

Lincoln Elementary School Newsletter

January 2016
Issue 5

18048 Lincoln Road
Purcellville, VA 20132
Mr. Dave Michener, Principal
540-751-2430
540-751-2431 (Absentee Line)
<http://www.lcps.org/lincoln>



Principal's Corner

Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone for all of your support throughout the first months of school. I hope that each family had a great holiday break and enjoyed the time with each other and with friends!

We have some upcoming special events! This Wednesday, January 6, we will have a Wildlife Ambassadors program at 9:00 a.m. for all students. On Tuesday, January 12, we will have a Reading Under the Stars event starting at 6:30 p.m. On Friday, February 5, we will enjoy a PTO Spaghetti Dinner and Book Bingo event! All families are invited to attend this event and we will have books and other great prizes!

During the holidays, I read the book Francine Poulet Meets the Ghost Raccoon by Kate DiCamillo. Students in all grade levels will enjoy this book about an animal control officer and her adventures.

We are looking forward to the upcoming months of school and thank you for your help. Please call me at (540) 751-2430 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Dave Michener
Principal

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1/6
- ◆ 1/12
- ◆ 1/18
- ◆ 1/20
- ◆ 1/22
- ◆ 1/25
- ◆ 1/28
- ◆ 1/29
- ◆ 2/5

Wildlife Ambassadors Program
9:00 a.m. Grades K-5
Reading Under the Stars 6:30 p.m.
Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday
PTO Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Spirit Day Wacky Hair Day
Canned Food Drive Starts
Lock Down Drill 10:00 a.m.
Grading Period Ends
Teacher Work Day No School
PTO Spaghetti Dinner and Bingo
6:00 p.m.

January 2016 PTO Soundbite

Happy New Year Lincoln Families!

Here are a couple of things to look forward to in the new year!

SAVE THE DATE!

(a lot more details will be announced soon)

- Reading Under the Stars: January 12 at 6:30pm
- "Souper Bowl" at Lincoln. Charitable canned food drive to benefit Tree of Life runs from January 25 - February 5th
- Read-A-Thon will begin on Groundhog Day, February 2nd and run through March 4th
- Lincoln Family Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo Night: February 5th at 6pm
- January's PTO meeting: January 20th at 6:30pm
- January's Teacher Appreciation Lunch: Week of January 18th
- January's Dough Raising Night: Thursday night January 21st
- Our Annual Science Fair: March 9th during the school day and evening

Sincerely,
Liz Little
PTO Secretary
lizlittle73@gmail.com

P.E. Coach Harris

December is over and Lincoln students have been extremely active in PE. Students were given the opportunity to perform ball skills, manipulative skills and teamwork skills. Activities included bowling, Hockey and low organizational games. Please make sure students are dressed properly for P.E.

Library Mrs. Dillon

Happy New Year!

Thanks so much to the volunteers who helped with our book fair! It was a great success that couldn't have been done without you. This month the older grades will be creating research projects and experiencing the many varieties of folktales, and younger grades will be reading the Virginia Readers' Choice nominees. Classes will vote for their favorites in the spring. See <https://www.vsra.org/virginia-readers-choice/> for more information.

I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December
A magical thing
And sweet to remember.
"We are nearer to Spring
than we were in September,"
I heard a bird sing
In the dark of December.

- Oliver Herford

Music
Mrs. Stetz

December was a joyful month in music! The 4th and 5th grade chorus put on a beautiful winter performance. The first graders learned about melodic direction and continued working with quarter note and beamed eighth note rhythms. The 2nd graders practice rhythms that included the half note and also listened to and discussed music from Tchaikovsky’s ballet *The Nutcracker*. Third grade students learned the treble clef note names and created harmony by singing partner songs. In 4th grade, the students reviewed orchestral instruments and their families and learned new note values. The 5th graders reviewed treble clef note names and learned the bass clef note names. In January, the 1st graders will be introduced to the families and instruments of the orchestra. In 2nd grade, we will be focusing on solfege (do re mi so). The 3rd graders will be introduced to sixteenth note rhythms while the 4th graders and 5th graders continue rhythm reading practice and prepare for the recorder unit by reviewing note names.

January Birthdays

1	Christopher Fink			
6	Campbell Hewatt		18	Aliina Adams
6	Tripton Kestler		22	Julia Hoke
9	Henry Grisius		22	Mrs. Reed
12	Maddy Burns		23	Lily Kuhni
14	Evelyn Latham		25	Peyton Burns
			28	Ms. Penny
			29	Emma Tayloe

Guidance - Mrs. Walton

From the Counselor’s Corner

“No one cares how much you know, until they know how much you care.”
– Theodore Roosevelt

Our character word of the month for December has been Empathy. Here are some things that were shared with the students during class and guidance lessons to help them understand what it means to be an empathetic citizen.

Empathy means...

- The ability to understand and to be understanding of another person's feelings and situations.
- Respecting how someone feels.
- The ability to put ourselves in someone else's shoes.

What empathy looks like:

- Sitting next to someone who has no one near them.
- Including someone on the playground who has no one to play with.
- Listening to someone.
- Showing concern and care for others.
- Asking someone how they are feeling if you think there is something wrong.
- Paying attention to the needs of others.

Thank you to these students who were selected Student of the Month for December for showing an empathetic spirit.

Kindergarten – Theodore Anderson and Peyton Burns

1st Grade – Brooke Mitchell and Sofia Ocasio

2nd Grade – Emme Hallett and Joanna Ring

3rd Grade – Meredith Kula and Jimmy Campbell

4th Grade – Hannah Maison and Manny Henriquez

5th Grade – Chloe Dybwad and Jack Tayloe

Looking ahead to January, our character word will be respect.

**Search
Mrs. Bussey**

EFFECTIVE QUESTIONS

Why are some questions more effective than others? Maybe it's the way we ask! We all know those questions that get no real answers from our children: "How was school today? (okay) What did you do? (nothing)" So what are some techniques for getting a conversation going with your child?

In a recent article on the ThinkFun site, "Fat vs. Skinny Questions: Are You Asking the Right Ones?", the author points out that skinny questions require only a one-word answer (usually yes or no). Fat questions, on the other hand, require thought before answering. Too often we want our children to know facts, and so we ask skinny questions:

"What is 12 times 12?"

“Who was the first President of the United States?”

Certainly children must know their facts, but it is more important to lead them toward thinking in depth about those facts and helping them develop critical thinking skills. Asking the right kind of questions can help.

Once a child knows the facts about the first president, for instance, ask more in depth questions—fat questions:

“What would have happened if George Washington had declined to be president?”

“Why do you think George Washington wouldn’t accept a third term as president?”

“What have you read that makes you think that?”

Even in the primary grades, it’s important to help children realize that knowledge doesn’t consist of just learning facts, but in understanding what came before, what causes and effects were involved, and why those events were important. Even the young child can understand, for instance, that nobody on the playground gets to be the boss forever. George Washington, likewise, thought it was time for him to retire after two terms. You might then discuss with your child how he/she might use what he/she learned about George Washington when making his/her own decisions. As you talk with your child, try following some of the hints in the article:

This week, give yourself a weigh-in and notice the kinds of questions you ask your students. Are you presenting a healthy balance of “skinny” and “fat” questions, or could your inquiries use some more depth? Try fattening up “skinny” questions by adding words like “describe” or “explain why.”

As a reminder, print a list of prompts to keep by your desk. Better yet, post these on the wall and encourage students to use them in their own conversations!

Try These:

- *“Do you agree with...”*
- *“What would happen if...”*
- *“What do you mean by...”*
- *“How did...”*
- *“What caused...”*
- *“Why did...”*
- *“How would you feel if...”*
- *“Explain what you’re thinking...”*
- *“What do you notice about...”*

These questioning techniques can be as helpful at home as they are in school. Try one, and see if you can get a good conversation going with your child!

<http://www.thinkfun.com/smartplayblog/?p=981>

MSACC Seeks Delegates

The Loudoun County School Board is seeking one parent delegate from each school for the Minority Student Achievement Advisory Committee (MSAAC). The next meeting is scheduled for January 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the LCPS administration building. For information about how to become a delegate from your school, call the office of the Assistant Superintendent for Instruction at 571- 252-1300 or the Office of Instructional Services at 571-252-1060.