

The Connection

A weekly publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

September 7, 2010
Volume 11, Issue 1

From the Principals' Desks

Dear Families,

We are off to a great start to our new school year. The turn-out for the Kindergarten Potluck, K-5 Open House/Ice Cream Social and Middle Grades Orientation was strong. How typical of Minnesota to go from the beginning of the week at 90+ degrees to the high fifties by Friday. I'm sure we will still get more hot days. Be sure to send water bottles for your children to stay hydrated.

Upper campus has been working with new signs and yellow zones this summer from the safety plan we developed last spring. Children needing to cross Washburn for parent pick-up cars on the west side will now gather in the "Yellow Zone" and be crossed with a patrol flag by an adult. We want to have this become a habit before winter and the snow mounds along the street.

Also, the 49th street parking lot is now a one-way circle drive and posted for no student drop-off. Please remember all student drop-off and pick-up is done on Washburn. Finally, we will no longer be exiting third grade students from the Washburn parking lot door at the end of the day. Students were exiting while cars were leaving the parking lot. If you are waiting to pick up your third grade walker, they will be coming out the atrium doors. Establish with them whether you will meet on the Vincent or Washburn door. Thank you, in advance, for following this new plan. We are trying to keep your children as safe as possible.

Mary Rynchek
Principal

Middle School Schedules

Great news Lake Harriet Upper Campus is fully up and running using the district's new computer scheduling system on Discover.net.

As you are all aware Lake Harriet Upper Campus is a small Middle grades program and therefore students have limited choices. The Discovery.net computer program uses a mathematical algorithm which attempts to balance class size at each course offering after it places students in required classes.

We have heard quite a few positives comments about the schedules and a handful of concerns so our teachers met and looked everything over and they all confer that the schedules the students received are working and in fact they feel there is less lost instructional time this year with these new schedules.

Our District's student accounting department personnel as well as our Area Superintendent have also checked out our schedules and they also confer that things are working and no changes need to be made.

Looking forward to a great year filled full of learning,

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

From the Lower Campus

“We’re baaaack!!” And how exciting it is. We look forward to using many strategies which will help your children learn. Two years ago we began a literacy process called Readers and Writers Workshop. The basic idea of the process came from a report that was produced in 2000 by the National Reading Panel. “They clustered their findings into areas of the reading process, often called the five pillars of reading: phonics, phonemics awareness, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.” This is what our literacy process addresses. Now that we begin our third year, we’re excited with the introduction of a new reading series Good Habits, Great Readers. It includes lots of new literature plus the workshop process.

Of course, regular support from home strengthens student learning. Here are some helpful strategies taken from Good Writers, Great Readers you can use as you spend time reading with your child/ren at home.

- *Before reading*: preview the text, make predictions
- *During reading*: identify main ideas, make inferences, inspect the text (look forward and back in the text)
- *After reading*: summarize, reflect

We’re a team. We’re so happy to be working with you.

Ellen Murphy, lower campus administrator

September is PTA membership month!



September is PTA membership month. Please consider joining the Lake Harriet PTA. You can join by clicking on http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Sign_Up.html. Please contact Rusty Overby, PTA membership coordinator, at rustyoverby@yahoo.com with any questions.

If you would like to learn more about the impact the PTA, please be sure to see the results from last year's PTA Survey. They are now posted on the website. Go to http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/survey_results.html to view them.

Join the LHCS Green Team

Organics recycling is going strong in the LHCS lower campus cafeteria, but we could use a few more volunteers for the 2010-2011 school year. Volunteers help the kids separate organics (food scraps, paper, and cardboard) from the rest of their lunch trash. The time commitment is two lunch periods per month (11:25 – 1:40). If you can help, please contact Keren Price (kprice@pro-ns.net). This is a fun and easy program that has a real impact -- on our kids and on our planet!

LHCS School Start and End Times

There has been some confusion regarding when the school day starts and ends for both campuses. To clarify, **the Lower Campus** school day is **9:40am to 3:55pm**. 9:40am is the tardy bell, so students should be in the room by 9:35am. School lets out at 3:55pm. It takes at least ten minutes to get the kids dressed and out to the bus. The buses leave the Lower Campus at 4:05pm. Kindergarten AM is 9:40am to 12:30pm and Kindergarten PM is 1:00pm to 3:55pm.

The Upper Campus school day is from **9:40am to 4:05pm**. Students walking into the building at 9:40 will not have time to go to their lockers and get into class without being late. 9:40 is the tardy bell. Students should arrive between 9:25am and 9:30am. Students who want to eat a school breakfast may enter at 9:20 and go directly to the cafeteria. School lets out at 4:05 and the students go to buses at 4:10. Buses leave the Upper Campus at 4:15pm.

Flu Shot Clinic Coming October 19th

Marty Tierney, the nurse from Minnesota Visiting Nurse Association, in conjunction with the Kohl's Grant, will be conducting a flu shot clinic on October 19th from 4-9 pm at Upper Campus. This is in conjunction with the PTA meeting scheduled that evening. Staff can get their shot right after school families can come in until 9 pm at night. Insurance covers the cost of the shot (if one has insurance) and, due to the generosity of Kohl's, will cover the cost if one does not have insurance.

We will need a couple of parent volunteers to facilitate with the running of the clinic. Contact Kathy Frey at Kathy.Frey@mpls.k12.mn.us if you are interested.

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Volunteer needed to make copies

The Upper Campus has an urgent need for a volunteer who can come in and help make copies of the reading assessments for grades 3-5. The staff person who does this in on leave until mid-October. All of the master copies ready to go and the copy room is air-conditioned! Please contact Karen Ruhs, Literacy Coordinator at the Upper Campus, by email if you can help; we need the copies made as soon as possible. karen.ruhs@mpls.k12.mn.us

Accelerated Reading (AR) volunteers needed!

Accelerated Reader (AR) is an independent reading program for first and second graders. In AR, students check out a program book from the media center and take a short computer comprehension quiz after they've read the book. AR begins in late September for 2nd grade and in January for 1st grade, and runs through the end of the school year. Students receive training from Ms. Knight in the media center and begin the program when they are ready. AR allows students of all reading levels to participate. Participation is not required, but strongly encouraged as students gain confidence in reading, computer and test taking skills. AR is supported entirely by parent volunteers. Parents are needed to escort students to the media center to take quizzes, answer questions and help check out books. Commitment time is usually once per week for 30-45 minutes at the start of the school day at 9:40 am. We are looking for at least 2 volunteers from each classroom. If you are interested in helping out with this important and fun program, please contact Karen Knapp – (612)915-1743 or kbknapp@comcast.net . Thanks!

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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.