



LPMS Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2011

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Lakelands' Family:

Welcome to the second quarter of our school year. Report cards were distributed last week. We also had our Parent Conference Day. The new conference day format appears to have been a big success. If you could not stop by, but would like to meet with your child's teachers, please contact the counseling office to schedule an appointment.

On Friday, November 11th, all three grade levels had an anti-bullying assembly presented by Mr. Steven Chaiken, an attorney for the State of Maryland. This is the third year in a row that Mr. Chaiken has presented to Lakelands' students.

As we begin the new quarter, here are some things you can continue to do to help your child academically:

- 1) Check Edline two to three times a week to review grades with your child. This starts the conversation about work and what some of their celebrations and frustrations might be.
- 2) Review your child's agenda book. See how much homework they are receiving and in which classes. This will help with dividing the amount of time spent on a specific subject.
- 3) Create a schedule for your child to follow when they come home from school and/or their extra-curricular activities. Structure helps students remain on task and see how much time they are spending on certain assignments.
- 4) Encourage your child to stick with it. Some classes are more rigorous than others. Homework takes work. With effective effort, **especially studying what they do not know**, your child will be successful.

Ms. Carrie Reed,
Assistant Principal

Ms. Deborah Higdon,
Principal

Mr. Joel Beidleman,
Assistant Principal



- 5) Contact your child's teacher. If you have questions, please e-mail or call the teacher. Each teacher can provide you with specific information regarding your child's performance and ways you can further support their mastery of the content.

As always, we truly appreciate the continued support from the Lakelands community. Our teamwork is an important key to student success. Oscar Wilde once said, "Success is a science; if you have the conditions, you get the result." With our teamwork, caring educators, and desire to help all students achieve, I know the conditions at Lakelands Park are right for success. Remember, students do Get Smart at Lakelands Park!

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PTSA PRESIDENT

MS. KIM SKIMMONS



PTSA Gets New Crossing Beacons for LPMS

A big thank you goes out to our PTSA delegate **Beth Kennington** for spearheading the effort to get the new traffic calming devices approved and installed at the crosswalk on Main Street at Bright Meadow. Beth initiated discussions with the City last winter after the PTSA and parents raised concerns about traffic problems during arrival and dismissal times.

Beth and I, along with LPMS administrators and the Lakelands HOA president, met with City officials including Ollie Mumpower (Engineering Services Director), Greg Ossont (Director of the Planning and Code Administration at the time), and three members of the Gaithersburg Police Department. We met on several occasions, took tours of the grounds, and got feedback from officers on the effectiveness of various traffic calming options. Mr. Mumpower and Mr. Ossont brought excellent ideas to the table and offered up some very creative solutions to us. The device we all agreed upon, shown above, is called a "Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon" which allows pedestrians to activate a flashing crosswalk signal prior to entering the intersection.

This was truly a team effort put forth to solve a vexing safety problem affecting our students while still enabling residents near the school to navigate smoothly through the neighborhood during off-peak hours. The PTSA wishes to thank Mr. Mumpower, Mr. Ossont, and the Gaithersburg PD for their willing cooperation and professionalism.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS

Science

During the first unit in Investigations in Science 6, students explored forces, Newton's Law of Motion, and how we experience these things in our everyday physical world. Throughout the first quarter, students generated ideas for the first unit's culminating project—building a car bumper prototype. For this project, students researched materials and bumper designs that would be most efficient in a car crash. After building their prototypes, they justified their designs and made hypotheses in regard to their bumper's capacity for energy absorption; keeping in mind the things they learned about force as it relates to mass and acceleration. We will be moving onto our Butterfly Habitat unit in Quarter 2.

Social Studies

The Sixth Graders are finishing their studies of Unit One on the pattern of the earliest settlements. We are identifying and classifying the features which make up a civilization, making the transition from the earlier hunter-gatherers. We will then be studying the land of Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, recognizing the civilization features which were evident there. During November students will be researching their Ancient Egypt topics in the Media Center. We will also be learning about the basic concepts of economics through the Junior Achievement program, which uses community volunteers to present the program once a week.

Investigations in Mathematics

In Investigations of Mathematics (IM) we have concluded unit one. We have learned about the measures of central tendency, box and whisker plots, misleading graphs, set theory vocabulary, operations on sets, sets and venn diagrams, shading in venn diagrams, and prime factorization using venn diagrams. All of these topics were on our county summative assessment taken the end of October.

Advanced English 6

Unit 2 helps students understand how adventures often result in personal discovery and change. Students reflect on the word choices authors make to establish tone and focus on deliberate strategies authors use in narrative writing to craft adventure stories. Students study and apply analytical, argumentative, and creative approaches to Writing. The performance provide additional opportunities for students to apply a different structure for essay writing. Discussion techniques and performance provide additional opportunities for students to demonstrate understanding of the unit theme. Grammar, usage, and vocabulary study draw from the texts read, thus providing a context for understanding and then implementing effective writing practices. Students will have a choice in the novel they read this quarter. They can choose between:

The Wander by Sharon Creech, *Around the World in Eighty Days* by Jules Verne and *True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi.

SIXTH GRADE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Reading 6

In November we started Unit 2: Greek Mythology. Students will explore various Greek myths and connect them to today's pop culture. Students will examine purposes of myths and characteristics of mythological characters. In addition, they will create a graphic organizer to show their understanding about myths and demonstrate understanding of mythology through original writing and projects. Students will gain the "Enduring Understandings" that 1) readers and writers make sense of the human experience through story telling and 2) myths attempt to explain the unexplainable.

READING NEWS

Reading

From Ms. Koser's Read 180:

In Ms. Koser's Read 180 class, they have not only stumbled onto "Tumblebooks" but have fallen in love with the website! Please have your student show you this neat reading place? Ms. Koser's readers are also just beginning Workshop #3 which is a narrative text about the troubles in South Africa in the early 1990's. Students will learn about Nelson Mandela and his courage to change all that was wrong.

From Ms. Milles' Reading Class:

In Unit 1, students applied strategies like activating prior knowledge, visualizing, and summarizing to expository and narrative text. Students explored steps of the reading process and uncovered strategies to apply before, during and after reading. In addition, students unlocked expository text structures and captured their thinking on appropriate graphic organizers as aides. Students debated whether animals rescue out of nature or nurture and why cockroaches are ultimate explorers. They have presented information in graphic organizers, brief constructed responses, written reflections, illustrations, and stories like comics. Finally, students assessed their strengths and weaknesses, and monitored reading progress through Study Island and ready strategy centers.

From Ms. McNamara's Reading Class:

In Reading 7 we are starting Unit 2— Framework. We will be focusing on characterization as we finish reading *Freak the Mighty* by Rodman Philbrick. Our writing will be a narrative paragraph in which we will be analyzing setting and tone. The text structure that will be the focus for Quarter 2 is "sequencing". Reading Logs and Vocabulary "Word of the Week" are due each Friday. They are uploaded on Edline. Students should practice reading every day to strengthen fluency and comprehension skills.

ENGLISH NEWS

7th Grade English: Unit 2: Sense of Place. Texts: poetry, short stories, and a choice of novels-either *Island of the Blue Dolphins* or *The Call of the Wild*-students will pick their books and be assigned a discussion group. Big projects: Students will kick off the quarter with their “Where I’m From” poetry project. Students will also write WDPs, do creative reflections on the books, and learn how to write a timed essay as a test taking skill to apply to any class. Students will learn new vocabulary and grammar and take vocabulary quizzes. It will be busy and fun!

8th Grade English: We have launched into the Community Unit in English 8. We will start the quarter with short stories and poems that focus on the community theme. Then we will read *Animal Farm* by George Orwell. We will finish the quarter reading *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION NEWS



All students have been engaged in a variety of skills assessments through various sports and activities. This has or will include: Ultimate Frisbee, Soccer, the Mile Run, Tennis, and Football.

Fabulously Fit Falcons: The Physical Education teachers have taken the lead with our MCPS “On the Move” program! This 12 week competition for all staff members has us moving more, documenting our activity, and talking about healthy living.

COUNSELING CORNER

Student Service Learning (SSL) Notes

Give a Little Time....Make a Big Difference
November 2011

- ◆ Keep copies of all SSL documents turned in to the school SSL coordinator, Karen Luensman.
- ◆ Remember, all service in the community must be preapproved (either organizations and opportunities are tagged with preapproval on the website or MCPS Form 560-50, *Request for SSL Preapproval* has been granted in advance).
- ◆ Address hunger and homelessness in Montgomery County by preparing bag lunches and dinners for delivery to homeless facilities. This is an exception to the guideline that all service must occur in a public place: details in the Questions and Answers section at the website www.mcpsssl.org.
- ◆ Identify opportunities with official nonprofit, tax exempt organizations where both *service* and *learning* can occur.

Be sure to check out the college readiness newsletter *PrepTalk*. This newsletter has many helpful topics for students preparing for college. You can find both the current and past *PrepTalk* newsletters at:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/carrercenter/resources/pretalk.aspx>.



“To capture Lakelands Park Middle School’s contact numbers on your smartphone, scan this QR code.”



ART, DRAMA, MUSIC, AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Art News:

Grade 6 and Grade 7 students will bring home portfolios, sketchbooks, and projects from the first marking period to share with parents and to critique. New arts rotations began on November 1st.

Students in **Art** classes for the first marking period worked on the following projects:

Grade 6 students completed a mixed media autobiographical book project and finished the quarter working on a watercolor painting project based on nature.

Grade 7 students completed a mask sculpture using repousse foil techniques.

Grade 8 students completed a watercolor pencil project using the style of Abstract Formalism to design sketchbook covers and worked on a stencil printmaking unit representing alphabet letters with animal designs.



Drama News:

Make plans to attend our first ever **Fall Production** on November 16th! Students are producing and writing the "Middle School Monologues"! It will be presented dinner theatre style with the second half of the night devoted to improvisation: Falcon Follies. Dinner will be served promptly at 6:30p.m. Watch our website for more details!

Music News:

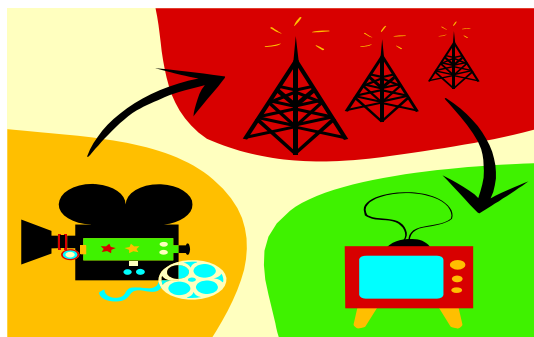
Our **Winter Band Concert** will be held on December 7th from 7pm-9pm in the cafeteria.

Our annual **Festival of the Arts** will be held on December 14th from 7pm-9pm. Please come and enjoy student work from all of our art classes, as well as a choral and orchestra concert. It promises to be another creative and inspiring evening!

Technology News:

In **Digital Art**, the sixth graders are constructing still-frame animations using PowerPoint. These projects are 200-500 slides long. The goal is for students to experience the different tools in PowerPoint while creating an original movie one frame at a time. The seventh graders are working on designing houses using Adobe Fireworks software. The three-story house requires the students to think about scale, area, perimeter, and proportions. Upon completion of the houses, the students will use Excel to calculate square footage. The eighth graders are constructing digital movies in MovieMaker software. The "Powerful Message" movie project requires students to record movies, edit the clips down to small pieces, and arrange the clips into one long sentence. The final production will include text, music, and photographs.

In **Contemporary Communications** 8th grade students have been exploring the evolution of communication and non-verbal communication. We have used technology such as Animoto, Glogster, Tagxedo, and PowerPoint to demonstrate our learning and creativity. We are completing a mini research project on the ways disabilities impact a person's ability to communicate and enjoyed a hands-on presentation from Ms. Swiger about the assistive technologies the students in our Extensions program use in order to communicate.



MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Greetings, everyone! I am Ms. Tsai, the new media specialist. I am very excited to be at Lakelands Park. My assistant, Ms. Culliton and I enjoy working with your child in the Media Center. As a National Board certified media specialist, I have a master's degree in school library media from the University of Maryland. I have been a MCPS media specialist for 18 years.

The Media Center provides instruction, support, and materials for students, staff and parents. The Media program, as an extension of the classroom, encourages lifelong learning and the independent use of information resources. So far, students had orientations, book talks, and variety of research projects, such as the Contemporary Leaders, Medieval Research, Chinese Cinderella Multimedia Project, and Green-Home Project. Sixth graders are doing Egypt Research. Black-Eyed-Susan Books will be next.

New Look for Media Center

Before school started, Ms. Culliton and I moved almost every book on the shelves. We moved the reference section by the instructional area, separated the audio books from the fiction section, and moved the paperback books from the back to the front so students can find them more easily. We added plants, signs and posters to make the Media Center more accessible and attractive. Two bar tables and four bar stools were placed by the window. Come and see!

Terry Trueman Author Visit

On September 23, Mr. Terry Trueman, an award winning author visited us. The visit was a huge success. About 600 students attended the three assemblies. In addition, about 40 students participated in the writer's workshop and had lunch with the author. We are very grateful for the PTA who sponsored the program. Thank you!!

Black-Eyed Susan Book Award

The Maryland Black-Eyed Susan (BES) Book Award has outstanding titles. Please encourage your child to participate in the BES program. Better yet, read with your child and discuss the titles together. The more your child reads, the more successful he/she will be in school. Visit the Media Center webpage or the link below for more information. http://www.maslmd.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=53&Itemid=70

Did You Know?

The Media Center has been very busy in the past two months. So far 3,518 books have been checked out since the beginning of the school year! However, we still have 400 overdues. **Please remind your child to return or renew overdue books.**

Students can access 30 databases and online services at home? New online services are 21st Century Explorer, Tumble-Books Libraries, Image Quest, etc. Check them out on the Media Center homepage. **Check the Edline Media Center page for more information.**

The Lakelands Park Media Center website has many useful web resources for many subjects and assignments. Check them out at the *Research Links & Pathfinders* website!

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/lakelandsparkms/mediacenter/>

Need parenting tips and special educational recourses? Check out the Media Center *Parent Resources* homepage!

We have 14 students registered for Falcon TV Live Crew. We are still accepting new members. Please encourage your child to participate.



Ms. Culliton

Ms. Tsai

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER

- 1 Second Marking Period Begins
- 3 [Softball \(LPMS vs Forest Oak MS\)](#)
- 10 Early Release Day—Student Conferences
- 10 Report Card Distribution
- 11 Early Release Day– K-8
- 14 Fall Picture Make-up Day
- 15 Spirit Wear Sale in the Cafeteria all lunches
- 16 Dinner Theatre Production 6:30pm
- 17 6th Grade Outdoor Education Parent Meeting 6pm-7pm in the cafeteria
- 23 Early Release Day K-12
- 24 Holiday—Thanksgiving
- 25 Holiday—Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

- 2 Kingsview vs. LPMS Staff Basketball Game
- 2 Medieval Times Field Trip
- 7 Winter Concert for Bands
- 9 Greek Day for 6th Grade Students
- 13 PTSA General Meeting 7pm
- 14 Winter Concert for Chorus and Orchestra & Night of the Arts
- 15 [Basketball \(LPMS vs Gaithersburg MS\)](#)
- 16 Group and Club Pictures
- 20 Spirit Wear Sale in the cafeteria all lunches
- 26-30 Winter Break– No School





Winter Weather Emergency Procedures

Dear Parents:

As you know we recently had our first snow fall of the season. As the weather gets colder, it is important for students to dress appropriately for the weather both inside and outside of school. Students may not wear coats or hats in school. Sweaters or sweatshirts are best options for students. Students should wear layers so they are comfortable in the various classrooms.

Winter weather emergencies, such as snow and ice, may cause disruptions in school operations, including the closure of school, a delayed opening, or an early dismissal. The information below is about the procedures used when such disruptions occur.

Closure of Schools:

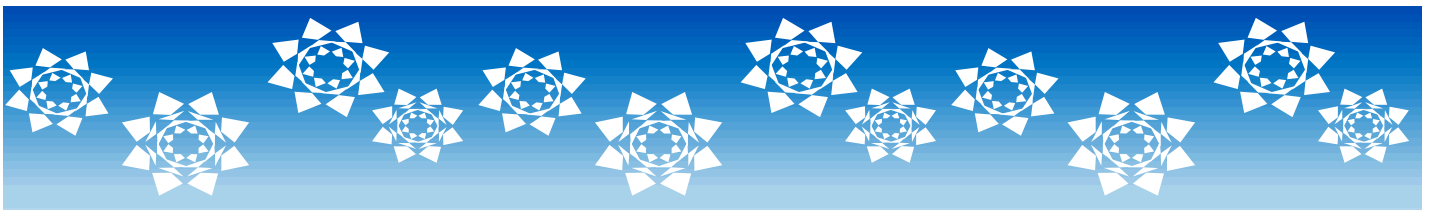
When schools are closed system-wide, all instructional programs and extracurricular activities in schools are canceled. Private day-care providers in school buildings may elect to stay open if the schools are closed but the administrative offices are open. In extreme conditions, administrative offices may also be closed. If this occurs, private day-care programs located in school buildings are closed as well.

Delayed Opening:

A delayed opening means that schools open two hours later than scheduled. All buses operate on the same delayed schedule and, therefore, the pick-up times are two hours later than normal. Parents should continue to check for radio, television, or Web announcements in the event a decision to delay the opening of schools is reconsidered and a decision to close schools for the day is made. This would happen by 7:00 a.m.

Early Dismissal:

An early dismissal means that schools will close 2.5 hours earlier than scheduled. For LPMS that would be dismissal at 12:10 p.m. All buses operate on that same early schedule and, therefore, drop-off times are 2.5 hours earlier than normal. Parents of walkers and car riders should make note of the early dismissal time and have a plan in place for someone to receive or pick-up their student. Also, please note that for their safety the staff at Lakeland Park Middle School may also be dismissed early.





Public Announcements:

Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Montgomery Public Schools (MCPS) Cable TV (Comcast Channel 34, Veriozon FIOS Channel 36, RCN Channel 80), Outlook, on the Internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org, and on a recorded telephone message at 301-279-3673. Emergency announcements are available by signing up for MCPS Quicknotes and Alert MCPS text and e-mail notifications on the school system's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcement is made by 11:00 a.m.

Emergency Weather Contingency Plan:

An emergency weather contingency plan will add student instructional days to the end of the scheduled school year if schools are closed more than four days because of weather emergencies. The planned school year for students ends on Tuesday, June 12, 2012. However, if schools are closed for more than four days due to weather emergencies, the following schedule would extend the school year in order to add the necessary make-up days:

- 1) If schools are closed for five days, the school year will be extended by one day to June 13, 2012.
- 2) If schools are closed for six days, the school year will be extended by two days to June 13, and June 14, 2012.
- 3) If schools are closed for seven days, the school year will be extended by three days to June 13, June 14, and June 15, 2012.
- 4) If schools are closed for eight days, the school year will be extended by four days to June 13, June 14, June 15, and June 18, 2012.
- 5) If schools are closed for nine days, the school year will be extended by five days to June 13, June 14, June 15, June 18, and June 19, 2012.

Weather Conditions and Decisions:

The school system uses a variety of sources of information to determine whether to close schools, delay the opening of schools, or dismiss schools early. These sources include actual physical inspection of road and school conditions by Department of Transportation officials and other staff at areas throughout the county, and an analysis of independent reports from the National Weather Service, Accu-Weather, and the news media. The most severe weather conditions within the county are used as the basis for decision making. Consistent procedures are maintained in order to respond quickly to emergency weather conditions and protect the safety and well-being of students.

