



Lake Harriet Community School News

A Weekly Publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

LHCS News

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September 30th, 2014

SEVENTH ISSUE FOR '14-'15

The Lower main office has a new look!

By Merry Tilleson, Principal

I am writing to let you all know that the main office at Lower is located inside the main entrance on the 41st side of the building. It is a very open space but we have rearranged our furniture to create an office atmosphere that will function more efficiently for us. You will notice new signage coming soon to better direct newcomers at Lake Harriet Lower. One of the new signs will name the space and a second will be located above the buzzer just inside the main door. Lucy, our large statue, greets you as part of this new defined space.

Entrance into the building from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM is only allowed when visitors use the buzzer. Our school secretary has a monitor with a picture screen and an intercom speaker on her desk. When people press the buzzer she can see them on the monitor. She will ask for their name and reason for the visit and then buzz them in. We also have new staff mail boxes and an office copier to better serve our staff.

We ask that you respect that this is our office and help us to maintain this welcoming space. Our students have been given tours and know that this area is our office and they are not allowed to walk about the area freely or touch items in the office as that space is reserved for staff.

I hope this helps everyone in this first year post construction.

Safety First!

By Merry Tilleson, Principal

I want to thank all of the parents who drop off and pick up their students for working with us as we continue to tweak our pick up/drop off system this year. Each day is better than the day before!

We have a new sandwich board sign that our Engineers put out each morning. It reads "Drop off and Pick up only"- we ask that all drop off and pick up happen on 41st. Please note that our staff has been instructed to walk their classes outside at the end of each day. They walk to both the parent pick up and buses.

This is where you should be waiting:

- 1st grade parents stand near Door 2.
- 2nd grade parents stand near the main entrance.
- 3rd grade parents stand near the flag pole.
- Multiple children please stand at the corner of 41st and Chowen.

Kindergarten parents stand around the corner on Chowen in front of the buses.

Please try not to block the sidewalk when the classes are passing. As the weather changes make arrangements with your child's teacher and your child as to where you will be as most of you will be driving up and not wanting to get out of your cars.

Our teachers have been asked to make sure that you and the teacher have made some kind of contact before your child leaves them and runs over to you.

We are collecting any students that have not been picked up after the last bus pulls away at 4:05 p.m. and they will be in Room 123 where you will need to go in and sign them out. I have had to institute this new system for safety as we do not have enough staff to maintain the sign out system that was tried last year. I want to thank you all for being on time and picking your children up in a timely fashion. Please remember that I do not have staff to sit with the children past 4:30 p.m. If you are running late you must contact the main office before to let us know. Remember safety first: I am also asking that if your child uses a scooter or bike or similar vehicle after school to please wait until they have safely crossed the street before getting on it to ride. We have congested sidewalks and have had a few near misses of scooters hitting folks on the sidewalk.

Marker Recycling Continues at Lower Campus

Last school year, Lower Campus collected 3900 markers to be recycled into fuel through the Crayola Colorcycle program. Let's try to break that record this school year! A large collection bin is located near the front entrance in the Commons area of Lower Campus and individual collection pails are in each classroom. Please recycle your dried up or unusable markers - any brand, any kind!

STE(A)M Day at Lower Campus

STE(A)M Day at the Lower Campus is scheduled for Friday, December 5th from 2:20-3:30 and we are looking for Presenters as well as Volunteers to help make this day successful. This is an "Advanced Learners Talent Development Program" that gives kids the opportunity to grow and experience Science, Technology, Engineering, (Arts) and Math in exciting ways that they would not typically experience in the classroom. It is a day where volunteers and parents throughout our community come into the classroom and teach about interests and/or jobs that are STE(A)M focused; giving our kids the opportunity to expand their knowledge and grow. Please contact Trisha Power, trisha@buildwithbella.com if you are interested in presenting or volunteering for

this event. We would love to have some new presenters i.e. photographer, dance instructor, drama/theater, hydrologist, painter/artist, nurse/doctor/radiologist, marine biologist...let's see what we can come up with. Thank you!

Step Stools needed at the Lower campus

Step Stools are needed at the Lower campus, and we are hoping for a donation. A low stool and high one are needed for the drinking fountains by the new bathroom by the art room.

A Notice there is no Chess Bus

Dear Parents:

Several years ago it was decided for safety issues we would have no chess bus from the lower to upper campus.

Can you imagine if a student forgot to get on the bus and went home with no parent at home? What parents have done in the past is carpooling. We have found that this works really well and every child that wanted to participate could.

If you have questions or you need help please call Gary at 612-668-3330.

Washburn 8th Grade Tours

Attention 8th Grade Families:

It is time to start thinking about high school! Washburn High School has planned tours for 8th graders and their families. Stay tuned for Southwest and other MPS high school information.

Washburn Tours:

Thursday 12/11 9 - 10am

Tuesday 12/16 9 - 10am

Friday 1/9 9 - 10am

Tuesday 1/20 9 - 10am

Friday 1/30 9 - 10am

Thursday 2/5 9 - 10am

Monday 2/9 9 - 10am

Thursday 2/19 9 - 10am & 5 - 6 PM

Tuesday 2/24 - 9 - 10am & 5 - 6 PM

Reservations are required. Families may either call or email Rebecca Felland-Syring, the Washburn Parent Liaison (refel001@mpls.k12.mn.us, or 612-668-3440), with the following information:

8th grade student's name, school the student is attending now, parent(s) email address(es), parent phone number(s), how many people will be attending, and the date (from one of the above) the family would like to attend.

Space is limited and reservations are required, so please contact her as soon as possible.

School Board Election

On November 4, 2014, Minneapolis residents will elect five new school board members, including two citywide representatives. LHCS-Attendance-Area parents can vote for only the two citywide representatives. There are four citywide candidates.

Board members shape this city's public school system, and are a major part of deciding if we have equitably funded schools that focus on educating the whole child.

There are two scheduled School Board Forums to ensure that our voices will be heard in this year's school board race. Please join us learning more about the issues and candidates in this year's Minneapolis school board race!

- 1) Thu Oct 2 6-8pm. Mpls Urban League organized by the Coalition for Critical Change,
- 2) Mon Oct 13 630-830pm. Bryant Lake Bowl organized by Theatre for Public Policy

Principal Swap day planned for October 6th

On Monday, October 6th, Principal Schleisman (Principal of the Upper campus) will try his hand at being the Principal at the Lower campus. He will have fun greeting all of the K-3rd grade students and visiting classrooms. At the same time, Principal Tilleson (Principal of the Lower campus) will try her hand at being the Principal at the Upper campus, greeting students and visiting classrooms. Remember, she was there as the Assistant Principal for four years. Sounds confusing? It's not. It is meant to be a fun way to bring both campuses together in a positive climate activity. We want our students to get to know and see both Principals at both campuses. Remember we are one school in two buildings.

Cross Country Running

The South West Cross Country Team needs you!

If you would like to do a fall sport outside with a lot of great kids, join our team. The season has started, but it is not too late. We have practices for middle school kids in the morning or after school. We are trying to build a stronger program and we would like to increase middle school participation. The sport is not offered in MPS Middle Schools, but you can be on the high school team. We have several middle school kids, you could be one of them.

Contact Martin Richmond SWCC Booster Club
mailto:mrichmo3@comcast.net
612-926-5226

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

Community News:

Join the Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team (MAST)

Calling All 7th and 8th graders!

Join the fastest non-motorized sport in the world!

Do you enjoy downhill skiing? Would you like to learn how to ski race?
The Minneapolis Alpine Ski Team (MAST) may be just for you.

MAST is THE downhill ski racing team of the Minneapolis Public Schools for Minneapolis students and residents in grades 7-12. No racing experience is necessary. We offer excellent coaching and training, a fun and friendly team atmosphere, exciting competitions against other high school ski teams, and the chance to participate in the fastest, non-motorized sport in the world! Our team is very welcoming and supportive of its seventh and eighth grade students, so don't be shy about joining now. Our eighteen coaches are excited to teach you how to ski with perfect technique. Start now and by the time you enter high school you will be on your way to becoming an outstanding ski racer.

Interested athletes and parents are strongly encouraged to attend the MAST Information Meeting at Southwest High School on MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014.

6:30PM NEW Family Orientation in the Southwest HS Cafeteria.

7:15PM NEW/RETURNING Family '14-'15 Season Orientation in the SW Media Center.

Learn more about MAST by checking out our website at www.mplsalpineski.org.

You can also contact our Head Coach, Mark Conway, 612-275-8392, or email markrobertconway58@gmail.com.

It is never too soon ---or too late--- to learn to ski race.

LHCS SITE COUNCIL UPDATE

This posting is the first in a new monthly series created for The Connection by the LHCS Site Council. In an effort to increase communication between the Site Council and LHCS community, a brief overview of the monthly meetings will be posted here. Meeting minutes will continue to be posted on the Site Council web page, but in an effort to communicate more efficiently, this posting will give a snapshot of current issues and important updates.

This is a good posting to read if you are interested in the bigger picture at LHCS including MPS district news, school budget issues, academic achievement, community outreach, equity, and advocacy opportunities.

What is Site Council?

The Lake Harriet Community School (LHCS) Site Council is the school's site leadership team. Site Council members include LHCS parents, teachers from each campus, and the upper and lower campus principals. Site Council parent members are elected and the administrators appoint teacher members. As the advisory and planning body for LHCS, it is a forum for staff and parents to provide feedback about decisions that the administration needs to make, and to support student achievement.

For more information about Site Council, including access to meeting minutes, click here http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Site_Council

How do I become a Site Council member?

Each May, parents have the opportunity to apply for Site Council. A call for applicants is posted on the school website and in The Connection. All applications are reviewed by the Site Council nominating committee made up of current members. Nominations are brought to the larger group and voted upon. Site Council is a 2-year commitment.

Are there other ways to be involved with Site Council?

Yes! Within Site Council there are five subcommittees that focus on specific issues and tasks. Click here [link to Subcommittee Descriptions on SC page] to link to a list of the subcommittees with descriptions and contact information.

Site Council Subcommittees

ACADEMICS

The Academics subcommittee goal is to support teachers and administration in providing the highest level of rigor to all LHCS students.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Identifying ways to enhance enrichment opportunities for students during the school day
- Improving communications about professional development for teachers on advanced learner pedagogy
- Updating the Academics section of the website, improving parent understanding of and access to academic services for all learners
- Supporting extracurricular academic offerings (such as Destination Imagination, Math Counts, GISE/GEMS)
- Advocating on behalf of LHCS learners for funding and resources at the district and state levels
- Connecting with the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented Minneapolis Chapter

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer as an extracurricular coach for things like Destination Imagination, GISE/GEMS, etc.
- Advocate for LHCS – Attend Area C and School Board meetings and voice your priorities to the school district / write to school board members when topics relating to academics are under consideration
- Share your ideas

Contact Kristin Benson kribenson@edina.k12.mn.us or Lora Joshi lorajoshi@gmail.com for more information about how you can help with the Academics subcommittee.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Communications subcommittee goal is to facilitate and improve communications between LHCS administration and the parent community.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Site Council meeting minutes and their distribution
- The "Site Council Monthly Update" in The Connection
- Facebook Advocacy page administration
- Facilitating special projects to improve communication
- Representing LHCS learners and families at MPS Area C meetings and reporting back to the community

HOW YOU CAN HELP

ALL parents can help facilitate communication at LHCS and many already do.

- Join LHCS PTA
- Read The Connection each week
- Follow proper channels when you have issues or concerns by speaking to your student's teacher or campus administrator
- Join LHCS Groups on Facebook. LHCS has a School News page that is information only (no comments) <https://www.facebook.com/LakeHarrietCommunitySchoolNews?fref=ts> and an Advocacy Group page open to current Lake Harriet parents and teachers where the community can engage in discourse about school-related issues and events <https://www.facebook.com/groups/220576901299761/?fref=ts>
- Attend MPS district meetings including Area C Meetings http://osfce.mpls.k12.mn.us/area_c_pac.html and MPS School Board meetings <http://board.mpls.k12.mn.us/> Report back to the parent community via the Facebook Advocacy Group page or by emailing subcommittee representatives

Contact Rhonda Bonnabeau rbonnabeau@comcast.net or Lisa Elliott lisa@elliottlaw.net for more information about how you can help with the Communications subcommittee.

EQUITY

The vision of the Equity subcommittee is to support all students, families and staff in understanding the whole child and addressing the needs of all students to develop a positive school climate and students who understand they are global citizens. The whole child includes all aspects of a person, including; learning, race, social-emotional, economic, disability, family, religion.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Facilitating communication around equity in the LHCS community
- Annual equity survey to measure community interest
- Annual projects that support equity goals that reflect LHCS community interest

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Parents are invited to attend Equity monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month from 4:15-5:30 pm at the Upper Campus media center

Contact Lisa Bigaouette lisa.bigauouette@gmail.com or Tiffany Moore tiffamoore@yahoo.com for more information about how you can help the Equity & Diversity subcommittee.

STEM

The goal of the STEM subcommittee is to identify and promote learning initiatives that support the LHCS STEM-focused mission.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- The STEM information page on LHCS website
- Identifying academic opportunities and activities that could be pursued to support LHCS STEM-focused mission
- Ensuring that STEM opportunities are consistent in quantity and quality across LHCS campuses

- Working with Media centers at both campuses to ensure STEM materials are adequate and available

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join the STEM subcommittee as an ad hoc member and help update the STEM web page
- Join the STEM subcommittee as an ad hoc member and help put together findings from past STEM subcommittee meetings and prepare a report for Site Council
- Volunteer to help coordinate STEAM Day at the Upper Campus

Contact Mike Hess mhess@wealthenhancement.com or Erin Wenz wwenz@yahoo.com for more information about how you can help with the STEM subcommittee.

PTA LIASON

The role of the PTA Liaison is to facilitate communication between LHCS Site Council and PTA.

THIS SUBCOMMITTEE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR

- Attending both Site Council and PTA meetings on a monthly basis
- Providing updates from and to each of these groups

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Join the PTA Liaison subcommittee as an ad hoc member and assist in meeting attendance and updates

Contact Erika Lamboglia evanvick@hotmail.com for more information about how you can help with the PTA Liaison subcommittee.

2014-2015 LHCS News **Contacts:**

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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.