

TEAMING UP FOR
AN ALL STAR
YEAR



LMES

Volume 6, Issue 3



November 2013

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Dear Parents and Laurel Meadow Staff,

I was so happy to see many of you at our Math night this year! Fun was had by all who attended! Also, it was great to see the many grandparents who came out for our first ever Granola with Grandparents.

It's hard to believe that it is almost November! This time of the year is always so busy, filled with football games, apple picking, and gearing up for the Holiday season. Thanksgiving is such a special time for our family to spend time together and remember how thankful we are for what we have- especially our children. We also get to do some "traditional" shopping on the day after Thanksgiving! Yes, I know it's crazy, but my father-in-law and I barely sleep and scope out the best deals, even if it means we have to wait in long lines. It's the thrill of the chase!

Once again, I would like to thank everyone who has made a donation to support the LMES **PTA**. We are still short of our fundraising goal, so we will be accepting donations throughout the year. Any amount helps! We have already been able to provide some much needed materials for our teachers this year. Also, if you have not yet joined the **PTA**, you may do so at any time. I would also like to say a big "Thank You" to Home Makers furniture for their generous donation and continued support of the LMES **PTA**.

We are in the planning stages for many events this year. Please mark your calendars for Saturday December 14th for our annual Snowflake Breakfast. Information and ticket order forms will be coming home soon. I hope you will consider volunteering for the event and attending with your families. We will also have a silent gift basket auction if you are looking for that perfect gift for someone.

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or ideas at bsnmatthews@aol.com.

Support LMES at
Riverbound
CAFÉ 
Spirit Day
Tuesday, November 19th
All Day - 7 am to 9 pm

Sincerely,
Sara Matthews
PTA President

Planning for Parent-Teacher Conferences:

November 5th is dedicated for Parent-Teacher Conferences. To ensure that your meeting is successful, I have a few tips to share with parents. First, be sure to prepare for the conference in advance. Once you have a confirmed time to meet with the teacher or teachers, be sure to do your homework prior to the meeting. You can prepare for the meeting by: reviewing your child's work and interim reports, discussing school progress with your child and by making a list of questions to ask during the conference. On the day of the conference:

- be on time because your time will be limited due to a tight schedule,
- bring your questions and a notepad for notes,
- be prepared to share your ideas, and
- be prepared to listen to the teacher's ideas.

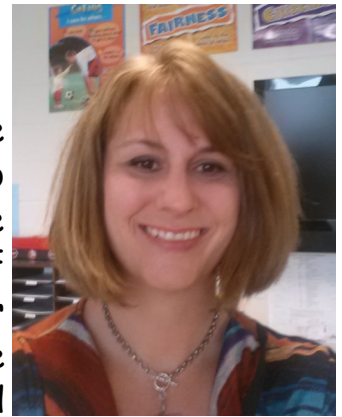


If your child is having difficulty in a particular academic area, develop a plan of action with the teacher to support your child. Be sure to schedule a follow-up time to discuss the success of the plan in the near future. Finally, be sure to talk to your child about the conference. Always mention positive portions of the conference and discuss in detail any plans to assist with any academic or behavioral concerns. Your child is the critical participant in the success of any improvement plan. When we work as a team (child, parent and teacher), then the year will be successful. Remember we are all working toward the same goal—student growth and academic achievement.

SOL Grant/Tutor:

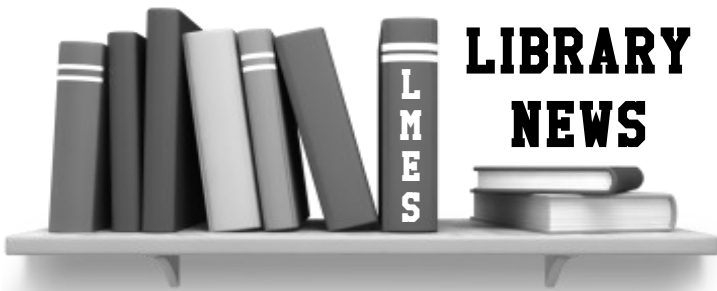
Laurel Meadow receives an SOL Grant annually. We have utilized the school funds to provide additional instructional support in the areas of reading and math by hiring Mrs. Loretta Gordon. Mrs. Gordon is a retired Hanover County Teacher and has a wealth of experience implementing instructional strategies that support student learning. She works at Laurel Meadow three days a week.

Meet Sonja McGinnis Grade 5 Teacher



LMES feels like home already! I am so glad to be here and have enjoyed meeting all of the students and their families. I am a native Hanoverian and graduated from Lee Davis High School. My husband and I have three sons, two are students at LMES. Torin is in Kindergarten and Logan is in 3rd Grade. They are very happy to be here too.

For the past eleven years, I taught at Mechanicsville Elementary School. My favorite subject is math, which I get to teach to two classes this year. I remember being in fifth grade and feeling excited about switching classes. So I understand the excitement of my students. One of my goals this year is to prepare my students for the transition to middle school. I anticipate a fantastic first year at LMES as I get to watch the students learn and mature as they prepare for the challenges of the future.



LIBRARY NEWS

Mystery Readers Wanted:

The library is looking for Mystery Readers once a month to read to your child's class during their library time. You are welcome to bring your own favorite books. I will also have some picked as well. SHH...it's a secret, so if you sign up keep it a surprise. Here are the upcoming dates available:

- 📖 November 18th - 22nd (Book Fair Week)
- 📖 December 16th - 20th
- 📖 January 13th - 17th
- 📖 February 10th - 14th
- 📖 March 17th - 21st
- 📖 April 28th - May 2nd (Book Fair Week)
- 📖 May 19th - 23rd

Please e-mail Mrs. Kaloski at mkaloski@hcps.us to sign up for a day.

Book Fair:

Where: LMES Library
When: November 18th-22nd
Family Night: November 19th
2:30pm-6:30pm



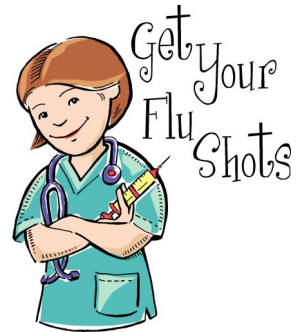
STEM and Literacy in the Library:

Second grade students take on a STEM challenge by building free standing book displays using Keva Planks.

Remember to Get Your Flu Vaccine

Jennifer Gorman, RN; PTA Health & Safety Committee Chair
According to the CDC, the best way to keep our children healthy starts with getting the flu vaccine every year for parents, teachers and children. Flu shots are not recommended for children under 6 months old. Did you know the most common reason for children under 5 to be treated is the flu? Last year, flu season resulted in 150 pediatric deaths and 90 percent of the children were not vaccinated according to the CDC. Children with nervous and brain disorders, diabetes, asthma, lung disease, blood disorders, weakened immune system and chronic health problems are even at higher risk for the flu. Even if your child isn't at high risk, he or she is in contact with other children at school (CDC, 2013).

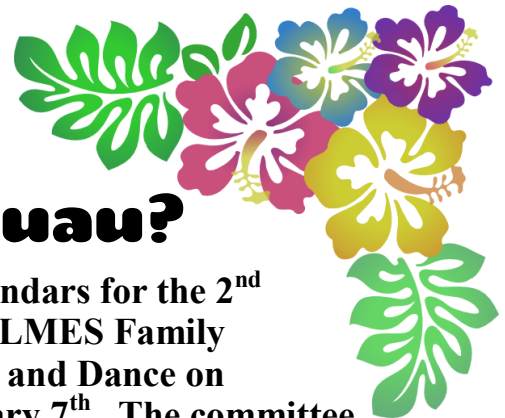
Who should not get vaccinated? Any person with severe egg allergies, who have had any severe allergic reactions in the past to a flu vaccine, and those less than 6 months should not get vaccinated. There is, however, now a new RIV3 flu vaccine that is approved for people over the age of 18 years old with any allergies to egg. You have a choice between a flu shot and nasal spray. There is a vaccine from 6 months to 3 years and vaccination for those over 3 years old. The nasal spray is a "live" virus and is recommended only for healthy, non-pregnant people from 2- 49 years old. Any child 6 months to 8 years getting a flu vaccine for the first time will require 2 vaccines less than 28 days apart (CDC, 2013).



This is the recommended time to get vaccinated in October and November. According to the CDC, the vaccination is good for an entire year. However, it needs two weeks in the system to be effective. For further information, please visit the CDC website and your child's pediatrician.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/children.htm>

are you ready for a luau?



Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual LMES Family Dinner and Dance on February 7th. The committee is looking for volunteers to help with planning and set-up. Contact Leigh Rooke with questions or to volunteer at leighdavisrooke@comcast.net.

The LMES PTA has a website!

Check us out at:
LMESPTA.wordpress.com



NOVEMBER 2013

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
COMING IN DECEMBER:	3 rd - McDonalds Spirit Night	19 th - 3 rd -5 th Winter Parties	20 th - K-2 nd Winter Parties	Dec 23 rd -Jan 3 rd - Winter Break	1	2
	4 th - Walk to School Wednesday				Early Release	
	14 th - Snowflake Breakfast					
3	4	5 No School Parent/Teacher Conferences	6 Walk to School 	7 Carpenter's Coffee & Chat (2 nd) 7:45-8:45am 	8  Report Cards	9
10 	11	12	13	14  PTA Veteran's Day Program	15	16
17	18 ←	19  Spirit Day	20 	21 →	22	23
24	25	26	27 No School	28 Thanksgiving Day	29 No School	30



Make plans to join us at the 6th Annual Snowflake Breakfast December 14th

The LMES annual snowflake breakfast is just around the corner. This year, the event will be on Saturday December the 14th, so circle your calendar and plan to join in the fun.

This year, we welcome The Dance Company and Sweetly Smitten as major sponsors of the breakfast. Along with sponsoring the event, the Dance Company will also be part of the entertainment.

This event is one of our main sources of funds to help provide tools to our teachers. It is made possible through generous donations of food items, cash donations and the time given of volunteers just like YOU! We need parents to help with set-up, cooking, tear down, organization and many other areas. If you can give a few hours on Friday the 13th or Saturday the 14th of December, please contact Dave Ercolano at dercolano7863@comcast.net to help make this our biggest breakfast ever.



The courtyard fence needs a face lift!

The weather has not been kind to the fence; therefore repair is needed for the fence. We are in need of parent volunteers who can sand down and remove peeling paint from the courtyard fence posts. Once sanded, the students will be able to repaint the posts. If possible we need parents who have a sander or sand blocks (and safety goggles and gloves) and are willing to come in on a scheduled Saturday or weekday to sand the fence posts. Any parent volunteers who are interested should contact Ms. Hairston for more information at 723-2040 or jhairston@hcps.us.

