

The Lions' Roar

From the Principal's Pen



Happy New Year to all Lothian families and friends! I hope that 2024 brings you good health, peace, and joy. I always look forward to a new year of possibilities and the enthusiasm of our students as they return to school after the break!

January brings opportunities for students to share their learning for the first half of the year. Students participate in district assessments in math, literacy, social studies and science the first two weeks of the month. The marking period ends on January 18th. Grade levels will celebrate the marking period with a special PBIS event on that day. For the second semester (MP 3 & 4), our PBIS team is working on adjustments to our celebrations, we really want to make students understand that the behavioral expectations for Lothian are must-dos, and will help them to achieve in all aspects of school.

We continue to monitor and reinforce attendance expectations. While we know that many students (and staff) are already experiencing illness, we do expect that healthy students come to school every day. Students with 95% attendance at the end of each month will have a chance to participate in a special event. At the end of January, we will invite students with 95% attendance for the month to a movie with popcorn. Students who are tardy or have an early dismissal will count as attended for a full day (unless it is a half day absence). If your child has a doctor or dentist appointment and can return to school, that would help them to earn the reward. :)

Many thanks to our PTA for the Holiday Shop, the students really enjoyed the experience. A shout out to Mrs. Melissa Attenberger who took on the project and had to work around our busy schedule and tight space!

Please make a note of the calendar dates, the schedule for the month reflects the MLK holiday and end of marking period changes. I look forward to a great start to 2024. As always, thank you for your support.

WINTER WEATHER WEAR

Now that the weather is cold, please make sure your students are coming to school dressed appropriately. Different areas of our building can be different temperatures. Also, we continue with outdoor recess if the ground is dry and the temperatures, with wind chill, are at or above 32 degrees.

Please make sure your children have coats, hats and gloves as appropriate and that they dress in layers.



Lothian Elementary School's Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

All staff will use culturally responsive practices to prepare every student with the academic and social-emotional skills needed to guarantee success in the next grade level.

Values

- ◇ We always choose to participate in solution-focused problem-solving in order for our students to grow
- ◇ We always choose to seek and use feedback in our professional and behavioral practices.
- ◇ We always choose to build positive relationships through our words and actions with all stakeholders for student-focused success.

Lothian Elementary
School Newsletter
January 2024
Volume 16, Issue 4

Important Dates

- January 9 English Learner Family Night 5:30-7 at Lothian
- January 9 Everything You Didn't Want to Know About Lice presentation at Carrie Weedon.
- January 15-School Closed-Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday
- January 17-18-2-Hour Early Dismissal (End of second marking period); No pm ECI
- January 19-School closed for students
- January 27-Mo Gaba Day

Spirit Days

January 12: Dress Like Your Hero Day. Who do you want to be like? Who is your hero?

January 27: Mo Gaba Day wear orange or purple for Orioles or Ravens. Mo was a big fan!

In This Issue

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Counselor's Corner | 2 |
| PTA News | 3 |

A MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR **KIMBERLY PLETCHER**

School Counseling News

Happy 2024! I hope all of you have a happy, healthy new year. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance to you or your children. I am always happy to help. I can be reached at 410-867-3900 or by e-mail at kpletcher@aacps.org.

Lothian School Counseling Website

Just a reminder.....Parent Resources including food/mental health resources can be found on my google site: <https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/lothiancounseling/home> (Please sign into Google to access it).

Say hello to Xello!

Xello is an engaging online program that helps students build the skills, knowledge, and plans to be future ready. The program uses an investigative, discovery-based learning process. Students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they will need to succeed.

With Xello, your child will build self-knowledge by defining their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them. Your student will examine options and learn about career possibilities and educational pathways. In the intermediate grades, your child will create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grades will be working in Xello during their guidance lessons in January and will be able to engage in interactive lessons that help them in developing age-appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond. Once students are introduced to the online program and the new lessons for each grade level, please feel free to explore Xello with your child by logging in together and allowing them to show you what they learned. The Xello app can be found on your student's class link page. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or you can visit www.xello.world to learn more about the program and the student experience.

I am excited to use Xello with your students) and continue our work to make every student future ready!

SCHOOL NEWS

The Faculty and Staff would like to thank all of our wonderful Lothian families for all of the generous gifts and goodies dropped off during the holidays. We appreciate each and every one of them!!

PTA NEWS

Next Meeting is January 10th! Please join us. All meetings are held virtually. If you are not already a member you can join here: [Givebacks \(memberhub.com\)](https://memberhub.com)

Thank you to all our parent volunteers who assisted in the Holiday Shop, and especially the Committee who runs this for our students. Also, a shout out to Class Act Performing Arts for sponsoring this event. We are also grateful to Stan and Joe's Riverside who sponsored our Cub Cash Cart. We are continually looking for donations for our cub cash cart! You can drop off items to the front office.

Please take a look at our PTA website here: [Lothian Elementary PTA \(google.com\)](https://lothianelementarypta.google.com). We encourage you to send us an email if you have any questions or concerns: lothianpta@gmail.com.



Parent tips for raising strong readers and writers

Growing readers!

Brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado and LD OnLine

Literacy in the Sciences: Activity No. 16

Developing Research and Information Literacy

Research and information literacy is something students work on throughout their school career. It's a collection of skills that, when combined, means that a learner is able to find, understand, evaluate and use information. Interest in information literacy grew out of a need to create learners for the 21st century. Here you'll find information about two ways to begin to develop information literacy in your child.

Evaluating Information: Fact vs. Opinion

One of the first skills in developing information literacy is being able to tell the difference between fact and opinion. A fact is a statement that can be proven true or false. An opinion is an expression of a person's feelings that cannot be proven. An awareness of the difference can be developed through questions and conversations. Engage your child in conversation using the words "fact" and "opinion" and have him identify statements of both types. For example, "Chocolate chip cookies are the best kind of cookie." "Mommy has dark brown eyes." "School should be cancelled on sunny days." "There are 12 months in a year."

Evaluating Information Sources

These days, there are many, many sources of information. Children are bombarded by messages from several media and online sources, books, friends, and people at school. An important step in developing information literacy is learning to evaluate the source of information, especially for online information. It's helpful to help your child consider some of the following:

- Who is the author of the information?
- What do we know about the author or organization? Is that person an expert?
Is that organization respected by others?
- Why was this information written? Is the author trying to persuade you to buy something?
- Does the information present fact or opinion?
- Is the information recent? When was it published?

Parents and teachers can help children develop research and information literacy by sharing their love of learning. Encourage their curiosity about the world and desire to find out more. At the same time, help them become wise consumers of the information they find. These are skills that will last a lifetime.

Reading Rockets, Colorín Colorado, and LD OnLine are national education services of WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in Washington, D.C.

