

The Lions' Roar

From the Principal's Pen 



**Lothian Elementary
School Newsletter
Oct 2023**

Volume 16, Issue 2

Attention!!!

- Oct 2-6 Book Fair
- October 4-5 grade 4 to Arlington Echo
- October 6 Mismatch Day!
- October 10 Family Math Night at Southern Middle (about the new math curriculum-for parents of students K-5) 5:30-7 PM
- October 11 PTA mtg 6:30 (virtual)
- October 17-2 Hour Early Dismissal; No PM ECI
- October 17-Project Unity Day (wear ORANGE)
- October 19 Hispanic Heritage Night at SMS (for all students PK-12) 5:30-7:30
- October 20 PICTURE DAY!!
- October 20 5:00 PTA Movie Night & Trunk or Treat
- October 24-25 grade 5 to Drownproofing
- October 30-2 Hour Early Dismissal; No PM ECI
- October 31—2Hour Early Dismissal- no PM ECI
- October 31-Book Character Costume Parade (8:15) and classroom fall celebrations

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Fall is such a lovely time of the year. We start to see nature's wonderful display of colors in the trees and harvest items, and the weather gets cooler and less humid! We are halfway through the marking period, and our children have settled in nicely.

I am finishing this message as I watch families come in and out of the Book Fair. Children are sharing their favorite books as they leave the building, and I love the joy on their faces. There are few things better than a good book (or five). Many thanks to the PTA for allowing each student to get a free book!

This year our School Improvement Plan focuses on our work in supporting student growth in literacy and math. We recently assessed our students in grades 1-5 using iReady Diagnostic. These assessments in reading and math allow us to identify where students score related to grade level norms and specific sub-content areas. Students who score below grade level will benefit greatly from engaging in iReady MyPath reading and math at home. While at school, teachers implement differentiated instruction, including advanced lessons and interventions and specialized instruction where identified. We will partner with parents to share information about their children's learning, by sending home results on district assessments.

One way that parents can partner with us is through supporting consistent **ATTENDANCE!** :) We are kicking off an attendance initiative this month. The state and district goal for every student is 90% or better attendance. For this month, at the end of each week, every student who has 90% or better attendance for the week will get their name entered into a raffle. On the following Monday, one name will be picked, and the family will win a prize. We are grateful to local businesses for supporting our attendance initiative. Raffle items have been donated by Honey's Harvest Farm, Vaughan Cheese Shop, And Jesse Jay's. After October, we will hold monthly drawings. Stay tuned for the winners' names! Hint: if your child's attendance is not at 90% yet, keep sending him/her to school, and they will catch up!

We have a few community events that will be hosted by Southern Middle School. Our space (and parking lot) is just not big enough to celebrate with the entire community. Join us for a Family Math Night to learn about the new math curriculum: Reveal. Join us on October 19 for Hispanic Heritage Night; there will be school information, games, food, and giveaways. Flyers went home via backpacks and email messages.

This month we celebrate our IT guru, James Bingham, and our custodians, Mr. Watkins, Ms. Pam, Mr. Matthew & Mr. Marquis. Thank you to those who keep our building clean and connected! And, thank you to all of you for partnering in your children's education!

Mary Beth Gormley,
Principal



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.

Middle School Magnet Programs

5th grade parents:

Magnet programs are part of Anne Arundel County's Programs of Choice and offer motivated students who reside in Anne Arundel County the opportunity to engage in a specialized course of study that differs from the traditional curriculum offered in AACPS. Eligible Magnet students will engage in rigorous and relevant learning experiences in subject areas in which they have a great interest. The 3 options for students that will be in 6th grade in the Fall of 2024 include the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) Program at Central Middle School, the APEX Art Magnet Program at Bates Middle School, and the IB (International Baccalaureate) program at Annapolis Middle School.

If your child is interested in applying for any of the magnet programs for 6th grade, the application process opens at noon on October 9, 2023, and will close at noon, November 13, 2023. Students have been provided with information about the magnet programs during guidance lessons and fliers about the different programs, information nights, and the application process have gone home with students in September. The on-line application can be found at www.aacps.org/magnet along with information and videos about the programs, FAQs, contact information, and more. If I can assist you or your student in any way, please do not hesitate to call me at 410-867-3900.

Bullying

October is Bullying Awareness and Prevention Month, and we celebrate our first Unity Day on October 17th. Students are asked to wear orange on that day to show their commitment to eliminating hate and bullying and to promote acceptance and kindness. We will continue to celebrate Unity Days throughout the school year and promote and spread that important message.

Below is some parent information regarding bullying that AACPS has put out in a parent brochure, and on-line. I hope that you find it helpful. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me.

What to Do If You Think Your Child Is Being Bullied at School

Your school wants to work with you to help your child feel safe at school. We would like to partner with you to resolve any problems your child may be having with other students.

It is important to understand the difference between bullying behavior and normal peer conflict. Bullying is behavior that:

- is intentional.

- is repeated over time: Chronic bullying is considered more than 2 acts per month.

- is intended to harm: There is an intent to cause physical or emotional hurt.

- involves a power differential: one person is more popular, bigger, older than another.

- creates a hostile educational environment: a student doesn't feel safe.

- is done through the use of social media, otherwise known as Cyberbullying.

Understanding what bullying is, it is also important to understand what it isn't. Bullying is not:

- unkind words that occur once;
- rough housing or rough play that is not intended to hurt;
- a physical attack that is not part of a pattern of behavior;
- behavior that may be inappropriate to the adult, but that the child does not perceive as hurtful, for example name-calling that all are participating in on an equal basis.

Given this information, if you think your child is being bullied, first ask some questions. Focus on your child. Be supportive while gathering information about what is happening in school. Reinforce that asking for help is not tattling. Ask questions like:

"I'm worried about you, are there any kids at school who may be picking on you or bullying you?"

"Are there any kids at school who tease you in a mean way?"

"Are there any kids at school who leave you out on purpose?"

If your questioning leads you to believe that your child is being bullied:

- Never tell your child to ignore the bullying.
- Don't blame the child who is being bullied.
- Tell your child that bullying is wrong, and that expressing feelings is the right thing to do.
- Ask what he/she think will help.
- Do not encourage physical retaliation.

Bullying may not stop without the help of adults at school. Contact the teacher, school counselor, and/or administrator. Ask your child's teacher questions about his or her interactions with other children. Look for help from the school counselor with social skills, assertiveness, or friendship skills training. Do not contact the parents of the student(s) who bullied your child. Expect the bullying to stop.....talk regularly with your child and school staff about this issue.

You have the right to complete a Bullying/Harassment and Intimidation Reporting Form. When you turn this form into the school, an administrator will investigate your concern and inform you about what he/she has found. If it is that bullying or cyberbullying, harassment, intimidation, hazing, and/or bias behaviors have occurred, the students involved in these behaviors receive support from a school counselor, school psychologist, pupil personnel worker, or school health staff person to be sure that everyone involved in the incident feels safe and supported and understands how to avoid these situations in the future. While they cannot provide you with information about other children who may be involved in the bullying behavior, they will be able to reassure you that your child is safe.

It is important that you help your child develop skills to handle conflict in an appropriate way and to seek help from an adult when necessary.

- Encourage friendships.
- Teach your children to express themselves clearly yet tactfully.
- Teach self-respect.
- Stress the importance of body language.
- Start teaching the art of negotiation early.

These are links to good websites for parents and children about bullying and how to handle bullying situations.

www.stopbullying.gov

<https://www.pacer.org/bullying/info/info-facts.asp>

Holiday Help

Any families in need of assistance for the holidays can contact the Holiday Sharing Program coordinated by the Department of Social Services. The program matches donors with families in need of help for the holidays. Families that qualify for the program should receive an invitation from the Department of Social Services and currently receive SNAP or TCA benefit prior to Sept. 1st. To contact the program, call (410) 269-4462 or e-mail communityprograms@maryland.gov.

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).

LOTHIAN PTA NEWS

Lothian Elementary PTA News

Our October PTA Meeting is Oct. 11 at 6:30 pm. All meetings are virtual. Join Today: [Givebacks \(memberhub.com\)](https://memberhub.com)

Trunk or Treat and Movie Night is October 20! We still have spots if you want to do a trunk. Sign up is here: <https://forms.gle/1N2n3TdgnRe7tKsM7>. The movie that won the survey to be shown is Hocus Pocus!

- All Spirit Wear orders have been placed and we hope to have them in a couple of weeks and will distribute! Read-A-Thon Fundraiser is coming up in November. Be on the lookout for information!

There are a few preschool openings for 4-year-olds at Southern High School in the child development program. Tuition is \$80 for the entire year (Oct-June). Rotation- Attend one week Wed/Fri and the following week Thursdays then repeat. Approx. times 9 am-1 pm. For more information, please contact mcivita@aacps.org

FEDERAL IMPACT PROGRAM SURVEY

Parents who are active military or who live or work on Federal Property in Maryland are asked to complete this year's [Federal Impact Aid Survey](#) when it becomes available on September 29, 2023.

You will be asked to verify your home address and identify if it is located on federal property. You will also complete sections identifying if a family member is in the military or works on federally owned property in Maryland. The survey should only take a couple of minutes to complete and, be assured, all data collected is kept completely confidential.

Why Complete This Survey

Anne Arundel County Public Schools, like many local school districts across the United States, include within our boundaries parcels of land that are owned by the Federal Government or that have been removed from the local tax rolls by the Federal Government. Federal property is exempt from local property taxes. By submitting an application to the Department of Education each January, AACPS receives approximately \$2 million to assist in educating all our students.

**Have you completed your Free & Reduced Meals Application?
Do you think you will qualify, but do not know how to get started?
Are you putting it off because your child does not eat school lunch?
There are many reasons for completing this application.**

Lothian may become eligible again for:

- Additional staffing for academic supports
- Grant funds to pay for field trips, arts, and other enrichment opportunities for student
- Grant programs to support classes for families, such as Adult Education, Community College, and Fitness/Healthy Living Classes
- Grant funds to provide more social, emotional, psychological, and behavioral supports and programs for students and families
- Grant funds to pay for vision and dental services as well as healthy living activities (organized sports/games, cooking classes, and help managing chronic conditions, such as diabetes)

Individual students/families may also be eligible for:

- Reduced-price before/after care through the Y of Maryland
- Reduced prices for field trips
- Early Childhood programs



To complete the application: <https://aacpsschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>

Ed Extras

Helpful information about learning brought to you by Reading Rockets, Colorin Colorado, and LD OnLine

Picture This! Using Mental Imagery While Reading

One way to help a child comprehend what he is reading is to encourage him to visualize parts of the story in his mind. These "mind movies" help clarify information and increase understanding, and can be done with fiction or nonfiction text. The images can include any of the five senses.

Many of the books you read with your child may already contain beautiful illustrations, so try this visualization practice with the longer books you use as your read aloud. Or, sit facing your child and read a few pages without having your child look at the pictures. Then follow these few simple steps to provide your child with practice developing their mental images:

- Begin reading. Pause after a few sentences or paragraphs that contain good descriptive information.
- Share the image you've created in your mind, and talk about which words from the book helped you "draw" your picture. Your picture can relate to the setting, the characters, or the actions. By doing this, you are modeling the kind of picture making you want your child to do.
- Talk about how these pictures help you understand what's happening in the story.
- Continue reading. Pause again and share the new image you created. Then ask your child to share what he sees, hears, tastes, smells and feels. Ask what words helped him create the mental image and emotions. By doing this, you are providing your child with practice with this new skill.
- Are your images identical? Probably not! This is a great time to talk about why your images might be different. Perhaps your child went on a school field trip or had a school assembly that changed the way they created the picture in their mind. Perhaps experiences you've had as an adult influenced what you "drew." These differences are important to understand and respect.
- Read a longer portion of text and continue the sharing process.
- Once this is a familiar skill, encourage your child to use mental imagery when she is reading by herself. You can feel confident that these mental pictures will help your child understand the story in an important way.

For more ideas on using mental imagery, read "Pictures in the Minds: Magicians and Elephants" www.ReadingRockets.org/articles/34040



Reading Rockets, Colorin Colorado, and LD OnLine are services of public television station WETA, Washington, D.C. Reading Rockets is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Colorin Colorado, a web service to help English language learners become better readers, receives major funding from the American Federation of Teachers. Additional funding is provided by the National Institute for Literacy and the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. LD OnLine is the world's leading website on learning disabilities and ADHD, with major funding from Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes.

South County Emergency Food Pantries: October 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			OLPH 10am-Noon	SCAW 9am-Noon OLPH 10am-Noon OLPH 5-8pm		Grace 8:30am-until SCAW 9am-Noon Bunche 10am-until Revivo 12-1:30pm Wayson Woods*
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			OLPH 10am-Noon Holy Temple 1pm-until	SCAW 9am-Noon OLPH 10am-Noon OLPH 5-8pm		Grace 8:30am-until SCAW 9am-Noon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Hallows 8-10:30am		OLPH 10am-Noon	SCAW 9am-Noon OLPH 10am-Noon OLPH 5-8pm	St. Andrews 8-10am Grace 8am-until SCAW 9am-Noon Franklin 9am-until Revivo 12-1:30pm Wayson Woods*	
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			OLPH 10am-Noon	SCAW 9am-Noon OLPH 10am-Noon OLPH 5-8pm		Grace 8am-until SCAW 9am-Noon
29	30	31				

* Not confirmed at time of publication

South County Emergency Food Pantries

Bunche – Ralph Bunche Community Center, 374 Mill Swamp Road, Edgewater
Franklin – Franklin United Methodist Church, 5345 Deale-Churchton Road, Churchton
Grace – Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 4012 Birdsville Road, Davidsonville
Hallows – All Hallows Episcopal Church, 3600 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater
Holy Temple – Holy Temple Cathedral Church, 135 Stopney's Lane, Edgewater
LCOG – Lothian Church of God, 1228 Mt Zion Marlboro Rd, Lothian
OLPH – Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 515 Loch Haven Road, Edgewater
Revive – Revive Faith Church, *mobile distribution to residents of listed communities only
Riva – Riva Trade Baptist Church, 475 Central Avenue W, Davidsonville - *English families every 30 days*
SCAA – South County Assistance Network of Saint James, Seacrest Island Road, Arden - *English families every 30 days*
St. Andrews – Saint Andrews United Methodist Church, 4 Wallace Manor Road, Edgewater

NOTE: Many of these sites are open to Anne Arundel County residents only

Emergency Food Resources in South County

Special Resources:

Little Free Pantry at South County Community Church 1320 Avalon Blvd., Shady Side	24 hours, 7 days
Little Free Pantry at Bay Community Health 134 Owensville Rd, West River	24 hours, 7 days
Caring Cupboard at Deale Library 5940 Deale Churchton Road, Deale	24 hours, 7 days
Food Shelves at Saint James Church, Education Building, Lower Level (Side Entrance) 5757 Solomons Island Road, Lothian NOTE: Food from community donations - not affiliated with Saint James Church	24 hours, 7 days
Free Food Pantry at Joy Reigns Church 35 Mayo Road, Mayo	24 hours, 7 days
The Lighthouse 10 Hudson Street, Annapolis	Unbagged Lunch - Lobby: Monday thru Friday 8am-5:30pm Food Pantry: Thursday 10:00-noon Community Hot Lunch - Cafeteria: Tuesday thru Thursday 12:00-1:00pm
Blessed in Tech Ministries Information and registration at https://blessedintechministries.org/drive-thru-food-give-away/ or call 410-384-8700	
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church	On emergency basis -- call 410-266-0875
Helping Hands of America Inc.	Mobile Emergency Pantry -- call 443 517 7097

Emergency Food Resources in South County

Pantry Sites*

SCAN (South County Assistance Network) 5757 Solomons Island Road, Lothian	Thursdays & Saturdays 9:00am-12:00pm Eligible families/individuals may receive food once every 30 days
Riva Trace Baptist Church 475 Central Avenue W, Davidsonville	First Saturday of month 7:30am-10:00am Except Holiday weekends. Then 2nd Saturday Eligible families/individuals may receive food once every 30 days
St. Andrew's United Methodist Church 4 Wallace Manor Rd., Edgewater	Third Saturday of month 8:00am- 10:00am Any AA County resident
Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church 4012 Birdsview Road, Davidsonville	Saturdays 8:30am - until food runs out
Holy Temple Cathedral Church 135 Steptoy's Lane, Edgewater	Second Wednesday of month - 2:00pm - 5:00pm or until food runs out
Our Lady of Perpetual Help 515 Loch Haven Road, Edgewater	Wednesdays 10:00am-12:00pm Fridays 10:00am-12:00pm AND 6:00-8:00pm
All Hallows Episcopal Church 3600 Solomons Island Road, Edgewater	Third Monday of month 8:00-10:30am
Ralph J Bunch Community Center 374 Mill Swamp Road, Edgewater	First Saturday of month 10:00am - until food runs out
Franklin United Methodist Church 5345 Deale Churchton Road, Churchton	Third Saturdays 9:00am until food runs out
Revive Faith ~ at Wayson Woods	First and Third Saturdays 12:00-1:30pm

* Refer to monthly calendar to confirm dates -- holidays and local circumstances may affect scheduling