



# Lake Harriet Community School News

A Weekly Publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

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LHCS News

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February 18th, 2014

## **TWENTY-THIRD ISSUE FOR '13-'14**

### **News from the Lower Campus**

**Testing:** The third grade will be taking the MCA reading test during the week of March 10 and the math MCA test the week of April 21. Please try not to schedule family activities that would take students out of school for those two weeks.

ACCESS testing for our students learning English is ongoing through March 21.

MAP testing for first and second grade is from April 30-May 21.

**Request from a neighbor:** I know that parking is a premium when we have a lot of volunteers at the Lower Campus. A neighbor called and said that twice a car was blocking his driveway. He very nicely asked that we make that known and ask our school friends to be aware of where they park.

I will be at a conference the week of March 3. In my absence, Mrs. Anne Wade will be principal. She was an assistant principal at the Lower Campus many years ago and now is retired. She is quite capable and willing to help. She will also be able to get in contact with me if necessary. As always I will answer e-mail while I am gone.

### **Music In Our Schools Concerts**

March is Music in Our Schools Month. We have three concerts scheduled at the Upper Campus. Please mark your calendars!

5th Grade Concert: Wednesday, March 5; 11:36-12:31pm

4th Grade Concert: Wednesday, March 5; 2:15-3:10pm

Middle Grades Choir & Rock Band Concert: Wednesday, March 12; 2:30-3:30

Please email Ms. Cuff at [jennifer.cuff@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:jennifer.cuff@mpls.k12.mn.us) if you are interested in volunteering to help with any of these concerts. Examples of volunteer jobs include: set up, take down, guitar tuning and more.

### **MPS is MCA READY!**

The MCA testing window begins on March 10th and runs through early May. This year, the three content areas of reading, math and science will be assessed in an online format.

## 2013- 2014 MCA Testing Schedule

Math 3rd - 8th, 11th March 10th-May 9th

Reading 3rd - 8th, 10th March 10th-May 9th

Science 5th, 8th, at the completion of biology March 17th-May 16<sup>th</sup>

### **Tips for Students**

#### Preparing for Tests:

- Maintain good study habits
- Tell your parents about schoolwork and homework.
- Follow directions.
- Get a good night's rest and eat a good breakfast before testing.
- Set goals. Make and follow a plan to meet the goals you have set. Share your goals with your parents and teachers.
- Take responsibility for classwork and homework.
- Ask questions at school and home to ensure you understand material.
- Ask for additional help when needed.
- Practice strategies that will help you do well so they are automatic when you are taking tests.
- Ask your teacher to identify a particular area of focus that would help your performance.
- Think positively!

#### During Tests:

- Read and pay careful attention to all directions.
- Survey the items and questions to get an idea of the task(s) ahead.
- Reread the parts of the passage(s) or problems that help you to select the best answer.
- Read every possible answer – the last one could be the best one!
- Decide exactly what the question is asking and find evidence in the text to support it.
- Skip difficult questions. Then, go back & use good strategies to figure out the trickier ones.
- Keep a good attitude. Think positively!
- When you finish each section, take time to go back and check your work.
- Don't make uneducated guesses.
- Try to get the correct answer by reasoning and eliminating wrong answers.

#### After Tests:

- Examine your test scores; ask the teacher to explain your test scores if needed.
- Congratulate yourself on identified areas of strength.
- Identify areas of weakness which you want to improve for a better performance next time.
- Ask your teacher to suggest areas of study that will help you perform better on the next test.
- Set new goals. Make and follow a plan to meet your new goals. Share your goals with your parents and teachers.

### **Tips for Parents**

#### Preparing for Tests:

- Note test dates on your home calendar; schedule appointments on non-testing days.
- Encourage your child to take responsibility for homework and class study.
- Encourage your child to ask questions at home and in class.
- Get to know your child's teachers.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences.
- Confer with teachers on a regular basis.
- Help your child to set realistic, yet ambitious goals. Support them in reaching their goals.

- Gather available test preparation materials and information.
- Assure your child knows that you value a good education.
- Praise your child's efforts. Recognize hard work and persistence, particularly when facing difficult tasks.

#### Day of Test:

- Ensure your child is well rested and eats a healthy breakfast.
- Make sure your child arrives at school on time.
- Encourage your child to do their best work and to be persistent.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments.
- Maintain calmness about tests. They are small portions of a child's overall education and performance.
- Ask your child how they are feeling about the upcoming test. Do your best to calm any anxieties.
- If your child is experiencing anxiety, communicate this to the teacher so the teacher can work to alleviate test anxiety.

#### After Testing:

- Ask your child about the test.
- Examine any reports that are sent home and share them, as appropriate with your child.
- Determine areas of strength and weakness.
- Share your child's areas of strength and help them make a plan to address any weaknesses.
- Talk with the teacher if other information is needed.
- Support your child in setting and achieving new goals.

### **Test Anxiety**

#### How Students Can Alleviate Test Anxiety:

- Share your feelings of anxiety with parents and teachers.
- Think of the test as the opportunity to show what you know.
- Review homework and materials which pertain to test topics.
- Relax, breathe deeply and stay focused on the test.
- Remember, the test is only one way your academic performance is measured.
- Think positively. Think of other times you were successful when facing a challenge.

#### How Parents Can Alleviate Test Anxiety:

- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.
- Help your child identify times they were anxious or faced challenges that had positive results.

#### How Teachers Can Alleviate Test Anxiety:

- Discuss the purpose of the test and how it can help students progress academically.
- Have realistic expectations of students' performance while encouraging students to do their best.
- Allow students to express their anxiety verbally or in writing.
- Be careful not to over emphasize the importance of the test.

Students may experience anxiety about tests and may experience heightened anxiety before a testing situation. A certain degree of anxiety is normal and may help teachers prepare more effectively, work more efficiently, and remain focused during testing. Too much anxiety, however, can negatively affect performance. The following strategies may assist students, parents, and teachers in reducing anxiety.

Below is a process that can help you be successful on any test, but especially on the MCAIIIs.

**M** - Mind & materials ready

- Breathe, stay calm, remember your goal
- Make sure you have scratch paper, sharpened pencil, and allowed tools

**P** - Prepare to succeed

- Think positive thoughts – Remember times you were successful!
- Think about all you've learned to prepare yourself

**S** - Survey the items & questions

- Look over the title, the passage(s)/items, and the questions
- Identify information that will help you be successful, such as genre, graphic features, math needed

**R** - Read & re-read

- Go back to the passage or item to identify key information
- Use evidence from the text (reading)

**E** - Evaluate what is being asked

- Identify what the question is asking and make a plan to solve it

**A** - Action – Use strategies & tools

- Apply good test taking strategies such as eliminating wrong answers
- Read and annotate

**D** - Display persistence

- Don't give up – Keep working at it!

**Y** - (Why?) Prove your answer

- Make sure you have support for your answer

**!** - You've GOT this!

A Process for Success

\*Information from the MPS teaching and learning department 2014

**Registration for the 2014 Science Fair**

Register for the Science Fair! Forms are coming home this week. This year we are trying something new and spreading out at Upper Campus with exhibits throughout the school. Pick an area of science to explore and join us for an evening of fun! Registration is also available online at: [http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/science\\_fair\\_3](http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/science_fair_3)

**2014 Read-a-Thon Tour Update**

Our Rock Stars recently made the cover of the Rolling Stones magazine! In the candid interview, the band revealed that they are getting a bit tired of being on the road. It appears that the tour is taking a lot from them yet they love seeing the fans night after night. As the band manager, it's important to remind them to hang in there and pretty soon, they'll be crooning "Mama, I'm coming home" on the plane.

Don't have your packets? No problem! Download an extra copy at LHCS>The PTA>Fundraising>Read-a-Thon.

We'll see you on the tour! Until then, keep on rocking. Amy Mimick, 2014 Read-a-Thon Chair ([amymimick@yahoo.com](mailto:amymimick@yahoo.com))

### **We REALLY need your help for the Used Book Sale!**

We are so close to filling all the time slots for the Lower Campus Used Book Sale. PLEASE take a look at your calendar and see if you can help out! Please email Amy Mimick ([amymimick@yahoo.com](mailto:amymimick@yahoo.com)) if you are available to help out on 2/27 to sell books from 9:30am-12pm (1 more volunteer needed), 2/27 to sell books from 2-3:30pm (1 more volunteer needed), 2/28 to help with clean up from 3:30-4:30pm (2 volunteers needed – your kids can be with you and help out!).

We still need MANY more books to make the Used Book Sale on 2/27 & 2/28 a smashing success! Collection boxes are at each campus through February 24. Thank you to those that have brought books in already!

### **Lower Campus Taste Test**

There will be a taste test at Lower Campus on Feb. 19. The students will be trying a kale and apple salad.

### **Parties Galore 2014 is on!**

Please join Lake Harriet Community School families and friends in building the LHCS community while raising money to support school programs and develop new resources.

Find a grade-level gathering that suits you or seek out some fun that will get you out and about! Just click to buy tickets to a parent-hosted event starting today!

### **Ms. Liepitz is a Teacher of the Year Award Finalist!**

Congratulations to Ms. Liepitz, a 4th grade teacher at Upper Campus, who is among semi-finalists for Minnesota's Teacher of the Year award!

The Minnesota Teacher of the Year semifinalists have been announced and includes nine teachers from MPS. This year marks the 50th iteration of the award, which celebrates the tradition of excellence in teaching in Minnesota. Candidates include prekindergarten through 12th-grade teachers from public and private schools. There are 128 total candidates. The 2014 Minnesota Teacher of the Year will be announced Sunday, May 4.

Congratulations to the MPS semifinalists:

- Kim Becker, Media Specialist, Lyndale School
- John Calhoun, English, Edison High School
- Michael J. Grandys, French, Northeast Middle School
- Colette Kruc, Special Education, Anwatin
- Jane Liepitz, Fourth Grade, Lake Harriet Upper Campus
- Heather McKerrow, ELL and Literacy, Wellstone International
- Connie Rae Rubenstein, Prekindergarten, Armatage
- Kristopher Shaban, Mathematics, Northeast Middle School
- Maria Singh, STEM, Pillsbury

### **Volunteers Needed for 5th Grade District Wide Math Competition Prep**

This year the MPS District Wide 5th Grade Math Competition will be held on Saturday, April 26. In the past, Lake Harriet students have done a wonderful job representing our school at the competition.

In order to prepare for the challenge, we need parent volunteers to help the students by leading an hour long math quiz prep class, either before or after school. You need not be a math whiz yourself - prep materials and sample questions from past competitions will be available from Ms. Kirk. To date, we have one parent who has expressed an interest, but would like to have a few more to work together.

The day of the week and the time are at your discretion, as well as the number of sessions to do before the competition in April. The students would meet for an hour before or after school in one of the classrooms at upper campus to practice test questions and to become fluent in working as a team. Any parent/family members with a love for math are welcome. You need not have a fifth grader in school at present.

If you are interested, please contact Ms. Weidenbach via e-mail [kweidenb@mpls.k12.mn.us](mailto:kweidenb@mpls.k12.mn.us)

### **Lake Harriet Heroes**

Congratulations to the January 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. Jozie R, Margaret C, Brynn S, Ismahaan J, Luke L, Reece W, Bjorn G, Rose B, Olivia S, Sarah L, Jack W, Mitra K, Teo O, Alison K, Iqro A, Gabriella B, Ana V, Carter W, Lily W, Tyler B, Cole G, Andrea K, Max M, Kate M.

### **Peer Mediation Ready to Help With Your Conflicts Any Day**

Peer Mediation is back! Ten sixth graders have joined 13 seventh and eighth graders to help with conflict resolution at LHCS. The ten new mediators trained for two half-days off campus, totaling ten hours! We learned all about typical reactions to conflict, how to manage conflict peacefully, how to mediate peer conflicts and remain neutral.

Mediators are available to mediate conflicts for students in grades four-eight. Students can sign up through a mediator, teacher, Julie Hirsch (school psychologist), the main office, or on the Lake Harriet webpage. Mediators are always available to teach conflict resolution skills to classmates.

We look forward to keeping Lake Harriet Community School a safe and environment for all.  
Haley B.

### **5th Grade Parents Party- BEER & CHILI NIGHT**

Get out of the cold and join 5th Grade parents for some beer, chili and fun! Please bring extra cash for a meat raffle! Where: Dave & Kim Schoenecker's House, 4028 Sheridan Avenue South  
When: February 21, 2014 at 6:30pm-10pm Cost: \$20/Person but bring cash for raffle #Tickets Available: 50 Hosted By: Dave & Kim Schoenecker, Gretchen & Mike Bransford, Mark Gingrich & Rhonda Pittman Gingrich's, Brett & Mary McCabe's, Erik & Nikki Gilbertson

### **Yearbooks Now on Sale!**

The 2013-2014 Yearbooks are now available for purchase!

To order visit: <http://ybpay.com>

Access Code: 7964714

### **Parent Volunteer for the Eye- Screenings**

A parent volunteer is still needed for the following dates of the eye-screening:

3/5- Upper- 1 volunteer for 9:15-12:15

3/5- Upper- 2 volunteers for 12:15-3:45

3/10- Lower- 1 volunteer for 12:15-3:45

3/11- Lower- 1 volunteer for 9:15-12:15

Thank-you,

Kathy Frey, RN, Licensed School Nurse  
Monday and Wednesday, Upper- 668-3315  
Tuesday and Thursday, Lower- 668-3222

### **Principal Schleisman's Blog**

Be sure to read Principal Schleisman's blog at

<http://walterschleisman.blogspot.com/2013/10/conference-week.html>.

**MPS Goes Mobile:** Now you can receive MPS text alerts on your cell. Just Text "YES" to 68453.

### **Community News**

#### **2013-2014 LHCS News Contacts:**

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

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

**Submissions:** email to Mark Fullerton: [marksatva@gmail.com](mailto:marksatva@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.