



The Lions' Roar



From the Principal's Pen

Hello Lothian Families! We are in the last month of school, and it has been a great year of learning and growing. As we are getting students' Fountas & Pinnell Reading Benchmark assessments completed, we are finding that many students have grown in their reading levels. This has been exciting news to share with each other, with students, and with parents.

School officially ends on Tuesday, June 13. On Monday, June 12, at 4:00 PM, we will celebrate our outgoing 5th graders with a promotion ceremony. The 5th grade teachers will be sharing additional information with their students' families.

As we finish out the year, we know there are many events happening at home such as, sports, graduations, and celebrations, please be sure to keep your student focused on coming to school prepared with homework, charged Chromebook, and expected behaviors. Sometimes we see a spike in behaviors in the spring as the students get antsy, yearning for more time outdoors or away from school. Encourage your student to finish the year strong so that the events of the final month of school will be enjoyable!

Next year, we will be implementing a new mission and aligned values based on work with AMA (All Means All) Leaders. Our new mission and value statements are below. We will work with our entire school community on how our families can also support this work, so that we can best serve our children!

Finally, I want to thank our PTA for a tremendous May! Volunteers treated our teachers and staff for the entire week of Teacher Appreciation. The treats were generous and delightful, bringing joy to each day! On the last evening, members set up the Book Fair, and the Movie Night. We are so appreciative of the kindness and support from our PTA.

I know that I will see many parents before the year ends, however, I would like to extend my thanks for a great year, and my wishes for a safe & happy summer for all.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration began on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, through our online portal at www.aacps.org/enrollment. You child must turn 5 by September 1, 2023. If you have any questions or concerns, please call our office at 410-867-3900.

Please have your child's Birth Certificate, Immunizations, Lease or Mortgage and a utility bill when you begin the online registration. If your child is enrolled in Pre-K at Lothian you will receive a request for updated information in the mail.

Lothian Elementary School's Mission and Value Statements

Mission Statement

All staff will used 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 May/June 2023

Volume 14, Issue 4

May 15-19 PTA Book Fair

May 15th Grade 1 (Brooke & Haas) Field Trip to SERC

May 15th Grade 2 (Dean) Field Trip to Jug Bay

May 16th Spring Concert 6:30 PM at SHS

May 17 Evening Book Fair

May 25-26-School closed for ECI, Pre-K, and Kindergarten (Conferences)

May 25 Kindergarten Orientation 9-10 AM

May 29—School Closed-Memorial Day

June 1—Grade 4 Field Trip to Annapolis

June 2 Field Day (Rain date June 5)

June 3 Bowie Baysox Game (Chorus & Instrumental to perform National Anthem)

June 9 Spring Fling

June 12 & 13 Two hour early dismissals

June 12 Promotion 4:00 pm

June 13 Last day for students

Spirit Days

May 26 Red, White, & Blue Day

June 2 Field Day Colors

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PRE-K REGISTRATION

STARTS TUESDAY MAY 2, 2023 ONLINE AT [AACPS.ORG/ENROLLMENT](https://aacps.org/enrollment)

IN ORDER FOR YOUR APPLICATION TO BE
CONSIDERED COMPLETE

YOU NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- * DOCUMENTATIONS OF INCOME ELIGIBILITY
- * YOUR CHILD'S ORIGINAL BIRTH CERTIFICATE
- * YOUR CHILD'S IMMUNIZATION RECORD
- * TWO PROOFS OF RESIDENCY IN THE LOTHIAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT: MORTGAGE DOCUMENT/LEASE AGREEMENT AND UTILITY BILL

YOUR CHILD MUST BE 4 BY SEPTEMBER 1, 2022

ARE YOU MOVING?

Below is a form for those families who will be moving over the summer. If you are leaving Lothian Elementary School, a transfer package will be prepared for you and sent home with your child the last day of school. THIS TRANSFER PACKAGE MUST BE TAKEN TO THE NEW SCHOOL TO REGISTER. THIS DOES NOT APPLY TO FIFTH GRADERS GOING TO SOUTHERN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

CHILD'S NAME _____

TEACHER/GRADE _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____

SCHOOL ATTENDING NEXT YEAR _____

LOCATION _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____



Our Lothian schoolwide expectations are Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Safe, and Be Prepared. In keeping with our expectations, we have asked our students to refrain from playing with toys from home during instruction and dismissal. In the past few week, small toys and trading cards have made appearances during lessons and dismissal, distracting students from learning and from listening to dismissal procedures. Disruptive toys may be collected for return at a later date. Now that the weather is warming up, we begin to see spring and summer footwear. In accordance with our "Be Safe" expectation, we are asking students not to wear flip flops to school. Shoes without a back or straps pose a safety concern at recess. Thank you for your help in reinforcing our schoolwide expectations!

A Message from the School Counselor Kimberly Pletcher

School Counseling News:

Hello Parents/Guardians,

Please visit my Google School Counseling site for both parent/student resources. I regularly update the site and it includes food/benefit resources, helpful fliers, mental health resources, and parenting support information. You must be signed into google to access the site.

<https://sites.google.com/aacps.org/lothiancounseling/student-resources>

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of any assistance to you or your children. You can reach me at 410-867-3900 (the school number) or email me at kpletcher@aacps.org. I am happy to help.

Upcoming 5th grade parents for the 2023-2024 School Year (Current 4th graders):

It is not too early 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 those 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 at Bates Middle School, and the IB (International Baccalaureate) program at Annapolis Middle School.

For additional information about the Magnet Programs offered in AACPS and information about the online application process, you can visit their website: www.aacps.org/magnet. You can also contact the Magnet Office at 410-222-5390 or 410-533-4815. If I can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to call me at 410-867-3900.

Please stay tuned for information regarding Magnet Information Nights in the Fall of 2023.



Grief and Loss

Grief happens in response to the loss of something or someone. Most of the time when we think of grief and loss, we think of the hurt that follows the death of a loved-one or a pet. Such losses are especially tough on children, but they can also grieve because of divorce, having to move from a favorite school, or losing a best friend who moves away. Children who grieve can encounter problems with sleeping, eating, headaches, crying spells, bed-wetting, immature behaviors, lack of energy, separation anxiety, and behavior and academic issues at school.

When helping children cope with a death, parents need to be conscious of each child's age. Infants and toddlers have almost no concept of death. Preschoolers often think death is reversible. Elementary - aged children start to comprehend the finality of death. Students in middle school understand death and they may act-out to cope with death. High school students may fully grasp the concept of death and seek out friends and family for support in dealing with the loss.

Here are some things that parents can do to help children cope with a death:

- *Acknowledge their feelings. Let them know that it is normal to cry and feel sad.
- *Empathize. Say, "I know it hurts." Share your feelings with the child.
- *Respect the child's coping strategies. Some children will want to talk about their feelings while others desire to keep it to themselves.
- *Use honest, concrete statements. Say, "Grandma died today". Don't use confusing terms such as, "She passed away. She is sleeping, or she was taken from us."
- *Some children will be curious and ask questions about death and funerals. Answer them as honestly as possible.
- *Encourage children to start a journal to record feelings and to write about good memories of the deceased or express themselves through artwork, a collage, or poetry.
- *Some children fear that they will die soon. Reassure them that they are safe.
- *Keep children active in sports, clubs, church, hobbies, and interests. This helps to redirect some of the focus away from the recent traumatic event.
- *Parents need to use their best judgment when deciding if their children are old enough to attend funerals. Many experts believe that children need to attend if they wish. By not allowing children to attend it could create an environment of denial that does not allow them to actively participate in the grieving process.
- *Create ways to pay tribute to the deceased. Burn a candle every year on the deceased person's birthday. Visit the grave site if the child wishes. Purchase a Christmas tree ornament in memory of the person and let the child hang it on the tree every year.
- *Provide children with a list of persons they can talk to (besides their parents) about the death such as a pastor, counselor, coach, or teacher.

Reproduced with permission from the book, "Guidance Giveaways" by Tom Carr.

A wonderful resource in Anne Arundel County is Hospice of the Chesapeake. This organization provides grief and loss support for all members of the family including children and teenagers. Visit their website at www.hospicechesapeake.org to learn more about the different services and resources that they provide.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any concerns regarding your child coping with the loss of a loved one. I am happy to help and can be reached at 410-867-3900.

HONOR ROLL

Principal's Honor Roll: Chloe A., Allison A., Sarah A., Ivanka B., Maeve B., Genesis B., Jesiah B., Charlotte B., Reese B., Reagan B., Daniel B., Ellie C., Augustus C., Nicolette C., Ryleigh D., Edward F., Caleb F., Katherine F., Addisyn F., Kinsley G., Zoe H., Addison H., Kaylee J., Charity J., Queniyah J., Skylar K., Cash L., Louis M., Grady M., Lila M., Brantley M., Junior M., Ashlyn O., Brian O., Jackson O., Gabriella R., Anthony R., Ruby R., Beckett R., Dylan S., Jordan S., Wyatt S., Punnasiri S., Sophie S., Chloe S., Tessa T., Taylor T., Miguel T., Crechele W., Lucas W., Sofia W., Wren W.

Mrs. Avery: Russell B., Atlas D., Colby H., Sarita J., Fernando M., Tyler R., Lleyton S.

Mrs. Dean: Myles A., Andrew A., Mackenzie A., Ian C., Matthew C., Harrison G., Amelia G., Jefferson H., Camden H., Degan J., Garrett M., Evelyn R., Bristol R., Paul S., Wyatt S., Gabriella T.

Mrs. Harley: Giselle A., Eryn B., Caleb C., Hector G., Noah H., Emily H., Jacob M., Ella O., Melissa R., Dean T.

Mrs. Bullock: Logan B., Hope G., Mayerly J., Zori L., Landon R., Arianna R., Berkeley S., Brayden V.

Mrs. Price: Reagan A., Valerie A., Elijah A., Mariana G., Amelia G., Christopher G., Imara S., David V., Ella W.

Mrs. Simmons: Irma B., Leah B., Enrique C., Daniel M., Brayden Q., Lillie S., James S., Dominic V.

Mrs. Knowlton: Leslie A., Jason B., Wade B., Nathan C., Aria H., Kseniia I., Teagan J., Lucas L., Jose R., Williams S., Alexandra J., London Z.

Mrs. McDonald: Kayla A., Brayden D., Nelson G., Liam H., Penelope H., Yaretzy M., Michael O., Melissa Q., Joshua R., Wesson S.

Mr. Williams: D. Brown, Tayvon B., Josafat D., Roman H., Jake N., Malaya O., Aamir R., Milania R., Matthew R.

Mrs. Frederick: Bella A., Joshua A., Ethan B., Olivia B., Amy C., Ulric D., Harper L., Robert O., Ava O., Jasper R., DaNae S., Hannah S., David S., Isaac V.

Mrs. Reddish: Axel A., Anthony A., Yesly B., Lauren C., Brandon D., Justin F., True G., Andrea G., Lila H., Kaelyn I., Ela P., Mason P., Amelia S., Alexander S., Ethan S., Layla S.

Mrs. Timko: Jackelyn A., Mariana B., Alice C., Alan C., Sara D., Harrison S., Teagan T., Isabella W.

Ms. Tompkins: Addison D., Mason M., Bella R., Adelaide R., Amy R., Andrew S., Destiny S., Tyna T., Jevante W.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

May 31, 2023

**Lothian Elementary School
8:30–9:30 am**



We kindly request that you RSVP by returning this form to Megan Creighton, by using the QR Code or the link.

☐ I plan to attend the Volunteer Appreciation Reception on May 31st at 8:30am. I understand that I will be required to scan my driver's license prior to entering the building.

Volunteer Name: _____

Student Name: _____



Link to RSVP: bit.ly/41DbeOA

Developing Writing and Spelling at Home

Writing is a terrific way for children to express their thoughts, creativity, and uniqueness. It is also a fundamental way in which children learn to organize ideas. And learning to write well helps children to be better readers. When engaging in writing, young children often mirror what they see around them – adults and older children writing lists, notes, text messaging. They are observing the way writing is used in our everyday lives.

Writing at home

Here are some suggestions that engage your child in the writing process:

- Have your child write instructions for taking care of the family pet. These will be useful as you plan summer vacations!
- Write a letter or thank you note to a relative. Talk through what your child wants to say before writing begins.
- Make a shopping list before going to the grocery store.
- Write an online review of a book or an item you recently purchased (www.amazon.com) or a recipe you tried (www.allrecipes.com).
- Talk about the presidential election and write a description of the kind of president you want.
- Find a picture in the newspaper and write an article to accompany it.
- Start keeping a personal diary, a household guestbook, or a baby book for a younger sibling.

Does spelling count?

Early attempts at spelling are not the random swings they sometimes appear. Children's "invented spelling" gives a window into what they understand about written language. A good teacher will be able to tell the difference between the misspellings that indicate normal literacy development and those that suggest a possible learning disability. If you have questions, talk to your child's teacher or reading specialist.

Writing tip: Stay positive! Kids who are worried about spelling every word correctly will often stick to a small group of words they can spell, or may avoid writing altogether.

What should I write about?

Help your child get their thoughts together in an organized way. Especially when a child starts writing, he may need help planning out what he wants to say.

Writing tip: Get organized! Use sticky notes to help organize ideas. Put each idea or important word on a note, and lay the notes out on the table for easy rearranging. This helps with planning and organization.

Writer's strike

If your child avoids writing, use materials and tools that support both the thinking process and the physical act of writing:

- Use wide lined paper which helps kids line up and space their letters
- Use a whiteboard, which allows them to easily erase and try again
- Use a keyboard, which also allows kids to easily edit

For more information about kids and writing, visit:

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/c37/>



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.