

# **THE LION'S ROAR**

*Long Beach Elementary School*  
*December 2014 Newsletter*

## **Junior Achievement Volunteers Still Needed**

We are still in need of many volunteers for Junior Achievement to happen at Long Beach. Volunteers need to be able to give (5) 45 minute sessions to a classroom as well as a short time preparing each lesson. They can coordinate days and times with the classroom teacher so it is convenient to both schedules. Additionally, there is a one hour training session required that will be offered at Long Beach the night of January 20.

Volunteers can be anyone over the age of 18. Please think about volunteering if you can – this is a great program we could implement here at Long Beach that will benefit the students the rest of their lives. There is nothing more rewarding than empowering students to be successful, contributing members of society as adults.

Please email Mr. Francis if you would like to volunteer or have any questions: [jfrancis@sd308.org](mailto:jfrancis@sd308.org)

## **Pick-up and Dismissal Request**

As the weather begins to turn, more parents will be driving their students to school and picking them up after school. Please adhere to the following guidelines to help keep all students and staff safe: When dropping off in the morning, please pull forward and drop off students from the passenger side of the car, nearest the curb. When picking up after school – PLEASE do not park your car and walk through the parking lot to pick up your students. Last year a student was nearly hit when crossing over to a parked car waiting in the lot. We have a smooth system that may take you an extra minute or two, but safety should be worth more than that minute or two. Please join us in creating a safe and orderly process.

## **Dress for the Weather**

Now that December – and winter is upon us, the weather can be downright cold. Please be sure your child brings a coat, hat and gloves as needed to be out in this weather. We will continue to go outside for recess unless we have rain. Students who are not properly dressed for the weather will not be allowed to be outside during recess. If you are in need of winter weather clothing, please be sure to contact our Social Worker, Mrs. Tynan, who will work with our resources to see if we can help you out.

## **School District 308 is Looking for Crossing Guards**

We are seeking individuals interested in assisting our students safely across the roadways to and from school. If you would like a rewarding position that makes a difference in the lives of children, please consider becoming a crossing guard for Community Unit School District 308. We have numerous locations available. Please submit an application on the district website at [sd308.org](http://sd308.org) We look forward to hearing from you.

## Upcoming December/January Events

### December

12<sup>th</sup> H & S Holliday Shop  
16<sup>th</sup> ALEKS Parent Presentation  
Long Beach Panera Day  
18<sup>th</sup> Holiday Sing-a-Long  
Holiday Class Parties  
19<sup>th</sup> End of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter  
3.5 hour day 12:15 Dismissal  
PAWS Assembly

### January

5<sup>th</sup> Institute Day – No School  
6<sup>th</sup> Students return from break  
19<sup>th</sup> No School  
21<sup>st</sup> Long Beach Chick-fil-A Day  
30<sup>th</sup> H & S Craft Night

## 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Happenings...

### Math Info

The focus of math is addition and subtraction within 20. Please ask your child about the strategies they use when subtracting or adding. They can use strategies such as making 10s, turn around facts, fact families, doubles, and near doubles.

Our next unit of study will be expanding our subtraction skills to 20.

Rocket Math is coming along! Continue practicing math facts at home.

### English/Language Arts Info

We will continue focus on summarizing and text structure for our comprehension strategies in the month of December.

In Writing, we will be finishing our focus on Narrative Writing.

Keep practicing reading and spelling those 103 high frequency words!

### Grade Level News

First Grade is focusing on caring this month by making the Grinch's heart grow. Students earn hearts to be placed on the Grinch. They earn hearts by getting caught performing random acts of kindness. We will be doing this the week before Winter Break.

### Upcoming Events / December Calendar

11 Home and School Meeting  
12 Holiday Shop  
16 Market Day Pick-up  
16 Panera Day  
18 Room Parties  
19 Early Dismissal (3 ½ hour day)  
Have a happy and safe winter break from the first grade

**Bring in a Festive Snack for the holiday party on December 18.**

**Send in a snack for the early release day on the 19<sup>th</sup>. No lunch will be served.**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Happenings...

2nd grade is currently working on a new science unit - solids and liquids. We will be starting cursive writing shortly if not before break then certainly the week we come back. We have discussed not practicing at home because of learning incorrect letter formation. We only have one more week of high frequency spelling and after that it will only be words their way spelling each week.

Our math is currently involved with two digit subtraction without regrouping (borrowing) but we will begin that type of subtraction shortly. We are still perfecting our subtraction skills. Students can practice subtracting basic numbers at home.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Happenings...

Happy Holidays!!

The third grade classes will be doing an author study of Chris Van Allsburg during the month of December. A story that he is most popularly known for is The Polar Express. This unit will include lessons in all subject areas. At the conclusion of the unit each class will be viewing the film, "Polar Express." On Friday, December 19<sup>th</sup> the third grade students will be allowed to wear school appropriate P.J.'s and slippers. Please take note that some classes may have PE this day.

Continue to work with your child practicing and learning multiplication and division facts. Knowing the facts will make math easier overall.

The third grade team realizes that this is a very busy time of year. However, the expectations remain that students will continue to complete nightly homework, and daily classwork.

Have a wonderful holiday season!

The Third Grade Team

## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Happenings...

The holidays are upon us! We have a lot to accomplish in the next 2 weeks before winter break! In math, students should be consistently practicing their multiplication facts. We will be working on double digit multiplication and hoping to expand that after break. They need this skill to progress to division. We also are using our intervention time to remediate and enhance these skills. Your help at home in this area is appreciated.

Science has been 'rocking' as we are learning all about earth materials. Ask your child about "Mock Rocks!" They have become geologists with this hands-on unit.

A special event awaits our fourth graders! Beginning the week of December 8<sup>th</sup>, we have our annual desk decorating extravaganza. The kids will love it. More details to follow in a flyer that will come home soon.

We hope your holidays are filled with joy! As always, feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

The Fourth Grade Teachers

# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Happenings...

## Science Info

We are right in the middle of our Ecosystems unit and are ready to put together our terrariums and aquariums. The students have been working hard to take notes and learn about the plants and animals of the two environments, as well as make careful observations of the changes they are seeing daily in their ecosystems. Ask them what they have recently done in class with their ecosystem!

## Math News

We have just begun our third unit of study this week (Decimals!) and the students are working hard on rounding decimals, as well as adding and subtracting decimals. We are also finding ways that we use decimals in our daily lives. It's amazing to see how many real world examples the students can come up with! Once we come back from winter break, we will move our focus to multiplying and dividing decimals.

At home, ask your student what they are working on in class. Where do they see decimals in their lives? A great way to practice what we are working on in class is having your student help to add up the total amount you will need to pay for items at the store, in a book order, or for wish-list items for the holidays. You can also have them help figure out the estimated total of your purchase at a store by rounding. Thanks for helping to connect what we are doing in class to what they are doing at home!

## Social Studies & ELA Info

In Social Studies, the students are learning about the 1800s, specifically westward expansion and the Civil War. We recently took a trip to Hunt Club where we learned about the infantry, artillery, medical care, and photography during the Civil War. We concluded our visit with a presentation by Harriet Tubman, who spoke about the Underground Railroad and life as a slave during the years surrounding the Civil War.

In Reading and Writing, much of our focus has been on both our ecosystems and Social Studies units. We have been doing some narrative and explanatory writing about wagon trains, ecosystems, and Civil War battles. Some classes have created freedom blankets with patterns and symbols that would have been used by slaves on the Underground Railroad. The students have been enjoying seeing our studies come to life through these mini activities, writing projects, and informational texts.

A BIG thank you to our Earth Team members who meet each Wednesday to take care of the recycling around the building! They have done a fantastic job this year!

# Specials Happenings...

## Long Beach Artists!

If you ordered something from Square 1 Art, our orders should arrive any day now! We are still finishing many of our November projects, but some classes have started new ones for December. Many of our masterpieces can now be seen on [www.Artsonia.com](http://www.Artsonia.com). Be on the lookout for information on how to access your artist's work.

- 5 – Winter birch trees in watercolors
- 4 – Paul Klee fantasy seascapes in watercolors
- 3 – Super heroes in water colors
- 2 – Winter fantasy landscapes in water colors
- 1 – Winter trees in crayon and tempera paint

## Long Beach Library Lions

December is the best time to curl up with a good book!

Thanks for all your support during the Long Beach Book Fair, the LRC was able to purchase many new books for all the students. If your child ordered a book from the book fair they should have received it this past week. All books and items were distributed to the classrooms on Tuesday, December 2.

I have been reading many of the books that we purchased from the book fair. Although Smile and Sisters were the big sellers, I just read Zane and The Hurricane, a realistic/adventure novel about a teenager who survives Hurricane Katrina. Zane is visiting his Grandmother in New Orleans, although he is afraid for his family, he finds the courage to get himself and others to safety during the storm. It is a great book written by Rodman Philbrick. That book and many others that were purchased from the book fair are on our shelves right now! Over break be sure to stop at the public library for an even bigger selection of great books.

Please help your students locate any overdue library books before the break. We will be sending out reminders if necessary, let me know if you have any questions. We would love to help them find something new to read.

Stay Warm!

Mrs. Gallery  
dgallery@sd308.org

# Specials Happenings...continued

## Physical Education

During the shortened month of December, we will be doing activities such as parachute challenges (1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup>), basketball (3rd-5th), and various favorite PE games (the week before winter break begins for 1st-5th). Please remember to send your child to school with gym shoes. Children without proper gym shoes will not be permitted to participate in PE per district policy.

We will have various after school sports offerings throughout the year for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. We are wrapping up our 2nd quarter after school sport, floor hockey. We will handout permission slips for our 3rd quarter basketball after school sport in the next few weeks. The 4th quarter after school sport will be a kickball variation called matball.

Mr. C [TCarstensen@sd308.org](mailto:TCarstensen@sd308.org)

Mr. Winder [JWinder@sd308.org](mailto:JWinder@sd308.org)

## Long Beach Music - December Headlines

It sure has been a busy first semester. All classes did a great job singing at the Veterans Day Program. The event was a huge success!

The 5th Grade Musical was also a big success! If you would like a DVD, please email Miss Courchaine. They are just \$5!

4th and 5th Grades: Honor Choir will be starting 2nd semester. I am currently accepting enrollment forms. They should be turned in by MONDAY, DECEMBER 8. The fee is \$12 which includes the cost of music and a t-shirt. This year, the Honor Choir Festival is on May 13th. We also sing at the Cougars game on May 14th!

All grades will participate in the Holiday Sing Along on December 18th. If you have any questions, please email or give me a call.

Happy Holidays!

# AT Happenings...

## AT Math

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - The students have applied multiplication and division to solve multi-step word problems. They have also been learning how to apply the properties of multiplication and division in order to solve problems. We are currently working on both problem solvers and logic grids as well as practicing explaining how we got to answer in written form.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - The student recently finished Unit 2 which focused on multiplication and basic division facts. We are now in Unit 3 and beginning to learn about estimating quotients and dividing larger numbers. We have also learned about prime numbers and used them to solve problems. Currently, the students are working on a project involving prime numbers, triangular numbers, and square numbers.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - The students finished Unit 2 right before Thanksgiving Break which focused on multiplication and division concepts and problem solving. We have just begun Unit 3 on decimals. In addition, the students are continuing to work on higher level problem solving including logic grids and critical thinking problems.

## AT Reading

**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - The students recently finished reading *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. After reading the book they created foldable projects which included character comparisons, use of textual evidence, cause and effect relationships, and new vocabulary terms. We have just begun reading *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* by Eleanor Coerr. This book is based on a true story of a young girl and her family who survived the bombing of Hiroshima in Japan. We will explore character motives and feelings, make inferences, and develop and answer critical thinking questions all while expanding our vocabulary.

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - The students are continuing to read *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis. They just completed writing an alternate chapter in which Edmund enters the wardrobe first instead of Lucy. We will continue to work on critical thinking skills, character analysis, and expanding our vocabulary throughout the remainder of this novel.

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - The students finished reading *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Peterson. They are currently working on a project in which they summarize the story, compare and contrast characters, identify important quotes within the story, and analyze the main characters.

## Notes/Reminders

- End of Second Quarter and First Semester:  
December 19<sup>th</sup>
- December 19<sup>th</sup>: 3 ½ Hour Student Attendance
- Don't forget to practice your facts each night!

## Contact Mrs. Gabris

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (630) 636-3300 or via email at [mgabris@sd308.org](mailto:mgabris@sd308.org).

# The Reading Corner

## Reading Strategies for Unknown Words

Please take into consideration that **the reading strategies you pick for your reader will totally depend on his reading development.** For example, if a child is reading at a third grade level, the strategy of “look at the picture” may not be appropriate for him or the text he’s reading. At this point, he has most likely outgrown that strategy.

**Think about the Meaning** - Encourage readers to THINK about what they are reading. After all, reading = thinking! Here are some things you can say to help them do just that:

- What would make sense in the sentence?
- You read \_\_\_\_\_. Does that make sense?
- Look at the picture to help you read the word.
- Think about what is happening in the story right now.
- Go back to the beginning of that sentence and start it again.
- Skip over the word and continue reading until the end of the sentence. Now, go back to the beginning of the sentence and start again.

## Use Visual Clues from the Words

- Look at the first letter(s) of the word. Say the first sound(s).
- If the word is \_\_\_\_\_, what would you expect to see at the beginning/middle/end of the word?
- Spell the word out loud. Look at each letter.
- We’ve seen that word before in this book. Let’s find it on the other page.
- Do you see a part of the word (word chunk) that you already know?
- Let’s cover up a part of the word and read the part we see.  
(For example, if the word is *jumping*, cover up the -ing)  
Sound it out.  
(This only works if the child has the word knowledge and/or strategies.)
- Do you see a prefix in the word that you know? (longer words)
- Do you see a suffix in the word that you know? (longer words)
- Can you break the word into syllables?

## Relate it to Talking

- Does that sound right to you?
- Can you point to the word that sounded wrong?
- You read \_\_\_\_\_, is that how we say it?



**Books are easy to wrap!**  
**Books last longer and cost less than most movies and toys.**  
**Books spark imagination.**  
**Books build brain power!**

## Contacting the Reading Support Team

Tina Johnson - 636-3335, Juilee Parpart - 636-3344, Mary Peterson - 636-3340, Nicole Watson - 636-3331

# News from the Speech Rooms

With the holiday shopping season in mind, we thought it would be a good time to suggest gift ideas that are not only a lot of fun, but help to develop your child's understanding and use of vocabulary and language skills. Many board games that have been on the market for years, as well as some of the new ones, are often overlooked for their learning value. Have you ever considered that **Candyland** is helpful in identifying colors, or the **Chutes and Ladders** can teach basic concepts, such as numbers, counting, up/down, and back and forth? Several familiar games including **Boggle**, **Scrabble**, **Upwords**, and **Wheel of Fortune** require use of spelling and phonics skills. Others such as **Outburst**, **Apples to Apples**, and **Scattergories** emphasize categorizing and word finding skills. Word relationship and association skills are developed while playing games like **Password**, **Blurt**, and **Catch Phrase**. Understanding and use of questions, as well as making inferences, are practiced while playing games such as **Clue**, **Guess Who**, **Twenty Questions**, and **Headbanz**. Games such as **Charades**, **Guesstures**, and **Pictionary** require use of nonverbal communication skills such as gestures and visual cues.

Many of these games have children and adult versions to keep the attention and interest of all ages. Playing any of these games is helpful in developing overall conversational skills such as listening, taking turns, using eye contact, and responding appropriately. On a final note, consider the enjoyment and family bonding that could develop from getting together with the TV and video games turned OFF, and actually spending time together on a regular basis to play a game.

We hope you and your family have a happy holiday season!

Mrs. Lewandowski and Ms. Hazelton  
Speech-Language Pathologists

