

THE LION'S ROAR

Long Beach Elementary School

February 2015 Newsletter

Kindergarten Registration for 2015-2016 School Year

Please reference the attached Kindergarten Registration Informational handout for specifics regarding the process to register your new kindergartener. The specific Long Beach day is scheduled for February 19th, however, if you are unable to attend this day, you are able to register on any of the days listed. Please make sure you bring the needed information with you. Additionally, if you are aware of any families that will be having a future kindergartener, please pass the word on to them. It is extremely important to the staffing and placement process to have an accurate number of students.

Pick-up and Dismissal Request

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our parents for following the procedures during student drop off in the morning and pick up in the afternoon! These procedures were put in place to keep all students, staff and parents safe during these busy times.

A few reminders – When dropping off students in the morning, **STUDENTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF ALONG THE CURB** – please do not drop students off where they will need to cross over between cars. This is a potentially dangerous situation. ***I also ask that parents practice patience*** – please do not be in a hurry to drop off your child creating an unsafe situation. During our afternoon pick up time, it is very important that all parents remain in their cars, and be patient as we call students. Parents should not park in the parking lot and expect students to walk across the line of cars to their car. Again, this procedure was implemented for the safety of all students, staff and parents. Thank you for following our procedure.

PARCC Testing

PARCC Assessments – these assessments will “take the place of” ISAT testing that we did in years past. The PARCC tests will be given in two formats – on the computer for 5th grade and the traditional pencil and paper for 3rd and 4th grades. These two formats were decided at a district wide, elementary level based upon the amount of time needed for each test (there are 5 of them – 3 for ELA-English Language Arts, and 2 for Math), as well as the amount of computers available during the testing window. Looking ahead into the future, we would like for all 3rd-5th grade students to be able to take the PARCC assessments on the computer. The timeframe for these assessments are: Monday, March 2nd through Friday, March 27th. We are looking to complete these assessments within the first week or two, and then using the additional time to complete any make-ups due to absences. We will also be taking an end-of-the-year PARCC assessment during late April into May. Detailed dates will be out at a later date, but the format will be the same.

February Valentine's Class Parties

A friendly reminder that for our Valentine's class parties, there is to be no candy or other foods brought in to either be shared on Valentine cards, or during the class parties, per school district policy. Thanks for understanding and cooperating!

Upcoming February Events

- 2/9 School Board Meeting
- 2/12 Home & School Meeting
- 2/13 Class Parties
- 2/14 Sweetheart Dance
- 2/16 No School – President’s Day
- 2/17 Variety Show Preview
- 2/19 Kindergarten Registration at District Central Registration
- 2/20 Variety Show
- 2/23 School Board Meeting
- 2/24 Family Reading Night
- Market Day Pickup

1st Grade Happenings...

Be on the lookout for class lists for Valentines to be coming home. We ask that if your child participates, they provide one candy-free Valentine for each student. They can be addressed or left blank. Feel free to decorate a box or bag at home. Please have them sent in by February 11th. If you do not wish to make a box, your child will be provided with a brown paper bag.

The focus of math is place value, comparing numbers, and addition and subtraction within 100. Keep practicing Rocket Math at home. Power Half Hour is in full swing. All first grade students are split between the four classrooms. Each classroom is working on different math standards. These are flexible groups, and your child may move to another classroom. Ask your child about what they are learning during Power Half Hour!

Please read with your child at home each night. Don’t forget to ask questions. In Writing, we have started the opinion genre. We know that all first graders have strong opinions, so this is an exciting time! The goal is to have each student cite three reasons for their opinions. Keep practicing reading and spelling those 103 high frequency words!

Don’t forget to participate in Ozzie Reading Club, Six Flags reading, and Book It. Every time they read, it can apply to all three incentives.

Upcoming Grade Level Events / Calendar -

- 11 Valentines and boxes due
- 13 Jump Rope for Heart due
- 13 Six Flags reading due
- 13 Valentine’s Parties 2:30-3:30

2nd Grade Happenings...

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching. Students who choose to bring in Valentines please bring one for each student in the class. Also please send a box for the valentines to be collected. Boxes should be decorated and a size that can fit in the student's book bags. Teachers will send home a list of students' names for your child to write on their Valentines.

Social Studies timeline projects are due Monday, February 2nd. If you have any questions please reference the note sent home last week. If there are further questions contact your child's teacher.

All students have Words Their Way homework every week. This homework is due on Friday.

Ozzie reading club first base can be turned in on Monday, February 2nd. Students who turn it in will get a bookmark.

Six Flags reading logs are due back February 13. Tickets will be sent home later in the year.

Please remember that students need to have gloves, hats, boots, snow pants and coats in order to play in the snow or on the playground equipment. Many students are coming unprepared to go outside for recess.

We are looking forward to Junior Achievement starting in our classrooms soon.

3rd Grade Happenings...

We are completing chapter 8, application of multiplication and division. Our next chapter is properties and equations. This chapter focuses on the distributive property, multiplying three factors, associative property, and evaluating expressions. Please continue to assist your child in practicing their multiplication and division facts.

Third grade is continuing to focus on compare/contrast informational text and fiction text. We have been concentrating mainly on non-fiction text features and their purposes in text. At home, you can encourage your child to point out non-fiction text features from a newspaper, and have them explain their purpose to you. Continue to encourage your child to read at home nightly.

Third grade students will be taking the PARCC test during the first two weeks in March.

Also, PLEASE be sure your child has appropriate outdoor clothing for recess.

Third grade musical is coming up!! Save the date – March 19th. More information will be coming home soon!!

4th Grade Happenings...

4th Grade News!

It is great to be back after our extended winter break! Our new science kit for this quarter is MicroWorlds. The students will be working with microscopes, how to use them, and viewing live organisms. This is a 4th grade favorite. Social Studies is all about the 13 colonies, they are learning how the U.S. began. This will lead us into the growth of the United States and eventually the American Revolution. In math, we are working on measurement, multiplication, and division. Please make sure your child is working on multiplication facts and reading at least 20 minutes a day! Our first Ozzie Reading slip is due Monday, February 2nd. The kids should only send in the first base slip. Valentine Inventions are due February 12th! We look forward to seeing these very creative projects!

The Fourth Grade Team

5th Grade Happenings...

Science Info - Although our Ecosystems were sent home before Winter Break, we continue to discuss the various biomes of the world and the idea that everything is all connected, so one small change can create a domino effect with catastrophic results. We must take care of our precious Earth before it is too late. We will begin a unit on Landforms next where students will discover how weather such as wind and rain can change the way the earth looks to us today. Soon they will be able to tell you how scientists think the Grand Canyon was formed over millions of years.

Math Info - We will begin Unit 4 in math next week which will cover fractions. This unit should last around six weeks, and will take us into March when PARCC assessments will be given. Due to scheduling conflicts while testing is going on, students will remain in their homerooms for Unit 4 math instruction. All students have still been pre-assessed so we know how to best support the individual needs of each student within our own classrooms.

ELA - We are currently looking closely at informational texts and the features associated with them. Students are learning about a variety of topics connected to our Social Studies and Science curriculums using different texts in both guided groups and on their own as they discover various text structures and the way details are organized within them. Ask them what new information they learned today!

5th Grade Happenings (cont.)

Student Resource Officer - Beginning the first week in February and continuing through March, our student resource officer, Deputy Schmitt, will be coming in to talk to the fifth grade students about topics such as peer pressure and how to handle it, tobacco and alcohol use and how bad it is for them, and how to handle things they may encounter over the next few years as they go off to junior high and high school. He will come in every other week for about 45 minutes each time. Be sure to ask your children about his visits, as this can be a great time to discuss these same topics with your child at home.

PARCC Assessments - During the first two weeks of March, students will take the new PARCC assessments. All fifth grade students will take the four 90-minute tests using the computer. Due to scheduling conflicts during the first week of testing, we had to move our specials' times to the afternoon so that testing can be done in the morning when the students feel fresh. Please remember your children require a good night's sleep and a great breakfast to always do their best in school, but it will be especially important during this time.

5th Grade News - Mrs. Kujawa, who had a baby girl last November, has decided to extend her maternity leave through the end of the school year. Mrs. Bigus will be staying with her homeroom, and continue teaching a fifth grade math section for the remainder of the year. The entire fifth grade team wishes Mrs. Kujawa well as she takes this special time with the new addition to her family.

Specials Happenings...

Long Beach Artists!

In February, once we finish our previous projects, we will start our second round of clay projects. Also check out Artsonia.com for new additions of our masterpieces.

5th – Clay birds , 4th – Cantrell faces , 3rd – Bowls , 2nd – Frogs , 1st – Medallions

Specials Happenings...continued

Long Beach Library Lions

I hope everyone had a great winter break.

We are back in the swing of things in the LRC. Classes come to the LRC once a week to check out; all books are due in one week. If your child has an overdue book, please help them locate and return the book.

Second through fifth grades will be conducting a short research project in the LRC. We will be using Encyclopedias, the Atlas, nonfiction books and the internet to obtain our facts. Students are using the Encyclopedia Britannica Online for internet research. The district has purchased this for all students to use at school and at home. The address is <http://school.eb.com>, the address and password are outline on an activity page that the students completed in the LRC. If your students do not have the paper or remember the username and password you can email me and I will get it to you. It is a great resource with different reading levels, images and videos to help explain the information.

Mrs. Gallery
630-636-3303
dgallery@sd308.org

Physical Education

Last week we kicked off Jump Rope for Heart 2015 in PE. Long Beach School has participated in Jump Rope for Heart annually since the early '90's. Jump Rope for Heart is a fundraising program where students learn jump rope skills and have the chance to raise money for the American Heart Association. Students can earn thank you gifts from the American Heart Association if they choose to raise money. Fundraising can be done online at heart.org/jump or students can turn in the Jump Rope for Heart envelope provided for them. All fundraising money is due to Mr. C by February 13th. Our Jump Rope for Heart "event" will take place during PE classes the week of 2/17. All students will participate in our Jump Rope for Heart event.

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.

Mr. C TCarstensen@sd308.org

Mr. Winder JWinder@sd308.org

Long Beach Music Department

Upcoming Events:

3rd Grade Musical, "The Granny Awards" will be presented on Thursday, March 19th, at 7:00pm. Granny is retiring from showbiz and the Fairy Tail Channel is sponsoring an awards show honoring Granny! Come see who will win Best Male Vocalist, Best Dramatic Scene, and more! Just watch out for that pesky, big, bad wolf..

Honor Choir District Festival at OEHS: May 13th at 7:00pm
Star Spangled Banner at Kane County Cougars: May 14th at TBD. *If your student is interested in performing, they must still have a ticket to enter the stadium. They can earn a FREE ticket through The Ozzie Reading Program, which our school participates in every year!

5th Grade: 5th grade is learning the basic of the keyboard and xylophone.

4th Grade: Review note reading of the treble clef.

3rd Grade: Musical!

2nd and 1st Grade: Note reading

If you have a keyboard lying around your house, not being used, we'd love to borrow it! Just send it with your child and be sure to put your name on it. Thanks!

Stacy Courchaine

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630-636-3360

News from the EL Room

Hello Parents and Families!

In January all ELL students took the ACCESS test. This is a test given each year to measure your child's progress in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. We get the results of the test in the spring, which helps us decide what services your child will receive for next year. Some students may need to continue in the program, while other students might exit the program depending on their scores. Now that testing is over, I will continue to help ELL students by pushing into their classrooms and/or pulling them out to meet with me. As always, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me! Thanks!

~ Mrs. Seema Leigh

630-636-3348

sleigh@sd308.org

AT Happenings...

AT Math

3rd Grade - The students have been working hard learning about fractions. They have written, compared, and ordered fractions with like denominators and are currently learning how to find greatest common factors in order to compare fractions with unlike denominators.

4th Grade - The student recently finished Unit 3 which focused on application of multiplication and division concepts. They are currently learning about fractions within Unit 4. The students have been working hard learning about equivalent fractions and how to express fractions in different ways visually. They have also been working on a variety of logic puzzles and problem solvers.

5th Grade - The students recently finished Unit 3 which focused on decimal computation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of decimals). We are now beginning Unit 4 which focuses on fractions and measurement. The students have also been working hard on a variety of critical thinking problems and logic puzzles during class.

Notes/Reminders

All AT math students who do not use the ALEKS program have been given access to Kahn Academy. Students should practice their math facts at least two nights a week and then work on this website at least two nights per week.

AT Reading

3rd Grade - The students are currently reading *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop. This fictional novel makes reference to the Middle Ages so the students have been building their background knowledge of this time period. In addition, we have focused on specific vocabulary for this novel as well as character development and figurative language.

4th Grade - The students have been reading a biography on Martin Luther King Jr. titled *I Have a Dream: The Story of Martin Luther King* by Margaret Davidson. We began by listening to a portion of the famous "I Have a Dream" speech. The students are currently learning how to deconstruct figurative language such as metaphors, similes, and idioms within the text.

5th Grade - The students just finished a week long study on Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. They worked hard to find hidden meaning within the multitude of figurative language examples in the speech. Currently, we are busy preparing for our upcoming Challenger Learning Center field trip by building background knowledge on space station communication and specific job positions the students will take on during the trip.

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.

The Reading Corner

Wow, Let's Go To The Library!

A recent study by Scholastic found that only 51 percent of children ages 6-17 are currently reading a book for fun. The public library is a great tool to get your child motivated to read, and the best part about it is IT'S FREE!!

Scholastic says that the biggest predictors of elementary age students reading frequently are 1- they really enjoy reading, 2- they have a strong belief that reading for fun is important, 3 - they have parents who read often, and 4 – they spend less time online using a computer.

How can you help???

- Take your child to the library to pick books out that interest them and are at a good reading level for your child.
- Be a good role model and enjoy a good book too.
- Read with your child. They are never too old to sit and read with you.

Library Cards

To be eligible for a library card, a person must be a resident of the Oswego Public Library District. (If you live in the Long Beach attendance area you are a resident in the Oswego Library District) Identification and proof of residency are required at the time a library card is issued. A parent or guardian may provide identification and proof of residency for individuals under 18. Children not yet in high school must have the signature of a parent or guardian.

Mark Your Calendars for Family Reading Night

Who: Long Beach Students and their families

When: February 24th

Where: Oswego Public Library Montgomery Branch

Time: 6:00-7:30

Theme: Diary of a Long Beach Kid

Guest readers, pajama night, sign up for a library card and more!

Reading Rockets' Top 9 Reasons to Visit the Library

1. Free programs and activities
2. Story times
3. Workshops
4. Books
5. Audiobooks
6. Movies
7. Music
8. Magazines and newspapers
9. Computers