



**Waters Landing**  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

# The Dolphin News

September 2016 Issue

[www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com)

A Publication of the Waters Landing Elementary School PTA

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Dear Waters Landing Families:

Welcome to the Waters Landing Elementary School (WLES)! My name is Ms. Srelyne Harris and I am excited to serve as the principal of WLES. Our assistant principal, Mrs. Christine Troffkin will join me again this year in serving students, staff, and families. It was great to see so many families at our Sneak Peek on Friday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank the PTA for providing staff with a pizza lunch during pre-service week. It was a great treat!

We hope all of your children are off to a great start for the year. We were fortunate to receive new backpacks with school supplies from the MCPS Back Pack Drive. If your child needs a new backpack and supplies, please contact Mrs. Lauren, School-Counselor.

MCPS Safety and Security procedures require identification from all visitors. Please enter the building through the entrance on Waters Landing Drive. You will need to use the call button on the wall next to the front doors. Once you press the button, one of the secretaries will greet you over the intercom and then buzz you into the building. Please remain in view of the camera so we can see who we are permitting into the building. The buzzer unlocks the door with a clicking sound. Once you have come in, please enter the main office through the office door and sign in at the main desk. When visiting the school, please ensure you bring your **license**.

Safety for our students at WLES is a high priority. In order to provide a safe environment for our students, staff, and community members, we are asking that families who drop off and pick up students avoid the area dedicated to bus loading and unloading. This area is along Waters Landing Dr. Parents should **NOT PARK** along **WATERS LANDING DRIVE** and walk across the bus loop, pick up, or drop off students. We also request that families **NOT MAKE A LEFT HAND TURN FROM LOCBURY DRIVE TO ENTER THE CAR LOOP** during arrival and dismissal. Cars parked in the Waterford Townhome community on Locbury Dr. are subject to towing per the community association. Please do NOT park on the Waterford Townhome property. All students who are dropped off and/or picked up by a vehicle should use the drop off area in the car loop of the school. Students can enter the building using the doors on Locbury Dr. All bus riders will enter the building using the doors on Waters Landing Dr. We also want to remind and emphasize to pedestrians, the importance of using the school crosswalks. Attached is an arrival & dismissal map showing the best routes for vehicles. Please follow these designated routes during arrival and dismissal. We strongly feel this will create a safe environment for all of our students at WLES. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Our Instructional Leadership Team met over the summer to analyze our data and determine next steps in our School Improvement Process. We are continuing our focus on effective first instruction in small group settings with a focus on rigor and student discourse.

We hope you will be able to join us in our gym on Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> for our Back-to-School Night for grades Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & LFI and on Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grades and LFI. Back-to-School Night will begin at 7:00 p.m. There will be a short general meeting in the gym followed by classroom visits. We will hold two classroom sessions in case you need to visit more than one classroom. During the classroom session, you will hear about the curriculum for your child's grade level and about different events coming up throughout the school year. You will also sign up for Parent/Teacher conferences which will be held on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> this school year.

Don't forget to join the PTA! Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>, the PTA will hold our annual Back to School Picnic starting at 6:30 pm. The picnic will be held on the field behind the school. Bring your own picnic dinner, a blanket and your family. The PTA will provide dessert. This is a great time to get to know the other families in your child's class.

We look forward to working with you, your children and the staff as we focus on ensuring our students have a successful school year.

Sincerely,

Ms. Srelyne A. Harris, *Principal*

Mrs. Chris Troffkin, *Assistant Principal*

**From the PTA President ...**

**Welcome back to school!**



As the newly elected PTA President, I would like to welcome all of the new and returning families to Waters Landing Elementary School (WLES). I look forward to meeting and getting to know those of you that I have not met yet. To our wonderful teachers, staff, and administration we are looking forward to a great year and will work hard to continue to support you.

The WLES PTA is an organization that is committed to making a difference in the education, health and safety of all of our children. We partner with our parents, teachers, staff and community on many levels to bring fun and educational programs, events, services, and opportunities to our children to enrich their academic experience. With your support, we can continue to make WLES academically challenging and nurturing for our children. Your contributions, whether it is your time, knowledge, or resources, make a difference. We personally invite you to become an involved member of the WLES PTA.

To join the WLES PTA, all you need to do is fill out a membership form and return it with your child's teacher. You can find the form in your child's back to school folder, in the office, on our PTA website ([www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com)) under the "membership" tab, or in this newsletter. The membership fee is \$10, which is used to fund some of the activities that we do for the children. With your membership, you will also receive a WLES car magnet (limit 1 per family). Joining the PTA is a way of showing you care about your child's education. Members do not have to volunteer or attend meetings, although all parents are encouraged to do both.

The first PTA meeting is September 13 at 6:30 pm in the WLES Media Center. We will be joined by the assistant principal, Mrs. Troffkin, who will describe the school's Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system to parents.

On Friday, September 16th the PTA will host a Back to School Picnic 6:30 - 8:30 pm on the WLES grounds. We hope you can all join us in kicking off our 2015-2016 school year. It is a great way to catch up with friends, find out more about the PTA and meet some new families.

We are looking forward to another amazing year and hope to get many more of you involved with the PTA and assisting with our mission to enrich and enhance the social and educational opportunities for the children of WLES. If you have any questions or would like to share some of your ideas and thoughts, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you,  
Sheri Schully

Waters Landing Elementary School PTA President, 2016-2017  
Proud mother of Madeleine (3<sup>rd</sup> grade), and Corinne (Kindergarten)  
[sherschully@gmail.com](mailto:sherschully@gmail.com)

**There are many ways to stay up to date with what is happening with WLES and the PTA.**

- ◆ **Follow us on Facebook** - <https://www.facebook.com/WLESPTA/?fref=ts>
- ◆ **Follow us on Twitter** - [@WatersLanding](https://twitter.com/WatersLanding)
- ◆ **Visit our website** - [www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com)

As always, you are welcome to contact any of us via the contact us link on our website.

**We love hearing from families!**

**Waters Landing Elementary School PTA Membership**

The WLES PTA is proud to announce that you can now join the PTA online. Simply visit our website at [www.waterslandingpta.com](http://www.waterslandingpta.com) and click on the MEMBERSHIP tab. Fill out the membership form at the bottom and click submit! Paper applications are still welcomed and can be downloaded on our website as well or picked up at the PTA table at the school.

Click here to read more about some of the great reasons to join the PTA: <https://waterslandingpta.com/about-us/>

**It's time to turn in those Box Tops you've been collecting all summer!**

Waters Landing Elementary participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to help our school. Box Tops are on the packaging of hundreds of products that you use every day and are each worth 10 cents that quickly add up to real cash for our school. Last school year we collected over \$1,200. This year our goal is to reach \$1,500.



To help our school, just look for Box Tops on products, clip them, and send them to school in a baggie or collection sheet with your child's name and teacher written on it.

The month of September will kick off our first Box Top contest. The object of this contest is to reward the students who collect the most Box Tops. The top 4 collectors will receive 2 movie passes. There will also be an additional random drawing of another pair of tickets for any student that submits Box Tops during this contest. The contest will begin immediately and end on **Friday September 30th**, so start collecting and send in your Box Tops today!

For more information on the Box Tops for Education program, including a list of participating products and our school's progress, visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). For questions, contact our Box Tops Coordinator at [wlesbox-topscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:wlesbox-topscoordinator@gmail.com).

**Thanks for your help and support to WLES!**

**SNEAK PREVIEW OF IMPORTANT MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET INFORMATION FOR FIFTH GRADE PARENTS AND STUDENTS!**

Our fifth graders have the opportunity to apply to a Middle School Magnet program with specialized instruction in a given area of concentration this Fall.

There are several different options. There is an Upcounty Highly Gifted Center at Roberto Clemente Middle School and there are Middle School Magnet Consortium programs offered at Loiderman MS (Art, Dance and the Creative Arts), Parkland MS (Aerospace Engineering and Robotics) and Argyle MS (Computer Science) The Consortium programs require applications, but no specific testing. They are open to up-county students on the basis of a lottery system, as first preference is given to those students living in those schools' respective boundaries. Parents need to provide their own transportation to these consortium programs which are all down-county.

The Clemente Highly Gifted Center (Germantown) requires students take a 3 hour test, in addition to submitting prior report cards, essays, teacher recommendations, and an application packet. Transportation is provided for students. The students can apply to two programs, one concentrating in mathematics, science and computer science and the other in humanities (writing, language arts and communication) If accepted to both, they may choose the one that is their first preference. This is a highly competitive program as there are many students applying for a limited number of spots.

Parents and their children are invited to attend informational meetings in September and October to hear first-hand the specifics of each program.

The following is a timetable for these meetings:

1. Sept. 26 Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) Parent Open House at Richard Montgomery H.S. Rockville 7:00 pm or Sept. 22 at Albert Einstein H.S. Kensington at:00 7:00 pm.
2. October 5 Loiderman MS MSMC Open House 7:00 pm.
3. October 13 Roberto Clemente Highly Gifted Center Open House at 7:00 pm
4. October 19 Parkland MSMC Open House 7:00 pm
5. October 26 Argyle MSMC Open House 7:00 pm

All of this information will be available online as of October 14<sup>th</sup>.

The website will be: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/msmagnet](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/msmagnet)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Middle School Magnet Office at 240-592-2040

The deadline for submitting all applications is November 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any further questions or need assistance in filling out the applications, please contact me here at school. [Karen.J.Laureno@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen.J.Laureno@mcpsmd.org)



## **WLES FIRST SPIRIT NIGHT!**

**September 22, 5-8pm**

**Chick-fil-a - Germantown**

Come out to Chick-fil-A Germantown for the PTA's first Spirit Night of the school year! Stop in between 5-8pm and mention Waters Landing Elementary before you order, and 20% of the profit will be donated to our school. What a delicious way to meet up with your child's new classmates and support WLES!

**Drive-thru and inside orders are both eligible.**

## **October PTA Save the Dates!**

- ◆ October PTA Meeting - October 4th at 6:30 pm
  - ◆ Fall Book Fair - October 7-14
  - ◆ Donuts with Dad - October 14

## **Waters Landing Elementary School Rewards Programs**

Did you know that several stores in our area have rewards programs that benefit Waters Landing Elementary School and the PTA? The school earns money for special events and programs just from your normal shopping.

Some of the local stores that support WLES include:

**Safeway**

**Harris Teeter**

**Giant**

Make sure that your store card is updated each year so that the school will continue to get funds from your shopping.

**Are you an Amazon shopper?** You can support Waters Landing while using Amazon!

Visit: <https://smile.amazon.com/>

If you have an account, simply log in and follow the instructions provided on our website to start supporting WLES. No Amazon Smile account? You can register and follow the same set of instructions as well.

For more information on WLES Rewards program visit our rewards page:

<https://waterslandingpta.com/grocery-card-programs/>

## **Waters Landing Elementary School Spirit Wear**

Show your WLES spirit this fall by purchasing your WLES spirit wear. Forms can be downloaded online on our website under the forms tab.

## MANNA FOOD BANK - HOW TO RECEIVE FOOD FROM MANNA

Manna is our community food bank. Manna provides food for those Montgomery County residents who are in need of this assistance. Clients are eligible by being part of any kind of public assistance program. (WIC, SSI, SNAP etc.). Clients must earn less than \$76,000 for a family of four or \$36,000 for a single person.

**Clients can receive food once every 30 days.** Clients pick up their food at one of the following distribution sites:

1. The Gaithersburg Warehouse: Manna Food Center 9311 Gaither Road Gaithersburg MD 20877  
Monday-Friday 12 noon- 3 pm or the Second Saturday of every month: 11:30 aM-1:30 pm
1. Family Service Agency 630 Diamond Avenue Gaithersburg MD 20877 Thursdays from 5-7 pm
2. Salvation Army Center 20021 Aircraft Drive Germantown MD 20874 Thursdays from 2-4 pm.

**Please call Manna's main office during regular business hours at 301-424-1130.**

Your call needs to be received by 3 pm the day before you would like to pick up your order. When you come to pick up food, you need a photo ID with your current Montgomery County address, or provide documentation that proves you currently reside in the county.

## **SMART SACKS PROGRAM**

We will be continuing this program at WLES. Families in need of food assistance may request their child receive a "Smart Sack" weekly. This is a plastic bag that goes home with the student containing nutritious non-perishable food. A permission slip will be going home at the beginning of the school year with students whose parents wish to sign up for this assistance. Parents can choose to sign up or decline this service at any time throughout the year. Contact Mrs. Lauren, our counselor for further information. [Karen\\_j\\_lauren@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_j_lauren@mcpsmd.org) Tel. # 240-740-1020

## **COUNSELOR'S CORNER – Ms. Lauren**

Welcome back to another school year! Hopefully it will be full of new and exciting experiences. One of the wonderful opportunities your child will have this school year will be to receive regular guidance lessons monthly in his/her classroom. We have a new 0.5 counselor joining our team this year, Loren Felsher. We also have a new part time Community Engagement Partnership specialist joining us, Nan Iuculano. We are thrilled to be able to increase our services with our expanding staff. Please welcome, Mrs. Felsher and Mrs. Iuculano, when you see them, and feel free to contact them at any time.

During the month of September, Loren and I will be visiting the classrooms and introducing (or reintroducing for returning students) our roles as school counselor. Each month we will be focusing on a specific character education trait. Our three Core Values at WLES are respect, responsibility and safety. In September we will be reviewing RESPECT- what it looks like, what it sounds like, and how we demonstrate respect in different parts of the building. We will be reviewing basic courtesy and good manners. Special emphasis will be on strategies for making friends. Our goal is to set high expectations for all students with respect to treating each other with kindness and empathy.

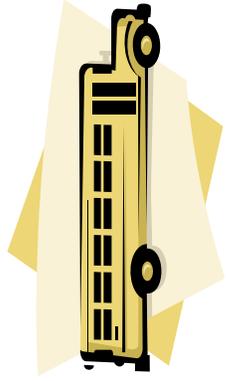
Another exciting program we will be bringing back for the students this year is our PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports) program. Our school has won the GOLD AWARD from the state of Maryland for the last years in a row in recognition of our exemplary program. We are very proud of this accomplishment. Our GOLD banner will be displayed with great pride. This year we will be further enriching and expanding our PBIS program. More specific details to come in the next newsletter!

As counselors, we work with students in many different capacities throughout the school year. We hold classroom guidance lessons monthly. We also see students in small groups at lunch-time to help them work through specific topics that may have become a barrier to being the very best students they can be. These issues range from divorce, to death of a loved one, to anger management, to conflict resolution, to making and keeping friends and coping with feelings. Parents, teachers, nurses and students themselves can refer these students for counseling. We also meet with students on an individualized basis for any issue of concern. There are many resources we can access outside of the school to assist students and their families as well. Our aim is to help all our families in whatever is needed. Please feel free to contact me at any time during the school year if you would like to discuss your child's needs, have concerns, need information, or need further resources.

My email is [Karen\\_j\\_lauren@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Karen_j_lauren@mcpsmd.org). Our **new** school telephone number is 240-740-1020.

I look forward to a wonderful 2016-2017 school year!

Sincerely, Karen Lauren



# September 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Aug 28	Aug 29 First day of School 	Aug 30	Aug 31	1	2	3
4	5 Labor Day No School	6 Back-to-School Night Kindergarten, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , & LFI	7 Back-to-School Night 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> , and 5 <sup>th</sup> grades & LFI	8	9	10
11	12 Professional Day No School	13 WLES PTA 6:30 pm Media Center PBIS talk before the meeting	14	15	16 Back to School Picnic starting at 6:30 pm	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 Early Release Day	