



Lake Harriet Community School News

A Weekly Publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

LHCS News

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May 28th, 2013

THIRTY-FOURTH ISSUE FOR '12-'13

Upper Campus Update

Dear Parents and Community,

Once again the rapidly approaching 'end of the school year' is upon us. Hopefully the weather will cooperate for Upper Field Day activities which begin tomorrow. Please begin asking your children to bring their things home from their lockers and to check the Lost and Found for their missing items.

I have had some inquiries about how Media is being redesigned to fit our STEM mission. The new STEM position will serve grades 4-7 for 2013-14 and hopefully expand to 4-8 for the following year. Each fourth and fifth grade class would have an hour a week of specialist time focusing on Foss science kits and Engineering Is Elementary/MN Science Museum units that are in addition to those being covered in their classrooms. Sixth and Seventh grade classes would have access to computer robotics programs and additional computer engineering programs. The STEM offering is a new concept for us within the specialist instructional time. The first year will be an exploratory time to test which products work the best for various grade levels. Each year the STEM program will become stronger as it is refined. Students will still have access to the computer lab and build computer skills within the STEM domain. In addition, Mr. Streit will be coordinating student book check-out and returns for Upper campus.

The Upper campus Advanced Math Pathway will continue with grades four and five in a telescope format. That means in fourth the A.M. P. students will cover all of the fourth grade and half of the fifth grade materials and Standards. In fifth grade the A.M.P. students will cover the other half of fifth grade and all of sixth grade materials and Standards. The sixth grade will cover seventh grade materials and Standards and also begin Algebra, the seventh grade will cover Algebra and Intermediate Algebra, and the eighth grade A.M.P. students will cover Geometry with PreCalculus.

I have had questions from middle grades parents asking for more information on the new middle grades 'Options' for Thursdays during specialist time. This spring middle grades students for next year were given an opportunity to make ranked selections from their specialist course offerings. For four days each week all middle grades students would have exposure to their grade level specialist courses. Each week on Thursday students would have an advanced curriculum of their selected specialist area. An example of this would be: a student selects ART; on Thursday in ART a more challenging concept and skills would be taught. This would be different work than that being done in the regular non-option ART class. The student would have two art projects in process, one for the Options advanced class and one for the regular specialist ART class. This same concept would follow for students who selected vocal music or PE or STEM

or Health, depending on the grade level of the middle grade student. This is a new plan we are offering in an effort to provide middle school students with more choice and develop their talents in their strength areas. If this new launch is successful and carried over to the 2014-15 school year, students would again make selections in the spring for the following year. They could continue in the same Option choice or explore selecting a new choice.

This summer, in July, the installation of the new lockers will be happening. We are eliminating all the old lockers. Because many of these were so skinny in width or stacked double in height, installing enough new large lockers for every student to have their own locker will require utilization of all available wall space. When you return in the fall many hallway bulletin boards will have been removed.

In addition, during the summer a new projection screen should be installed on the stage. This will be a permanent screen that has an electronic control for rolling down for use and recoiling for storage. In September the MN Heart Assoc. will be introducing a Healthy Hearts Jump Rope unit and donating equipment. Also, middle grades students will have an opportunity to participate in our new debate team through the MN Urban Debate League and supervised by Mr. Streit. The debate team will compete against other MPS and St. Paul schools. Finally, in the atrium there will be a new large banner hung with the LHCS Mission Statement.

I want to take a moment to thank you for the wonderful support you have given Lake Harriet Community School and me over the past five years while I served as your principal. It has been a great collaborative effort for our children. I am proud of what we have accomplished together. We have built a program with a healthy balance of the Arts and STEM, a program that continues to strive to challenge all children and provide a wide array of areas each child can stretch their talents. I am confident that the new Upper Campus principal, Dr. Aaron Drevlow, will be a good fit for the Lake Harriet community and continue to grow the school.

The final question I am being asked is, "Mrs. Rynchek, what will you do when you retire?" I will be riding my bicycle, kayaking up north, reading, gardening and thinking about all of you.

Have a great summer and be safe!

Sincerely,
Mary Rynchek
Principal

Lower Campus Update

We want to welcome the two new teachers to Lake Harriet Lower Campus. Karin will teach 2nd grade and Alycia will be a new Wings teacher as we are opening another WINGS program.

Hi, my name is Alycia Lund-Busch. I've been teaching in the Developmental Cognitive Disabilities (DCD) program at Edison High School for the past 5 years with an emphasis on functional skills and math. I began my teaching career at Patrick Henry High School where I taught in the Lifeskills Program for three years. I earned my Masters of Special Education at the University of Minnesota. My husband and I have lived in the Linden Hills area for the past 5 years. I'm looking forward to joining the team at Lake Harriet-Lower Campus in the fall.

My name is Karin Emerson. I earned a Master's degree in experiential education at Minnesota State University Mankato, and a Reading Specialist License at the University of Minnesota. I taught Kindergarten for four years and first/second grade combined for four years. For the past 14 years I have worked as a reading specialist focusing on helping students move from beginning or non-readers to readers. I have two daughters, one in college and one in high school. My husband owns Inside Edge Golf in Eden Prairie. I love spending time with her family, learning new things and reading. I am honored to be welcomed into the teaching staff

and community at Lake Harriet Lower. I am very excited to get back into the classroom and develop the yearlong relationships and strong learning community with students and families I have come to miss!

Lost and Found is going at the Lower Campus

The lost and found items were set outside for field day. You have until June 3, 2013 to claim your child's items. What ever is left after June 3rd will be donated to a shelter.

Field Day

I want to thank all the parents who participated or came to Field Day. The Field Day theme was "Under Construction" We could not have had such a success and fun day without all the parent volunteers. Thank you

EIGHTH GRADE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Congratulations and Farewell Lake Harriet Class of 2013. Best wishes at your new school. Please come back and see us, especially if you'd like to volunteer at the carnival! Eighth Grade Recognition Ceremony will be held in the gym on Monday, June 3rd at 2:00 p.m.. Very special thanks to parent Jeff Fabre, for taking hundreds of photos and donating his time and skills.

Community News

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

Submissions: email to Mark Fullerton: 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.