our wonderful students. I look forward to each day as we continue to experience the thrill of Discovery while blazing a train to an exciting future!

Your Principal,  
Christopher Painter

## OCTOBER 2016



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**10/11/2016**  
**PTO Meeting at**  
**6:00 p.m. in Library**

**10/25/2016**  
**Fall Pictures**

**10/28/2016**  
**Fall Frenzy at**  
**Discovery**  
**Elementary School**

**11/19/2016**  
**Skating Night at**  
**Ashburn Ice Rink**

### *Inside:*

**Brain Smarts!**

**School Menu Informa-  
tion**

**From the Reading**  
**Specialists**

**Welcome the new**  
**Library Team**



## Talking About Brain Smarts - How My Brain is Wired By Ryan Hendrix

We're all wired differently. We each have our own likes and dislikes, strengths and challenges, things our brains make easy for us, and things our brains don't make easy. Talking about things that are difficult or challenging for us isn't always enjoyable and it's sometimes anxiety provoking.

When we work with students with social learning challenges on their social thinking and related social skills, we're asking them to talk about and work on something their brains don't make easy for them. Talking about social in the context of brain smarts and brain wires is one way we can start the conversation or keep it going.

We all have smarts in lots of different areas. Some people have lots of smarts in academic areas, like writing, coding, chemistry, or advanced quantum physics. Some people have lots of physical smarts, if they play a sport for instance, walk regularly, or are avid stretchers. We have smarts around our interests and hobbies, and we also have social smarts.

Our social smarts are what help us walk into a busy train station, find the person we are planning to meet, buy our ticket and board the train together. It's how we can make a smart guess that the train is getting ready to go and it's time to take our seats. And it's our social smarts that help us share space effectively if it ends up we're sitting next to a stranger until we reach our destination.

At Discovery, we focus on developing our "Brain Smarts" throughout the day using the Social Thinking curriculum designed by Michelle Garcia Winner.

*Each month we will present tips on Social Thinking and how to build "brain smarts" at home.*

From: Daphne Papageorge and Jackie Schmetzer



School meals consist of the main entrée items and sides that make up the school menu. This is what the federal government reimburses the district for and therefore is subject to federal nutrition guidelines.

Other items you'll see for sale like snacks and beverages besides milk are called a la carte items. All snacks that are served also must meet or exceed prescriptive regulations concerning nutrition content.

Meals and snacks served fund the school nutrition program that is self-funded, meaning they receive no School Board funds to operate. To keep parents informed about what is being sold in elementary schools, parents are encouraged to visit [www.lcpshealthycafe.org](http://www.lcpshealthycafe.org).

Click on menu and ingredient lists for current nutrition information. Parents have the ability to limit the snacks their children might purchase.

Please contact Angie Giannopoulos at [Angie.Giannopoulos@lcps.org](mailto:Angie.Giannopoulos@lcps.org) or at (571) 252-2370. If you have questions, contact Dr. Becky Bays, Supervisor of School Nutrition Programs at [becky.bays@lcps.org](mailto:becky.bays@lcps.org).



## 6 Tips on How to Read With Your Big Kid

Think your child is too old to read with you? Think again: Here are 6 tips to help you read with your big kid.

1. Let kids choose. Please PLEASE (can you see how important I think this is?) let your child choose what he wants to read.

2. Do not belittle or pass judgment on their reading choice. Kids at this age may act like they don't care what we think but they are sensitive to our judgments. Knocking their reading material can be enough for them to put that book, comic, or magazine down and not pick it back up.

3. Ask your child to read together. Give your child a choice to read or listen.

4. Make a reading date. Take your books to a coffee shop, grab a drink, and read together either the same texts or separate ones.

5. Encourage independent reading choices. Go to the library or bookstore with your child, but go off and find your books on your own, and allow your kid the freedom to do the same.

6. Don't make reading a chore. Experiment with how to fit reading into your child's day without turning it into homework and sucking the joy out of it.





## *A Note From the New Library Team!*

Dear Discovery families,

My name is Brittany Biesecker and I am a 2015 graduate from Longwood University's M.Ed. in School Librarianship program. I graduated Summa Cum Laude from Hollins University in May, 2013 with a B.A. in English Creative Writing and Communication Studies. Last school year I worked at Cardinal Ridge Elementary on a short-term contract and am so excited to be the new librarian at Discovery Elementary!

I believe that the library is the heart of the school. I aim to bring a 21st-century model to the Discovery library and continue to facilitate a successful, collaborative program. I hope to create a school library that is a place for all students to think, create, share and grow - a hub of learning and a favorite spot for many students.

I'm looking forward to getting to know your students during the remainder of the school year! Mrs. Davis and I can't wait to learn and grow with them!

*Sincerely,  
Ms. Biesecker*

Dear Trailblazer families,

Hello! My name is Lindsay Davis, and I'm excited to begin my first year at Discovery as the Library Assistant. I am looking forward to getting to know the students and share in their joy of books, reading, and the library.

I'm originally from Sherwood, Ohio which is a small town just outside of Toledo. I graduated from The Defiance College with a Bachelor's Degree in Social Work.

My husband Jack and I moved to Ashburn, Virginia in 2009 with our two children, Jackson and Kendall.

In my spare time, I love traveling back to Ohio or vacationing at the beach. On the weekends I enjoy reading with my kids, playing outdoors, and watching their sporting events. In the fall, you can find me cheering on The Ohio State Buckeyes and the Pittsburgh Steelers!

I'm looking forward to my first year as a Discovery Trailblazer!

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Davis*

