

The Lions' Roar

From the Principal's Pen



**Lothian Elementary
School Newsletter
August-Sept 2023**

Volume 16, Issue 1

Attention!!!

- ♦ August 24—Sneak a Peek 2:00-3:30
- ♦ August 28-School Open for Grades 1-5
- ♦ August 28-31-Staggered Openings for ECI, Pre-K, and Kindergarten
- ♦ September 1-5—Staggered Openings for ECI, Pre-K, and Kindergarten
- ♦ September 4- School Closed-Labor Day
- ♦ September 13-Back to School Night 5:30 p.m..
- ♦ Sept 15-Oct 15 Hispanic Heritage Month
- ♦ September 17-Constitution Day
- ♦ September 19- Hearing & Vision Screening (ECI,K,PK, new students)
- ♦ September 20 PTA 6:30 VIRTUAL
- ♦ September 22-First Day of Autumn
- ♦ September 25-School Closed—Yom Kippur

Happy New School Year! As I write this, I am thinking about how much I am looking forward to seeing all of our students and their families at Sneak-a-Peek tomorrow afternoon.

I hope that you will ALL mark your calendars for Back-to School Night on September 13th at 5:30 pm. This is an important evening when the teachers will share information about curriculum, procedures, and other grade-level specifics.

Future newsletters will be sent electronically unless you request a paper copy (see p.7 of newsletter). We will also share information via phone, email and text messages, please make sure your primary contact information is updated.

We will continue with our PBIS program, Restorative Practices Community Building Circles and the Second Step program to strengthen social-emotional learning. This year we are jumping into our new mission and values in order to support all students' academic and social emotional growth.

Please think about joining the PTA. The PTA membership and activities support what we do for our children. Our meetings are virtual, no need for a babysitter! We will also have all meetings translated in real time. Thank you to PTA for welcoming our staff with lunch and snacks on the teachers' first day back!

I have recently received our MCAP scores, and I will be sharing more information in the next newsletter and during a PTA meeting. Until that time, please know that we made some growth, so we are on the right track, and we need to keep that trajectory. One of the biggest barriers to our students' progress is poor attendance. As a school, 71% of our students had a 90% or better attendance rate. That is growth from 67% for 2021-2022, however, the state standard is 90%. We have a long way to go, and we need your help! School has changed to be much more interactive, students who miss real time with their teachers and classmates miss out on the complexities of the learning. Please establish great home-habits for bed time, homework, and a consistent morning routine to give your child the best start possible.

Thank you for your partnership in the educational journey. I am looking forward to a GREAT year! :)

Mary Beth Gormley, Principal

Follow us on Twitter/X @LothianAACPS

Follow our website at <https://www.aacps.org/Page/4598>

Soon to come: Follow us on Instagram!

WELCOME!!

The start of each new school year is a bittersweet time as we say farewell to some members of the Lothian family and welcome others. This year, we said good-bye to Mrs. Bullock, Mrs. Drake, Ms. Girardi, Mrs. Haas, Mrs. Johanson, Mrs. Poe, Mrs. Powell, and Mrs. Timko. We thank them for their dedication, and wish them the best of luck in future endeavors.

Please help in extending a warm Lothian welcome to those new to our staff. We welcome Ms. Brown-Thomas, Ms. Garrison, Mrs. He, Ms. Higgins, Ms. Lance, Mrs. Langford, Mrs. MacDonald, Ms. McCabe, Ms. Motz, Ms. Norris, Ms. Pereira, Mrs. Priebe, Ms. Puyol, and Mrs. Walha.

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.

In This Issue:

School Information	2-3
Counselor's Corner	4
Bus/Car Rider Information	5
PTA News	7
Newsletter Access	8

Parking Reminders

Parking is limited, so we ask that, whenever possible, parents carpool, especially for field trips or other situations where you will be parked on-site for a length of time.

Chaperones and Volunteers

If you are interested in chaperoning field trips or volunteering in the school this year, you must watch a training video and submit your information for a background check (the commercial background check is free and good for two years). For Arlington Echo, Drownproofing, and working with students individually, a fingerprint background check is required.

Please see this AACPS webpage for more information about the requirements: [AACPS Volunteer Page](#)

Look for more information about volunteering at Lothian to come soon. We are excited to be able to welcome volunteers back into the building.

Departmentalization - What's That?

In Grades 3-5, you will notice that your student(s) have different teachers for Reading/Writing versus Math/Social Studies/Science. This year, teachers in Grades 3-5 will be specializing in their subject areas and sharing students with a teacher of the opposite subjects. We will be providing more information about how this benefits our students at Back to School Night on September 13 at 5:30 pm.

Health Room News

NO MEDICATION OF ANY KIND, PRESCRIPTION OR NON-PRESCRIPTION, CAN BE ADMINISTERED BY THE SCHOOL STAFF UNLESS YOUR DOCTOR HAS FILLED OUT THE MEDICATION FORM ISSUED BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION. Medication must be in the prescription bottle from the pharmacy, labeled with the student's name and dosage amount and times, and accompanied by a permission slip signed by your doctor. A medication form is included in the first day packet and can also be obtained from the school office. Health Room Phone: 410-867-0457.

REMINDER: ALL KINDERGARTENERS REQUIRE A SECOND VARICELLA (CHICKEN POX) VACCINE PRIOR TO BEGINNING SCHOOL.

School Emergency Plans

All schools in Anne Arundel County Public School System have developed emergency and crisis response plans. If there is ever any serious incident/emergency and access to Lothian Elementary is not available, parents should meet at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church for pertinent information.



Birthdays at Lothian

We love to celebrate birthdays at Lothian. We don't allow food or snacks for birthdays, but welcome small fun gifts, like pencils or stickers. Parents can send a class set of party invitations or children may distribute party invitations themselves.

Backpacks

Students may use backpacks to carry books and supplies to and from school. Backpacks are kept in the student's locker during the day, so they must be the appropriate size (NOT TOO LARGE) to fit in the locker. The decision to keep backpacks in lockers is a health and safety issue. The backpacks block aisles in the classroom and restrict ease in passing in the halls. Also, the backpacks are often too large and heavy to carry all day for the majority of physically developing students. **NO BACKPACKS WITH WHEELS PLEASE!** Students will have multiple opportunities each day to visit their lockers.



Camera

Lothian Elementary School is equipped with a video camera system. It covers selected interior and exterior public portions of the building and grounds. It is NOT monitored constantly, but it is monitored during emergency situations. During certain events, when the safety or security of students may be in question, authorized personnel from local, state, or federal police or fire emergency units may be given access to view images projected on the camera system. If you have any questions about the system, you should call the Supervisor of School Security at 410-222-5083.

Follow us on Twitter:
@LothianAACPS

Emergency Drills

During each school year, various drills are conducted at every school to ensure that staff and students are prepared in the event of an emergency. These drills include monthly fire/evacuation drills.

In addition drills with scenarios developed by the school system's Office of School Security and based upon various possible emergency scenarios are done each year. These include, but are not limited to: evacuation for natural gas emergencies; shelter for tornado and earthquake; shelter for outside hazardous materials release; lockout for danger outside of the school building, reverse evacuation back into the school for students and staff outside; and lockdown for a person with a weapon inside of the school. These drills are discussed with staff prior to the drill, evaluated once the drill is complete. In some cases, the drills may be discussed with students before they take place.

Free Breakfast Program

Lothian Elementary has qualified for a grant offering free breakfast to all students, regardless of income level. Please be aware that this option is available to your child(ren) again this school year.

The Anne Arundel County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation or familial status in matters affecting employment or in providing access to programs.

Free/Reduced Lunch Applications

ECIA Title 1 is a Federally funded program designed to help students needing extra assistance in reading and mathematics. It provides additional assistance in the areas of personnel, resources, materials of instruction, staff development and parent involvement. The National Lunch Program/School Breakfast Program is used to determine Title 1 eligible schools.

If you believe that you might be eligible for the lunch/breakfast program, please complete the application and return it to school **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**. Students who were eligible last year **MUST** submit a new application for approval this school year. If your child was receiving free or reduced lunch last year, this will carry over until October.

Applications are available online at <https://aapssschools.org/nutrition/apply-for-free-or-reduced-price-meals/>. Completing this form does not mean your child must participate in school meals, however, qualifying applications help us to retain our Title I status and support our students with resources and materials. You can be assured that confidentiality will be observed. If you have any questions, please direct them to the school office. ***We will provide assistance in completing online forms at Back to School Night.***

ATTENTION PARENTS!

School Meal Prices
SY 2023-2024

Student:

Breakfast, (Full Price, All Schools)
\$1.50

Breakfast, (Reduced Price, All Schools)
\$.00

Lunch, (Full Price, Secondary Schools)
\$3.00

Lunch, (Full Price, Elementary Schools)
\$2.75

Lunch, (Reduced-Price, All Schools)
\$.00

Meal Benefit Applications are available for SY 2023-2024!
Log onto www.aacps.org/mealapplication

[It's About More Than Lunch](#)

If you have any questions regarding the school meals program, please email jrisse@aacps.org or

call 410-222-5900.

Counselor's Corner

The School Counseling Program at Lothian Elementary School:

As a professional school counselor, I deliver a comprehensive school counseling program aligned with the National Standards for School Counseling. The program includes classroom, group, and individual counseling processes that develop student competencies in the academic, career, and personal/social domains. The program is developed using data that support and link the counseling program to students' academic success. Services are delivered through classroom guidance, group, individual counseling and student planning, as well as consultation, collaboration, and coordination. It is driven by my mission that aligns with both the AACPS mission and our school mission. It is as follows:

"My mission is to promote and enhance student learning through academic, career, and personal/social development and provide support for all students so that they can maximize their student potential and feel safe, nurtured, and respected. My hope is that by advocating for students, providing them with skills they need, and working in a partnership with educators, parents, and the community, all students will have the knowledge and skills they need to be responsible citizens, creative thinkers, and life-long learners."

Classroom guidance is provided for all students (Pre-K - 5) across the educational, career, and personal/social domain. I am in every classroom every other week throughout the entire year. Please ask your child(ren) regularly what they have been learning in Guidance. You can also go to the Lothian Elementary School website and click on "Guidance Corner" to see strategies I teach to students to help them be successful in school.

Small group guidance and counseling is provided for some students throughout the year. Topics vary based on the needs of the students at the different grade levels.

I also provide school-related individual counseling and student planning. Students can self-refer, and parents, teachers, and administrators can request that I see students. The counseling is brief solution focused and does not constitute therapy. I have information available to parents seeking outside therapy for their child listing psychologists, social workers, and therapists in the area.

In addition to counseling, I provide consultation and coordination services. I work with the school staff and parents, as part of a team, to assist students so they can do their best in school. I also have resources on a variety of different topics that parents may find helpful.

I look forward to working with you and your students. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of assistance to you or your children. I can be reached at:

E-mail: kpletcher@aacps.org

Google Voice/Text: 302-464-0804

School Phone: 410-867-3900

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).

5th grade parents:

It is already time to start thinking about Middle School options for your child. Magnet programs, part of Anne Arundel County's Programs of Choice, 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, APEX Arts Program at Bates Middle School, and the IB (International Baccalaureate) program at Annapolis Middle School.

The application process for the Magnet Programs will open at noon on October 9, 2023 and will close at noon, November 13, 2023.

For additional information about the Magnet Programs offered in AACPS and information about the online application process, you can also visit their website: www.aacps.org/magnet. If I can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call me at 410-867-3900.

Buses/Student Drop Off



We encourage parents to have students ride the bus as often as possible!!! The fewer car-riders we have, the quicker, smoother and safer arrival and dismissal are for all students.

Cars dropping off/picking up students at regular arrival/dismissal times will need to pull in the main entrance (by the sign), follow the signs/lane markings to circle around and drop off/pick up students at the front entrance. Staff will be outside (until 7:55 am for drop-off) to greet students. Parents **should not park** and bring their children in due to traffic flow and parking concerns. Parents arriving after 7:55 or picking up early should park and enter the main entrance and report to the office to sign in/out their child. Please observe the BUSES ONLY signage for our bus loop.

Lothian Car Rider Afternoon Pick-Up Directions

We have two lines for Car Rider pick-up in the afternoon:

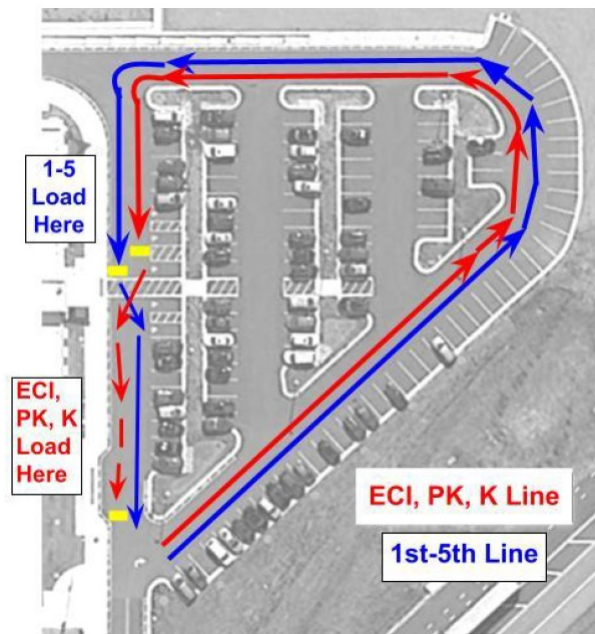
- Parents of students in **Grades 1-5** should stay in the car line to the right (marked in blue). Students in Grades 1-5 will load before your car reaches the crosswalk. Our goal is for these students to independently get in the car and get their seatbelt on themselves. After loading your student(s), please follow staff directions when to cross and pass the parked red line parents.

- Parents of students in **ECI, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten** should stay in the car line to the left (marked in red). ECI, PK, and K students will load after you cross over the crosswalk (at staff direction) and your car is against the curb. It is understood that students in this line will probably need help from parents to get buckled in, so the red line gives extra time for that (but, please do this as quickly as possible to avoid delaying the line). Please wait until all cars in the red line are ready and then staff will direct you to exit as a group. Older siblings of ECI, PK, and K students are welcome to load with their younger siblings who need extra time in the red line.

In the morning, we just have one line. Please wait in line until you reach the curb in front of the school entrance. Please follow staff direction to move forward, so that we can let multiple students out of cars at the same time. Do not attempt to enter or exit the line and pass cars unless by staff direction.

When leaving the parking lot, only right turns are allowed. If you need to go south, please go right and go around the traffic circle to be able to come back in a southerly direction.

Please follow directions of staff members at all times (when in doubt, wait for us to signal you). Most importantly, we want to make sure students, parents, and staff are safe. Thank you





**TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS
OF
ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS
VOLUNTARY STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVERAGE**

Each year, school children have accidents. Medical costs can be expensive, and unexpected bills can cause hardships. Even if you have other insurance, it is often not enough as coverage can require high deductibles or co-insurance payments.

Anne Arundel County Public Schools **does not** purchase blanket accidental medical or dental insurance for sports, school sponsored activities, or student activity while school is in session. However, we have made arrangements with *Bob McCloskey Insurance* to offer accident coverage to all enrolled students at a modest premium. Through this program, parents/guardians have the opportunity to purchase this protection for their child.

Some of the advantages of this insurance include:

At-School Student Accident Coverage: This provides insurance for the hours and days when school is in session and while students are attending school sponsored and supervised activities on or off school premises. Coverage is provided during:

- The school day, on school premises, while school is in session.
- Direct and uninterrupted travel to and from home and scheduled classes.
- School sponsored and supervised sports (excluding high school football).
- Travel to and from school sponsored and supervised sports while in school approved vehicle.

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

Around the Clock - 24-hour Accident coverage: This provides insurance coverage around-the-clock, anywhere in the world. Coverage is provided:

- Before, during and after school.
- Weekends, vacation and all summer including summer school.
- School sponsored and extracurricular sports (excluding high school football).

- ◆ Once effective, coverage continues until the earlier date where the enrolled students coverage has been in place for twelve months or the first day of the next school year.

All coverage becomes effective on the date that the completed application and premium are received by Bob McCloskey Insurance, or online enrollment is completed.

YOU CAN APPLY AND PAY ON-LINE AT: www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary and click the "Buy It Online" start button. You have a choice of different benefit schedules.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call *Bob McCloskey Insurance*, at (800) 445-5126. Their representatives are available to assist you in your inquiries or go to www.bobmccloskey.com/K12Voluntary.

PTA NEWS

Have you registered to become a member of PTA this school year? It's only \$6! Register today to be entered into our giveaway basket with some spirit wear and swag! <https://rb.gy/vnf29>

Why Join PTA?

- + Be the first to hear about important news and events at school.
- + Connect with other parents.
- + Have a voice in the activities and programs the PTA supports.
- + Be able to volunteer at school events.

IT'S TIME FOR A GIVEAWAY!

**Those who have joined
Lothian Elementary PTA
between the dates of
July 1, 2023 through
September 19, 2023 will
be automatically
entered to win our
membership raffle
basket!**



Includes:

- (1) Lothian Lanyard**
- (1) Lothian WaterBottle**
- (1) Kids Spirit Wear T-Shirt**
- (1) Lothian Car Magnet**
- \$10 Dunkin Donuts Gift Card**
-and more fun goodies!**



Winner will be announced at the September 20th PTA Meeting!

Newsletter Access

Beginning with the October newsletter, a Blackboard Connect email will go out alerting parents that the newsletter is available online. If you do not have internet access and need to receive a paper copy, you must complete the items below and return it to school.

Parent Name: _____

Oldest Lothian Student's Name: _____

Student's Teacher: _____