



Lake in the Hills Elementary School Family Newsletter

d300

From the Principal's Desk...

Dear Lake in the Hills Families,

Welcome Back to School. We hope that you had a safe and wonderful summer. The staff at Lake in the Hills Elementary is excited to be back and we are looking forward to a great school year. We opened our doors to 497 students this year and we continue to have students moving in weekly. Please read the attached article about class size from the district office. In addition, please make sure to read today's newsletter carefully as it has important information related to the school year. In addition, all communication from the principal's office will be on pink paper. This will help you see at a quick glance what is coming from my office.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at 847 532-6900 if I can be of assistance.

Mrs. Poole
Principal

Events and Activities

Volume 1, Issue 9
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Tuesday, September 29

- Practice Lock Down Drill

Wednesday, September 30

- Picture Day

Friday, October 2

- Book Fair/Ice Cream Social/Coat/Costume Sale 7:30AM-3:30 and 5PM-8PM

Monday, October 12

- No School Columbus Day

Thursday, October 15

- Chuck E. Cheese Family Night 3-9

Friday, October 16

- Progress Reports go home for each child in grades 1-5

Friday, October 23

- 6 Traits Assembly

Thursday, October 29

- Halloween Parade @
- 1:15 (weather permitting) Parties to follow afterwards

Friday, October 30

- School Improvement Day/Early Release for students in grades 1-5

Early Dismissal Day and Lunch Schedule on Early Dismissal Days

Please note on your home calendars that there will be three early dismissal days for students in grades 1-5. (Kindergarten students for both AM and PM still follow the regular school day.) **The early dismissal dates for 2009-2010 are:**

Friday, Sept. 25, Friday, October 30, and Friday, May 7th. Students will be dismissed at 12:30. Please note that since we are a B schedule school that the busses are coming from other schools before they come here. As a result, the busses may actually run a few minutes later than the 12:30 dismissal time. It should not be more than five minutes or so. Lunch times are also revised on these days so that all students have lunch before they go home. **Lunch times on early release days are as such: 4th grade 10:40-11:10, 3rd grade 10:55-11:25, 1st grade 11:15-11:45, 2nd grade 11:30-12:00 and 5th grade 11:50-12:20.**

Birthday Book Program

Just a reminder that your child is welcome to donate a hardback book to the school on his/her birthday. This book will remain in the library for other students to check out and enjoy. A book plate is placed inside so that everyone knows of your families' generosity. Your child's name will also be mentioned in the monthly newsletter. Thank you.

Thank you to the following students and faculty members for donating books to the Media Center:

Kolanowski Family	Mary Silva	Andrea Aguirre
Ashley Klocke	Hannah Dohs	Mrs. Trent
Carter Davis	Andrew Doetsch	



Please Send In Your Old Ink Cartridges

As a school we are collecting old ink cartridges that are empty. The school will be able to recycle these to a company. The proceeds will be used to benefit the students and activities at LITH.

Thank you to those of you who have already sent some in. We appreciate your help.

School Improvement Day on Sept. 26th

Our first school improvement day was on Sept. 26th. Staff members were involved in working on writing which is one of our school improvement goals. As a building we are using the Being a Writer Program as our writing curriculum guide in grades 1-5. In addition, the PTC has sponsored a writing assembly on Friday, October 23rd for all grade levels. This assembly is the 6 Traits Assembly which focuses on the six traits of writing: voice, focus, integration, conventions, organization, and support.

Yearly Halloween Parade

Due to our half day of school on Friday, October 30th, we will have our Halloween classroom parties and school wide parade on Thursday, October 29th starting at 1:15.

The parade will be outside on the black top area provided the weather cooperates. In the event of rain, the school wide parade will be cancelled. If you are coming to help with the classroom parties, we do need the parking lot and the car lane cleared out by 2:20 so that our busses can enter.



Supplies for the Troops

The DESA organization is still collecting supplies for the troops until Veteran's Day. We have already received a lot of goodies for the troops overseas but hope to collect even more. Thank you to everyone who has donated items or is planning to before the deadline.

Calling your child in sick/absent

As all of you know we do have voice mail at Lake in the Hills Elementary. However, we ask that you not use the teacher voice mail system for calling in your child absent, changing how your child is going home for the day, or any other "office" type situation. Many teachers are not able to check emails or voice mail until the end of the day after students are gone. As a result, your message would not be received in time. **Please continue to call the direct line for reporting a sick/absent student. That number is 847 532-6920. Thank you.**

Mid-term Reports

All students in grades 1-5 will be receiving a progress report on Friday, October 16th. This is part of the district strategic plan in wanting to provide more communication to parents. This report will provide you with information in regards to how your child is doing at school so far. Kindergarten students do not receive a progress for the first trimester but will receive them for the second and third trimesters.

School Safety

In order to ensure that all students and staff know what to do in an event of an emergency such as a fire, tornado, intruder in the building etc... we will continue to practice what to do in these situations. We are actually required by Illinois law to hold practice drills in these three areas. The staff does an excellent job of working with the students and teaching them what to do. Our first practice lockdown drill will be on Tuesday, September 29th. Each practice drill takes about 5-6 minutes from beginning to end. After each drill, teachers talk with the students and remind them that it was just for practice. District #300 Safety Office, Gary Chester, has visited each school and done presentations to make sure the entire district is following the correct procedures.

The Lake in the Hills web address is:

<http://www.d300.org/schools/lhes>

Please go onto our webpage for electronic copies of the newsletter, lunch menus and a variety of important information. You can also follow D300 on twitter as well. Just go to the D300 homepage to see the various tweets of events and information regarding D300 and its' schools.

Class Sizes in District #300

The Education Rate Referendum of March 2006 included the decreasing of average class size. This followed the D300 Community Finance Committee (CFC) plan that each elementary school would AVERAGE 26 students per class, with some classes at a school exceeding that number and some falling below it. The CFC plan also includes "caps," meaning the largest classes can be before more staff are hired. The cap for kindergarten classes is 28 students; the cap for grades 1 and 2 is 30 students, and the cap for grades 3, 4 and 5 is 32 students. When all sections of a grade level at a particular school reach that cap, an additional teacher is added or a paraprofessional staff member.

Our class sizes are still not what we would ideally like, but they are as low as they can be if D300 wants to continue having one of the lowest tax rates in the region (which we do). The D300 Board is committed to maintaining a balanced budget. The Administration is watching class sizes closely.

Parent Involvement Need for Committees

We have a variety of district committees that we need parental involvement to represent Lake in the Hills Elementary. If you have an interest in technology and would like to give input by serving on the Technology Directions Committee that would be great. You will be looking at district policy and procedures in regards to technology. This committee meets three times per year in the evening from 6-8. Please contact me if you are interested. The first meeting is on October 7, 2009.

Another committee that we need a LITH parent to represent the school on is the Community Building Committee (CBC). This committee will be meeting four times for the school year at 7PM in the evening in October, January, March and May. This meeting will focus on district wide building projects including projects for Lake in the Hills Elementary. This is a very important committee. Please let me know if you are interested.

ISAT Student Reports/Lake in the Hills Elementary Meets State Standards Again!

Individual student ISAT reports will be sent home on Friday, October 9th to students who took ISATs last year in grades 3-5. We have sent the reports for our former 5th graders over to Westfield so that they can be given to the former 5th graders/current 6th graders. As a school we continue to meet state standards. This is our fifth year now of meeting standards and being off of the state watch list. All schools needed a 70% in both math and reading to meet and we had 92.4% of our students meeting/exceeding in math and 83.9% meeting/exceeding in reading. We have shown great improvement in the area of reading as a school and will continue to work to meet and exceed state standards. Congratulations to the students, staff, and to the parents for this great accomplishment. Teachers and staff members will be involved in data analyzing from the ISATs on October 30th which is our next school improvement day. We will be looking at our areas of success on the ISAT tests as well as skill areas that we need to improve in and emphasize more in our curriculum.

Positive Behavior Interventions and Support at LITH

At Lake in the Hills we continue to focus on the key area of respect. We are looking for and positively recognizing all of the students at Lake in the Hills when they show respect in the four areas of: respect for self, property, others, and for teaching. Something new with PBIS this year was our school wide dance to the tune of RESPECT. Staff members taught the dance to the students at our kick off assembly which was held on Friday, September 4th. The students loved it and we had a lot of fun as a staff creating the moves and then performing it for the students. In June before school was over for the year we held our PBIS assembly. Recognition was given out to many students and special recognition was given to two students from each classroom who best demonstrated the four areas of respect. The following students were recognized from each classroom:

Kindergarten	Jimena Cabrera Chrystian Gawlowski Mia Kraft Esmeralda Puga	Charis Franks Jay-Q Jones Arica Perez Dylan Terry
First Grade	Michael Cumbo Abel Vargas Angelle Godlewski	Austin Johnson Justin McCraw Aubree Haas
Second Grade	Lexi Dickenscheidt Haley Innis Samantha Suarez	Brooke Grauf Wyatt Saia Anna Tello
Third Grade	Molly Bruski Justin Drake Molly Meehan Gary Richardson	Peter Joseph Morgan Kaiser Emily Polyak Jessica Riedl
Fourth Grade	Brenna Koch Michael Fick Elyziah Torres	Tristin Oehlberg Isabel Colado Emma Penders
Fifth Grade	Natalie Bethers Jasmyne Ivy-Domain Jasmine Mollenkamp Randy Portillo	Veronica Gonzalez Julia Levy Laura Parra Diana Nava

Students are also working hard to be "spotted" showing respect. In doing so, they receive a spot which they are accumulating for a special activity at our spot activity. We will have three "Spot Celebrations" this year where students can cash in their spots to participate in a special spot celebration. Another big hit last year was our school store. Many students prefer to shop while other students like to attend the special activity. By offering a school store in addition to the spot activities we are hoping to reach all of our students. I am so very proud of all of the students at Lake in the Hills and the commitment that they have put forth in showing respect and making Lake in the Hills a wonderful place to be.

At Lake in the Hills we show respect for:

TEACHING
SELF
PROPERTY
OTHERS