

Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

August 2010
Volume 4, Issue 1
Back to school edition



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ 8/23 – Kindergarten Playdate 10:00 AM
- ◆ 8/24 – New student visit/tour at 8:30 AM
- ◆ 8/26 – Lincoln Staff Curric. & Inst. Retreat
- ◆ 8/30 – Teacher work day – no students allowed in building
- ◆ 8/31 – First Day of School for Gr. 1-5 (K Screenings by appt.)
- ◆ 9/1 – K Screenings day 2 by appt.
- ◆ 9/2 – Boo-Hoo Breakfast – all parents
- ◆ 9/2 - ½ day for K
- ◆ 9/3 - No School
- ◆ 9/6 – Labor Day – No School
- ◆ 9/7 – 1st Full Day for K
- ◆ 9/9 – Rosh Hashanah
- ◆ 9/10 – School Pictures
- ◆ 9/11 – School Store
- ◆ 9/12 – Victorian Fair
- ◆ 9/14 – State Primary Election
- ◆ 9/16 – Open House
- ◆ 9/17 – School Store

Principal's News

Brent Conway, Principal

Welcome back for another year. Hopefully this newsletter edition will fill in our families on various events and news related to the first few weeks of school. A September issue will also come out after school opens.

I want to remind our families of a policy that went into effect last year. **All classroom snacks must be nut free.** Food containing nuts may still be brought in for lunch. Additionally, the district's Wellness Policy clearly calls for the elimination of the distribution of food for birthdays. If you would like to share your child's birthday celebration with his/her classmates, please consider a non-food item.

Last year's 5th Grade class granted Lincoln School with a needed bike rack as a class gift. Students who will ride their bikes to school will need to obtain a "bike license" from my office. If your child plans to ride a bike to school, please have them see me so we can be sure particular safety guidelines are known and followed.

We have made several alterations to the amount of paper that comes home in the first week that needs to be signed and returned. We are attempting to streamline that process even further. All families will need to update our data base and it can now be done through an online portal posted on the district website. Please go to www.melroseschools.com and follow the links for Student Contact Information. It is extremely important that we maintain accurate contact phone numbers and information so we can quickly contact parents and guardians in the case of an emergency.

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.** Our school site council has developed a quick highlight sheet for students. I will review this sheet with each class during the first two weeks of school; however, it does not replace the need for your family to know all of the information included in the handbook.

One major change is the development of the Elementary School Behavior Rubric. This is, in part, a response to the new state bullying legislation but it had been a longstanding goal of the Elementary principals. It should provide more consistency among schools and provide our teachers, students and parents with a clear description of what actions will be taken for various behaviors. It does not solely address bullying, but rather all potential behavioral concerns. Please see page 2 for more information.

All families are also provided a Free and Reduced Lunch Application and important Health forms for our nurse.

Principal's Newsletters will be sent through email attachment. I encourage all families to sign-up for Principal's Email Updates which include these newsletters and other occasional tidbits. 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.

If you do not have regular access to email please notify the office and we will make accommodations.

Please mark your calendars for September 16th 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 access. 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.

We are looking forward to next week and can't wait to see all the kids.

Welcome to our new staff members

- **Ms. Ashley Ventrice - Paraprofessional:** Ms. Ventrice has been working at the Roosevelt Elementary School. Ms. Ventrice will be working in the 4th Grade at Lincoln.
- **Ms. Edwina Maughn – Paraprofessional:** Ms. Maughn has been a paraprofessional at Hoover for the past 2 years. She has a teaching degree from Elon University in North Carolina.
- **Ms. Kathy Zinck – Kindergarten Aide:** Ms. Zinck worked in Mrs. Breda’s classroom most of last year as a substitute aide and she has now been hired as a permanent aide. Ms. Zinck has a bachelor’s degree from Mass Art and several years of experience working with children.
- **Ms. Rose Sullivan – Secretary:** Ms. Sullivan has been a school secretary with the Lexington Public Schools, at Belmont High and with the Waltham Public Schools. Her energetic personality will be a great fit for Lincoln.
- **We will also be welcoming a new METCO Aide and Title I Intervention Tutor.**



*Citizenship * Acceptance
Respect * Effort * Safety*

Behavior Rubric and Consequence System

One of the more significant changes over the summer will take effect immediately upon the start of school. All five elementary principals collaborated to develop a behavior and consequence rubric system. The work was guided by previous rubrics developed by schools working the MAAV (Melrose Alliance Against Violence). The rubric addresses just about every possible behavior from minor infractions to severe and dangerous behavior.

We expect that the rubric will create a system of consistent consequences as it will guide teacher and principal actions in each school. It will also help parents and students understand the expectations when a specific infraction occurs. Although we are implementing this rubric in the fall, we will need to gather input from teachers and parents which may lead to alterations in the future.

This has been a longstanding goal of the principals and it will also help us with the implementation of the new state bullying legislation. In the coming weeks I will be notifying all parents of important developments in relation to the legislation and how we will need your cooperation as we expand our partnership with MAAV to provide further teacher training, student programs and also parents presentations.

Please be sure to review the rubric with your child. It is included in the parent/student handbook, I have also included it as an email attachment with this newsletter, it is posted on our website, and I will review a paper copy with students at the start of school.

Nurses' Notes

- It is important to annually complete the Health Form that is sent home on the first day. The form helps the nurse to know which medications a child takes regularly or may need administered at school.
- Please remember to call the Save-a-Child phone line to report an absence for any reason prior to 8:00am. Leave detailed information such as fever, vomiting (etc.) 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.
- 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.
- 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. Flip Flops are no longer allowed at school either as a safety precaution
- Use proper hand washing and cough etiquette to prevent the spread of germs
- Thank you for your help, and have a safe and healthy new school year.

Open House is Thursday, September 16th. A detailed schedule will come home on the first day of school.