

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents:

Winter Break approaches quickly and it seems the year is just flying by. Planning for the additional space at the lower campus is progressing. Architect plans should be completed for presentation to the School Board by the end of February or beginning of March. We have been receiving very good ideas and feedback through our communication links and Construction Site Committee members. Remember to follow the construction hard hat logo on the school web page to link into current information.

I need to remind parents that the new District food policy is coming to us from the Federal level. Part of this policy states that food service spork/napkin packets may only be distributed to students purchasing a school lunch. As you know, public school lunch programs operate through Federal food program subsidies. This is why there are restrictions about items like spork packets. The other part of the policy has to do with health and safety in food processing. ANY food items brought into school for distribution must come from a commercially processed source, meaning a grocery, bakery, etc. and not produced in a home kitchen

Many middle grades students enjoy honoring the birthday of their friends by bringing baked goods into their lunchtime for distribution. It is a gesture of friendship that is not currently against District policy, provided these items are commercially produced. However, napkins and forks must be brought in too, and not come from the food services spork supplies. Administration would also like to request that the students tidy up after the celebration. The tables and floors at the upper campus cafeteria have been left as a big mess following the distribution of the cake or cupcakes. Please remind your middle grades students to be responsible for the celebration they bring into school.

The staff of LHCS wish you all a good break from school and time to enjoy your family.

Mary Rynchek, Jan Parrish and Merry Tilleson

8th Grade EXPLORE TEST RESULTS HAVE ARRIVED

This fall, your child and all other 8th graders in Minneapolis took the EXPLORE test. The score report gives information about your child's knowledge, skills, interests, and plans. You can use this information as you and your child plan for high school and begin to think about college and work.

The top of the report shows how your child performed in English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science. The Composite Score is (approximately) the average of these test scores. Scores range from a low of 1 to a high of 25. This is not the same as the number of questions your child answered correctly. The two scores listed under the English score range from 1 to 12. These two scores may not add up to the total score for English.

The numbers and bars in the middle show the percent of students nationwide who scored at or below each of your child's scores. The average student in the nation would be at 50%. The next column has information on how your student compares to other students in his/her school who took the EXPLORE test. The next column is blank.

Further to the right is your child's estimated PLAN Composite Score Range based on these results. PLAN covers the same subject areas as EXPLORE. EXPLORE, PLAN, and the ACT college entrance test measure students' skills before and during high school. Students take the PLAN in 10th grade. They usually take the ACT in 11th or 12th grade.

The middle section of the report shows your child's responses were for his or her plans for high school and beyond. This section also reports the areas where your child wants or needs extra help. The box on the right of the page compares the scores your child received with the scores needed to be on track for college or other post-secondary education.

As part of the EXPLORE test, your child was asked to indicate his or her career interests. The bottom section of the report highlights your child's interests in red. These career interests may change over time. Your child may also have more interests than the ones reported here. This information is a starting point for planning.

The back of the report shows what your child answered on each question and what the correct answer is. Your child can use his or her actual test book to review this information. This section also discusses what your child's test scores suggest he or she is able to do academically and how he or she can improve.

Along with the score report, your child will also bring home a booklet called *Using Your **EXPLORE** Results* that explains the information in the report, and the actual test book. More information is also available at www.explorestudent.org. We value your partnership with us. Your involvement and support are critical to your child's achievement. Please look for the EXPLORE test report and materials to come home on December 21st with your child.

Sincerely,
Merry Tilleson, A.P.
Lake Harriet Upper

Safe Routes to School Parent Walk-to-School Workshop

Saturday, January 12, 2012 from 9:45-11:30 am - please help us spread the word!

This workshop is appropriate for anyone interested in promoting walking and biking to school, especially parents, grandparents and guardians. It will feature details of walk/bike-to-school events, walking, bus, and pedestrian safety when leading these efforts. Community organizations that support walking and biking efforts such as the Minneapolis Bike Walk Ambassadors and Trips for Kids will also be on hand.

All participants will be entered in a raffle that will include prizes like a subscription to the bike sharing system Nice Ride, stop paddles and vests, and hula hoops for your school's playground. You should go home with a lot of print resources, a new friend or two, and some incentives to jump start your next walk-to-school effort.

Results of "Check It Out" Tournament

On Saturday, December 16th, Lake Harriet's team for 4th to 6th graders in the "Check It Out" chess tournament placed second overall against all teams from schools in Minneapolis. The team was in third place at the time of the last round and it required critical wins by the team members in the last round to advance to second place.

Congratulations are in order for all the students who chose to enter this tournament. They are:

Bjorn G
Isaac R
Luke J
Noah H
Sage C
Isadora W

Sage and Isadora received awards for best girl players in the 4th to 6th grade division.

Sam White - Lake Harriet Chess Coach

Lake Harriet Heroes

Congratulations to the November Lake Harriet Heroes at Upper Campus! These students were chosen because they are respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn everyday they come to school.

3rd-5th

Sophia S.
Iris P.
Forest B.
Jack A.
Lucia T.,
Samantha N.
Rachel S.
Alice H.
Reese C.
Ellie S.
Noah S.
Anders C.
Nolan B.

6th-8th

Asha A.
Ronan P.
Matt S.
Anais M.
Ikenna U.
Sonya C.
Zander S.
Ivy F.
Claire M.
Peter K.
Arazu K.

Max Your Giving With a Pledge to the LHCS Pledge Drive

Tax tips: December is the last month for charitable donations

Your donations are 100% tax deductible and 100% go to LHCS.

Did you know that many employers will match your gift? Further, many rewards credit cards multiply rewards for charitable donations.

GIVE NOW!

http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/2011-12_pledge_drive_kick-off.html

Lost and Found Items Seeking to Return Home

Items in the Lost and Found need to be claimed and brought home before 6:00 PM on Friday, Dec. 23, 2011. Items left will be donated to the homeless during winter break. Although this is a worthy cause, we would much prefer to have the children bring their clothes home for a good washing and future use.

Community News

Winter programs now open for registration! Yoga, arts & ceramics for all ages! After school exercise activities for kids, skating lessons and much more! Check out www.minneapolisparcs.org for information about programs starting after the New Year. You can go to Pershing or Linden Hills home page and click the link to our current seasonal brochure or stop down at the park for a copy.

Linden Hills Park Skating Rink

The goal is always to be open by or before winter break. For ice conditions and rink openings and closings at any of our 22 ice rinks, call the rink hotline at [612-313-7708](tel:612-313-7708) or sign up to receive updates via email at www.minneapolisparcs.org Rink hours for school release days are 12-9 pm. Regular hours will be Mon-Fri 3-9 pm, Sat 10 am to 9 pm, Sun 12-6 pm.

Upcoming School Release Day Camps for Kids

Some spots remain so sign up soon!

Linden Hills Park programs include :Star Wars: Best of Camp -Ages 5-10- \$69.00- Dec 27, 2011 9:00 AM-3:00PM My Favorite Doll Slumber Party Camp- Ages 4-9 - \$45.00- Dec 27, 2011 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Fashion Designer Camp -Ages 5-10- \$69.00- Dec 29, 2011 9:00 AM- 3:00 PM Tea Party Art Camp -Ages 4-10- \$45.00- Dec 30, 2011 9:00 AM- 12:00PM

2011-2012 **Connection Contacts:**

Anna Mraz: anna1028@gmail.com

Gwen Spurgat: gwen.spurgat@objectpartners.com

Published every Tuesday. Deadline for submission is 4pm the preceding Thursday.

Submissions: email to anna1028@gmail.com or use the online submission form at:

<http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/connection1.html>.

Please try to limit each submission to approximately 150 words in length.