

A weekly publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

March 6, 2012

## From the Principal's Desk

Dear Families,

I just want to recap our classroom planning process for 2012, and make one change in procedure.

As has been our practice in the past, parents of children whose current grade level teacher will be moving to the next grade level will have a choice of their child looping with their teacher or of selecting a new learning experience for their child for next year. These letters will be sent home to families the week of March 19, 2012 in your child's backpack.

The window to submit a form about your child's classroom placement for next year is Monday, March 19, 2012 through Friday, April 20, 2012. The process for **submitting a form is described below, (for twins, please fill one out for each child).**

Please remember, this form is not a request for a teacher. It is to inform us about your child's learning style and also to list some of their friends so we can try to have one friend in their classroom. They do not pertain to incoming kindergarteners or middle graders, as it really does not work well with the middle grades computer system for schedules.

- **Starting March 19**, forms will be available online, on the school website and are to be submitted electronically; paper copies will also be available in the two school offices.
- Forms for "second to be third graders" are to be sent to the lower campus (this is a change from previous letter).
- Forms will not be accepted after midnight, **April 20, 2012**.

Sincerely,  
Mary Rynchek  
Principal

## Pancakes, Waffles and Scrambled Eggs, Oh My!

The Lake Harriet Masonic Lodge Pancake & Waffle Breakfast will be **Sunday, March 25th from 8am - 1pm**. Enjoy all you can eat pancakes, waffles, sausage, scrambled eggs and all the fixin's without any cooking or cleaning up! Last year, the Masons donated over \$800 to the Lake Harriet PTA from the breakfast and this year we'd like to double that!

Breakfast will be held at the Masonic Temple at 4519 France Avenue S; cost for adults is \$8, children (6 - 12) are \$4, 5 and younger are free.

## Parties Galore Season is here.

Tickets are on sale! We have a wonderful lineup of parties this year! Visit our webpage for a full description of the parties and to buy tickets. [http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Parties Galore](http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Parties_Galore)

## All School

"Tour of the Northeast" bus party. Friday, March 29  
LHCS Night at the Twins Game!  
    Friday, April 13 (vs Texas Rangers)  
    Friday, June 8 (vs Chicago Cubs)  
Casino Night. Saturday, May 12th  
Appetizer and Beverage Sampling at Talia TBD

**GRADE Parties:**

Kindergarten: Art Party at Simply Jane Studio TBD  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: Parents BBQ - Pig Out for the PTA! - Saturday April 21  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: Family Bowling at park tavern - Sunday, May 6  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: Mom's Night Out - Friday, June 1  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: Mom's Night Out - Friday, May 18  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Trivia Night and Wall of Wonderful Beverages Raffle - Saturday, May 19  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade: Garage Dance Party – all ages TBD  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: BBQ – includes your 7<sup>th</sup> grader! – Saturday, May 19  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade: BBQ – 8<sup>th</sup> Grader Music Party – Friday, May 18

**Yearbook Sales Extended**

We are extending yearbook sales to March 22! Please order soon if you have not already done so, we are about 1/2 way to our sales goal. If you have lost your order form, you can submit your order in an envelope with your child's name, grade and teacher. We still need more photos! Please burn any high resolution photos to a CD and drop them in the yearbook mailbox in the upper campus - or you may email them to [lhcsyearbook@gmail.com](mailto:lhcsyearbook@gmail.com). Submitted by Patty Remes

**Carnival Sponsors Needed!**

Spring is coming and so is The LHCS Annual Carnival. It is the "Year of the Dragon"!

On Friday, April 27th from 5:30 to 8:30 we will fill the UC with over 3000 students, families and friends of our school. Can your business help sponsor this annual community event? Each year we need new supporters to step forward and sign up!

Your support helps create a great event and defrays the expense of the carnival, allowing more of the proceeds to benefit our students.

Questions? Contact Ingrid Soderberg at [atingerbinger72@gmail.com](mailto:atingerbinger72@gmail.com)

**Olympic Update – Week of 3/5/12**

**Congrats! So close to the Gold now!**

Coaches, we hope you are sitting down resting from all the training and the month long reading marathon that our Olympians finished last week. Coaches have done a great job in encouraging reading throughout February and as far as we are concerned, have earned a very shiny gold medal for their efforts. It's tough to keep up spirits and more importantly, the discipline and endurance, for 29 days!

**IMPORTANT DATES:**

**Have you turned in your forms and money?**

**March 9 is the LAST day for Olympian(s) to turn in their tally and pledge forms along with money to their classroom teachers.** Please place all Read-a-Thon forms and money in an envelope labeled with the Olympians name and classroom information.

We are anxious to see the final results. Will our Olympians meet the monthly goal of 175,000 reading minutes? All indications point to YES and we'll announce our findings very soon!

The used book sale that we thought would be a small fundraiser proved us wrong. Seriously wrong. We have now dubbed it "The Little Used Book Sale that Could". **The sale raised over \$1,100!** Olympians had a blast picking out their books and that couldn't make us any happier. Thank you to our teachers for taking the time to let our children shop.

Volunteers will be dropping of the remaining books to Sharing and Caring Hands (SCH) this week. Mary Jo Copeland, Founder and Director of SCH will determine what books can be used in their on-site classrooms and which they will give away to children in need. We are happy knowing that our boxes of books are being recycled back into so many children's hands here at LHCS and SCH.

We owe a special amount of gratitude to Karen Ruhs and Brenda Schultz, our Literary Coaches, for helping run the sale. The school is very lucky to have two dedicated coaches that see reading as a priority for our children!

Thank you again to everyone that donated books, volunteered your time for the sale, posted flames on the LC caldron, and encouraged our Olympians to "Go for the Gold"!

*Find yourself missing the [pledge](#) or [tally](#) forms? How about the [entire packet](#)? Coaches can rest easy. These can be found by clicking on the underlined links above.*

Please contact one of the Olympic Officials for further questions.

Amy Mimick ([amymimick@yahoo.com](mailto:amymimick@yahoo.com))

Kelly Ellis ([kelly.ellis@target.com](mailto:kelly.ellis@target.com))

Dana Hoffman-Geye ([dana.hofmann-geye@thrivent.com](mailto:dana.hofmann-geye@thrivent.com))

## **Congratulations to LHCS fifth grade chess team**

On Saturday February 25th, ten members of the Lake Harriet chess club attended the Statewide Grade level tournament in St. Paul. The tournament had over 350 attendees with many of the best players in the state participating. Some of those from the Lake Harriet club were new to the statewide chess tournament, but made a commendable showing. Congratulations to the fifth grade team (Isadora, Lars, and Sage) for placing third overall in the state. Samuel White - Chess Coach

## **News About Testing**

### **WIDA ACCESS test for ELL students at Lake Harriet Upper**

The State of Minnesota and the United States Department of Education is requiring us to administer a new test called WIDA ACCESS.

This test will allow students to demonstrate their proficiency in reading, writing, listening and speaking.

The two groups of student that will be tested at our school are the students who receive dual ESL /Special Education services and waived students who are eligible to ESL but whose parents have decided not to authorize services.

The test will be given in three parts. The first day will be devoted to the speaking component, the second day to the reading and listening components and a third day to the writing component.

Your child may require a slight disruption in classes. It is being administered starting February 27 and ending on March 15th.

For more information parents can go to the WIDA website: <http://www.wida.us/standards/elp.asp>

Questions? Contact Merry Tilleson, A.P.  
Lake Harriet Upper Campus  
[merry.tilleson@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:merry.tilleson@mpls.k12.mn.us)

### **Vote delayed for changing 2012-2013 School Calendar**

The MPS Board of Education vote regarding next year's proposed calendar to change start times and reduce Winter Break from 10 school days to seven has been re-scheduled for March 13, pending contract negotiations.

If you wish to share your opinion, more information about the calendar and how to provide feedback can be found at: [http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/2012-13\\_calendar.html](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/2012-13_calendar.html)

To contact all board members, go to  
[http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/mps\\_board\\_of\\_education](http://www.mpls.k12.mn.us/mps_board_of_education)

### **SCIENCE FAIR - JOIN THE FUN**

Thursday, March 22 from 6-8pm at the Upper Campus

Register today for this non-competitive, LHCS community event. Students in all grades are invited to display projects in any area of science and share their learning. All participants will receive a ribbon and a chance to win cool door prizes. More information, links to project ideas, and online registration are available at [http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/science\\_fair\\_3.html](http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/science_fair_3.html). Registration deadline is March 9.

### **Notice from the School Nurse:**

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Phillips Eye Institute is coming to screen all K- 6<sup>th</sup> graders at Lake Harriet. Phillips Eye would appreciate parent volunteers to assist with the screening. . (Rescreening will happen March 20 –at LC and March at UC). If you would prefer that your student not be screened, please let the health office know and we will put them on the exclude list.

**Two volunteers are needed per shift** to collect students from their classrooms (wherever they are, art, music, etc) and bring them to the screening area:

9:40 am -12:15 pm : LC - March 13, 14 & UC - March 15 & 16  
12:15 pm-2:40 pm: LC - March 14 & UC - March 16

Thank-you,  
Kathy Frey, RN, LSN

### **Community News:**

Viewing of 'Race To Nowhere' March 14, Washburn High School

From the film website:

"The documentary 'Race To Nowhere' features heartbreaking stories of young people who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students aren't developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids. This documentary points to the silent epidemic in our schools where cheating has become commonplace, students have become disengaged, and where stress-related illness and burnout are rampant. The documentary is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare youth to become healthy, bright and contributing, and leading citizens."

The film is best suited for families of 5th - 12th graders and will be shown at Washburn High School on March 14, 7:00 - 9:00 pm. Register at [www.racetonowhere.com/epostcard/5819](http://www.racetonowhere.com/epostcard/5819)

**2011-2012 Connection Contacts:**

Mary Anne Welch Lavin: [maryanne.lavin@gmail.com](mailto:maryanne.lavin@gmail.com)

Gwen Spurgat: [gwen.spurgat@objectpartners.com](mailto:gwen.spurgat@objectpartners.com)

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

**Submissions:** email to [maryanne.lavin@gmail.com](mailto: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.