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

Hello SOARing Eagles. It is amazing that we are already in the month of October. I want to send a huge thank you to those families that donated to our Inaugural Walk a Thon fundraiser. All the proceeds will go directly to purchasing technology for our students and staff. A special thank you to Laura Monahan and Cristina McGeehan for coordinating our Inaugural Walk a Thon. I also want to thank Wendy Love and Jen Wike for assisting in planning and acquiring contributors. Finally all the parent volunteers who came out and supported us in our walk.

If you have requested a password for the parent portal they were sent home with your child on Wednesday, October 1, 2014. If you want to request a password please go to our website and complete an account request form.

Questions regarding student grades should go to the classroom teacher first.

Interims will be coming home this month as well as parent/teacher conferences beginning soon. This is a great time to find out how your child is progressing with the grade level standards. Please make sure you take the time to meet with your child’s teacher.

Now that the school year is in full swing I need to also thank parents for their efforts on getting our students to school on time. The county has established a tardy policy for elementary schools. Children need to be in the classroom when the bell rings at 7:50 a.m. or they will be marked tardy. If there is a traffic back up, we will make an allowance to students until the backup is cleared. As a safety measure, an adult has to escort any child into the building if they are arriving after 7:50 a.m. It is our hope that your cooperation with these procedures will ensure the safety of your child. The school is open at 7:30 a.m. to students.

We have a couple special awards that Potowmack Elementary has been awarded this month. We have been recognized as a Virginia Natural School for the third year in a row. Potowmack has been selected as a 2013-14 Imagine Nation Super School. We were also recognized by Loudoun Public Library who presented us with a trophy for having the second highest participation in the county summer reading program. It has been a great start to the school year.

Regards,

Jennifer Rule
The Potowmack Elementary Library was honored by a visit from the Loudoun County Public Library on September 26th. We received a trophy for having the second highest participation in the county summer reading program. We are so proud of all of our students who did so much reading over the summer. When you are at school, check out the trophy in the display case in the front hallway.

Many Potowmack students are participating in the 1 Book 1 Community program. Students who read Out of My Mind during the month of October are invited to participate in a special lunch in the library. Fourth graders who read Out of My Mind are invited to bring their lunch to the school library on Friday March 24th at 10:30 AM, while 5th graders who read the book are invited to bring their book at 12:30PM on Monday October 27th at 12:30PM. Parents are invited to come and join our book discussion groups. Author Sharon Draper will do a presentation at Smarts Mill Middle School on October 28th. Don’t miss out!

LOST AND FOUND
Potowmack Elementary has several areas designated for lost items such as lunch boxes, and clothing. Students that misplace their belongings can check in the Lost and Found shelf that is located outside the cafeteria. Items of value or importance such as glasses, jewelry, and keys are kept in the front office. If your child has lost an item, please encourage them to check in the Lost and Found or with the office secretary. Items that go unclaimed will be donated at the end of each quarter to a local charity.

Here’s what’s going on in PMK PE...
- Just finishing up our annual NFL Punt, Pass, & Kick competition. Good luck to our winners as they move on to compete at sectionals.
- Grades 3-5 will be starting their Welnet Fitness testing while 1-2 will be working on their jumping and landing skills. All grades will be engaging in cooperative/team building activities as well. PMK PE also immerses the 5 Components of Fitness, Intensity Levels, as well as the nutrition into our lessons.
- The PMK Fit Eagle Club will be starting in October. I will be running two separate sessions that will be for 4 weeks for 1 ½ hours on Tuesdays. (Grades K-3) 10/21; 10/28; 11/4; 11/11 - (2:35-4:05) (Grades 4-5) max=20 11/18; 11/25; 12/2; 12/9 - (2:35-4:05)

The students work on achieving all 5 PMK Fitness Standards (the old Presidential Fitness Standards). If they achieve all 5, they are awarded a PMK Fit Eagle Shirt! If they still need a little more training to achieve all 5…they will be awarded a PMK Medal. Each year there is a different colored shirt to work and train for (just like the different colored belts in Karate).

Keep Active!
PMK PE
Mrs. Thompson & Mr. Shockley

If, due to a disability, you need assistance or an interpreter, call Jennifer Rule at 571-434-3270 5 business days before an event.
First grade is finishing up their Original Works program art pieces. Their fish are coming together beautifully and they have learned about the warm and cool colors. Up next, we will be talking about the fall and creating some large leaf watercolor resist paintings. Afterwards, we will then talk about the primary colors and how to create a collage inspired by Eric Carle. The second graders are finishing up their watercolor cityscapes. Students got the chance to mix colors together to make their own. They got to paint their buildings with their new colors. We will be adding patterns to them soon with metallic crayons to make them really POP! Up next we will be learning about silhouettes. Students will be creating a fall scene using black paper to make their silhouettes. We will also be starting our first clay project. Students will be asked to collect leaves from around where they live and bring them in to art in a plastic bag with their names on them. Please make sure the leaves are at least the size of their hand or bigger.

Third grade is finishing up their Molas. Students are continuing to build their paper collages. They will be finished soon and posted to the Artsonia website. Be sure to check it out! Up next we will be taking a look at how to create a still life drawing. We will be creating a fall scene with pumpkins and chalk pastels.

The fourth graders are finishing up their patterned leaves for the original works program. We are completing our patterns and working on painting. Students are choosing two colors to blend together to fill in part of their piece. Up next we will be looking at creating an abstract fall piece using a monochromatic color scheme. Be sure to check out our Artsonia website for updated photos of what we are doing in class!

Fifth grade is finishing up their bestiaries. They are adding color using colored pencils and making sure they include value and blending in their piece. We will then be taking a look at creating a still life piece through observation. Students will be looking at objects in the classroom and drawing them from real life. We will talk about Georgia O’Keeffe and her art and gather inspiration from her flower paintings for our piece. Students will use glue and oil pastels to complete it. Be sure to check out our Artsonia page to see the finished works!

Please keep a look out for information on the Original Works program from the PTA.
**PIMS INFORMATION:**
Loudoun County Public Schools is pleased to announce the availability of the Parent Information Management System (PIMS). The PIMS is an online tool that provides a convenient way for the primary parent/guardian of a student to manage changes to their phone and/or email contact information.

**It’s as easy as 1.2.3**
1. Access the PIMS link from the LCPS Public Internet site. [www.loudoun.k12.va.us](http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us). From the LCPS home screen, click on the PIMS link on the left-side under “Quick Links”.
2. You will be guided through a series of screens where you will be prompted to enter some identifying information, assert your relationship to the student and enter updated contact information.
3. Once the request has been submitted, your child’s school will review the request before accepting.

**Note:** Parents may not want to use the PIMS or have the means to do so. PIMS is simply a tool that will give those parents who so desire the ability to request changes online. At this point, this method of updates will not replace the hard-copy Emergency Card that is sent out to all families with requests for contact information updates —instead it is offered as a convenience in addition to the emergency card.

**PBIS Information:**
Potowmack ES has adopted the Positive, Behavioral Intervention and Support Model (PBIS) through Loudoun County Public Schools. This system is an effort to create a positive school community with consistent expectations in all areas of the school. From the classroom to the hallways, restrooms and cafeteria, PBIS helps Potowmack students understand what is expected of them and provide motivation to comply with those expectations.

The PBIS team developed a cafeteria plan for the 2014-2015 school year. Students sit at tables by homerooms, and cafeteria monitors place a green, yellow or red sign on each table which reflects student conduct. Green signs mean that student behavior meets expectations, yellow signs serve as a warning that behavior is getting loud or rowdy and red signs indicate that behavior has crossed the line. Teachers are notified on class behavior and then record red, yellow or green on a daily chart. If a class receives no more than three yellows or reds, they can participate in our monthly PBIS cafeteria incentive.

For the month of September, we would like to congratulate Ms. McDermott's first grade class for winning the cafeteria wreath. The cafeteria wreath is awarded to the class that demonstrates 100% green for behavior in the cafeteria. The wreath is currently displayed in Ms. McDermott's classroom.

This year we are also focusing on hallway behavior and faculty member have been giving out purple tickets for good behavior. The class that accumulates the most soaring tickets in any month for hallway behavior is honored by holding our new school mascot, “Regal the Eagle”. For September, Mrs. Galvan’s class accumulated the most soaring tickets so Regal the Eagle will nest in her class for the month of October. Congratulations!

Jeanne Peterson - School Counselor

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We’re on the Web! [http://www.lcps.org/potowmack](http://www.lcps.org/potowmack)
Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES
Thank you to all who came to our first morning PTA meeting of the year. The meeting minutes can be found on the Potowmack website. As the weather gets colder, flu season gets closer. The season is busy with fall festivals and apple picking. Keep kids healthy by keeping hands clean. Don’t forget to bundle up.

WATCH D.O.G.S.  
(Dads of Great Students)  
Dads, Step-Dads, Grand-Dads and Uncles, 

Thank you for coming out to the Watch D.O.G.S. meeting. It was a great time of information. Potowmack is happy to see so many D.O.G.S. get involved in school. We look forward to working with you all throughout the year. Please contact wendylove@mac.com with any questions.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND (OM)  
Registration is going on now!  
Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is a creative-problem-solving, team-building program for kids of all ages. Teams of up to 7 kids work together to present solutions to a chosen long-term problem from one of five categories: Vehicle, Technical, Classics, Structural and Performance. These solutions are presented at a Regional Tournament on March 14, 2015. OM kids create the solutions. They are encouraged to think freely and creatively, without fear of not getting it right.” If your child finds unexpected solutions to questions or problem and are not afraid to be original, consider joining OM. If you enjoy seeing problem solving and originality unfurl before your eyes, consider coaching OM. Permission forms are on the schoolwebsite. Contact maura@everywareinc.com or shettyhemanth@hotmail.com with any questions.

ODYSSEY OF THE MIND 2014-2015 Important Dates  
10/25 Coaches Training (mandatory) Freedom HS Cost: $30, Registration: www.nwvoices.org  
12/6 Coaches Spontaneous Workshop Park View HS Cost: $30  
2/7 Regional Judges Training (mandatory) Park View HS No Cost  
3/14 Dulles Region 16 Competition Park View HS  
4/18 VA State Competition South Co. HS  
5/21-23 World Competition MI State Univ.

WALKING TODAY, SO OUR KIDS CAN SOAR TOMORROW!  
Potowmack’s PTA Inaugural Walk-a-Thon was October 3rd. Thank you for joining us and for making the Walk-A-Thon a successful, fun and community-spirited event! This is our primary fundraiser of the year. Money raised will go toward the purchase of new technology for our students and teachers.

We’re on the Web! http://www.lcps.org/potowmack  
Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES
FALL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM
The fall ASP will begin October 20. New classes are forming. Don’t miss your opportunity to join your classmates in these fun after school programs. Please contact Rennea.butler@outlook.com, or smith.diane.sd@gmail.com with any questions.

Double click here to see the promotional video.
There is a movie version and a PowerPoint version.

GROCERY STORE CARDS
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 1487 Harris 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

BINGO
Save the Date for COSTUME BINGO
Friday, October 24th
Doors Open at 6:30pm and Games Start at 7:00pm
Get ready to dress up in your best Halloween costumes, play some Bingo, eat some great food and maybe win some CASH!!!!

If you are interested in volunteering to sell tickets, work the concession stands or help set up or clean-up, please contact Michele Duley or Allison Buytenhuys (michele.duley@yahoo.com or ABuytenhuys@gmail.com). Information will be sent home as the date gets closer. We can’t wait to see you there!

PTA MEMBERSHIP
Membership registration is still open. We have about 160 members so far and would like to reach 200. 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.
SCHOOL SURVEYS
The surveys are in. We reviewed each and every survey. Most parents and staff are pleased with the PTA functions. Increased communications is important. The PTA agenda will be posted for each upcoming monthly PTA meeting. Last month’s attendance was outstanding. We hope you continue to come to the monthly meetings to learn more of the school’s events.

MATH INCENTIVE PROGRAM
Our current paper-based Math Superstars Program is being upgraded to a PTA-sponsored math incentive program which will be a fun, Internet-based, interactive program.

Our plan is to have the new math incentive program up-and-running during the second semester of the current school year.

For those families who would like to continue to use the Math Superstars worksheets for practice at home, although there will not be an incentive tied to these worksheets, you can find them on our school website under the “Resources” drop down menu and then click on "Math Superstars" to locate the worksheets for each grade level. We are also in the process of archiving notebooks in our school library which will contain the answers to the Math Superstars worksheets for each grade level. Thank you for your patience as we move toward a new and improved Internet-based version of our math incentive program for our Potowmack students.

If you have any questions, please contact Angie Ignazzitto at Angie20165@yahoo.com or (703) 431-4860.

MSAAC
September’s Meeting covered:
The theme for MSAAC this year is “Diversity, Learning Style and Culture”
We heard from Dr. Terri Breeden, Asst. Superintendent of Instruction
Did a Tear Down the Wall - Diversity exercise, looking at stereotypes.
Announced the ICE conference for uniting young men of color on 9/27, and the College Fair on 9/28
Reminder from Tom Reed: There is a bond hearing for 2 schools in November
Next meeting is on Weds. October 15th at 7PM at the Admin Building in Ashburn in the School Board Meeting Room
Stay up to date with MSAAC via:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/loudounmsaac
MSAAC LCPS website: http://www.lcps.org/Page/1494
Email list

SEAC
The September 16th meeting presentation was Pupil Services and Special Education. The presentation emphasized the importance of communication and collaboration and included encouragement for students to complete the www.imdetermined.org ONE PAGER as part of their annual IEP. The ONE PAGER is included in the staff IEP Phoenix Software and parents are encouraged to request a copy of the ONE PAGER and learn how it is implemented into the child’s IEP. A public outreach presentation for the Academies of Loudoun was presented by School Board Vice Chair Jill Turgeon and Robin VanderVoort, from the Citizen’s Volunteer Work Group. SEAC has recommended that the Academies of Loudoun plan to include students with
IEPs by offering a curriculum focused on base job entry skills and independent living skills as well as a curriculum for a regular vocational track that supports accommodations for students. Additional information can be found at www.lcps.org/seac.

To stay up to date: LIKE us on Facebook.com/loudounseac, visit our website at www.lcps.org/seac, and sign up for our email subscriptions at http://eepurl.com/3q9TL.

LEAP
The September meeting focused on anti-bullying in Loudoun County. VArules.org is a program that can be taught by certified teachers that covers safety in VA from bullies, danger, etc. at the middle and high school levels. It can be modified for the elementary level. It correlates with SOL studies. It has been adopted in Fairfax County. Resources in the “See Something, Say Something” program advises to report suspicious activity. There have been 44 school shootings since Sandy Hook. Teachers and parents need to listen to signs and symptoms and identify students who could use a little extra attention. Using these resources and programs helped decrease the number of cases in schools.

DID YOU KNOW
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.

PTA membership is only $10 per person. If you want to join the PTA, please send in your fee with your child to school. Please send any ideas and suggestions to rennea.butler@outlook.com or Wendylove@me.com.

EVENTS
by The Assembly Team

Beyond the Library: Fall StoryWalk
Cascades Library
Saturday, Oct. 4, 11:00 am-2:00 pm
Combine nature, exercise and a story by reading pages of an engaging picture book posted along the trail. Join us on the Hedgerow Habitat Trail located behind the Community Lutheran Church, a neighbor of the Cascades Library. For all ages.
Rain date: Saturday, October 11th. Please note that this program will take place at the Hedgerow Habitat Trail.
**Fall Festival**  
Potomac Falls High School  
October 18, noon – 4:00pm  
The festival event includes a mechanical bull, carnival games, moon bounce, hay rides, obstacle course, pumpkin painting, face painting, balloonist, music and lots of food! Please tell your neighbor friends and family! Tickets for all rides and games are only $1!

**School’s Out Fun**  
Cascades Library  
Monday, Nov. 3, 10:30 am-12:30 pm  
Games, paper folding and more fun for your day off from school. For Grades K-5.

October 8 ~ 7:00pm  
International Walk to School Day  
PTA general meeting

October 10 ~ 9:30 & 1:00  
Firehouse assembly for kindergarten and 1st grade

October 10  
OM kickoff

October 13  
Holiday (Columbus Day)

October 14 ~ 9:30 & 1:00  
Math Tour assembly

October 15 ~ 3:00  
Copier training

October 17  
Movie night

October 17-19  
Five Below weekend

October 20  
Fall ASP begins

October 20-24  
STEM Week  
1st grade – Imaginative Inventions and Dog Biscuits  
2nd grade – Being a Pirate (map making) and Imaginative Inventions  
3rd Grade - Kicking machine  
4th grade - Foil boats  
5th grade – rocketry

October 22  
Restaurant night – Famous Daves

October 24  
Bingo night

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Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack_ES
## Citizenship Awards for September

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<tr>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Students</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mrs. Shires</td>
<td>Miss Rupard, Owen Cook, Jordan Hunter, Averie Earle</td>
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<td>Aidan Ham</td>
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<td>Adeeb Ali</td>
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<td>Mrs. Carr</td>
<td>Miss Turman, Addison Edelin, Shreyas Aggarwal, Sama Raad</td>
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<td>Rochelle Henriquez Rivas</td>
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<td>Gisselle Hernandez</td>
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<td>Avery Rogerson</td>
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<td>Emily Hoban</td>
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<td>Alyssa Babb</td>
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<td>Natalie Maldonado Sierra</td>
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<td>Mrs. Mays</td>
<td>Miss Elam, Camilo Ramirez, Bella Miller, Konstantin Olah</td>
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<td>Julia Buytenhuys</td>
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<td>Lessly Cruz-Abarca</td>
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<td>Jahmi White</td>
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<td>Abigel Gastiaburu Frank</td>
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<td>Anthony Zeiger</td>
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<td>Aiden Bowman</td>
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<td>Ms. Gaudens</td>
<td>Miss Stanford, Nelson Ren, Katie Gross, Cintiany Vidal</td>
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<td>Kaily Aparicio</td>
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<td>Elijah Cumberbatch</td>
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<td>Kimberly Ramos</td>
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<td>Mrs. Galvan</td>
<td>Ms. Richardson, Prithvi Raj, Jessica Choe, Soyoka Broussard</td>
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<td>Ankush Sharma</td>
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<td>Thiago Correa-Rodriguez</td>
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<td>Anika Dharia</td>
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<td>Mrs. Kee</td>
<td>Miss Chrisman, Amanda Montgomery, Clare Romano, Justin Yang</td>
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<td>Daniel Sexton</td>
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<td>Mrs. DiCarlo</td>
<td>Mr. Charlish, Dominique Tacaraya, Melody Guo, Breanna Crouch</td>
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<td>Lina Minkara</td>
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<td>Yamah Nawabi</td>
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<td>Javier Montiel</td>
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<td>Mrs. McDermott</td>
<td>Mrs. Donovan, Alexa Lo Presti, Meagan Njamen</td>
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<td>Gabby De La Cruz</td>
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<td>David Navarro</td>
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<td>Francis Ochoada</td>
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<td>Caroline Blake</td>
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<td>Ms. Shultz</td>
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<td>Anderson Strange</td>
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<td>Adam Razzaq</td>
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<td>Gianella Navarrete Torres</td>
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<td>Miss Phillips</td>
<td>Maryam Abd’alim, Lexi Guy, Trixie Regan</td>
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<td>Mrs. Hazlett</td>
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<td>Esteban Olivares</td>
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<td>Laurena Hytten</td>
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<td>Mrs. King-Worner</td>
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<td>Zachary Kasmer</td>
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<td>Angie Bermudez Palomino</td>
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<td>Miss Murray</td>
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<td>Mrs. King-Worner</td>
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<td>Mr. Gall</td>
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<td>Owen Evans</td>
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<td>Brandon Do</td>
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<td>Julia Hoffman</td>
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From a young age, students need to understand that with digital media, we are all more vulnerable than ever before. (Of course, use your digression as to how much information your child can handle.) It is imperative that private information is protected.

A digital media blog (http://blogs.egusd.net/digitalcitizenship/resources/online-privacy/) quoted these guidelines from Source: Consumer.FTC.Gov to use:

**Tips for Protecting Online Privacy**

1. Use strong, unique passwords, no matter what type of device you are using.
2. Check that social network privacy settings (e.g., Facebook) are set to the most restricted levels.
3. Understand that nothing you post online is truly private. If you wouldn't want others to copy it, forward it, etc., don't post it.
4. Minimize access to personal information – Lock or log off your computer when you’re not using it.
5. When signing up for online programs or making online purchases, be sure to check for a privacy policy statement or seal that indicates the site follows privacy standards.
6. Think before you download - Spyware (a program that sends information about what you’re doing on the Internet to a third-party) frequently invades computers when you download screensavers, games, music, and other applications.
7. Beware of opening email attachments from strangers – Viruses most commonly enter and infect your computer via attachments.
i-Ready is our new math program that is replacing Success Maker and Reflex Math at Potowmack. i-Ready is an amazing math program that assigns each student a personalized program based on their individual needs. The program adjusts its questions based on how well the student is performing, and brings in remediation or enrichment as necessary.

Reports are easily accessible to teachers and parents. At home, you can log in to i-Ready using the link https://login.i-ready.com/. Then, simply log in as your child (or just have them do it – that may be easier 😊). Then select “My Progress” and then “Detail” to see how your child is doing in his/her individual program. Once your child’s diagnostic test is complete he/she can work on the program from home.

If you have any questions about how this is being used in your child’s classroom, please contact your child’s teacher or you can contact Julie Rizalvo at Julie.Rizalvo@lcps.org.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you all for being so warm and welcoming during my transition to Potowmack Elementary. I am very excited to become a part of this wonderful community. Please feel free to contact me with any “techie” questions, and I’ll do my best to help you!

Julie.Rizalvo@lcps.org