



Lake Harriet Community School News

A Weekly Publication of the Lake Harriet Community School PTA

LHCS News

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November 25th, 2014

FIFTEENTH ISSUE FOR '14-'15

Junior Great Books

Dear Parents of 2nd through 5th Graders,

The Junior Great Books program is coming soon! Junior Great Books is a reading program for students in grades 2 through 5. Discussion groups will begin the week of January 19th.

WHAT IS JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS?

Junior Great Books is a 10-week program, similar to a book club, where students are given an opportunity to read and discuss age appropriate literature with an adult facilitator. The program uses a "shared inquiry" approach to learning which encourages students to search for meaning in stories and to consider and express many different points of view. The discussions help students increase their comprehension, interpretive thinking, and oral and written language skills.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The program is open to any student in grades 2 through 5 who wants to join. Groups of approximately 6-10 students will be formed by grade level. Spaces will be filled on a first-come basis. Students will use an anthology of grade-appropriate stories, usually folk tales, which have been selected by the Great Books Foundation for their ability to be interpreted in many different ways leading to interesting and informative discussions. Students are responsible for reading the weekly selection at home on their own or with their parents before each session.

WHO LEADS THE GROUPS?

Parent volunteers lead the discussion groups. Please see the form at the link to indicate if you would like to volunteer. All volunteers are provided with materials guiding them on leading discussions. MPS requires that all volunteers fill out a volunteer form, kept on file at school as well as a background check. The background check must be notarized and mailed in with a check for \$5 by December 1st. This form is kept on file for 9 years. For more information and copies of the forms, go to <http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/Volunteer.html>.

WHEN DO DISCUSSIONS HAPPEN?

Junior Great Books will start the week of January 19th, 2015. Discussions take place once a week for a period of approximately 10-weeks, depending on class schedules and volunteer availability.

*Second and third grade groups will meet at the lower campus on Wednesday mornings from 8:40 – 9:25.

*Fourth and fifth grade groups will meet at the upper campus on Thursday mornings from 8:40 – 9:25. Transportation is not provided and students and their families are responsible for getting students to school.

If you would like your child/children to participate, please fill out the form at the following link (please provide link). Return the form with \$20 per child in cash or check (made out to LHCS PTA) to your classroom teacher on or before December 16th. Please register all students in your family who would like to participate on one form.

Minneapolis Kids Jr.

Minneapolis Kids Jr. is up and running! Minneapolis Kids Jr. offers a safe, nurturing, educational, and recreational experience specifically designed for children entering kindergarten the following school year. Children are encouraged to pursue interests, and develop friendships, independence, and confidence. The program runs at the Lake Harriet Lower (10AM-1PM) and incorporates curriculum from Mother Goose Time (www.mothergoosetime.com).

Please see the Minneapolis Kids website for more information (<https://mplskids.mpls.k12.mn.us>).

Holiday Soccer Camp

Concordia University St Paul is hosting its annual Holiday Soccer Camp - Dec 22 and 23 @ 9-11.30am.... A fun soccer skills camp with lots of games!

\$70 per player, includes a camp shirt. More details at - http://cugoldenbears.com/sports/2012/7/4/SOC_0704123032.aspx?path=wsoc

Lost & Found

If you are missing any items, please take a look in the Lost and Found.

The Lower Campus Lost and Found is located near the art room. Any items left will be donated during the holiday break.

The Upper Campus Lost and Found is located by the gym entrance.

Barnes and Noble Bookfair

Season's Greetings Holiday Shoppers and Readers! 'Tis that fantastic time of the year again! Time for the Barnes and Noble Book Fair **December 4** at the Barnes & Noble at the Galleria.

For those unable to make it in person, friends and family can make their purchases online that day using our school number: #11431491.

The Fair's schedule of events are as follows:

- 5 pm to 9pm: Enjoy a sandwich, pizza, soup or a snack at the Starbuck's Cafe in the lower level.
- 6 pm to 7 pm: Meet author (and Lake Harriet parent) Lori Evert, as she will be signing her beautiful book, The Christmas Wish.
- 6:30 pm: Listen to Theresa Harich's Second Grade class performing Readers Theater.
- 7:00 pm: Enjoy the performances of the Middle Grades Choir led by Jen Cuff.

As always, it's sure to be a wonderful time. Please come to support your classmates and Lake Harriet!

Thanks to all for your continued support.

LHCS Tours 2014-15

The LHCS tour season begins the first week in December and runs through February. We are looking for volunteers to give incoming families tours. The commitment is one 1 hour training walk through in November and then 4-5 tours that you sign up for to fit your schedule. To see the tour schedule please see LHCS home page. There will always be two tour guides to support each other. Thank you for your consideration. If you would like to volunteer, contact Melissa Tucker, tucker.melissa8@gmail.com.

Wanted: Girls Basketball Coach

We are in need of a girls' middle school basketball coach for the upcoming basketball season. The season goes from the middle of November until the middle of February.

If interested in coaching a great group of student/athletes, contact Mr. DePerry at Lake Harriet: 612-668-3310 or jdeperry@mpls.k12.mn.us.

Upcoming Calendar Items

November 26th, 27th, 28th – **No school** – Thanksgiving Holiday

Wednesday, December 17th – **Save the Date: LC Music Concert** – times TBD

Weight Watchers Group

We would like to invite any interested parents or family members to please join us.

We are starting up a Weight Watchers at the Lower Campus

Details:

Friday mornings 7:45 a.m. – 8:20/8:30 a.m. (weigh in 7:45 -8:00 and meeting start at 8:00)

In Room A205

Enter Door #3 on Drew

Cost for 12 weeks = \$156.00 (You can put it on a credit card or write a check)

We have several interested staff members but we need 15 people to start.

If you are interested please email Sheri.sisler@mpls.k12.mn.us (Kindergarten teacher).

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!

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.

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

LHCS SITE COUNCIL UPDATE

Highlights from Site Council meeting Tuesday, November 18, 2014

Talent Development Training & Engagement Plans

The first of four talent development trainings for teachers has taken place. The goal of the Talent Development training is for all LHCS teachers to get additional academic tools that support differentiation and the engagement of all students in the classroom. Some fun new tools have already been introduced. There will, however, be challenges to implementing some of the ideas due to the Minneapolis Public Schools Focused Instruction that teachers are currently required to use. Talk to your teacher to find out more about how this training is being applied in your child's classroom.

As part of the LHCS engagement plan, the Upper Campus held its first all-school assembly in the gym. This is a new event that will happen each quarter at Upper Campus. At the first assembly, HERO awards were given, student leadership groups were announced, and a charitable effort called "Gratitude Grams" was introduced. And of course, LHCS spirit!

The popular HERO awards program will be introduced soon to Lower Campus students. This monthly award honors students who are respectful, responsible, safe, and ready to learn every day they come to school. Teachers select students who are positive contributors and making a difference in our school community. Watch for information about the Lower Campus BUZZ Team!

Knowledge Bowl- LHCS hosted its first Knowledge Bowl t and it was a rousing success! Thank you Middle School teacher Matt Streit, parent volunteers, and students, who all helped make this event a huge success. LHCS placed 1st, 2nd and 9th out of 23 total teams! To check out more about Knowledge Bowl, visit http://lakeharriet.mpls.k12.mn.us/knowledge_bowl_information.

Academic Interventions- Academic interventions begin soon for students at both campuses. Students are identified by the District, using test score information, as requiring additional support. These interventions take place every day over 6-8 weeks as a classroom pull-out. If you have questions about your student and academic intervention, please contact your campus administrator.

A similar plan, called "Project Prep" is being implemented for our DCD students.

Subcommittee Updates

STEM – STEAM Day (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) is coming to Upper Campus! The STEM subcommittee is working with Trisha Power to bring STEAM Day to Upper Campus this January. STEAM Day is in its third year at Lower Campus, and will take place at Lower Campus in December (look for your packets!) and in the spring. Upper Campus STEAM Day will take place sometime in January. Parent and community volunteers are needed to make these events happen. If you or someone you know is interested in sharing STEAM-based talents with our students, please contact Trisha Power at trisha@buildwithbella.com to volunteer.

Equity and Diversity – The Equity and Diversity Student Leadership work group has spent the fall implementing a new student leadership model, getting all teachers updated and trained in Families All Matter (FAM) curriculum, and introducing the new Dare2BReal options class for middle school students. Next steps: Looking into how the student leadership model could work at Lower Campus, and cyber bullying as it pertains to the school environment.

The Parent Involvement and Community Celebrations work group has supported new fall events at LHCS, including; the peace parade, the gratitude program, and an event for Native American Parent Involvement Day on Nov. 20th. The work group is also working in collaboration with the Academic Sub Committee to support the parent book club reading of "Mindset".

Communications – At the October Area C meeting about enrollment policies, questions were raised about how our District and community will respond to specific enrollment challenges including: Do we allow more students into classrooms that are already full? Do ELL students get sent out of their community if their community school doesn't offer services? What should District priorities be, choice or community schools? How should students be placed? LHCS was used as an example of a school that is full and that does not have the physical capacity or funding to provide services for all learners.

Academic – LHCS Site Council is starting to consider whether applying to be a Community Partnership Schools (CPS) is in the best interest of our students and community. The subcommittee visited with the Lower Campus leadership team to get feedback from teachers. Teachers and parents have a lot of questions about CPS. This will remain an ongoing topic.

PTA – PTA fundraising is on track for the year. Parties Galore events start next week. Scholastic fundraiser brought in 4-5k for books. It was approved to buy a Dragon Costume!
The next Site Council meeting is Tuesday, December 16 from 5-7pm in the Lower Campus art room. Parents are welcome.

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

Bands4Good Challenge

Monday, November 24, 2014 6:10 AM



Bands4Good is two-fold; an online "American Idol" and a fundraiser for non-profit music organizations to keep music education alive in our schools. Little Kids Rock, who has provided thousands of dollars worth of equipment and curriculum to our school, is one of the groups Bands4Good is raising money for at this time.

One of our student groups, The Euros (August M, Cole P & Jacob M), have uploaded an original song and are participating in the challenge. They need our votes! Currently they are in second place for fan votes and fundraising. If they finish in first place for either category, or the judges' pick, they will be able to attend a two day, two night educational music retreat to learn from the pros about sound recording and more. It would be an amazing opportunity for the kids, and for the Lake Harriet community upon their return by sharing their knowledge and experience.



Voting happens in two ways.

1. Everyone can vote daily (through the end of December/early January) with 50 free fan votes. Click on the [link](#) provided, click on School Division Vote Now, click on the orange Vote button by The Euros, log in (set up an account the first time), click the purple Cast 50 free votes! button, and you're done for 24 hours.
2. Using the same [link](#) and beginning steps, buy a certain number of votes [green buttons] for amounts starting as low as \$10.

The money raised for The Euros goes directly to support Little Kids Rock, which in turn will benefit our school in the long run.

Please spread the word. The Euros and Little Kids Rock would love your support!!

2014-2015 LHCS News **Contacts:**

Ann Smith: ansamsmith@earthlink.net

Mark Fullerton: marksatva@gmail.com

Gwen Spurgat: gwen.spurgat@objectpartners.com

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.