

A weekly publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

May 1, 2012

Dear Families,

Thank you to Blaire Hartley and all the parent volunteers for all your help in putting on this year's Dragonfest Carnival. Thank you to all the silent auction contributors and all sponsors of the Carnival. It was delightful to see Mr. Devens in the window at "Pie in the Face" with a long line of students eager to take their best toss. Wherever the administrators went throughout the games, cafeteria, face painting, or gym we saw children having a fun evening and parents socializing. This was the goal of the evening, a grand community gathering. And yes, the PTA did come in at a profit to help finance school enrichment for next year.

Fifth grade students have been participating in Math In Minneapolis competition. Middle grades school winners in History Day competed in regional and state levels, see the specific article in this issue for the full story. Thank you to Ms. Krawetz, Mr. Wood and Mr. Warren Carey for countless hours of advising students on their projects. Our middle grade Girls' Softball and Boys' Baseball teams are wrapping up their seasons this week and heading to the tournaments. Our baseball team is in first place standing. Thank you to Mr. DePerry as our Athletic Director throughout the year for middle grades traveling teams. Our Student Council representatives took third place in the City Wide Student Government's Community Service Challenge and were awarded Best Presentation. Thank you to Ms. Roberts as their advisor.

Our student vocal and instrumental performances are in full swing under the direction of Ms. Lang, Mr. Mazyck and Ms. Cuff. This year we also had a large group of middle grades students participate in Viva City, showcasing a choir of 600 students. Thank you to Ms. Cuff and Ms. Tarneka Harrison for working with Lake Harriet students so they could participate. Throughout all this the students have been taking the M.A.P. and M.C.A. assessment exams. Thank you to Ms. Tilleson and Ms. Mather for keeping the testing pieces organized and accountable. Now we move forward into the next few weeks with Field Day at both upper and lower campuses, Kindergarten Orientation, the Eighth Grade dance contest, Eighth Grade graduation and ending up with classroom picnics.

Teachers are beginning the cycle of planning for next year. The school year of 2012-13 will present unique challenges for students, teachers, parents and administrators. Lower campus will have one school year of construction while the new wing is added to the school. Upper campus will have one year of compromised space for classrooms and very full fifth and sixth grade classes. This will be a year for all of us to exercise patience, flexibility and employ a sense of humor. We need to remember it will be for just one year and the end product is worth the struggle. We are committed to giving your children a quality educational experience.

Sincerely,
Mary Rynchek

DRAGONFEST 2012 A SUCCESS!

Thanks to all the parents, staff and sponsors for making DragonFest 2012 another fabulous success for our students! It takes over 240 of us to make the night a reality, as well as many, many cakes. Our thanks go out to all of you for jumping in, trying something new, and having fun with you kids. They love it and the memories last a lifetime. We welcome any suggestions for next year, and comments can be sent to Blair_Hartley@yahoo.com.

Your LHCS DragonFest 2012 Committee

ESSAY CONTEST:

Topic: How gratitude influences our lives.

Student Essay Contest

This year the Upper Campus is holding an essay contest for grades 3-8. If it goes well this may become an annual event. Join us this year by writing an essay on: "How gratitude influences our lives."

Deadline: All entries must be received no later than **May 11**. Please email your entry to julie.hirsch@mpls.k12.mn.us or place it in her mailbox in the main office by May 11. The PBIS Committee and the Literacy Coach will review all entries. Two people will review each essay to determine an average score using the rubric shown on the back of this document. Please click on the link for more detailed contest information.

MUSIC PROGRAM SPRING CONCERTS

The Chamber Orchestra (Grades 4-5) will perform in their annual spring concert on Tuesday, May 8, at 2:30 in the school gym. Our Chamber Orchestra will perform a program that includes classical, fiddle music, and contemporary orchestra arrangements.

The Concert Band (Grades 4-5) will perform in their annual spring concert on Friday, May 11, at 2:30 p.m. in the school gym. Marches, Overtures, novelty band works and a concert band works will round out the program for the concert. The members of the Wind Ensemble, Chamber Orchestra, and Concert band have all been working hard toward these performances. We look forward to seeing families, friends, and community members at our upcoming performances.

LHCS STUDENTS PLACE IN HISTORY DAY COMPETITION

Twelve Lake Harriet seventh grade students qualified for Minnesota History Day which took place on Sunday, April 29, 2012 at the University of Minnesota. We are very please to announce that Nisi C. and Lili I. won first place for their website entry and will be advancing to National History Day in June for their Group Junior Website.

The Following seventh graders were state finalists at Minnesota History Day, and we are so proud of all of you for your hard work. Thank you for representing Lake Harriet at Minnesota History Day and congratulations to all of you! (Note: *HR = Earned an honorable mention at Minnesota History Day.)

- Nisi C. & Lili I., First Place (Group Website: Operation Ajax: The Fall of Democracy the Rise of Radical Islam which can be viewed at: <http://85945594.nhd.weebly.com>)
- Alison C. *HR (Historical Paper -- Dorothea Dix: A woman who Believed in Humane Treatment)
- Maya K. *HR (Historical Paper -- Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire: The Beginning of Reform for Workers Rights)
- Sally Y. *HR (Individual Exhibit Board -- Silent Spring: A Revolutionary Book)
- Parker J. (Individual Exhibit Board -- Chicago's Meatpacking Scandal)
- Jesse L. (Individual Exhibit Board -- Edward R. Murrow: How Broadcast Journalism Saved the Country from McCarthyism)
- Will L. & Jack P. (Group Exhibit Board -- The Berlin Wall)
- Ali D. (Individual Documentary -- Warsaw Ghetto Uprising)
- Evan C. & Owen V.(Group Documentary-- 1961 Freedom Riders)

PARTIES GALORE IN MAY

Second Grade Family Bowling Party - Sunday, May 6th 12-2pm TICKETS AVAILABLE

Casino Night - Saturday, May 12th 7-11pm Only 5 TICKETS LEFT

4th Grade Mom's Night Out - Friday, May 18th 7-11pm TICKETS AVAILABLE

8th Grade Music Party - Friday, May 18th 5-9pm TICKETS AVAILABLE

5th Grade Trivia Night and Wall of Wonderful Beverages Raffle - Saturday, May 19th 7pm TICKETS AVAILABLE

7th Grade All-American BBQ - Saturday, May 19th 5:30-9:30pm ONLY 6 TICKETS LEFT

A big THANK YOU to all the March and April party hosts. The parties in March and April raised \$4595! Well done!

Buy your tickets today!

Visit our Parties Galore Website to learn more about parties and purchase tickets.

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

**DANCE BASH 2012
8TH GRADE DANCE CONTEST**

On Friday, May 18th, at 2:30, the 8th grade students will be competing in the eighth annual 8th Grade Dance Contest. Over the years, this dance contest has become a highlight of the school year. The students in Mr. DePerry's PE classes are taking part in a 3 week dance unit, practicing and performing dances to country and modern music. The 8th graders are divided into groups of 6 or 7 and asked to find music and put together a 90 second dance routine. Over the course of the dance unit, they must collaboratively design, practice, and master their dance routines. The culmination is 14 dance groups performing on stage in front of the student body and a panel of judges. Parents are welcome to attend. You will be amazed!!

As in the past, we are giving prizes out to the top three groups. As in the years past, parents have helped donate prizes for the dance contest. Once again, I am reaching out to the parents to help with the prizes for this very fun event. We need 7 prizes for each place. First-place prizes are \$20.00 gift cards to Southdale AMC Movie Theater; second place prizes are \$15.00 gift cards to Target; and third-place prizes are \$10.00 gift cards to Dunn Brothers. The 8th graders are looking forward to this contest, and they have some great dance routines in development. If you would like to help with the dance prizes or need information on the dance contest, please contact Mr. DePerry. This is a great tradition! Thanks, and let the dancing begin!!

SCOOTER CITY will soon be happening at the lower campus. For one week (Tues. May 8 – Mon. May 14), all physical education classes will be participating in Scooter City in the gym. If you are interested in volunteering during your child's PE class time, Ms. Chase would love to hear from you! You can help run the "restaurant", "car wash", etc. You can contact Ms. Chase by email (carol.chase@mpls.k12.mn.us) or voice mail (668-7593).

Be a Part of Next Year's Site Council

How can you make Lake Harriet even better? Consider serving on the Lake Harriet Site Council. It's a unique opportunity to get involved and serve our school and our kids. The Site Council is a group of engaged parents, staff, and community members who meet one evening a month (the 3rd Tuesday) to provide recommendations on issues that impact our school. Members represent the interests of all Lake Harriet students and parents and serve as a vital communication link to school administration and staff. There are open positions for both parent and community members. Members serve for two-year terms. Some areas that Site Council concentrates on include STEM, School Communications and Talent Development. For more information please read the Site Council pages on the website (link below) and/or contact any current member of the Council linked

here: http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/council_members. If you are interested, please complete the online form - at lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Site_Council - by May 11.

Community News

Sleepy Tigers Mandarin Club Summer Camp

Sleepy Tigers Mandarin Club Summer Camp July 30th--Aug 10th, Monday thru Friday, 9:30am-11:30am
Chinese Cities & Traditions/Festivals Join us to "visit" Chinese cities, "taste" the food, learn traditions,
culture, art and more! Details please visit www.sleepytigers.com. Registration ends on May 4th, 2012

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.