



A weekly publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

November 9 2010

From the Principals' desks

Dear Parents,

It is never too early to start to think about your child's high school choices. If you are the parent of an 8th grader, please don't wait until December to help your child make the right decision about which high school to attend next year.

Your High School Guide will be mailed to your home in late fall. You can also visit the district's website at <http://highschoolchoice.mpls.k12.mn.us> for more information.

To help your child find the best high school program, you and your child will want to attend the High School Open Houses and the 8th grade High School Informational Meetings. High School principals, school counselors, transition coordinators and other staff will be there to answer all your questions.

The 8th grade Zone 3 informational meeting for Lake Harriet students and their parents will be on Wednesday November 10th at Burroughs school starting at 6:00 p.m.

If you can't make it to the High School Informational Meeting or simply want to get the "feel" of a high school, you'll be able to visit each high school in November and December (see dates and times below).

High School Open Houses:

All meetings start at 6:30 p.m.

Monday November 15 – South

Tuesday November 16 – Roosevelt

Wednesday November 17 - Southwest

Thursday November 18 – Washburn

Tuesday November 30 – Edison

Wednesday December 1 – North

Thursday December 2 – Henry

High School applications must be postmarked on or before February 8, 2011. Please consider more than one choice and we encourage you to make one of your choices your attendance area school!

This is often a great time of anticipation for many students and they may have difficulty focusing on their schoolwork. This can be an especially hard time because students are preparing for the Minnesota Basic Standards Tests. Talk to your child about how they're doing and encourage them to focus on the present. Their work in the last half of 8th grade is an important part of their preparation for high school work. All high school acceptance letters will be mailed in March.

Sincerely,

Merry Tilleson, A.P. LHCS

Dear Parents,

This year MPS adopted the Good Habits Great Readers Reading and Writing materials for every Kindergarten through 5th grade classroom. This has been an exciting step forward in our commitment to balanced literacy instruction through the Readers and Writers Workshop approach. Balanced Literacy is a research-based approach to literacy instruction, which engages students in shared, guided and independent reading as well as writing and word work during a daily literacy block.

The new materials include books purchased last year to support independent reading, books for shared and guided reading as well as teacher resources for reading, writing and word work. These new core materials have also been purchased in Spanish for our sites with Spanish Native Language Literacy programming and Bilingual Spanish programs. These resources support our ability to ensure each student receives rich instruction to meet their individual needs as readers, writers, speakers and listeners.

In addition to all of the new materials and instructional approaches happening in our classrooms to support literacy development, home support for reading remains a critical component for student success. Reading and rereading books with your child, talking with your child about books they have read, and having your child read and write about their reading at home are excellent ways to build good habits and support great readers.

Mary Rynchek, Principal
Karen Ruhs

Picture Retake Day – This Friday

Photographers will be at both the Upper and Lower campuses this Friday, November 12th to take pictures of students who were absent on Picture Day, or unhappy with their portraits. If you would like to have your student's picture retaken, please send your portrait package back to school with a brief note about what you'd like to see changed (i.e. - different smile, no glasses, etc.). This extra instruction helps the photographer get the picture your family wants.

Questions? Call Kara Coffler at 612-928-0366.

Dragon Volleyball VICTORY!

The Lady Dragons defeated the Anthony Panthers to defend their City Champion title. The west gym at Southwest High School was LOUD on Wednesday, November 3rd, as the bleachers were packed with fans from both schools. The Dragons came out with a strong 5-1 lead, but struggled with serving and passing and dropped the first game 19-25. The second game stayed close, with neither team opening up more than a 2 point lead until Arazu K. fired off 6 serves in a row, giving the Dragons a 10-4 lead. Dragon defense, led by libero Mira M., broke the next 3 Anthony servers, allowing setter Jordan Thompson to dominate play at the net. Arazu finished out the game by serving the final 3 points – a 25-14 win.

With the match tied, each team started off with a strong server. Sammie Coffler got the Dragons off to a good start with a 3-0 lead, but Anthony answered with a run of 5 serves. With the score tight at 5-4, coach Amber Flood sent in serving specialist Renee W. who scored the next 3 points. Dragons held on to a 3-4 point lead through the middle of the game, bolstered by hitting from Haley D. The Panthers then rallied, opening up the largest lead of the night to 16-23. Things were looking bleak for the Dragons when they finally got the serve back. Renee kept a cool head, landing her serves deep in the court. Anthony answered and served match point at 20-24. Dragons didn't lose heart, and broke their serve, sending Arazu back to the endline. Arazu brought the game to 25-24, but the winner has to be up by 2 to gain the victory. Anthony tied the game, but Dragons got two more chances for match point at 26-25 and 27-26. They weren't able to close the deal either time. Anthony answered with a second match point of their own at 27-28, but the Dragons fought them off to tie it again. Sammie C. won a jump ball at the net against the Anthony setter to win the 29th point. Mira served number 30 and April H. finished it off with a tip for the kill. Dragons win, 30-28.

Congratulations to the entire Dragon team on a great season!

8th graders – Sammie Coffler, Haley D., Mira M. & Jordan T.

7th graders – Stephanie Daub, Anya E., Arazu K., Chloe S. & Anna W.

6th graders – Olivia A., Kayla B., Sophia Gingrich, April H., Kaitlyn K. & Renee W.

Benefits of PTA Membership

Parental involvement has been shown to positively affect students' success in school and brings numerous benefits to parents, teachers and the school in general. Did you know that an active PTA is a best practice for parent involvement in their children's education?

Among the benefits:

Σ Students know their parents are involved in school decisions.

Σ Students benefit from the policies enacted by parent groups.

Σ Parents have input into the policies that affect their children's education.

Σ Parents have shared experiences and connections with other families.

Σ Teachers and administrators have parent perspectives that inform policy development and decisions.

PTA membership month may be over, but it isn't too late to join the PTA. Click

http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Sign_Up.html and for \$10 you will experience the above benefits and have the satisfaction of knowing you're helping to make LHCS the greatest school it can be!

Lake Harriet Heroes

The Lake Harriet Hero program is back at Upper Campus! This is a monthly acknowledgement to honor students who are respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn everyday they come to school. These are students who are making a difference in our school community.

Each homeroom teacher will select a student who is a positive contributor to the school community using the following criteria: * Showing respect for others * Helping others * Being kind to others * Being actively engaged in learning * Following school rules * Being a positive leader * Being a good role model Each month student Heroes will be announced over the loud speaker, have their pictures posted in the main floor hallway, and receive a Lake Harriet Hero certificate. Look for the October Heroes in a future Connection.

Congratulations to the October Heroes who are:

Ula T.
Aaron E.
Katie H.
Joliana Y.
Helena T.
Evan C.
John C.
Devin W.
Abby R.
Madeleine S.
Penn B.
Brigetta H.
Rebecca M.
Marcus L.
Bryan K.
Alex S.
Ella W.
Priscilla D.
Charlie T.
Kassra T.
Jada O.
Sam S.
Paige A.

2010 Connection Contacts:

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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.