

Up Coming events for April 2015:

- 3/30 - 4/3 Spring Break
- 4/5 - Easter
- 4/6 - Student Holiday
- 4/7 - Classes Resume
- 4/8 - PTA Meeting
- 4/15 - Report Cards Sent Home/Volunteer Brunch 8:30 AM
- 4/23 - Take Your Child to Work Day
- 4/27 - PTA Assembly

If you need assistance to enable you to participate meaningfully in any of our school programs, please contact Jennifer Rule, principal at 571-434-3270 at least five working days prior to the activity.



Soaring to New Heights!

A Message from the Principal... Ms. Jennifer Rule

Hello soaring eagles! March has blown by and so has this school year. Amazingly, the end of the year is fast approaching.

During this time of year I know that parents may have questions regarding placement for next year. There is a great deal of thought and consideration that goes into the formation of classes. Each classroom teacher is asked to carefully consider each child's academic and social needs. As we have done in the past, I will meet with each grade level team and specialists involved with that team (i.e. reading specialist, guidance counselors, etc.). During that meeting we talk about each child and try to match them up with a teacher based on their specific needs. We strive to create a balance with gender, ethnicity, learning styles, and academic achievement.

If you have information that you would like me to consider about your child's academic or social needs, please call the school to speak to me or to make an appointment to meet. Attached to this newsletter is an optional questionnaire that can be filled out to provide input about your child's learning needs as we consider class lists for next year. Requests for specific teacher cannot be honored and no staff member has the ability to honor requests that a parent might make specifically to them. Also, if you know that you are moving and your child will not be attending Potowmack Elementary next year please fill out the form in

this newsletter to notify the school.

On a final note, with 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade SOL testing quickly approaching, I encourage parents to visit the VA. Dept. of Ed. (VDOE) website to view released SOL tests. I know that our students are well prepared and ready to take these tests. However, looking at the released tests gives parents an idea of what your children will be taking. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions regarding these tests. Ms. Haidari has included in this newsletter information regarding testing on the computer. Once the schedule has been finalized it will be posted on our website.

Regards, Jennifer Rule



Potowmack Elementary

46465 Esterbrook Cir.
Sterling, VA 20165

Phone:
(571)434-3270

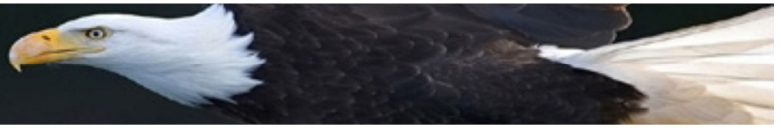
Absentee Line:
(571)434-3271

Fax:
(703)444-7526

E-mail:
Jennifer.rule@lcps.org

We're on the Web! <http://www.lcps.org/potowmack>

Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES;



Library News - Dr. Copeland



Office 571-434-3270
Absence Line 571-434-3271
www.lcps.org



Have you begun your spring cleaning? Are you thinking about giving away some books that your family no longer reads? Please consider donating your used books to the Potowmack used book sale. The used book sale will run from Thursday June 4th through Friday June 12th. We cheerfully accept donations of all used books at any time during the school year. Books are sold for fifty cents so our library can purchase more new books. We look forward to seeing you at the used book sale in June!

Pursuit of Excellence—

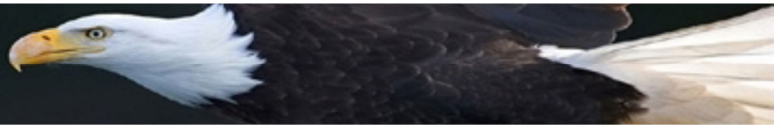
Known for their strength in flight, bald eagles soar above the rest as one of the most majestic creatures in the sky. With power and balance they fly miles above the earth, catching warm air currents to lift them thousands of feet into the air. Keen vision gives the eagles the ability to see far-off challenges, soaring through each pursuit with great success. With you we soar to new heights.



Our spring book fair was a great success. In spite of the challenges presented by the weather, we sold \$8777.12 in books which is a slight increase from the sales at our book fair last spring. We also collected over \$250 in money for donations for kids at Potowmack to get a book at our book fair, which enabled fifty Potowmack students to get a free book fair book. Our library purchased \$530.32 in books from the book fair, and the book fair raised an additional \$1876.09 to support our school library program. Thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers who helped make this event possible. Our library is a great places because of everyone's hard work and support!

We're on the Web! <http://www.lcps.org/potowmack>

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack_ES;



PBIS NEWS:

Thank you to all of the teachers who volunteered for the Minute to Win It Assembly. A special thank you to Linda, Bryan, Julie and Uzma for helping out on the stage!

100% Green for the month of March (Cafeteria)

Mrs. Galvan, Ms. McDermott, Ms. DiCarlo, Mrs. Arthur, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Turman, Mr. Charlish, Mrs. Donovan, Mr. Gall, Ms. Murray, Mrs. King-Woerner, Ms. Phillips, Mrs. Hazlett

Classes that made the cafeteria incentive for the month of March: Ms. DiCarlo, Mrs. Galvan, Mrs. Kee, Ms. McDermott, Mrs. Elam, Mrs. Arthur, Ms. Stanford, Ms. Turman, Ms. Rupard, Mr. Charlish, Ms. Chrisman, Mrs. Donovan, Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Snow, Mrs. Shultz, Mr. Gall, Ms. Murray, Mrs. King-Woerner, Ms. Phillips, Mrs. Hazlett

The class incentive is March Madness. This will take place on Friday, April 10th. Students have an opportunity to win a free homework pass.

Cafeteria Winner: Ms. Stanford

Regal the Eagle: Mrs. Donovan



It is time to celebrate our volunteers. If you have given your time during the school year to volunteer please join us.

You are cordially invited to

Our Volunteer Brunch

To Be Held on Wednesday, April 15th 8:30 A.M

In the Teacher's Lounge

We are looking forward to saying thank you for all you do to support our school community.

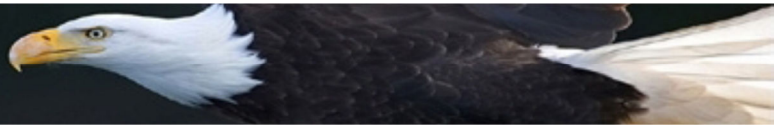




Tentative 3-5 SOL Schedule

May 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	S	E	T	U	P	
10	11	12 Reading (3rd) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Charlish Donovan Richardson Chrisman	13 Reading (4th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Thunstrom Shultz Snow Leibach	14 Reading (5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> King-W Murray Gall Phillips	15 Rdg(5th)/Sci(5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Hazlett Rdg MU Rdg MU King-W	16
17	18 Math(4th)/Sci(5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Leibach Snow Murray Hazlett	19 Math(4th)/Sci(5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Shultz Thunstrom Philips Gall	20 Math(3rd)/VA(4th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Chrisman Richardson Thunstrom Shultz	21 Math(3rd)/VA(4th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Donovan Charlish Snow Leibach	22 <i>Math and Content Make-ups</i>	23
24	25 NO SCHOOL!	26 <i>Math and Content Make-ups</i>	27 Math (5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Gall Phillips	28 Math (5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> Hazlett Murray	29 Math (5th) <u>Lab</u> <u>Library</u> King-W Math MU	30
31						



CITIZENSHIP AWARDS MARCH



Mrs. Mays

Aracely Lainez
Sebastian Gonzales Saravia
Ryan Hadeed
Qais Raies
Dominic Roy
Isaiah Weetman

Ms. Carr

Steven Menor Sanchez
Joni Orellana Garcia
Eshaan Waseem
Giomar Leon
Xaviar Peterson
Alberto Cobarrubias
Vidaurre

Ms. Gaudens

Jarett Ibarra
Adrian Radu
Andrea Gollu

Mrs. Galvan

Kimberly Grijalva Ramirez
Celeste Justiniano
Barrientos
Zoey Tacaraya

Mrs. Kee

Rachel Sigler
Adler Tollefson
Robert Tyler

Mrs. DiCarlo

Steve Cruz-Rodriguez
Naomi Adegbenro
Lorenzo Ramirez Obonaga

Miss McDermott

Bryan Ortiz
Maximillian Grant
Alexandria Patterson

Mrs. Arthur

Ian Hutchison
Emma Wheeler
Ian Welti

Ms. Turman

Britany Vidal
Jake Arias-Barbaran
Jason Ramos-Zavala

Miss Rupard

Ellie Infante
Jaylah Harris
Kevin Rodriguez
Echeverria

Miss Stanford

Diego Pineda Guevara
Payam Bellal Hameed
Cesar Tito Vidal

Mrs. Richardson

Anderson Alvarado
Martinez
Aditya Jain
Aya Hamandi

Miss Chrisman

Fahmida Oreen
Jeremy McCloud
Josefa Peralta

Mr. Charlish

Cole McGeehan
Laith Hilmi
Laila Sanchez

Mrs. Donovan

Giselle Arreguin-Carrillo
Robyn White
Mia Escalante

Mrs. Leibach

Amerah Gable
Jasmine Lara
Sean Pandelides
Erin Smith

Mrs. Thunstrom

Caroline Acosta-Henriquez
Trent Robinson
Sarah Potter

Mrs. Snow

Noshin Zaman
Zsofia Page
Jack Bulmer

Ms. Shultz

Maddy Polanco
David Martinez Escobar
Sherlley Darsi

Mrs. King-Woerner

Alex Guerrero
Justin Opiola
Noor Khan

Miss Murray

Japheth Essien
Juan Flores
John Aslanes

Mrs. Hazlett

Maddie Piedra
Kyle Ables
Tania Nolasco-Argueta

Mr. Gall

Cesar Chavez Campos
David Gonzalez-Larco
Brook Hayman



Are you moving?



For planning purposes, please let us know if your child will not be attending Potowmack Elementary next year. If you are moving, we wish you the best of luck!!!!

Child's Name: _____

Current Grade: _____

Current Teacher: _____

We will be moving to:
New School _____

New Address if known:

Parent Signature _____

Return to Mrs. O'Sullivan, Attendance Secretary. Thanks!



Dear Parents,

As we begin the process of placing students in classes for next year, I would like to extend you the opportunity to provide me with your input so that I can consider it as we meet to make class placements. Please know that you are welcome to call me or schedule a time to meet with me if you have specific concerns that you want to bring to my attention in person. If you would like to complete this form, please return it to me by May 1, 2015.

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Grade Level for 2015-2016 _____

1. My Child's greatest areas of strength are...
2. My child performs best in a classroom environment that is.....
3. Medical concerns or special needs for consideration:
4. Academic needs to consider:
5. Social needs to consider:

Please do not request a specific teacher. Please return to Mrs. Rule by May 1st. Thank you, *Jennifer Rule*



TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Dear Parents,

Thursday, April 23, 2015 is "Take Your Child to Work Day". It is a day that your child can go to work with either parent. It is also a nightmare for our secretaries who check the absentee call-in.

If you plan on taking your child to work with you, please fill out the form below and return it to your child's teacher. It will save hours of phone calls to parents asking where their children are.



If you decide last minute to take your child to work with you, please call in to the absentee line at 571-434-3271 or use the online absentee report go to:

<http://www.lcps.org//cms/module/selectsurvey/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=5224>, look for the "sick duck", fill out the quick survey and our wonderful secretaries will be notified of your student's absence.

Take Your Child to Work Day Form

My Child/Children will be out of school on April 23.

Name _____ Teacher _____

Name _____ Teacher _____

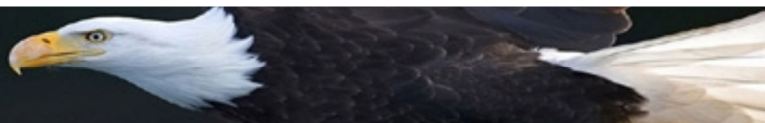
Name _____ Teacher _____

Parent's Signature _____

Return this form to Mrs. O'Sullivan, Attendance Secretary by 4/17.

We're on the Web! <http://www.lcps.org/potowmack>

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack_ES;



Potowmack Elementary School

April 2015



showers bring May flowers. Do you wish for more snow? Well, we have new blooms to look forward to. This month is full of activities including the variety show, a science assembly, and the outdoor classroom is getting a makeover. Oh and don't forget about Earth Day.

Rennea Butler
PTA President

PARENTS SAY . . .

Never Mistake motion for action
~ **Ernest Hemingway**

There is a National Math Festival being held on Saturday, April 18. The Smithsonian Museums are sponsoring this event with 40+ free events for all ages. Complete schedule and event information is at www.MathFest.org.

THE VARIETY SHOW *Annette Brennan*

Potowmack ES PTA is sponsoring the Spring Variety Show. Does your child like to perform? This is his/her chance to participate in a fun and exciting event! Types of



performances include: Singing, Dancing, Playing an Instrument, Martial Arts, Gymnastics, Reading, Skits.....

**Performance Dates: Act 1 -
Wednesday April 29 6-7:30 and Act
2- Friday May 1 6-7:30**

The flyer and registration form is attached below with full detailed information. Please contact Annette at abbrennan2@gmail.com with any questions.

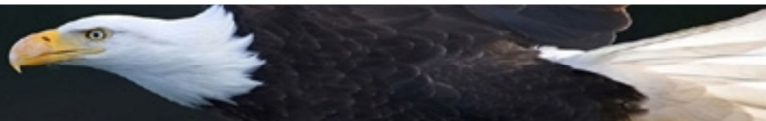

Angie Ignazzitto

It's not too late to sign up. EARN A SWEET FROG GIFT CARD - The iReady Math Incentive Program is in progress with many students enjoying math at home in a fun way. To participate, go to Potowmack's home webpage, then 'Resources' and click on 'i-Ready Math Incentive Program' to print out and complete a Parent Permission Form. You can then login to iReady from home, keep track of your minutes and be on your way to earning free Sweet Frog yogurt. Please contact Angie Ignazzitto



We're on the Web! <http://www.lcps.org/potowmack>

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack_ES;



at angie20165@yahoo.com or 703-431-4860 with any questions.

PTA MEETINGS

PTA Board

The next monthly PTA meeting is scheduled for **April 8**. All PTA meetings are now held at 7:30am each month. We hope this will be more convenient for parents to attend and stay informed with the Potowmack family. The minutes of upcoming meetings are posted a few days in advance at [PTA Meeting Agenda](#).

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Brenda Ulrich

The nominating committee for the 2015-2016 PTA executive board is currently in the process of discussing candidates to serve on the board. If you or someone you know are interested in being considered for a board position please contact Brenda Ulrich at brendaandglenn@comcast.net. The committee will present our nominees at the April PTA general meeting with elections of officers being held at the May PTA general meeting.

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

Linda Smith

Coming Soon!!! ASP Spring Session will start the week of April 13. We added some new classes - Jewelry Making, Board Games, Rhythm & Grooves..... Class descriptions and registration information is available on the school website; go to the PTA link and click on Activities. Online

Registration via the <https://www.pay4schoolstuff.com/> website is underway. Contact Linda at smith.diane.sd@gmail.com with any questions.

GROCERY STORE CARDS

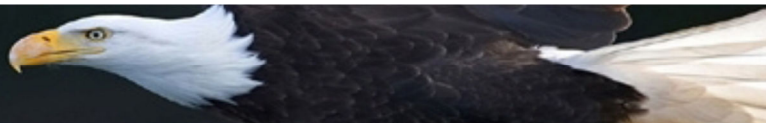
Graciela Olivares

Don't forget to link or relink your grocery card savings cards to Potowmack. This is FREE money for our school for all the shopping we do there anyway!!Giant: School Code 00003 Safeway: School Code Target Red Card Holders: School Code 1487Harris Teeter: School Code 7968 If you need additional information please see our PTA website with more detailed instructions on how to sign up or relink your cards online. If you have any questions, please contact Graciela Olivares at g.lucio@att.net

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

Angie Ignazzitto

The District Level Reflections Reception was held on Monday, March 23rd to celebrate entries and winners for this school year. Entries were submitted from 13 elementary schools and Potowmack Elementary is very proud to announce our 5 Local Level First Place Winners. For the Primary Division (preschool-2nd grade), Eli Wike in the Literature Category and Christopher Alvarado in the Visual Arts Category. For the Intermediate Division (grades 3-5), Chase Tollefson in the Photography Category; James Butler in the Visual



Arts Category; and Eleanor O'Connell in the Literature Category. Congratulations to all 5 First Place Local Level Winners! In addition to Potowmack's Local Level Winners, it is with tremendous pride that we announce that Chase Tollefson received a 2nd place medal at the District Level in the Photography Category and that Eleanor O'Connell received a 3rd place medal at the District Level in the Literature Category. Congratulations to our remarkable students! The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts program that was developed to encourage students to explore their talents and express themselves through literature, visual arts, photography, dance choreography, film production and music composition. The 2015/2016 theme is "Let your imagination fly." Potowmack has so many talented students and we hope that you'll consider participating in the Reflections Program next school year. For information about the Reflections Program, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at atangie20165@yahoo.com or 703-431-4860.

THE GREEN TEAM

Ines Perez

The Green Team is busy planning for recycling and Earth Day. The outdoor garden is being cleaned and ready for planting. The fruit trees will bear fruit in a couple of months. There are TREX boxes placed at the entrances to drop off old plastic bags you don't need.



AMAZON

Graciela Olivares

Did you know that Amazon gives back to schools between 4 and 6% of the total amount of your purchases? All you need to do is shop through the Amazon banner located on our PTA website at [Amazon Potowmack Elementary!](#) Bookmark it and share it with friends and family!! Continue to support our school and your students by shopping on Amazon.com. Click here [Amazon Potowmack Elementary.](#)

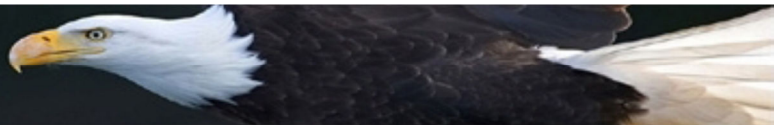
ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

Maura Greenman

Potowmack proudly sent three teams to the Odyssey of the Mind (OM) Regional tournament on March 14th. Our "Vehicle team" took first place and will be competing in the State tournament to be held on April 18th at South County High School in Lorton, Virginia. Come out and support your team!

Odyssey of the Mind is a creative problem-solving program where teams of seven kids choose a long-term problem from five categories and present their solution in an 8 minute performance, as well as compete in spontaneous problem solving.

Odyssey of the Mind is worldwide and is open to kids from kindergarten through college. OM is an all-volunteer



organization and would not be possible without the generous commitment of time and effort from all of the judges, volunteers, and especially, the kids and the coaches.

Thank you so much, OM Coaches Hemanth Setty, Rupesh Vadrev, Bette Jo Gonzalez, Rachna Argarwal, Amanda Moore and Jimmy Lewandowski; OM Judges Jeanne Peterson, Monika Loomba, Jace Greenman, Lorrie Greenman and Jenn Connell; OM Volunteers, Meredith Murray and Linda Gross. And to all the OM kids who used great out of the box thinking to come up with wonderful solutions, characters, costumes and sets!

See www.odysseyofthemind.com for more information.

PTA MEMBERSHIP

Brenda Ulrich

Membership registration remains open. Your membership dues of only \$10.00 helps to pay for video conferencing, assemblies, allotments for the staff to use in their classrooms at all levels, instructional supplies like novel sets, owl pellets in fifth grade, embryology supplies for third grade, Scholastic newsletters and Time for Kids newspapers, fifth grade luncheon supplies, DARE supplies, butterfly supplies for second grade, art, music and p.e. supplies, field day, Doughnuts with Dad, PSO support, WATCH DOG supplies and hospitality events for the staff.

To join, just write your name, your child's name and teacher on paper. Put it in any envelope with either cash or a check made out to Potowmack PTA-label it Membership and send to school with your child. Dues are 10.00 for 1 parent or \$20 or both parents. Contact brendaandglenn@comcast.net with any [questions](#).

WATCH D.O.G.S.

Rennea Butler (Acting Chair)

If you are a father or grandfather with a child or grandchild at Potowmack, Watch Dog Dad hopes you can volunteer. Join Potowmack for a day to see your child at work. Sign up for a day that is convenient for you to help keep the school protected as a Watch Dog. If you can volunteer, please contact Rennea.butler@outlook.com.

MSAAC

Linda Smith

Linda Ables

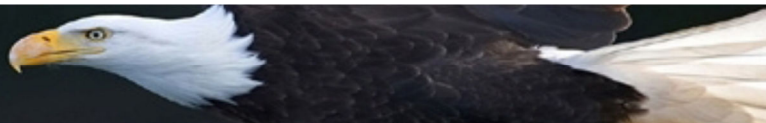
The Loudoun County Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee held its last meeting on March 18. The program was "Are We Truly In Touch With Our Student's Needs?" There was also a discussion on the care and well being for the LCPS student. The next meeting is April 15, 2015.

SEAC

Jackie Baker

Danielle Bischoff

The FY16 LCPS Operating Budget has been adopted by the School Board including two amendments of interest to the special education community. The



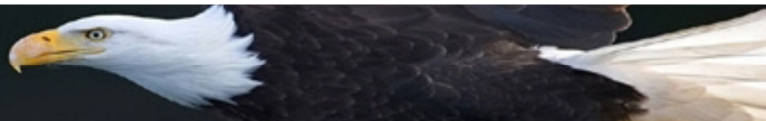
School Board voted unanimously to approve the addition of a new position, a **TRANSITION SPECIALIST**, to the FY 16 Budget. This position creates oversight of the transition program under a single, fully dedicated position to provide federally mandated services to students ages 14-22. SEAC has identified that LCPS has been lagging in how it staffs these services in the last four annual reports. The School Board also approved an amendment **REDUCING THE AVERAGE HIGH SCHOOL CLASS SIZE BY ONE STUDENT**. Although the amendment was approved, the School Board is not in agreement about whether this issue is a priority for the current budget. Several members remarked that they did not receive any feedback from the public about the need to reduce high school class size. Hearing from you about the impact of high school class size and the benefits of reducing them is necessary to show support for keeping this amendment in the budget during reconciliation. The school budget, available at www.lcps.org/budget now goes before the Board of Supervisors to determine the amount of funds that will be transferred to support LCPS.

LEAP

*Denise Washington
Rennea Butler*

The value and pitfalls of student evaluation was the topic of the March 11th meeting of the Loudoun Education Alliance of Parents (LEAP). Del. Thomas A. “Tag” pointed out some of the flaws in rigid student evaluation

systems. “Our current assessment and evaluation system is much like a hammer and not like a flashlight...” Greason authored a bill that reduced the number of Standards of Learning (SOL) tests administered by the state. John Wood, the CEO of Telos Corp., echoed Greason’s sentiments. “One place I hope we can get to is where there’s a lot more emphasis on social skills. How is it that we interact with each other as human beings. Wood said social skills such as teamwork and collaboration lead to innovation. When it comes to what subjects should be emphasized, Wood, who heads a technology company, said the concept of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) should be expanded. “I actually believe in a term called STREAM, which is science, technology, recreation engineering, arts and math. I believe there is a direct tie between recreation – i.e. fun – and science Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Director of Instructional Services Tim Flynn said care needs to be given when analyzing data so that incorrect conclusions are avoided. “All data is good, all data is irrelevant; it depends on how you use it and what is its purpose.” Flynn and LCPS Director of Research Dr. Ryan Tyler detailed how the school division tracks student performance. “There are a lot of positives as far as overall achievement,” Tyler said. “But, as our superintendent says, there are some achievement gaps. It’s important for us to be held accountable for the achievement of our kids.” Tyler and Flynn said LCPS is working with active assessments that monitor



students' day-to-day progress in the classroom. For the full transcript, visit [March Leap Meeting](#). **The next meeting is April 8, 2015** – "Advocating for Your Child"

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Many of our volunteers are 5th grade parents and we will need to fill these positions for the next school year. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the positions listed below, please email Pmkpta@outlook.com.

Campbell's Soup Labels
Fund Raiser
General Mills Box Tops
Grocery Receipts
PTA Membership
Reflections
Restaurant Nights
School Supply Kits
Skate Night
Watch D.O.G.S.

Yearbook Coordinator



DID YOU KNOW

Loudoun County Public Schools have an online parent resource center at [Parent Resources](#). Information include SEAC meetings, workshop schedules, community events, and much more.

The 2015 – 2016 school calendar has been approved. To see the year in advance, click on [2015-2016 school calendar](#).

Save your General Mills box tops. You can drop them off in the school office to be converted to cash. The money goes right back into your child's school. Please send any ideas and suggestions to rennea.butler@outlook.com.

EVENTS

The Assembly Team

Movie Matinee

Cascades Library
Wednesday, Apr. 1, 2:00 pm
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day, Rated PG, 82 minutes.
For all ages.

Easter Sunday Brunch Buffet at Lansdowne Resort

Lansdowne Resort
Celebrate Easter with family and friends at Lansdowne Resort with our annual holiday brunch.
Apr 5, 2015
44050 Woodridge Pkwy
Leesburg, VA 20176

Technology Throwback

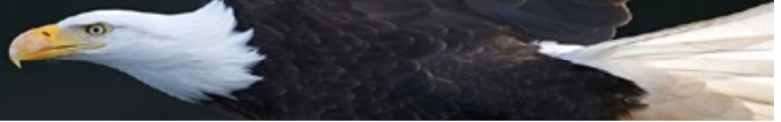
Cascades Library
Monday, Apr. 6, (Throughout April)
What is a rotary phone? What is a cassette tape? Each week, we will display an older version of a piece of technology we use today.
For all ages.

The Bicycle Fence: An Earth Day Puppet Show

Cascades Library
Thursday, Apr. 9, 4:00 pm



Potowmack Elementary School



Join us for a puppet show and storytime about recycling, featuring author Tom Noll. Come see the 1950s Recycling Rainbow Truck!
For all ages.

Sep 19, 2015
Oct 11, 2015
Fox Chase Farm
23323 Foxchase Farm Lane
Middleburg, VA 20117

VHSA Hunter Horse Shows

Mar 29, 2015
Apr 12, 2015
May 9, 2015
May 24, 2015
Jun 21, 2015
Jul 25, 2015
Aug 2, 2015

Mar 30 – Apr 3 Spring break
Apr 6 - Student holiday
Apr 27 – Science assembly

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