**Safety First**

Please cross only at designated cross walks. We have seen several parents and students darting across streets that are not in designated crosswalks. Please, please cross only at designated crosswalks. Safety is our top priority. Arlington has a very high traffic flow and we want to reduce any potential accidents or unsafe crossing procedures. Let’s all work together to make our students cross streets only at designated areas.

**IB Trait of the Month:**

Our October attitude of the month is empathy, which means being aware of and sharing another person’s feelings, experiences and emotions. Showing care and concern for others is called compassion, which is a big part of empathy. As we start a new month, consider ways that you show empathy. Some ways we show empathy at school are by listening to others’ words and recognizing how others might feel by the words and actions we use.  We can also work on showing empathy by listening to and considering another person’s point of view that might be different than ours. This attitude is an integral part of creating a safe learning community.  At the end of the month, students will be participating in the Halloween Help the Homeless Walk. This is an opportunity for students to show support and understanding of people who might have unfortunate situations. As you go through the month of October, encourage and acknowledge the compassionate behaviors your child shows.

**Don’t Forget…**

To join us for our monthly PTA meeting on October 4th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. We will feature a presentation on digital learning. Mr. Michael Welsh, our Instructional Technology Coach, will be sharing valuable information related to technology integration with our instructional program.

**We’re Looking Forward to Seeing You Next Week!**

Staff members have been very busy preparing for our parent conferences for Thursday and Friday, October 6th and 7th. To assist you in preparing for your conference, the following suggestions are provided:

1. Determine what you should tell the teacher to give him/her a better perspective and understanding of your child. The more the teacher knows about your child, the more easily the teacher can construct a program to help the child achieve his/her potential. Some questions the teacher might ask include:
	* What is the primary language spoken at home?
	* What does the child say at home about school? What does he/she like? What doesn’t he/she like?
	* What do you see as your child’s strengths and assets? What do you see as his/her weaknesses?
	* What rewards and consequences are effective with your child?
	* What does your child enjoy doing most often at home in his/her leisure time?
	* How is your child’s general health?
	* What are your child’s responsibilities at home?
2. Discuss the conference with your child. Let each member contribute ideas for questions and discussions. If possible, both parents or guardians should try to attend the conference.
3. Decide what questions you are going to ask the teacher. Some suggested questions included:
	* Is my child doing as well as he/she should in school? Is he/she working up to his/her ability?
	* What is performance grouping? What group is my child in?
	* What kinds of books and materials are being used with my child? May I see samples?
	* May I see some of my child’s work?
	* Does my child get along well with other children?
	* Does my child follow the behavior standards of the classroom?
	* Does he/she respect the rights and property of others?
	* How is my child progressing in each of his/her individual subjects? How can we help at home? What role should we play in relation to homework?
4. Be on time for the conference and stick to the subject, your child’s educational progress.
5. Share your preference for the type of general communication that works best for you (phone, email, note) with the classroom teacher.

**Reflections:**

The annual **Reflections** contest has officially started.  This year’s theme is **“What Is Your Story?”**  e.g.: …*.what beautiful is to me...how I see the world...what moves me...what makes me think...what inspires me...what makes me happy…. What is your story? We want to know!* Reflections artisticcategories include: writing, visual arts, photography, music composition, video and dance choreography. Competitive divisions are: Primary-Grades K-2, and Intermediate-Grades 3-5.  Entries can be completed at home or at school. There is no limit to the number of categories a child can compete in or the number of entries per student. For complete guidelines or to learn more about Reflections, visit the VA PTA web-site at <http://vapta.org/arts-and-education/reflections>. Questions can be directed to Rita Wiggins at 703-228-2321 or rita.wiggins@apsva.us. Deadline for entries is **October 17**. Let’s try to have a record level of participation from Randolph students this year!

**Helping Hands:**

Randolph is in the 20th year of ***Helping Hands***, a school-based community project that helps to feed Arlington’s homeless men and women. Once a month the students from one grade level prepare bagged meals.  Students decorate and fill lunch bags, with 100 sandwiches, 50 snacks and desserts, and six gallons of beverages that they have made. That evening, a Randolph staff member brings the food to a distribution point where A-SPAN volunteers disperse the meals to homeless individuals. The schedule for this year’s Helping Hands program is as follows:

Oct 19 – 5th Grade

Nov 16 – 4th Grade

Jan 18 – YES Club

Feb 15 – 3rd Grade

Mar 15 – 2nd Grade

April 19 – 1st Grade

May 17 – Kindergarten/PreK

As an IB school, we believe that action is an integral part of learning. By participating in Helping Hands our students gain an awareness of the challenges that people in their own community face and an understanding of the things they can do to make a difference.

**Upcoming Dates:**

**October 6-7:** Parent-Teacher Conference (No school for students)

**October 10:** Columbus Day Holiday – No school for students and staff

**October 11:** Individual Picture Day

**October 14:** Young Authors and Illustrators’ Day: Parents are welcome to attend

**October 14:** Hispanic Heritage Evening: Kenmore Middle School, 6:00-9:00 PM. Bus transportation provided.

**Young Authors and Illustrators’ Conference Coming Soon!**

Randolph’s annual *Young Authors and Illustrators’ Conference* is scheduled for Friday, October 14. There will be a full day of literacy events including presentations by keynote authors, Carole Boston Weatherford (grades 2-5) and Hena Khan (grades preschool – 1). Students will receive an autographed copy of either *Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns* by Hena Khan or *Freedom on the Menu* by Carole Boston Weatherford. Randolph families and friends are invited to attend presentations by the keynote authors. Look for a flyer announcing the event that will go home with students the week of October 3.

*Carolyn Fleming, Librarian*

**Congratulations to Our Randolph Star Readers!**

The following Randolph students successfully completed their reading goal through the Arlington Public Library Summer Reading Program. All of the students read between 10 and 40 books over the summer!

A. Burns

A. Ramos

A. Jabo

A. Becerra

A. Marten

D. Quibote

D. Barua

F. Reta

H. Yohannes

J. Bissett

J. Lopez

L. Seyoum

M. Sanchez

M. Khan

M. Hidalgo

M. Jeffreys

M. Teklehaim

M. Hughes

O. Hughes

R. Raihan

R. Raihan

R. German

S. Rojas

S. Quibote

S. Ahmed

Z. Daniel

**School Counselor:**

Counseling lessons have begun! Each class will be given 10 counseling lessons throughout the year. The lessons will be taken from MindUp and Second Step curriculums which are evidence-based lessons. For September, in grades K – 3 the lessons will be on skills for learning (listening, focusing). Grades 4 -5 will be doing goal setting. I look forward to seeing all the students over the next month. I look forward to my time in your student’s class.