Aug. 28 is the first day of the school year! We are happy to welcome back our students, families, staff and teachers. Speaking of teachers, we are collecting gift card donations (in any amount) to use during the school year as awards for our wonderful, hard-working teachers. If you are able to contribute, please drop off gift cards at Longfellow’s front desk.

Our after-school care, Leopard’s Den, will be returning this year. In an effort to make Leopard’s Den more effective, we will be initially limiting the number of students to 50. This allows us to maintain a smaller staff-to-student ratio and provide a safe, engaging environment for our children. Please register through the Longfellow website if you’d like your child to be part of Leopard’s Den. The link to register will go live Aug. 21.

Longfellow’s popular Grandparents’ Day Luncheon will take place Sept. 8. Information about times and registration will be available to families closer to that date. Open House will be the evening of Sept. 13.

Remember to register for VIPS (Volunteers In Public Schools) for this school year. Your VIPS certification must be completed/renewed each school year — it does not carry over from the previous year. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity at Longfellow — we hope you do! — please complete the simple registration online. Community members are welcome to volunteer as well. More information is on the HISD website. Once you have registered, you can email Principal Keafer at kkeafer@houstonisd.org for ideas of ways to volunteer.

While you’re online, sign up for our PTO through the Longfellow website! Longfellow’s PTO provides support for our school, students and teachers. It also provides many fun volunteer opportunities, from long-term committees to short-term events. Sponsorships from large companies or local businesses (including realtors, builders, restaurants and dentists) are welcome and greatly appreciated! Email LongfellowLeopardsPTO@gmail.com for more information.

Go Leopards!