

June 2015



Soaring to New Heights!

## Up Coming events for June 2015:

- 1 - Used Book Sale Begins
- 4 - Kindergarten EOY & Public Library Visit
- 5- Beach Blanket BINGO
- 8 - 4<sup>th</sup> Grade EOY & Last day of FUTURA
- 9 - Field Day
- 10 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade EOY & Public Library Visit & PTA Meeting 4:15 PM
- 11 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade EOY
- 16 - Last Day of School, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Farewell 12:30 PM
- 21 - Father's Day
- 22 - Report Cards Mailed

## Up Coming events for August 2015:

- 26 - Kindergarten Orientation 6:00 PM
- 27 - Back to School Night 6:30 - PK, 1, 2, FUTURA 7:30 - 3, 4, 5,
- 28 - Open House 8:30 AM

***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.***

## A Message from the Principal... Mrs. Jennifer Rule

It is amazing how quickly this school year has flown by. As we finish this school year I want to wish our rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders all the best. I know that all of you will do well as 6<sup>th</sup> graders at River Bend Middle School. To all our students please be safe, rest and relax and enjoy the summer.

As we end the school year I encourage parents to read the teachers' newsletters and the school calendar on our webpage to close out the school year. We have some amazing activities and celebrations. Thank you to everyone in being a part of such a wonderful school community.

I wish a fond farewell to those students, families and especially staff members that are leaving Potowmack. Mrs. Elam -2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher, Mr. Caramanica-Music Teacher, and Mrs. Hynes and Mr. Havener Teacher Assistants will be departing. We wish you all the best on the next chapter of your lives.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone in our school community who has given their time to ensure that Potowmack Elementary School is a school of excellence. To our PTA board members that are departing, Mrs. Butler and Mrs. Love, I send a huge thank you. Your devotion to our school community will not be forgotten.

A huge thank you goes to all of our volunteers who have been diligent all year and have gone above and beyond expectations ensuring that our students have additional resources when needed. Our volunteers have provided our students, parents, staff, and community members' opportunities to come together as a school community and enjoy each other's company and celebrate our success.

I want to welcome Mrs. Buytenhuys, Mrs. Duley, Mrs. Wike, Mrs. Smith, and Mrs. Wilkins as our new/returning PTA Executive Board. I look forward to what the new school year will bring with you as we prepare for next year. I

appreciate everyone's efforts and all of your hard work. There is no way I can thank you all for all you do. Just please know that you are an integral part of our school community and your support is appreciated each day. Thank you for making Potowmack Elementary School such an excellent school with such strong family connections.

Congratulations to our very own Mr. Charlish who was nominated for the 2015 Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher of the Year. This is such a well-deserved recognition for Mr. Charlish.

Finally, we are already involved with our planning for next year. There are so many exciting things going on for next year. Next year we will have a combination of Half-day and All-day Kindergarten for the first time. We look forward to welcoming all our new students and are excited for what the new year will bring.

Regards, Jennifer Rule



### Potowmack Elementary

46465 Esterbrook Cir.  
Sterling, VA 20165

Phone:  
(571)434-3270

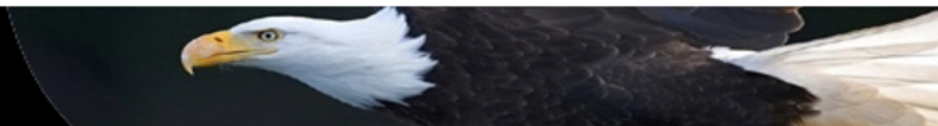
Absentee Line:  
(571)434-3271

Fax:  
(703)444-7526

E-mail:  
[Jennifer.Rule@lcps.org](mailto:Jennifer.Rule@lcps.org)

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Office 571-434-3270  
Absence Line 571-434-3271

**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.**



**Cafeteria News:** If you have an outstanding balance in the cafeteria we ask that you pay that balance before the end of the school year. We thank you for support in resolving this prior to summer so we will not have to ask families to interrupt their summer vacations and have to come in to the school to pay their remaining balance. Students will not be able to keep a negative balance on their account after June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Summer Moves:** If you know that you are moving this summer and your child will not be attending Potowmack Elementary in the fall, please call our office 571-434-3270 and talk to one of our secretaries. This information is helpful when we plan for classes for next year.

**Lost and Found:** The lost and found table inside the cafeteria has been getting smaller. If you get a chance, please stop by the tables inside the cafeteria to reclaim lost items. All items that are not claimed will be donated at the end of the school year.

**SOL Testing:** Thank you to all the parents for ensuring students were on time for school and for making sure students had plenty of rest for the test. SOL testing went well and overall students did well with all tests being online. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade spring SOL scores will be sent home in a separate mailing sometime in the middle of June.

**Library News:** The library is a very busy place in June. All library books that students have checked out this year are due back. If you cannot find a book, we ask that you pay for the missing book by writing a check to Potowmack Elementary or sending in cash so we can replace the missing copy.

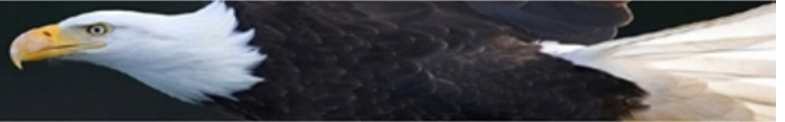
If you are unable to pay for the book or feel that you have received an overdue message that is a mistake, please contact [Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org](mailto:Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org) so we can come up with a solution.

The used book sale is currently going on. All items cost fifty cents. We will use the money from the used book sale to buy new books for the school library next year. The sale is open every day from 7:30 AM to 3:00 PM from June 2<sup>nd</sup> –June 12<sup>th</sup>. We will also be open all day on June 5<sup>th</sup> until 7:00 for PTA Bingo night. We have books for people of all ages so stop by and get some great books for summer reading.

This summer, the library is running a reading incentive. Students who read for over 1000 minutes can earn a \$5 gift certificate to our fall book fair. To earn the certificate, students must log their minutes on [Biblionarium.com](http://Biblionarium.com) beginning June 17<sup>th</sup>, or students can maintain a paper reading log and turn it in when school starts on August 31<sup>st</sup>. We also hope that students will sign up for the summer reading program at the Cascades library and attend some of their wonderful programs on Monday afternoons.

Finally, the library at Potowmack will be open for fun activities and book check out on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-3:00 on the following dates: 6/17, 6/24, 7/1, 7/8, 7/15, and 7/22. Caregivers must remain on site with the children as they complete different STEAM activities with teachers. Watch for details to come home in an upcoming flyer.

Have a great summer and remember to fit in some time to read with your children every day!



***Mark your calendar! Back To School Night (BTSN) - Kindergarten Orientation - Parents Only, Please!***

**Purpose** - This evening is to provide parents with important procedural information in order to create a smooth / question free transition into the school year.

**AM/PM Kindergarten Orientation** - Wednesday, August 26, 2015 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**BTSN** - Thursday, August 27, 2015

**First Session** - 6:30 - 7:15 p.m. ECSE Pre-School, First, Second Grade, and FUTURA

**Second Session** - 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. Third, Fourth and Fifth Grade

**\*\*\* The Potowmack Staff requests that only adults attend this informational session. \*\*\***



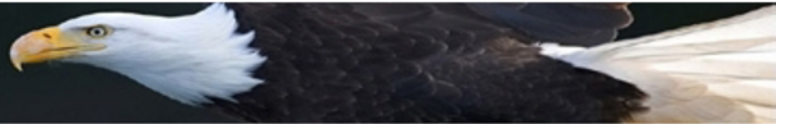
***Open House!***

**Purpose** - This day is to allow students a chance to meet their teacher, see the classroom and deliver supplies that can be stored in their desk ahead of time.

**Date** - Friday, August 28, 2015  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

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**Potowmack**  
Elementary School

June 2015

POTOWMACK  
PTA

**CONGRATULATIONS!** to the 2015 5<sup>th</sup> grade class as you venture into middle school. Remember the lessons you learned, and turn them into successes.

There is definitely no limit to what you can achieve. Continue to learn what you didn't know you didn't know.

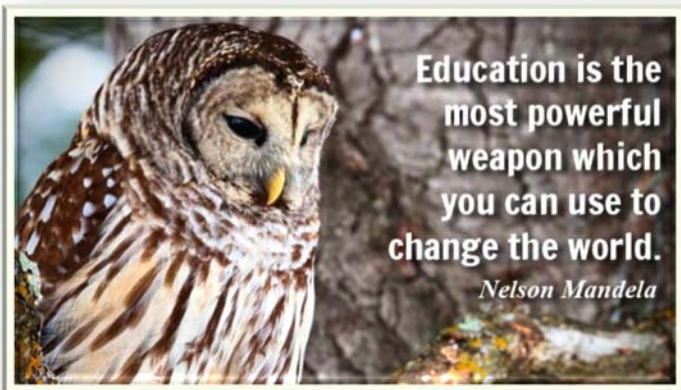
We will miss you, but we are excited about the next chapter in your life. This is not the end of 5<sup>th</sup> grade but the beginning of a new experience. Life is full of beginnings.

Thank your parents who guide you along your way.

***Rennea Butler***  
***PTA President***



## PARENTS SAY . . .



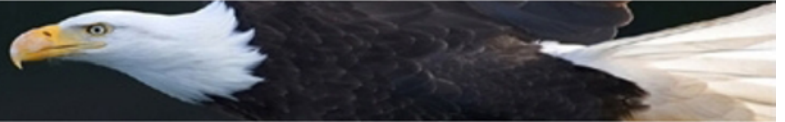
## PTA MEETINGS

*PTA Board*

The next monthly PTA meeting is scheduled for **June 10 at 4:15pm**. PTA bylaws will be discussed. Join us if you want to include your input and suggestions. The minutes of upcoming meetings are posted a few days in advance at [PTA Meeting Agenda](#).

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## **Fresh Fruit for Field Day!!**

The PTA would like to extend a huge thank you to several of our local area grocers who donated generously so that our students could have fresh fruit for field day this year! Dulles Wegmans donated 5 cases of bananas -- wow!! Additionally, Sterling Park Safeway, Countryside Safeway, Ashburn Village Harris Teeter, and Cascades Giant provided gift cards that allowed us to purchase fresh fruit to provide to our students during this fun Potowmack event.

We also want to congratulate and thank Dominique in Mr. Charlish's class for having the vision to make fresh fruit for field day a priority this year! Dominique sent a persuasive letter to the PTA in February, asking that we provide all of Potowmack's students with a fresh fruit option during field day. Dominique's letter was well-written, thoughtful, and very persuasive. As a result, the PTA voted unanimously during our February meeting to ask local grocery stores for donations in order to meet this important request! We shared Dominique's letter with the store managers and they also felt this was a worthy cause and were eager to donate fresh fruit to our school for field day! Thanks to Dominique, Dulles Wegmans, Sterling Park Safeway, Countryside Safeway, Ashburn Village Harris Teeter, and Cascades Giant the PTA was able to secure enough bananas for each Potowmack student to fuel up with a healthy, potassium-rich snack during field day this year!

## **BEACH BINGO**

*Michele Duley*

*Allison Buytenhuys*

Beach bingo is **Friday June 5<sup>th</sup>**. Doors open at 6:30 pm and games start at 7:00 pm. More information will be sent home as the date gets closer.

## **GROCERY STORE CARDS**

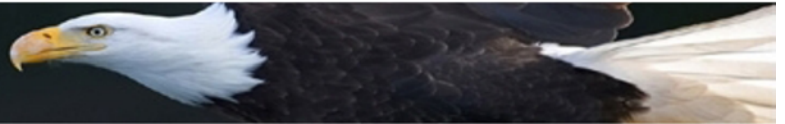
*Graciela Olivares*

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](mailto:g.lucio@att.net)

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## AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

*Adriana Radu*

*Linda Smith*

Three exciting ASP summer camps - Two (2) STEM Camps for rising 3rd to 6 graders and one (1) Lego Lovers Camp for rising K- 2nd graders. You don't have to be a Potowmack student to attend camp. Tell your family and friends!!! The STEM Camps are taught by our very own Mr. Charlish. The Lego Lovers camp is taught by Play Well TEKologies. Cost - STEM Camp is \$150; Lego Lovers is \$130.

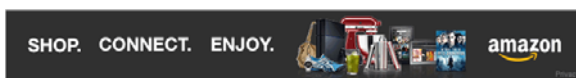
DATES; STEM Camps (June 22-26) and (July 6-10); Lego Lovers Camp (June 22-26)

All class times are - 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Deadline for

registration is May 31. Classes fill up quickly. Submit your registration form today.

## 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](#).



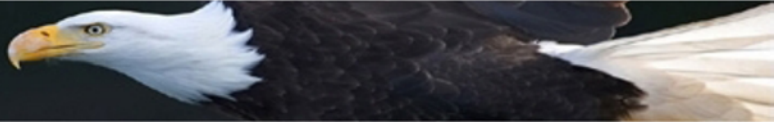
*Angie Ignazzitto*

The i-Ready Math Incentive Program has come to a close for this school year as of Friday, May 29th. Please remember to turn-in the Home Tracking Log in the PTA box in the front office by Wednesday, June 3rd. We are proud to announce that there was a lot of interest in this program, with a high level of participation in every grade level at Potowmack. Thank you for being a part of this new math incentive program.

Mrs. Rizalvo and I would sincerely appreciate your feedback about the program and kindly ask that you take a few minutes to respond to a short survey so that we can continue to improve this program for the upcoming school year. You can find the survey by going to Potowmack's website. As you look across Potowmack's home web page, you'll notice '**Resources**' – Please click on '**Resources**' - then on '**i-Ready Math Incentive Program**' – then click on '**i-Ready Math Incentive Program Survey**' which can be found on the bottom left-hand side of the web page.

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

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Thank you once again for participating in and supporting this new math incentive program. We hope that you'll consider participating in the i-Ready Math Incentive Program during the 2015/2016 school year. If you have any questions with respect to this program, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at [at Angie20165@yahoo.com](mailto:at Angie20165@yahoo.com) / 703-431-4860.

**The Sweet Frog gift cards will be distributed Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Enjoy your free Sweet Frog yogurt – You earned it!**

### **ODYSSEY OF THE MIND**

*Maura Greenman*

Odyssey of the Mind wrapped up the 2014-2015 season with a fine showing by our "Runaway Train" team of K-4th graders at the State tournament March 18th. The kids wowed the judges with their intricately engineered track and vehicle, outlandish and humorous performances, and wonderful teamwork. While a technical difficulty kept them from placing, they learned a lot and ready to try, try again next year!

Huge shouts of gratitude to all the families who made OM possible this year. Whether you coached (thank you, Hemanth Setty, Rupesh Vadrev, Bette Jo Gonzales, Rachna Argarwal, Amanda Moore and Jimmy Lewandowski), judged (Jeanne Peterson, Monika Lomba, Jace Greenman, Lorrie Greenman, Jennifer Connell), volunteered (Meredith Murray, Linda Gross) brought snacks, or simply enabled your child to experience this challenging, fun, and rewarding program, we couldn't have done it without you. Thank you!

OM at Potowmack will continue next year with the leadership of the Setty family. Dad, Hemanth, and Mom, Monika, embrace the true spirit of OM: seeking the extraordinary in the ordinary; and facilitating learning through guiding their dedication, patience, and encouragement.

Keep your eyes and ears tuned for details about how YOU can get involved next year. It's been a great run, PMK. I'll see you around the 'bend...

### **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

*Rennea Butler*

Thank you to those who have stepped up to volunteer in the 2015-2016 school year. While many of our volunteers are 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents who will be moving on to middle school with their student, there are a few positions left. If you are interested in volunteering in any of the positions listed below, please email

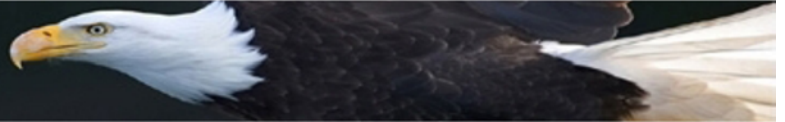
[Pmkpta@outlook.com](mailto:Pmkpta@outlook.com).

Campbell's Soup Labels  
Fund Raiser  
Grocery Receipts  
Reflections  
Restaurant Nights  
School Supply Kits  
Skate Night



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### **MSAAC**

*Linda Smith*

*Linda Ables*

Recent meeting discussions centered around diversity among teachers. Questions were raised about retaining diversity. Survey why teachers stay and why they leave. Additional information is at the [MSAAC](#) website.

### **SEAC**

*Jackie Baker*

*Danielle Bischoff*

The May SEAC meeting recognized those schools who received the Excellence in Special Education Award. To see the list go to [recipients](#).

This recognition is an important way for the LCPS community to thank those who excel at helping LCPS students who are receiving special education to experience success.

### **LEAP**

*Denise Washington*

*Rennea Butler*

LEAP met on May 13 and discussed safety for students. The primary topic was drug use. An officer from D.A.R.E. spoke about the program and its success. A slide show demonstrated the types of drugs that they find and where they come from (Mexico, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Colombia). They held election of the new LEAP officers for 2015-2016. New officers are:

President	Rennea Butler
VP, Communications	Phil Lo Presti
VP, Programs	Eileen Altenburger
Secretary	Melissa Ganz
Treasurer	Juana Kazmierczak



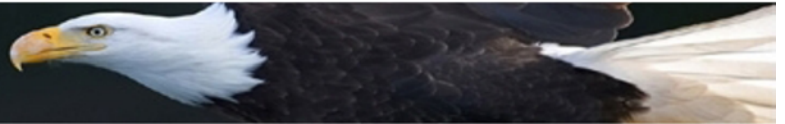
### **DID YOU KNOW**

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](#).

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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](mailto:rennea.butler@outlook.com).

## EVENTS

*The Assembly team*

### Smithsonian TechQuest Game: Eye in the Sky

Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center

Jun 6, 2015

Jun 12, 2015

Jun 13, 2015

Jun 27, 2015

### **VHSA Hunter Horse Shows**

Jun 21, 2015

Jul 25, 2015

Aug 2, 2015

Sep 19, 2015

Oct 11, 2015

Fox Chase Farm

23323 Foxchase Farm Lane

Middleburg, VA 20117

### Spectacular Science Show\* with Mad Science of Washington

Cascades Library

Monday, Jul. 20, 2:30 pm



**Jun 5** Beach Bingo

**Jun 9** Field Day

**Jun 10** PTA meeting **4:15pm**

**Jun 16** 5<sup>th</sup> Grade graduation

**Jun 16** Last day of school

**Jun 22** S.T.E.M. camp  
LEGO camp

**July 4** Independence day

**Jul 6** S.T.E.M. camp

**Aug 26** AM/PM K orientation

**Aug 27** BTSN

**Aug 28** Open house

**Aug 31** First day of school



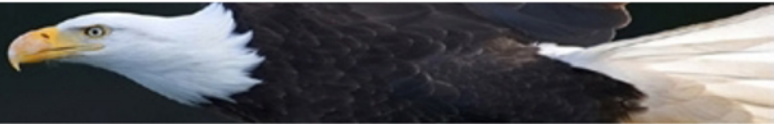
**HAVE A GOOD SUMMER**



[Click here](#)

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## ASP SUMMER LEGO LOVERS CAMP



Dream it. Build it.

Wreck it. Repeat.

Kids are already naturally gifted creators. Then they get added inspiration from our specially trained instructors. They dive into our massive collections of LEGO®. And while they build elaborate objects, structures and vehicles, they explore fundamental principles of engineering and physics. They also learn to collaborate and create without fear of mistakes. The experience is joyful, the impact long-lasting.

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Engineering with LEGO® Summer Camp at Potowmack Elementary  
LEGO Lovers | June 22 - June 26 | 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Class Limit: 24 Students | Grades: K - 2 | Price: \$130 | Please detach and return to PTA with payment. Make checks payable to Potowmack Elementary PTA.

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Parent/Guardian

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_

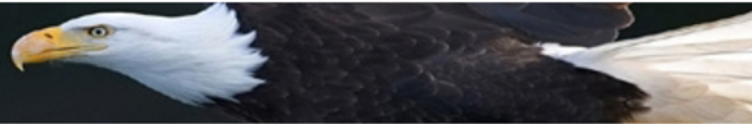
Emergency Contact Number \_\_\_\_\_

Allergies/Medical Concerns (List on back of form): YES NO

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - MAY 31.

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Cash Prizes

\$\$\$

# Beach Bingo

Friday, June 5th

Cash Prizes

\$\$\$

**Doors open at 6:30pm Bingo begins at 7:00pm**

## Prepaid Order Form

It's almost the end of the school year....can you believe it? Let's celebrate the beginning of summer with a night of Beach Bingo. Come with your friends and family for one of the school year's last events and have a fun night out!

Avoid lines at the door and pre-order your Bingo cards, raffle tickets, and daubers (ink stampers). The dauber color will be on a first come, first serve basis on Bingo night.

**\*\* NEW THIS BINGO - You can also pre-order using [www.pay4schoolstuff.com](http://www.pay4schoolstuff.com) (Note: there will be a small processing fee).\*\***

**Pizza** from **Dominos** will be available for purchase by the slice or as a whole pizza at our concession table and we will be selling sub sandwiches from **Jersey Mikes** so come ready to have dinner! Drinks, snacks, and candy will also be on sale. The 5<sup>th</sup> graders will host a bake sale.

We will also have some fun raffle prizes. Each pre-order will receive 2 **FREE** raffle tickets.

Additional raffle tickets may be pre-purchased using this form or purchased at the door.

We need volunteers to help with set up, to sell bingo cards at the door, to run the concessions, and to help with clean-up. Please use the check boxes at the bottom of this form to specify how you can help. Please email **Michele Duley** at [michele\\_duley@yahoo.com](mailto:michele_duley@yahoo.com) with any questions or to offer your help for that night.

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**Please return this portion of the form with your payment NO LATER than Wednesday, June 3rd.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (name used for pick-up)

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ (for confirmation)

Please specify the quantity below:

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 large packet = 3 Bingo cards per game

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$2.00 small packet = 1 Bingo game per card

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$ .50 for each extra raffle ticket

\_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.50 dauber

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total for Order

***Please make checks payable to  
Potowmack Elementary PTA.***

\_\_\_ I can help set-up

\_\_\_ I will help with concessions

\_\_\_ I will volunteer to sell tickets at the door

\_\_\_ I can help clean-up