



# The Lions' Roar

## From the Principal's Pen



### Lothian Elementary School Newsletter May/June 2024

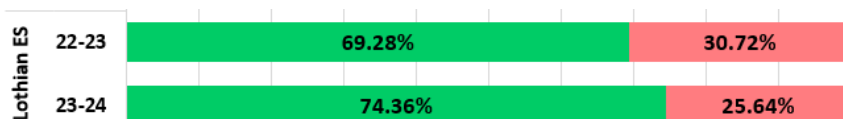
Volume 16, Issue 7

We are well into the final marking period, and let's close out strong! Please continue to support homework and reading, and encourage your children to practice on iReady as the end of year diagnostics are just a few weeks away. Please do everything you can to ensure your children are in school on time every day, and that students in grades 3-5 continue to bring a charged Chromebook to school. As the temps are heating up, a reusable water bottle is a necessity, and our older students will need to pay extra attention to personal hygiene.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community for your support over the past five years. Thank you for the appreciation on National Principals' Day, and to those who have reached out after the announcement of my retirement. I have truly enjoyed my time serving as your principal at Lothian, and I will miss the community greatly. I also want to thank Kory Tvedt, our Assistant Principal, for his leadership by my side for the past four years. I am sure that you will agree that his contributions to our school community are invaluable.

I know that you will welcome Ms. Denise Faidley warmly. Her expertise as a principal and a literacy teacher will serve her well at Lothian. She and I will spend time together transitioning, so that the focus on mission and values continues. She is looking forward to meeting our staff, students, and families, and I am excited for her journey at Lothian. On May 1, We welcomed Ms. Tiffany Leonard as our TA in Kindergarten. We will welcome Mrs. Carrie Bennett to grade 4 and Ms. Emily Gray to grade 2 for the 2024-25 school year.

Here is our update on Attendance as of April 30. The current numbers show 6.5/15 points on the MSDE report card.



### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Registration began on Wednesday, April 3, 2024, through our online portal at [www.aacps.org/enrollment](http://www.aacps.org/enrollment). You child must turn 5 by September 1, 2024. 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.

May 7 -Pre-K Registration begins

May 7 PK & K information night at Tracey's Elem

May 14—School Closed-Primary Election Day

May 15 PTA Book Fair evening 4-7 pm

May 17 Spring Fling

May 22 PTA meeting

May 23-24-School Closed for ECSE, Pre-K and Kindergarten (Teacher Conferences)

May 24 Kindergarten Orientation

May 27-School Closed-Memorial Day

May 31- Field Day

June 10-2 Hr. Early Dismissal

June 11-2 Hr. Early Dismissal

June 11- 5th grade promotion 8:30 (please do not arrive before 8:15)

June 11-Last Day for Students

June 12-Last Date for Teachers



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## PRE-K REGISTRATION

STARTS TUESDAY MAY 7, 2024 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, 2024\*\*

## 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](mailto:kpletcher@aacps.org). I am happy to help.

## **Upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents for the 2024-2025 School Year (Current 4<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall of 2025 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](http://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 2024.



# 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) that they can talk to 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](http://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 can be reached at 410-867-3900.

## HONOR ROLL

**Principal's Honor Roll:** Reagan A., Sarah A., Connor B., Jesiah B., Charlotte B., Reese B., Reagan B., Daniel B., Sailor B., Kathryn B., Caleb C., Ariana C., Wolf D., Katherine F., Jonas G., Kinsley G., Amelia G., Noah H., Zoe H., Penny H., Kseniia I., Charity J., Teagan J., Skyla K., Cash L., Diego L., Hykeem L., Jacob M., Louis M., Grady M., Kella M., Aiden M., Alexis M., Juniper M., Lily M., Camryn O., Jaime O., Abril O., Felix P., Anderson P., Landon R., Ruby R., Beckett R., Lilliana R., Dylan R., Maeve S., Sophie S., Berkeley S., Miguel T., Wishum T., David V., Crechele W., Amelia W., Lucas W., Wren W., Storm W.

Mrs. Avery: Jonathan G., Hayden M., Rylan M., Esther P.

Mrs. Dean: Robert H., Liam L., Genesis M., Mia M., Edelyn O., Aaria R., Nova S., Wyatt T.

Mrs. Harley: Chase G., Meritt O., Campbell S., Carmen T., Brandon V.

Ms. Motz: Brantley B., Alexander C., Jayden G., Bella K., Evelyn V.

Mrs. Fredericks: Genesis B., Ellie C., Nicolette C., Atlas D., Alexandra F., Queniyah J., Bristol R., Paul S.

Mrs. Pereira: Harrison G., Amelia G., Emily H., Camden H., Eva L., Junior M., Ella O., Anthony R., Evelyn R., Tyler R., Tessa T.

Mrs. Price: Myles A., Eryn B., Edward F., Madeline G., Sarita J., Journey T.

Mrs. Simmons: Dany A., Giselle A., Colby H., Melissa R., Punnasiri S., Lleyton S., Dean T., Sofia W., Savanna Y.

Mrs. Knowlton: Valerie A., Elijah A., Sophia C., Neymar C., Christopher G., Zori L., Brayden Q., Wyatt S., Ella W.

Mrs. McDonald: Jason A., Logan B., Leah B., Mateo C., Alexis F., Mariana G., Hope G., Brian O., Ashley R., Arianna R., Lillie S., Imara S., Dominic V.

Mrs. Frederick: Kayla A., Axel C., Augie C., Nathan C., Brooklyn C., Brayden D., Levi E., Antonio F., Caleb F., Brantley M., Taylor T., Alex Y.

Ms. Garrison: Jason B., Brayden D., Josafat D., Charlotte D., Nathaly F., Roman H., Malaya O., Melissa Q., Matthew R., Joshua R., Jordynn S., Wesson S., Grayson S.

Mrs. Reddish: Wade B., De'Anthony B., Nola D., Adrianna M., Michael O., Donovan P., Brandon P., Charlie S., Keaiden T., London Z.

Mr. Williams: Leslie A., Sadie C., Matias M., Jake N., Jose R., Paola R., Bentley S.

# CHROMEBOOK GIVEAWAY EVENT

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Lothian Elementary School

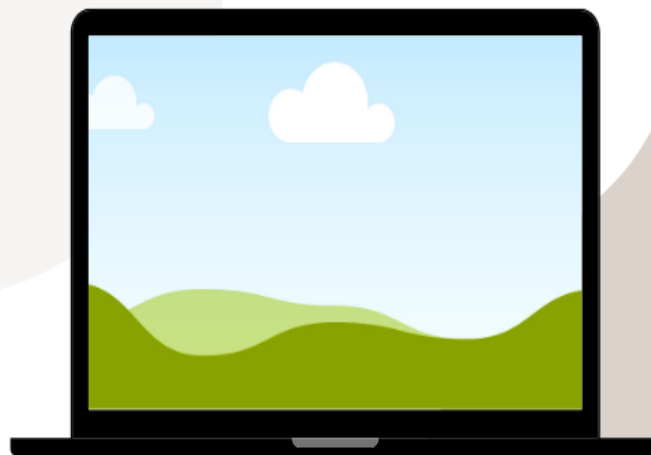
Wednesday May 15

4-7pm

\*Eligible residents include households who meet one of the following criteria:

- Income at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guidelines
- Enrolled in the Federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)
- Participate in government assistance programs such as: free or reduced-price school lunch, Federal Public Housing Assistance (FPHA), Medicaid, Pell Grant, SNAP, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Veterans Pension and Survivors Benefit or WIC

PLEASE NOTE: PROOF OF ELIGIBILITY AND RESIDENCY ARE REQUIRED.



## 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](http://www.amazon.com)) or a recipe you tried ([www.allrecipes.com](http://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.