



DOLPHIN DISPATCH



LAKE GARDA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER ♦ VOLUME 18 ♦ ISSUE 10 ♦ JUNE 2017

It is hard to believe that we are coming to the end of another school year. As I look back and reflect on the past year, it was another successful year. A success that we could not have achieved without the support and dedication of our many members and volunteers. Here are some highlights of the PTA's contributions this year.

- Provided part of the funding that brought The Hartford Stage to the fourth-grade classes for a week-long residency to help them strengthen comprehension skills and excitement about a piece of literature
- Purchased new book bins and books to build on classroom libraries
- Purchased a Green Screen that has been used by our enrichment teacher to provide a new type of learning experience through the creation of videos
- Provided Enrichment Programs which included author visits from Suzy Kline and new author Jenna Grodzicki as well as productions from Karim Nagi, Sirius Coyote and the Tanglewood Marionettes
- Provided Enrichment programs for the Preschool from the Children's Museum and the CT Science Center
- Supplied the books used as prizes during the "Book Walk" at Reading Night as well as the cost of Tommy James, the magician, and the snacks

This is just a small sample of the items that the PTA contributed to our school this year. Contributions that were made possible because of your participation in our fall fundraiser, our fall and spring book fairs, our ice skating day, the night out on the town and the Harlem Wizards. Thank you to all of you who participated and helped make these things possible.

Thank you to everyone who became a member of the PTA. While a portion of our dues does go to the CT PTA who provides us training and support, there is a portion that also helps support our budget. Even if you are unable to volunteer your time, please consider becoming a member and making a financial contribution to our school.

We would also like to extend a HUGE thank you to everyone who volunteered their time this year. We know how precious time is and that there never seems to be enough of it. We would not be able to have fun community events like Family Fun Night or pull off the fundraisers without everyone who gave some of their time.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize all our volunteers who will be Moving Up to Har-Bur next year. Thank you for the many years that you have dedicated. Thank you for always being there when we needed you. You will be missed and can never be replaced!!!!

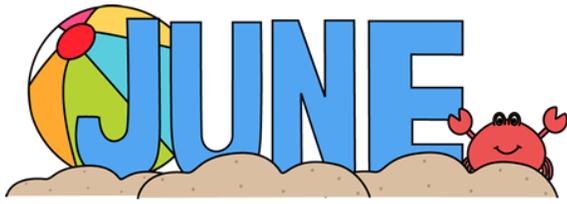
We hope that those of you who are returning next year will continue to volunteer as well as encourage those who are not yet members to join us. There will be some changes to the board next year. After, three years as Co-President of the PTA, I will not be continuing next year. Please take a look at the descriptions of the positions that are open for next year later in the newsletter and let us know if you would be interested in helping or refer a friend that you know would be great. It has been a pleasure working with each and every one of you this year and we look forward to working with you again next year. Have a safe and fun filled summer!



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**Sign up for the Lake Garda
PTA today!**



Important Dates in June

6/6 – Spring Band Concert

6/9 – Field Day

6/12 – Field Day, Rain Date

6/12 – BOE Meeting, 7 pm

6/14 – Flag Day Ceremony, 9:30

6/16 – Flag Day, Rain Date

6/19 – 4th Grade Moving Up Ceremony

6/20 – Last Day of School

EVENT

Flag Day Ceremony

Wednesday, June 14th 9:30 am

Family and members of the public are encouraged to join us for this annual celebration.



Principal's Message

Dear Lake Garda Families,

As I write this, there are only 21 days of school left. By the time you read it, there will be far less. While we all look forward to summer for the beautiful weather, it's also a little bit sad when you work in an elementary school. To me, LGS feels lonely over the summer with no kids! We get a lot of work done but we start a countdown to the first day of school shortly after the July 4th holiday.

Thank you all for your support this year. It was fantastic seeing so many of you at LGS activities, conferences, while volunteering, etc. I look forward to more opportunities next year! For those of you with fourth graders, please come back to visit...and bring them with you! We miss our students who move up to HarBur and love seeing them and hearing how they are doing.

Many of you know that I am getting married this summer! After July 1, you will start seeing my name as Stefanie Anderson. Just wanted you all to know that it's still me...I'm not going anywhere!

Kind Regards,

Stefanie Carbone



News From Around the School

Pre-K News

We enjoyed learning nursery rhymes in April. The students in both the AM and PM classes have enjoyed acting out our nursery rhymes. The PM class has also enjoyed changing the nursery rhymes and making their own during play. We have begun learning about dinosaurs. We are studying carnivores and herbivores. We are looking forward to learning about animals and plants in different environments. Finally, we will be learning about camping with our morning class. Our afternoon class will be preparing for our big graduation. We are looking forward to many happy transitions in the ELC, but mostly to moving forward to summer and the next year!

Kindergarten News

We are excited to be nearing the end of kindergarten. We're learning about becoming avid readers during reading workshop time. We will carry our love of reading with us throughout the summer and for the rest of our lives. There are so many things to read everywhere we go!

In math, we've been learning about building and drawing 2D and 3D shapes. We've been learning about shape names like spheres and pyramids. We've also begun solving some word problems about cats and dogs.

In science we are exploring nature and life cycles. We have talked about life cycles of frogs, ladybugs and other creatures. In our classrooms, we are observing the growth and development of ladybugs and seeds.

There are great things planned for the end of the school year: fun themed days and maybe doing activities with other classes. We have all had a great year. The kindergarten team would like to thank all of the parents and families for all of your support during this school year.

First Grade News

It is hard to believe the school year is coming to an end!

First graders are finishing up our unit called *Meeting Characters and Learning Lessons* during Reading Workshop! We have focused on learning more about characters and story elements.

Students have also been very busy writing 'All About Me' stories during writing time. First graders have worked hard this year on different writing genres including expository, informational and opinion pieces.

During math, we continue to work with problem solving, place value, measurement and addition and subtraction to 20.

The first-grade team is extremely proud of our first graders! We've had a great year!

Second Grade News

Grade 2 students at LGS are busy digging in and learning about soil. Lessons focus on concepts such as: Soil contains particles of different sizes. Soil may contain animals, plants, and their remains. Over time, dead plants become part of soil. With the guidance of BFG, each class made a compost that is being housed in the garden beds in front our school. In five weeks, we will open them to reveal all the hard work the red worms have been doing to make the soil richer.

Second graders are eagerly anticipating our field trip to learn about the history of Burlington. Every child has a Burlington passport to explore Burlington with their family and capture photographs as well as write facts learned from historical sites. A big thank you to Mrs. Furer who is our new liaison to learn about our town.

In May, we visited Indian Rock to explore nature in its natural habitat and gain an appreciation and understanding of the importance of preserving it. Everyone enjoyed looking under the microscopes at the water samples collected that were filled with a variety of insects. Using nets to scoop up underwater lake life and identify various insects was a highlight of the trip.

This school year sure has flown by. We are eagerly anticipating our last month of school by having theme days such as sports day, bubble day, talent show, and more! Be on the lookout for a list of these days coming home.

Third Grade News

What a year this has been in third grade! We have been reading through mysteries, character studies and non-fiction units and now we are learning about animals. We are focusing on main idea, taking notes, and locating important information.

During our writing unit, we will take what we have learned in reading and create an animal report. During this math unit we are learning about shapes and continuing with our multiplication and division facts.

In May, we went on a field trip to Dinosaur State Park to learn about rocks and minerals. We have also been traveling back in time to study the early colonization of Connecticut. It has been such a pleasure to teach your children this year. We wish them a safe and fun summer. Remember to read and practice math facts!

Fourth Grade News

Amidst all of our year-end activities, routine curriculum and instruction continues! *Reading Workshop* highlights Westward Expansion as the concept through which we revisit and refine the skills and comprehension techniques necessary to non-fiction/informational reading and research. We'll use this opportunity to combine our reading research efforts with the *Being a Writer* unit on informational writing. Your children have begun reading and note-taking efforts centering on such topics as the Oregon Trail, Trans-Continental Railroad, the Gold Rush, and the Pony Express.

Multiplication, division, data, and fractions form the basis of our Unit 6, *Bridges* work. As usual, problem solving provides the lens through which we focus our learning. Facility with basic multiplication and division facts is a must. Should you notice that your child is not as confident in this area as he/she needs to be, we'll appreciate your help in reviewing the basic facts.

As we draw to a close, please know that it has been our true pleasure to have worked with your children. Thank you for your support throughout our year together, and enjoy a wonderful summer with your family.

See you on June 14 and 19 for Flag Day and Moving Up!

PE News

Hopefully we are past this cold, rainy weather and can begin to enjoy some sun. As the school year winds down, we are looking to get outside for our final PE units. K-2 will continue to develop their manipulative skills including dribbling, kicking, striking, and stepping with opposition during our Lifetime Activities. 3rd & 4th grades have Soccer, PE2Tee (Golf), and Lifetime Activities.

Field day is coming up Friday, June 9th with a rain date of Monday, June 12th. Notices will be sent home in the near future with a schedule for grade level times and what each student should bring. Please keep an eye out for this reminder. We will be looking for parent volunteers since they make this day run smoothly every year. Thank you in advance for your assistance and also to the PTA for providing water and popsicles for our students.

Since we plan on being outside for as many of our remaining activities as possible, please make sure your children are dressed appropriately. Putting sunscreen on before they leave the house may be beneficial as well as making sure they have water bottles to drink from during the day.

Have a wonderful, relaxing summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Mr. Barlow and Ms. Jadlos

Occupational Therapy News

Summer fun for small muscles! One of the best ways to get your small muscles to work well is to support them with larger muscles, especially your core muscles. The easiest way to do this is to get kids moving! Try and build movement into their routines throughout the day. With the kids home over the summer it is a perfect time to work on activities to promote both gross motor skills as well as fine motor coordination!

- Go for a hike. Pick a path that is good for your child's age and athletic ability. www.ctvisit.com is a good website with a variety of trails discussed on them.
- Go to a playground with climbing equipment, swings, slides, etc.
- Play a game. Tag, kickball, pass with a baseball or football or a balloon or beach ball for younger kids.
- Make an obstacle course in the house for a rainy day. One that requires them to crawl on their hands and knees under objects as well as climbing over cushions and jumping over obstacles.
- In general, have fun with your kids playing games such as hopscotch or tag or anything that promotes them to move!
- Use sidewalk chalk to play games, draw pictures or to write messages with your children. This is a good combination of fine and gross motor working together!

Reading News

Summer is a time to daydream and nothing helps daydreaming more than reading. Setting your kids up to plan for their summer reading lives will not only maintain the strides they made this year, but it will help ensure that they have a summer full of fun and happy memories. Teachers and literacy experts agree that children of all ages need to be read to or to read by themselves and to talk about books over the summer.

When you read or talk to your young child about books, he/she develops important language skills, understandings about books and print, and knowledge about how stories are constructed that will help him/her to become a strong reader and writer.

Your school-aged child's summer reading and book discussions will help your reader maintain reading skills, improve reading fluency, and learn new vocabulary and concepts. Most importantly, when parents and children enjoy summer reading together, children develop a love of books and reading that lasts a lifetime.

Information about the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge and the Burlington Public Library's Summer Reading Adventure for 2017 will be coming soon!

Excerpts from <http://www.pbs.org> and <http://readingandwritingproject.org>

PTA Announcements

PTA Open Positions 2017-2018

Co-President – Presides over PTA meetings, drafts weekly emails to parents and teachers regarding upcoming events, monitor incoming PTA mail and passes along relevant information to committee chairs, prepares a monthly letter/article for the Dolphin Dispatch, evaluates and approves/denies any requests for funds from teachers, staff or administration, checks in with committee chairs and assists with any needs as well as makes sure that new dates are established for the next calendar year, meets with principal and secretary to discuss calendar for the next school year, approves flyers and obtains principal approval, works with treasurer to set budget for the next school year

Co-Secretary – Works with current secretary to keep minutes of all meetings, record attendance at PTA meetings, prepare/distribute minutes before each PTA meeting & assists with additional administrative tasks as necessary

Book Fair Co-Chair- Organizes & runs 2 annual Scholastic Book Fairs, in October and March. Planning starts approximately a month prior to the fair with 2-3 meetings & weekly email communications. Planning involves meeting with the Scholastic rep. once at LG; going to Lake Garda 2-3 times to copy flyers & distribute to teachers & parents. The chairperson needs to be at LG for about 3 hours for set-up the day before the fair; for several hours over the 2 days of the fair - for student browsing (9:00am-3:00pm), the fair itself (4-7pm) & cleanup afterwards. Also involves coordinating 6-8 volunteers to help during.

Enrichment Co-chair – Coordinates school-wide/grade-based activities that enhance students learning in science, math, art, reading, writing or general well-being. Topics & number of programs are decided upon by the chairperson based on budget, number of volunteers & approval of the PTA & school administration. Planning begins at the start of the school year. This position can be worked on from home via telephone/email except for attendance at the program(s). Helpful for the chairperson to attend Young Audiences of CT held in September to get ideas on different enrichment activities.

Garden Chair - Creates & maintains a pleasant & welcoming environment at the entrance of our school as well as other key outdoor areas. Includes garden clean-up in March; April - determining new plantings &/or garden sites based on budget; planting perennials & mulching; late-May – plant annuals. Watering, weeding & maintaining gardens are all on-going. August – plant mums; Sept/Oct. – fall clean-up & plant spring bulbs.

Membership Chair – Recruits members for the PTA by distributing paper membership forms and promoting our online membership site. Inputs any members that complete paper forms and collects and records check payments. Runs reports within the membership site and passes lists of interested volunteers on to the committee chairs. Periodically check in with members to see if they have any concerns.

Ice Skating Chair - Plans one skating event at the Veteran's Memorial Skating Rink or Newington Arena. Event is held in early March, after February vacation. Planning begins in December & involves booking a date, copying & distributing event flyers, including info in the Dolphin Dispatch & website as well as collecting fees and coordinating with the treasurer for payment the day of the event.

Shopper Points – Market the program that we offer with local supermarkets to have families register their frequent shopper cards with our school so that we can earn points for their purchases. Coordinate with President at the end of the year to purchase school supplies from the Tools for School Programs with the points we earned.

Spirit Wear - Coordinates purchasing & selling of LG logo clothing to LG community throughout the school year. Planning can begin as early as September & involves at home communications & at school work - displaying spirit wear at different PTA events, copying, distributing & collecting order forms & distributing orders when they arrive. President will also email any orders that are placed on our online site. Chair will need to establish one day a week that he/she will come into the school to distribute orders.

Talent Show – Distribute applications right before Winter Break. Review applications to ensure that there are no duplicate songs. Arrange the placement of acts and input information into the program template. Coordinate a dress rehearsal for all participants with the sound & lighting coordinator and oversee the event on a Friday evening in February.

Burlington News & Upcoming Events

Burlington Library Programs

Summer Reading Kickoff!

Saturday, June 24th 3– 5pm
Sessions Woods

Rhythm and Rhyme Story Time

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am
Ages 9 mos. - 35 mos. with caregivers



For more details on these programs and more, visit the library website:

www.burlingtonctlibrary.info

Dolphin Dispatch Newsletter

This is the last edition for the school year. Enjoy your summer and look for a newsletter in early September with the latest happenings.