

The Connection

A weekly publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

January 31, 2012

Read-a-Thon Family Night: Thursday, February 2, 6:30 – 8PM

Guest is Local children's book author and illustrator Nancy Carlson

Lower Campus gym. All are welcome. Come for prize drawings, face painting, a craft, and treats! The Read-a-Thon Family Night is made possible by your generous donations to the LHCS PTA. Thank you for your support!

Read-a-Thon Used Book Sale on February 28 and 29 at Lower and Upper Campuses: We are now collecting used books for this sale. Content should be appropriate for Grades K-2 for Lower Campus and grades 3-5 for Upper Campus. Books can be brought to staff lounge in the morning before school starts, and to classroom teachers during the day.

All Read-a-Thon updates can be found on the website at lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/read-a-thon_3

Weigh in on Next Winter Break Timing:

Minneapolis Public Schools is soliciting parents' opinions regarding the best start dates for the 2012-2013 school year as well as the preferred length of both winter and spring breaks. Have your opinion heard by filling out the survey here: http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/2012-13_calendar.html Click on "**Share your ideas today.**"

Get ready to explore, discover & share!

SCIENCE FAIR 2012 will be held on Thursday, March 22, 6:00-8:00pm at the Upper Campus.

Look for registration details coming home in backpacks and in the Connection next week.

Congratulations Lake Harriet Heroes

Congratulations to the December 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. 3-5: Henry M., Hayden C., Theo D., Fowziya M., Thor B., Calvin L., Alison K., Cole P., Sonia C., Cal C., Celia P., Libby P., Grace L. 6-8: Hunter C., Isabella C., Sara G., Emma F., John C., Blake G., Zoe J., Will W., Max M., Andrea K., Sarah S.

Lower Campus • Spring 2012 Concert Date Announced

Mark your calendars! The lower campus music program will be on Monday, February 13th.

1st grade -Rooms 102 & 110: 9:50-10:00

1st Grade - Rooms 105, 107, and 109: 10:10-10:20

2nd grade - Rooms 201 & 101: 10:30-10:40

2nd grade - Rooms 202, 203, and 204: 10:50-11:00

Lake Harriet Upper Campus • Spring 2012 Concert Schedule is online

http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/lake_harriet_upper_campus_spring_2012_concert_schedule.html

If parents and/or other guests would like to attend, please send email to jennifer.cuff@mpls.k12.mn.us with the subject line CONCERT SEATING with the specific class(es) listed you plan to attend and how many seats you will need.

School Request Cards Are Due February 29

- All 8th graders need to submit a High School Request Form with their school choice. Forms can be downloaded from <http://highschoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us>
- incoming kindergartener School Request Cards will be available near the end of January at <http://schoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us/home.html> Please remind your neighbors with pre-school age children!

Resolving Conflicts at School

Overview from Julie Hirsch, School Psychologist

LHCS has two great ways students can address conflict at Upper Campus: 1. Peer Mediation Communication and 2. The Bully Box.

Peer mediation

Mediation is available to students in grades 5-8. It is the most effective way to resolve differences between individuals and one of the best approaches to conflict resolution in the schools. The process relies on neutral, third parties to help students engaged in a conflict to use communication, negotiation, and problem-solving skills to reach a mutually beneficial agreement.

Eleven 7th and 8th graders were selected and trained to be mediators this year. They were chosen by their teachers and peers because they show good judgment, engender trust and respect, display leadership skills, and communicate well with others.

A teacher, student, or mediator can request mediation by filling out a request form on the Lake Harriet webpage or in the main office, or by contacting Julie Hirsch. All mediations are voluntary and each disputant must agree to follow basic ground rules. The mediations occur during the school day with an effort to minimize loss of academic time.

The Bully Box

The Student Council created the Bully Box for grades 3-8 to report incidents anonymously. It is located in the office, along with reporting forms. All reports are taken seriously. (There is a consequence for any clearly fabricated reports.) An adult will follow-up and talk to the student or students who are bullying.

Students have been given the following definition of bullying: Bullying is when one or more people repeatedly harm, harass, intimidate, or exclude others. Bullying is unfair and one-sided. Bullying includes both direct (e.g., physical aggression, verbal abuse) and indirect (e.g., gossip, nasty looks) forms.

Please encourage your student(s) to use the Lake Harriet Peer Mediation program or the Bully Box. If you have questions or comments about either of these, please contact Julie Hirsch, School Psychologist at 668-3318.

MPS Invites Parents to Go to School!

Minneapolis Public Schools presents a community academic series:

- Jan 26: Special Education & Tutor Strategies, 4-6 pm, Anishanabe Academy
- Feb 7: Math Homework & Tutor Strategies, 10 am-12 pm
- Feb 16: Literacy Homework & Tutor Strategies, 4-6 pm, Lake Nokomis Community Center
- Feb 17: ELL & Tutor Strategies, 10 am-noon, Lake Nokomis Community Center
- Feb 28: Cultural Competency, 6-8 pm, North Commons Park
- To register, contact Morgan Siegrist, [612-290-8440](tel:612-290-8440) or sign up online here: <http://volmps.mpls.k12.mn.us/cas.html>.

Yearbooks Sales Start January 20th!

Please look for a yearbook order form in your child's take-home materials. Yearbooks will be on sale until March 3rd. Support our school and preserve great memories for your child. PHOTOS NEEDED! We have very few photos for the yearbook so far - please send high resolution photos to lhcsyearbook@gmail.com or contact me to provide a CD. Patty Remes 612-386-6706

2011-2012 Connection Contacts:

Mary Anne Welch Lavin: maryanne.lavin@gmail.com

Gwen Spurgat: gwen.spurgat@objectpartners.com

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

Submissions: email to maryanne.lavin@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.