

THE LION'S ROAR

Long Beach Elementary School

March 2015 Newsletter

PARCC Testing

PARCC Test is beginning on Monday. Teachers have worked hard with our students to prepare them for this new assessment. Our testing schedule for the next 4 weeks:

3rd Grade will be taking the pencil and paper assessments, starting on Tuesday, March 3rd and finishing on Monday, March 9th. Testing will take place starting at 12:45 each of these days. Make-up testing will take place as soon as we can complete them, and will be finished by Friday, March 13th.

4th Grade will be taking the pencil and paper assessments, starting on Monday, March 2nd and finishing on Friday, March 6th. Testing will take place starting at 9:00 each of these days. Make-up testing will take place as soon as we can complete them, and will be finished by Friday, March 13th.

5th Grade will be taking the online version of the assessment. With only 1 computer lab, we needed to coordinate testing to allow ample time in the lab. The 5th grade schedule is as follows:

5D- March 2nd @ 9:00, 3rd @ 10:35, 5th @ 10:35, 10th @ 1:15, 12th @ 9:45

5E- March 2nd @ 10:35, 4th @ 9:00, 6th @ 1:10, 10th @ 9:45, 12th @ 1:15

5K- March 2nd @ 1:10, 4th @ 10:35, 6th @ 9:00, 9th @ 1:15, 13th @ 9:45

5T- March 3rd @ 9:00, 5th @ 9:00, 6th @ 10:35, 9th @ 9:45, 11th @ 1:15

Our students with special accommodations outlined in their IEP will be testing the week of March 16th-20th. All make-up tests for all 5th grade students will be completed by Friday, March 27th.

Should you have any specific questions related to PARCC testing, please contact Mr. Murray or Mr. Francis at 630-636-3300.

Pick-up and Dismissal Reminders

I would like to take a moment to thank all of our parents who continue 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 – There is no staff supervision before 8:15 in the morning, please be aware that our doors do not open until 8:15 – with the cold weather that we have had, we do not like to see students standing out in the cold for a period of time. Please consider making adjustments to your morning routine to help keep our students safe and warm. Should a situation arise from time to time, please contact Mr. Murray to discuss options.

During our afternoon pick up time, it is very important that all parents remain in their cars, and be patient as we call students from the cafeteria. 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.

Returning Student Registration

Soon you will be receiving information regarding returning student registration for the 2015-2016 school year. Again this year all registration will be done online, but there have been some changes made to the process. Detailed instructions will be included in your child's packet.

New Procedures Include:

All returning students entering 6th and 9th grades must complete an Annual Affirmation Form with updated proofs of residency, along with the Acceptable Use Policy, updated physical and dental forms.

Any returning student on a Residency or Custody Affidavit will have to be updated and resubmitted along with updated residency information.

All these changes will be included in your registration packets with detailed instructions. It is very important that registration procedures are followed and completed by the dates listed in the letter you receive. Once you receive your packet, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact the main office at 630-636-3300.

Thank you for your cooperation with your child's registration!

Upcoming March Events

March 4th – Long Beach Night @ Culver's

March 7th – Fun Fair from 11:00-3:00

March 12th – Home & School Meeting 6:45

March 13th – Gym Night for K and 1st 6:00-7:30

March 19th – 7:00 3rd Grade Musical

March 23rd – 27th – Spring P/T Conferences – Flex time this week

March 24th – Market Day Pick-up 6:00

March 27th – Spring Break begins at 3:35

April 7th – Students Return from Spring Break – Classes Resume

1st Grade Happenings...

Grade Level News: With PARCC testing taking place, the first grade schedule will be affected. Your child's instructional time will not be changed, just the order of our day. Be on the lookout for more information to come.

First grade hopes to see you all at the Fun Fair! There are many fun games and activities in which to participate. We will be working the second shift. Try to find your teacher!

With March winds coming in, please dress accordingly for the weather. Hopefully, the temperatures will allow for outdoor recess.

Math Information: We are completing chapter 6 this week, which was two digit addition and subtraction within 100. Chapter 7 will focus on data analysis and graphing.

Ask your child about their Power Half Hour and what they are learning!

ELA Information: We are in full swing with opinion writing and learning about explanatory writing. First grade students are comparing and contrasting texts and making connections! Practice these skills at home! Each student in first grade has made so much progress! Be sure to keep reading each day over spring break!

Other Grade Level Needs/Reminders: Don't forget to participate in Ozzie Reading Club and Book It! Students should be getting close to home plate!

Parent/Teacher conferences are optional in the spring. A note will be coming home whether we think a conference is necessary.

Upcoming Grade Level Events/Calendar:

March 7th - Fun Fair

March 30th - April 6th No school!

2nd Grade Happenings...

Science:

We are fast approaching the end of the 3rd quarter and that means that SCIENCE is coming back! 4th quarter we will be learning about Air and Weather in our last unit of the year.

Math:

If you thought the various strategies we learned in 3 digit addition were fun - prepare for 3 digit subtraction! We will be starting that next week sometime and the students should be able to understand how to take numbers apart and put together to subtract with 3 digits.

Language Arts:

Our next reading unit is about Amazing Animals so in the near future parents will be receiving information about an animal project to complete at home with their students.

Don't forget about Book It and Ozzie Reading (3rd base is this week).

2nd grade teachers

3rd Grade Happenings...

Third Grade Happenings:

Math: Third grade has recently started our chapter on fractions. This chapter includes parts of a set, equivalent fractions and comparing fractions. Our upcoming chapters include: measurement, geometry and representing and interpreting data.

Science: Our current area of study is chemicals. Some classes have already started on this. This unit focuses on inquiry based learning by using specific tests on the chemicals to identify our "unknown" chemicals.

Social Studies: Most classes are wrapping up the Illinois unit. Fourth Quarter Social Studies will focus on States and Regions.

Reading: We are continuing to focus on comparing and contrasting fiction and non-fiction text.

4th Grade Happenings...

4th Grade News - Will the cold ever end? We hope not because the **IDITAROD** is right around the corner! This is a 4th grade favorite. We will begin with a study of Alaska and the history of the Iditarod. Students will also get to choose a musher to follow throughout the race.

We are still focusing on measurement and division in math. There are many kids that still don't know their multiplication facts! It is extremely important these are memorized as we are diving into long division.

Soon the living organisms will arrive for a wrap up on our Microworlds Unit!

Finally, the PARCC testing will begin next week. Be sure your children are well rested!

Check with your child about replenishing their school supplies. They are running low on pencils and dry erase markers.

Stay warm!
The Fourth Grade Team

5th Grade Happenings...

Science Info - In Science, we have been learning about maps and landforms. We have built models of the school yard and then created maps from the model, as well as mapped out escape routes from our homes. We have completed investigations about how the Grand Canyon was formed, and investigated the different effects a standard water source has on earth material compared to a flood of water. We also observed the difference in the earth material if the water fell on a sloped surface or on a flat surface. Ask your fifth grader about their hands on investigations.

Math Info - We have learned about adding and subtracting fractions and simplifying our answers. We will soon be multiplying and dividing them too! Be sure to be practicing those math facts at home to help your student be ready for these new skills.

PARCC Assessments - During the first two weeks of March, students will take the new PARCC assessments. All fifth grade students will take the five 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. No specials will be missed.** Please remember that 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.

ELA - We are continuing to work on text structures and informational texts, and paired readings to help students prepare for the PARCC testing. Classes have also been practicing while learning about African American heroes in celebration of Black History Month. Classes are also looking at how to write to give information to the reader, and applying those text structures to their own writing.

5th Grade Happenings (cont.)

Student Resource Officer - Continuing through March, our student resource officer, Deputy Schmitt, will continue to visit and teach our fifth grade students about peer pressure and how to handle it, tobacco and alcohol use and the effects they have on your body and the decisions you make, and how to handle things they may encounter as they continue to grow. Be sure to ask your children about his visits, as they can be a good conversation starter for discussing these topics at home as well.

Coming up in March we will be wrapping up our Second Step lessons with our Social Work team. We have learned great skills and strategies to help us with a variety of situations we encounter and the feelings we have. Ask your child about STEP and how it can help you solve a problem. They may even sing the song for you!

Be on the lookout near the end of March for Junior Achievement to begin!

Specials Happenings...

Long Beach Artists!

March 9-13 is Visiting Artist week! Artists Jeremy Foy and Jim Kearns will give demonstrations on wheel throwing pottery. All students will get a chance to get their hands dirty on the Pottery Wheel during visiting artist week.

Also in art: 5th grade: Sketch Books, 4th grade: Weaving, 3rd grade: Artist Faith Ringgold, 2nd grade: Artist Rousseau, 1st grade: Artist Mondrian

Physical Education

I am very proud of the students of Long Beach! Almost 100 students raised money for our annual Jump Rope for Heart program. In all, Long Beach students raised just over \$4000 for the American Heart Association. Our Jump Rope for Heart event took place in PE class during previous weeks. As of press time, Mr. C is currently waiting for the thank you gifts for students to arrive.

Last week we handed out fitness logs for the Plunge Into Fitness program from Raging Waves waterpark in Yorkville. The program encourages students to be physically active at home to earn 1 free ticket to Raging Waves water park. In order to participate, students can fill in one spot along the fitness trail on the fitness log for every half hour of physical activity that they do at home. When they make it to the finish line they can return it to Mr. C (make sure to fill out the name of the student and have a parent signature). It is due on or before April 13th.

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

Specials Happenings...continued

Long Beach Library Lions

The Long Beach LRC will be hosting the Scholastic Spring Book Fair, **READING UNDER THE SEA**.

Wednesday, March 18, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Thursday, March 19, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm-3rd Grade Musical

Friday, March 20, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Monday, March 23, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Wednesday, March 25, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm-Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thursday, March 26, 2015 - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm- Parent/Teacher Conferences

The hours and a link to the on-line Book Fair is posted on the new Long Beach Website-LRC Page.

Students in grades 2 through 5 are able to check out 2 books from the LRC, if your child has overdue library books please help locate them for return. There are so many great books waiting to be read!

Mrs. Gallery

dgallery@sd308.org

News from the EL Room

Hello EL Families!

I am continuing to work with your child on their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills and focusing on the specific skills they need to know to be performing at grade level. I have also been working with grades 3-5 as they prepare to take the PARCC test. I have been trying to send home your child's work so that you can see what we do at school. As always, please let me know if you have any questions or concerns & stay warm!

~ Mrs. Seema Leigh

630-636-3348

sleigh@sd308.org

AT Happenings...

AT Math

3rd Grade

The students have been learning how to compare and order fractions using number lines, fraction tiles, and least common multiples. They have also solved a variety of word problems involving fractions. Currently, they are learning about measuring capacity and mass.

4th Grade

The students have learned how to compare, add, and subtract fractions with like and unlike denominators. They have also broken down fractions into their simplest forms or lowest terms and applied their knowledge to solve critical thinking word problems. The students will take their Unit 4 Fractions assessment next week. Then, we will begin our next unit on measurement.

5th Grade

The students have learned how to compare, add, and subtract like and unlike fractions and mixed numbers. They applied this knowledge to solve word problems involving fractions. They have also been learning how to think both logically and critically to solve problems. We will soon begin multiplying and dividing fractions.

Notes/Reminders

All AT math students who do not use the ALEKS program have been given access to Khan 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 recently finished reading *The Castle in the Attic* by Elizabeth Winthrop. As they read, they expanded their vocabulary and analyzed character development while making inferences using evidence from the text. We are currently reading *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams. The students have begun to explore character transformations and themes.

4th Grade

The students recently finished reading a biography about Martin Luther King Jr. Then, they read the science fiction novel *The Green Book* by Jill Paton Walsh. After concluding this book, the students began a project of their choice to show what the new planet called Shine would be like ten years into the future.

5th Grade

The students are currently reading a Newbery Medal Winning novel by Paul Fleischman called *Seedfolks*. This novel is told from multiple characters' perspectives with a common theme. We are focusing on using the different perspectives to tie the novel together and analyze the characters.

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

Inspiring Kids to Read – Simple Tips!

1) Read good books to your child from the time they're babies. Sit with your child and read. Find books you can laugh about together. If a book is boring to you, then it's probably boring to your child. There are so many fantastic children's books on the market and at the library.

2) Make the books your child wants to read available in your home. Some kids love fiction, and others only want to read non-fiction. If your child wants to read comic books, let him read comic books. If she wants to read about ducks, then books about ducks are great. *Let a child learn to love to read by reading the books he loves.*

3) Read books yourself. Show your child how great reading is by modeling a love of reading. Talk about books with them – and show them that whenever you want to learn something, you read up about it first.

4) Give your child incentives. Children sometimes get frustrated and give up easily. We know that once a child can read, a whole new world opens up to them. Why not offer an incentive at home!!

****100 Book Challenge.** Begin with one book per night. Your child is already reading each evening for school.....let that be your starting point so that you are reading every day.....including weekends.

5) Audio books and read-alouds are fantastic ways to instill a love of reading in a child who can't yet read or is a reluctant reader. Consider audio books for the car and for night-time listening. Listen to children's books on long car-rides. Check the public library!

6) Visit the library. *Just go. The books are free.*

7) Consider reading apps for your child. Try [FarFaria](#), [Learn With Homer](#), and [Reading Rainbow](#) for reading books on the iPad. There are many others as well!!

8) Provide your child with books, a bookshelf, and a comfy place to read. If you make the books accessible so children can find them, they will read them! If you put them in a closet, no one will remember where they are. *Amazon, ebay, garage sales, etc. Fill up the shelves. Swap with a neighbor or friends!*

Let them fall in love with reading and they'll never stop learning their whole lives long.