

Thursday, January 10, 2019

Dear McAuliffe Families!

Happy 2019! That's so weird to say! Now that we are back, we are focused on working hard to play hard - with the 14th Annual Chili Cook-off on the horizon! The date is Thursday, February 28, 2019, and the entire community is invited.

### **So, what exactly is the Chili Cook-off?**

- The largest single day event in Highland Village, welcoming typically around 5,000 guests
- Free chili tasting, open to the public
- Entertainment, face painting, games, and LOTS of FOOD!

### **How do I prepare for this amazing event?**

- Let your coaches, piano teachers, dance teachers, tutors... know that you are booked for Feb. 28! This is the one event you won't want to miss.
- Like our **Annual McAuliffe Chili Cook-off** page on Facebook
- Tell friends and family members. Invite them. This event is special because there is truly something for everyone.
- Order your t-shirt. We keep the cost under \$10 so they are cost efficient for families. The shirt is great so grab them for the entire family!

### **What are we raising funds for?**

Great question! This fundraiser is what sets your school supply cost apart from everyone else's! This is how your students are able to attend various field trips, have different speakers, utilize extensive art supplies, access a larger variety of books in the library, and even how they have some of the latest technology in their classrooms. This fundraiser is what maintains the "*standard of living*" that McAuliffe Highlanders are accustomed to enjoying!

### **How can I get involved?**

- Join us! Invite friends and family members.
- Do you have a special craft or access to something that others might want? For example, do you or your business have season tickets to something? Do you make wonderful pies, cookies or cakes? Do you embroider? Do you have a timeshare you could share? Do you quilt? These items may be included in our auction. Be creative! You may have an item or experience that we could pair with something to make the value priceless!

We are looking for businesses that would be willing to sponsor different items and activities.

Flower Power

Hair/Nail Salon

Bottled Water

Face Painting

S'mores Stop

Party Tent

Karaoke

Windjammer/Swings

Stages/Entertainment

Businesses like Pediatric Dental World & Gronberg Orthodontics have been sponsoring for years! That means they've contributed well over \$30,000 to our school – EACH! WOW!

- Make your fav pot of Chili and compete it! Get your friends, home group, or cul-de-sac to go in together. Grab some family members! Last year, we had more families and businesses compete in the chili contest than ever!
- You don't make chili? What about sweets?! There is an amazing cupcake decorating/tasting contest! Get your designs and recipes ready. This is always a fun way to see the amazing thinking and creativity in our community!
- Finally, invite friends and family members to bid on items in our online auction; there really is something for everyone! Our goal this year is to get more people bidding in the Online Auction. We are even adding the option to pay online!

Chili Cook-off is definitely one of the most exciting times of the year, but we want to assure you that we are still working diligently in the classroom. Students are really finding their passions in Genius Hour. Intentional Problem Solving Journals are overflowing with great thinking in math. Community members are connecting classroom work with real world assignments. We are checking out more books and reading more than we have in years! If your camper isn't reading almost every night, have a talk with him/her. See why. Feel free to talk to the teacher or even the librarian. Reading is such an important skill, and we want every child to find something they love!

Thank you for supporting our little "camp." We are incredibly fortunate to be in this amazing community and get to work with such great campers and families. We welcome you to come by and see the great things going on anytime. Never hesitate to give me a shout. My email is [mattinglyj@lisd.net](mailto:mattinglyj@lisd.net) and the phone number is 972-350-1000. If you have a great idea, suggestion, or something that makes you crazy, please share. We want to work with you to make your time at Camp McAuliffe the very best!

Happy New Year and thank you for sharing your precious camper(s) with us!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Mattingly  
*Principal – [mattinglyj@lisd.net](mailto:mattinglyj@lisd.net)*