

March 2015

Jennifer Rule, Principal  
Nahid Haidari, Assistant Principal



Soaring to New Heights!

## Up Coming events for March 2015:

- 2 - Read Across America
- 2-6 Book Fair
- 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musical
- 6-8 Five Below Fundraiser
- 11 - Munchkins with Mom 7:15 AM  
PTA 8:00 AM
- 17 - Kindergarten Registration
- 20 - BINGO
- 23 - Henry Cole Author visit
- 24 - Science Expo
- 25 - Youth Art Night
- March 30 - April 3  
Spring Break

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

Hello SOARING Eagles! I am sure you will agree that we are all looking forward to an early spring. Our winter has been very tough to say the least.

I wanted to send out a **THANK YOU** to our PTA for hosting the Winter Carnival. The Winter Carnival was a giant success and it was great to come together as a community and enjoy the festivities. A special thank you goes to Winter Carnival Chairs, Mrs. McGeehan and Mrs. Ulrich and the entire committee for coordinating such a wonderful event. We have a wonderful group of parents who volunteer their time to put such a wonderful event together and I am grateful.

There are so many wonderful events still ahead for this school year. I am looking forward to the Jungle Book Musical on March 4, by our 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Mr. Fay, Mrs. Thompson, and Miss Chrisman have been working hard to get the rehearsals in with all the snow days. The parents and Mrs. Jackson have done a fabulous job with the set design.

We have more exciting events this month that I hope everyone will be able to attend such as; PTA BINGO, Science Expo, and our Arts Festival. The dates and are listed to the left.

Another upcoming event is Kindergarten Registration that will begin on March 17, 2015. Registration packets will be available at our school

or on the **Registrar's website**. Your child must be 5 years old by September 30, 2015 to attend.

I have one final message about driving safely during morning drop off. A Connect Ed message went to parents to ask that everyone drive safely and follow traffic laws. Please follow safe driving laws when maneuvering through this process in the morning. Also please do not use your cell phone while driving. Talking on the cell phone while driving is extremely dangerous. Our children learn by watching us, please do not talk on your phone while driving.

Regards, *Jennifer Rule*



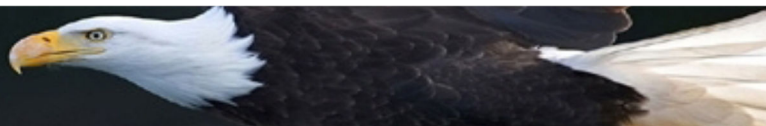
**Potowmack Elementary**  
46465 Esterbrook Cir.  
Sterling, VA 20165

**Phone:**  
(571)434-3270

**Absentee Line:**  
(571)434-3271

**Fax:**  
(703)444-7526

**E-mail:**  
[jennifer.rule@lcps.org](mailto:jennifer.rule@lcps.org)



## **PE News - Mrs. Thompson and Mr. Shockley**

We are busy in PE learning fine motor cross lateral/eye hand coordination activities of juggling and speed stacking. If your child came home and said "look I can juggle!" ...have no fear that Mr. Shockley and I are not going to quit our jobs and take our young blooming jugglers on the road. Juggling is a very important skill for your child because it makes the child use both hands as well as cross over their mid-line of their body. Speed stacking also enforces eye hand, cross lateral skills. If your child has their own speed stacks, they are welcome to bring to school and use in PE as well as indoor recess. Please make sure you put their name on each piece of speed stacking equipment.

We are very excited that so many students are now part of the Fuel Up to play 60 Club. Fuel Up to Play 60 is a national program that The National Dairy Council and NFL, with help from the USDA formed to empower students to make small, positive changes, regarding healthy eating and physical activity at their school. Because of Potowmack Elementary's location, we are affiliated with the Washington Redskins and the Mid-Atlantic Dairy Association. Mid-Atlantic Dairy helps with the implementation of the goals of Fuel Up to Play 60 by providing ideas, plays, website information, grants, free t-shirts and other fun things for our students. The Washington Redskins help in their own by volunteering to visit schools that earn

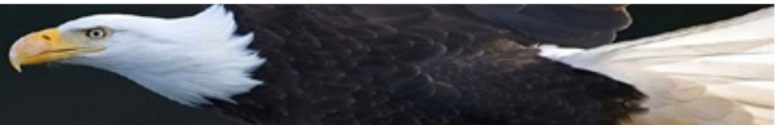
enough points. It has so many benefits to us all. Your kids and our students are learning to take an active role at school and in life by being part of Fuel Up to Play 60.

The Fuel up 60 students have the opportunity to log in to earn points on my iPad during PE and also at home. The students are awarded points every time they log in and do the online activities. We are working towards earning enough points so that PMK will receive free activity equipment and hopefully have a visit from a player on the Redskins football team. They just finished working on posters for the cafeteria and grab and go breakfast bags. I've included pictures. Their next project is to cooperate in grade level groups and create a lesson activity for their PE class. This includes the rules, safety procedures, and details on lesson presentation to the class.

The PMK fit club will be starting soon. The k-3<sup>rd</sup> will go for the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 weeks followed by the 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> the 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 weeks. I will be sending out a Connect Ed message with the information soon.

Mr. Shockley and I are really stressing the importance of core strength to our students. Your child has learned at least 5 different core strengthening exercises. These take no equipment and little space. It would be awesome if you did them as a family together. Since the winter weather outside limits your child to get out and be active, the core exercises will not only get them stronger, it will burn off energy.

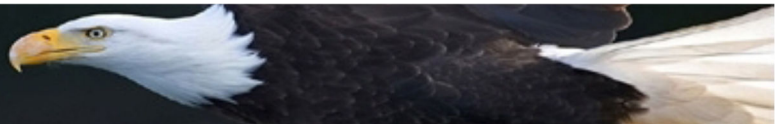
# Potowmack Elementary School



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

Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack\_ES





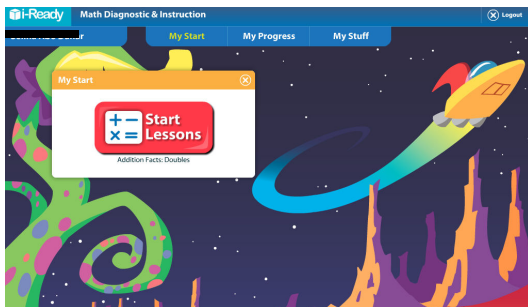
# Technology News

with Mrs. Rizalvo

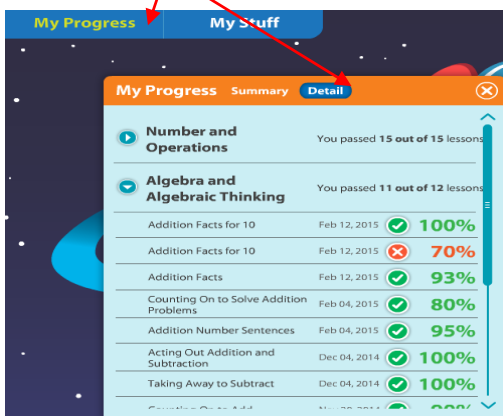
## i-Ready at Home

You can check your child's progress in i-Ready by following these simple steps:

1. Have your child log on.
2. You'll see their home screen



3. Select "My Progress". This will show you their areas of study. In the details selection, the arrows will give you a drop down menu to show you scores:

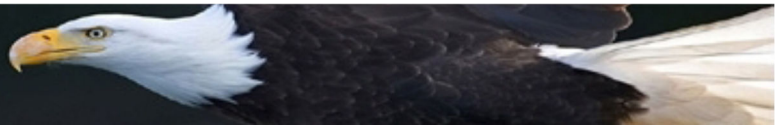


This free iPad app allows you to help your children practice basic math facts for speed and accuracy on their (your) iPad!

You can choose addition, subtraction, multiplication or division problems. You can also set the quantity of problems to practice and the digits to play with.

[My Math App](#)





## Soaring Ahead....

April 2015

5 - Easter Sunday

6 - Teacher  
Workday No School  
for Students

7 - Classes Resume

8 - PTA Meeting

15 - Report Cards  
Sent Home

27 - PTA Assembly



Office 571-434-3270  
Absence Line 571-434-3271  
[www.lcps.org](http://www.lcps.org)



## Library News - Dr. Michele Copeland

The book fair is off to a great start. There is still time to buy a great new book for your child. You can stop by the book fair during school hours during the week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>. We will be open from 7:30 AM-7:00 PM on March 4<sup>th</sup> for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade musical. We will also be open early at 7:00 AM for Munchkins with Mom on Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>. Profits from the book fair will be used to purchase new books for our library. Thanks for supporting our book fair!

On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, author Henry Cole will be meeting with Potowmack students in grades 1-5 in the school library. He will be doing a presentation with students about writing and illustrating picture books. He will also be having lunch with 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who participate in our "Lunch with the Author" contest. To participate in the contest, your child must write a paragraph about why he/she would like to have lunch with the author. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Copeland at [Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org](mailto:Michele.rzewskicopeland@lcps.org).



## PBIS News-

The students at Potowmack are working hard to earn the "Minute to Win it" PBIS assembly which will be held on Friday, March 27. Students will have fun competing against teachers in a one minute game. In order to earn this assembly, each class will be given the opportunity to earn 50 tickets for a total of five weeks. A "Let's Reach Our Goal" thermometer is displayed in each teacher's classroom to record the progress of the class.

100% for the month of February: Galvan, McDermott, Elam, Stanford, Turman, Rupard, Snow, Gall, Murray, Phillips.

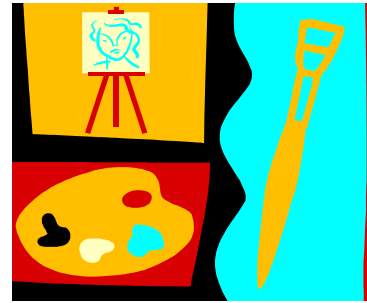
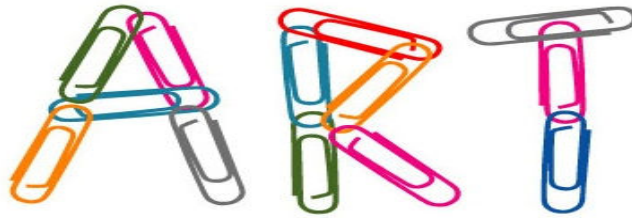
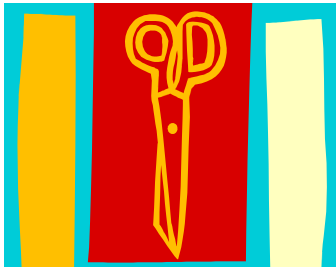
Cafeteria Winner: Mr. Gall's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class

Regal the Eagle Winner: Mrs. Kee 1<sup>st</sup> grade class

Crazy Hat Day: is Friday, March 6. Every class made this incentive. Have fun wearing your favorite hat.

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Follow us on Twitter at Potowmack\_ES



First

grade is finishing up their Chinese New Year dragons. Students learned about the Chinese New Year celebrations and what happens in their culture to celebrate the New Year. Students then got to create a dragon of their own. Up next, we will be learning about self-portraits. Students will take a look at some realistic self-portraits and we will then be creating one of our own!

The second graders are finishing up their Jazz art inspired pieces. We took a look at some works of art that either included Jazz instruments in them or were inspired by the music itself. Students got to see a variety of paintings that showed how music and art are connected. We then watched a short video for cannon printers which physically connected music and art. Afterwards students created sketches of some Jazz instruments that they later redrew on a piece of paper, painted using analogous colors and filled in the background with complementary colors. We then used oil pastels to add some more details to their pieces. Up next we will be creating some small paper sculptures using a variety of colors and paper techniques.

Third grade is working on finishing up their 3-D paper dragons. We learned about the Chinese New Year and how this culture celebrates their New Year. We then took a look at a variety of paper techniques and how to use these techniques to create a 3-D dragon. When they are finished they will be displayed in the showcase outside the art room! Up next we will be learning about Greek pottery and creating some of our own.

The fourth graders are finishing up their monochromatic abstract pumpkin paintings. These large scale paintings are almost complete and I cannot wait to display them in the hallways! Students finished up their monochromatic scales and are now adding their patterns to the background. Up next we will be learning about the Japanese art style called the Notan. It is a paper cutting technique that we will be learning about and students will be able to create their own balanced designs. Be sure to check out our Artsonia site to see our finished works!

Fifth grade is working on completing their clay pieces. When they are finished and fired we will then finish them by painting the pieces using different mediums, such as tempera paint, watercolors, or glazes. After the clay pieces are finished we will then be taking a look at still life drawings and students will be creating a still life piece.

Please check out our school art on the Artsonia website:

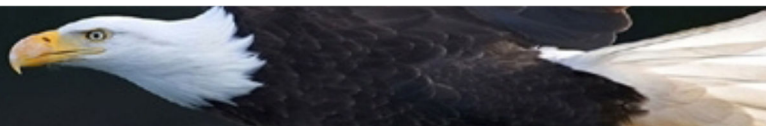
<http://www.artsonia.com/schools/school.asp?id=4128>

We will be celebrating Youth Arts Month at the end of March with the arts festival on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to keep an eye out for a future connect ed with more information. If you would like to volunteer some time to help set up the art show please contact Mrs. Jackson. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!



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Follow us on [Twitter](#) at Potowmack\_ES



# Citizenship Awards for February

*Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for outstanding citizenship for Respect, Responsibility or Effort!*

Mrs. Mays

Christian Figueras  
Anna Welti  
Hayden Jenkins  
Caroline Page  
Nicholas Renzoni  
Ainsley Rough

Ms. Carr

Alexa De La O  
Noah Faulhaber  
Brayan Madrid Ramirez  
Anneeka Dadlani  
Emily Montgomery  
David Katz

Ms. Gaudens

Leslie Alvarado  
Darlin Elias  
Akule Sharma

Mrs. Galvan

Giancarlo Acosta  
Henriquez  
Bahar Shirzay  
Jeff Arias Maldonado

Mrs. Kee

Ayoola Alabi  
Ny'iem Thompson  
Sophia Flynn

Mrs. DiCarlo

Adam Penarrieta-Azim  
Maria Andrathy  
Naomi Balbuena

Miss McDermott

Rex Boatena  
Tara Muradi  
Leah De Frese

Mrs. Arthur

Emma Wheeler  
Julia Liederman  
Maggie Crawford

Mr. Turman

Britany Vidal  
Jaiden Armentrout  
Dominick Vitzthum

Miss Rupard

Alex Nieto-Gonzalez  
Gabbi Brauns  
Cade Mahler

Mrs. Elam

Jahnavi Guduru  
Hailey Iles  
Connor Drew

Miss Stanford

Mohamed Mohammed  
Izan Jan  
Bernardo Sanabria Torres

Mrs. Richardson

Alaina Moncayo  
San Sadd  
Dhruv Anurag

Miss Chrisman

Ioana Ruso  
Gavin Lim  
Sabrina Regan

Mr. Charlish

Abby Lindsey  
Anna Messick  
Adriano Ruiz Yanez

Mrs. Donovan

Tyler Hoban

Ankur Gatupa

Yanira Vidal  
Mrs. Leibach  
Megan Cumes  
Pierce Eastman  
Gabe Herritt  
Zamzam Muhammed

Mrs. Thunstrom

Sarah Potter  
Tyler Flynn  
Riddhi Sharma

Mrs. Snow

Hayda Al-Isterbadi  
Idalia Cruz-Rodriguez  
Nino Sanchez

Ms. Shultz

Madison Bartlett  
Gustavo Torres  
Luke Waldman

Mrs. King-Woerner

Nadra Shabbeer  
Alexie Geokgeozian  
Dylan Harrison

Miss Murray

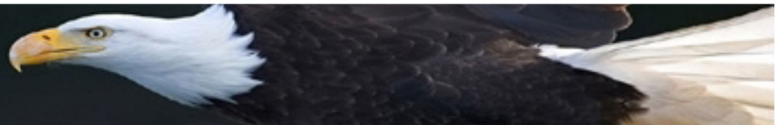
Ayaan Modak  
Brandon Zydallis  
Sarah Khan

Mrs. Hazlett

James Lutz  
Amy Miller  
Maryore Reyes-Ochoa

Mr. Gall

Gretel Hernandez-Ortiz  
Boris Guerrero  
Ali Hamandi



***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.

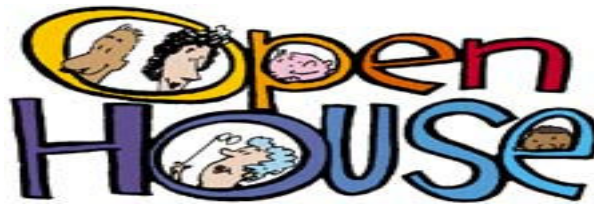
**AM/PM Kindergarten Orientation** - Wednesday, August 26, 2015 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**BTSN** - Thursday, August 27, 2014<sup>5</sup>

**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. \*\*\***

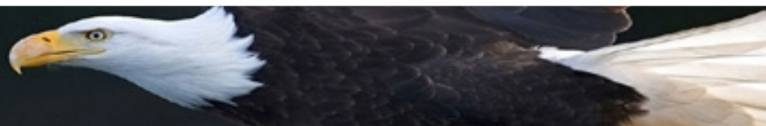


***Open House!***

**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, 2014  
8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.





***¡Marque su calendario ! Noches de Regreso a la escuela/Back To School Night (BTSN) - Orientación de Kindergarten - Por favor, ¡Papás únicamente!***

**Propósito** - - Esta noche es para informarles a los papás de los procedimientos de la escuela y para que tengan una buena transición desde el primer día de clases.

**Orientación de Kindergarten AM/PM** - Miércoles 26 de Agosto del 2015 de 6:00 - 7:00 PM

**BTSN (Noche de Regreso a la escuela)** - Jueves 27 de Agosto del 2015

**Primera Sesión** - De 6:30 a 7:15 p.m. Pre-escolar (ECSE Pre-School), Primero y Segundo Grados, FUTURA

**Segunda Sesión** - De 7:30 a 8:15 p.m. Tercero, Cuarto y Quinto Grados

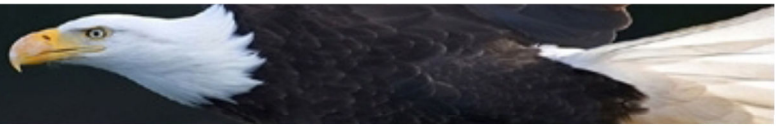
**\*\*\* La administración de Potowmack les pide por favor que solo adultos asistan a estas sesiones informativas arriba mencionadas \*\*\***



***¡Casa Abierta!***

**Propósito** - Este día es para que los estudiantes conozcan a su maestro(o), visiten el salón de clases y traigan sus útiles escolares para dejar en su escritorio antes del primer día de clases

**Fecha:** - Viernes 28 de Agosto del 2015 de 8:30 a.m. a 9:30 a.m.



**Potowmack  
Elementary School**

March 2015



March is  
the  
beginning  
of spring.  
March  
madness

is in season and spring break is around  
the corner.

It's also time for spring cleaning - out  
with the old ~ in with the new. With the  
advent of a new season among us, let's  
look forward to new beginnings.

*Rennea Butler  
PTA President*

## **PARENTS SAY . . .**

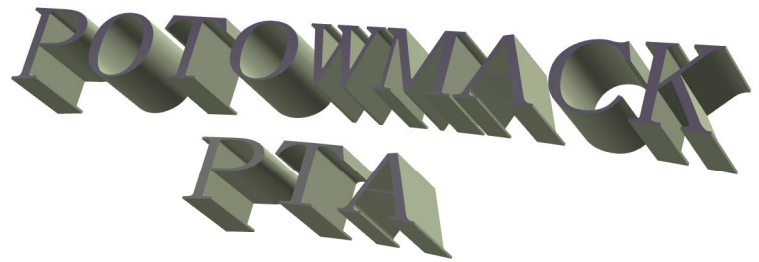
Our greatest weakness lies in giving up.  
The most certain way to succeed is  
always to try just one more time.

~ **Thomas A. Edison**

## **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!](http://AmazonPotowmackElementary.com)  
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.](http://AmazonPotowmackElementary.com)



## **iREADY MATH INCENTIVE**

*Angie Ignazzitto*

Earn a Sweet Frog Gift Card for a Free  
Yogurt. i-Ready is a new math program  
that is being used in our school's  
Computer Lab during school instruction  
hours at Potowmack Elementary. Given  
that our teachers and students are  
familiar with i-Ready, our PTA is  
offering the i-Ready Math.

Incentive Program as an **OPTIONAL**  
enrichment program.

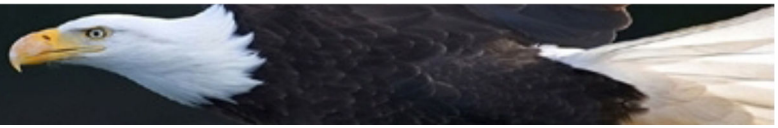
i-Ready is an amazing math program  
that assigns each student a personalized  
program based on their individual needs.  
The program adjusts its questions based  
on how well the student is performing,  
and brings in remediation or enrichment  
as necessary. The program will begin  
**March 2, 2015** and end **May 29, 2015.**

To participate in the program, each  
student will need a signed Parent  
Permission Form and Home Tracking  
Log, which can be found on  
Potowmack's home web page by  
clicking on Resources and then on i-  
Ready Math Incentive Program.

A very special thank you to Mrs.  
Rizalvo, our Technology Resource  
Teacher, for building an exceptional,  
easy to navigate website for this new  
math incentive program.

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

Follow us on **Twitter** at **Potowmack\_ES**



If you have any questions, please contact  
Angie Ignazzitto /  
[angie20165@yahoo.com](mailto:angie20165@yahoo.com).

## **RUNNING WITH THE STARS**

*Michelle Hytten*

Hey Potomac families -  
Running with the Stars Spring  
registration is open! Join us for the  
spring season of running with the stars.  
Practices start the week of March 2 and  
continue until May 13 the race is May 17  
in Ashburn! Practices are Mondays and  
Wednesdays from 235- 345 at the track.  
First-graders through fifth graders boys  
and girls are welcome. Go  
to [www.runningwiththestars.com](http://www.runningwiththestars.com) for  
more information and to register! If you  
have any questions please  
contact [Michelle.hytten@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.hytten@gmail.com)

## **PTA MEETINGS**

*PTA Board*

The next monthly PTA meeting is  
scheduled for **March 11**. 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](#). Future meeting dates  
are:

## **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](mailto: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



## **GROCERY STORE CARDS**

*Graciela Olivares*

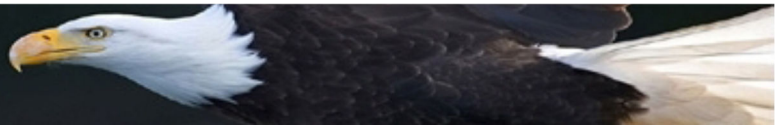
Don't forget to link or relink your  
grocery card savings cards to  
Potowmack. This is FREE money for  
our school for all the shopping we do  
there anyway!!Giant: School Code  
00003 Safeway:  
School Code Target Red Card Holders:  
School Code 1487Harris Teeter: School  
Code 7968 if you need additional  
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)

## **BINGO**

*Michele Duley*

*Allison Buytenhuys*

Please join the Potowmack family  
on **March 20** for a night of  
BINGO. The fun begins at 7:00pm,  
doors open at 6:30pm. Look for more  
information and order forms soon.  
Contact [michele\\_duley@yahoo.com](mailto:michele_duley@yahoo.com) or [a  
buytenhuys@gmail.com](mailto:buytenhuys@gmail.com) with questions.



## **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 will begin on Monday, March 9.

## **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](mailto:brendaandglenn@comcast.net) with any [questions](#).

## **MSAAC**

*Linda Smith*

*Linda Ables*

SEAC has joined with MSAAC to present a meeting focused on student mental illness on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 7 pm in room 100 of the LCPS Administration Building.

## **SEAC**

*Jackie Baker*

*Danielle Bischoff*

The Director of Special Education, Mary M. Kearney, announced the appointment of Jamilah Anderson as the LCPS Autism Specialist. This was a joint meeting with LEAP and MSAAC on February 11, 2015 to express concerns or comment on the public education received in our school district. The next SEAC meeting is March 4, 2015, which will be held at the Harmony Middle School in Hamilton, VA. The agenda includes a presentation on the services and programs available for students with disabilities and the Special Education Administrative and Support Staff. SEAC has joined with MSAAC to present a meeting focused on student mental illness on Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at 7 pm in room 100 of the LCPS Administration Building.

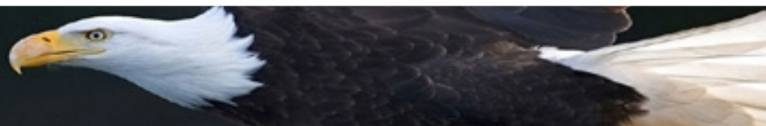
## **LEAP**

*Denise Washington*

*Rennea Butler*

This was a joint meeting with LEAP and MSAAC on February 11, 2015 to express concerns or comment on the public education received in our school district. The next meeting is **March 11,**





**2015. The subject is "How Do We Measure District Performance"?**

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

Many of our volunteers are 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:rennea.butler@outlook.com).

There are various ways to communicate with us at school including, but not limited to ConnectEd, PIMS, and the monthly newsletter.



**Mar 2 – 6 Book fair**

**Mar 6 Munchkins with Mom**

**Mar 6-8 Five Below Weekend**

**Mar 8 Daylight saving time**

**Mar 11 PTA meeting**

**Mar 20 Bingo night**

**Mar 23 Henry Cole author visit**

**Mar 24 Science expo**

**Mar 26 – 27 Variety show review**

**Mar 30 – Apr 3 Spring break**