

Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

August 2009

Volume 3, Issue 1

Back to school edition



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 8/20 – Kindergarten Playdate 9:00 AM
- ◆ 8/26 – New student visit/tour at 9:00 AM
- ◆ 8/31 – Teacher work day – no student allowed in building
- ◆ 9/1 – First Day of School (K Screenings)
- ◆ 9/1 – Boo Hoo Breakfast 8:15 in Café
- ◆ 9/2 – K Screenings
- ◆ 9/3 – ½ day for K
- ◆ 9/3 – Boo Hoo Breakfast for Kindergarten parents
- ◆ 9/4 - No School
- ◆ 9/7 – Labor Day – No School
- ◆ 9/8 – 1st Full Day for Kindergarten
- ◆ 9/10 – Open House
- ◆ 9/11 – School Store
- ◆ 9/13 – Victorian Fair
- ◆ 9/15 – PTO Meeting 7PM
- ◆ 9/18 – School Pictures

Principal's News

One of our favorite local poets Henry Wadsworth Longfellow once wrote, "Then followed that beautiful season, Summer... Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood."

While the weather may not have provided us with the best of times this summer, I do hope you have enjoyed your summer. At Lincoln, summer is a time to prepare and organize for the upcoming school year and I can assure you all, it has been a very productive few weeks.

As you prepare at home for the start of school I would like to share some news with you and some changes. One change will affect snacks at school. For the 2009-2010 school-year, **all classroom snacks must be nut free.** Food containing nuts may still be brought in for lunch. We have also taken a closer look at the district's Wellness Policy. Therefore we are eliminating the distribution of food for birthdays. More information with greater details and options will come home on the first day of school.

Several students have begun riding bikes to school. Although I do believe this is an environmentally friendly option, I do have some concerns regarding the safety of these students. If your child plans on riding a bike to school, it is okay, however I will require you to complete a "Bike Permission" form that I can provide for you.

Many parents will also be looking for "back to school" deals for school supplies. All of our Supply Lists for each grade are located on our website for your convenience.

In past years, the first day of school also resulted in your child coming home with a stack of forms and papers that needed to be completed, signed and returned. We are attempting to streamline that process. In this mailing each child should have a "master database" form. **Please be sure to review this form, make any changes to it and return it on the first day of school.** It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact phone numbers and information. There are detailed directions on the reverse side in regards to Connect-Ed phone calls and media restrictions.

Brent Conway, Principal

Of course we cannot completely eliminate all forms and information from the first day. Each year your child receives a Parent/Student Handbook. This handbook outlines all of the rules, procedures and policies that are in place for the Melrose Elementary Schools. Each student and parent **MUST** sign and return the final page in the book that acknowledges you have received, read, and discussed the handbook.

This printed newsletter, which is sent home each month to keep families updated, will be the last printed version. All future Principal's Newsletters will be sent through email attachment. I encourage all families to sign-up for Principal's Email Updates. You can do this by following the directions on the front page of the school website. If you registered last year and received this newsletter through email, there is no need to register again. This will save us 2 cases of paper.

If you do not have regular access to the internet or email and would like to continue to receive a paper version you will need to send in a note making that request and we will make sure to accommodate you.

Please mark your calendars for September 10th when parents are invited to Lincoln for our Back to School Open House. A detailed schedule will be sent home during the first week of school.

I would like to remind our parents of our drop off procedures. No parents are allowed to drive into either parking lot during drop off or pick-up, unless accessing the handicap parking spaces. Students and parents should use the crosswalk with the Crossing Guard on W. Wyoming and parents using the drop-off loop are not allowed to remain in the loop preventing others from accessing the loop. Parents are allowed to park on the opposite side of W. Wyoming and on Pleasant St. Please follow the parking signs on Crescent and Everett Streets if you drop off in the back of the building. These procedures are for the safety of our students and for the respect of our neighbors, both important lessons to demonstrate for our children.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and we'll see you all on September 1st.

Welcome to our new staff members

- **Ms. Jacqui Connolly – 5th Grade teacher:** Ms. Connolly has been a teacher at the Winthrop School in Melrose for the past two years and will be joining our 5th Grade team this year.
- **Ms. Tanisha Washington – METCO Aide:** Ms. Washington will be our new METCO Aide after serving in the same role at the Winthrop School for several years.
- **Ms. Bonnie Wilkes – Paraprofessional:** Ms. Wilkes comes to Lincoln with several years of experience as a Paraprofessional at the Middle School in Melrose.
- **Ms. Ellen Coughlan – LMS:** Ms. Coughlan will be traveling to all 5 Elementary School as the Library Media Specialists. She will teach classes to our 3rd and 1st Graders. Ms. Coughlan was an LMS in Quincy the past two years.



After School Programming – Education Stations

The Melrose Public Schools will be offering our own after school programming next year with each of the 5 Elementary Schools having their own site-based program. This is an exciting opportunity for our students and families. The program offers flexibility to fit the needs of your family, while providing students with true enrichment opportunities, not just after school care.

Registrations are currently being accepted. You can find out more information by logging onto the Melrose Public Schools Homepage at www.melroseschools.com

Nurses' Notes

*Citizenship * Acceptance
Respect * Effort * Safety*

- Please remember to call the Save-a-child phone line to report an absence for any reason. Leave detailed information such as fever, vomiting or Dr.'s appointment. Due to federal and state guidelines, we must monitor students with flu like symptoms.
- Students should NOT return to school until a fever, vomiting or diarrhea has subsided for 24 hours. Furthermore, until the national and state protocols change, students with flu like illness will be required to stay home for 7 days from the onset of fever.
- If students have started an antibiotic for infection, they must have taken the medication for at least 24 hours before returning to school.
- If your child borrows clothes from school, please return them washed in a timely manner. We often run out. We are also in need of gently used sweat pants sizes 6-12.
- Please remind your children of the importance of playground safety, especially using the slide one student at a time, and only going in one direction down the slide.
- Thank you for your help, and have a safe and healthy new school year.

Open House is Tuesday, September 10, 2009. A detailed schedule will be coming home on the first day of school.