



DOLPHIN DISPATCH



LAKE GARDA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER ♦ VOLUME 19 ♦ ISSUE 2 ♦ Oct. 2017

Happy Fall!

Happy Fall! It is hard to believe that October is already here!! In my opinion this is the most charming season of all, I just love the crispy smell of autumn in the air.

I would like to share with you that, for the many years I have been involved with our LGS PTA, this year I am humbled by the overwhelming support and feedback the PTA received from LGS families and staff. Thank you!

I also would like to thank the many that have inquired about PTA and how to get involved. We are working on contacting each and every one of you, meanwhile let us know if you have any questions. Your involvement and willingness to help is what makes our PTA successful!

Sincere thanks to the many Officers, Chairpersons and Volunteers of Lake Garda PTA. While we are still in the learning stages of new changes and ideas, I am very proud of the great group of enthusiastic and committed parents wanting the best for all children and our school.

Please join us for breakfast and our next PTA Meeting Thursday, October 24th 9:15am at Lake Garda cafeteria. This is a great way to see what our PTA is all about, plans we are working on, and discuss any questions you may have. I hope to see you there!

Sincerely yours,

Paula Shellito

LGS PTA President

shellito107@yahoo.com





Important Dates in October

10/6—No School

10/9—No School

10/10 - PILN 9:30am

10/13—PILN 9:30am

10/16 & 10/17 - Lion's Club Eye Screening

10/17—PILN 9:30am

10/20—PILN 9:30am

10/20—Family Fun Night 6:30—8pm

10/24 - PTA Meeting 9:15 am, Cafeteria

10/24—Book Fair, 4-7pm

10/25—Enrichment Program

10/25—Book Fair & Ice Cream Social 4-7pm

10/27 - PILN 2:15pm

DON'T MISS FAMILY FUN NIGHT!

Friday, Oct. 20th from 6:30—8:00 pm

Please join us for a night of Family Fun! This is a free event for all families. There will be music and games and PRIZES for all. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Bring your family and get ready to shout **BINGO!!**

Message from the Principal



Dear Lake Garda Families,

The first month of school was a success! Just ask your children. While we didn't have the crazy heat that we have had in past Septembers, we certainly did have a few steamy days! We utilized the air-conditioned spaces, kept shades down and drank lots of water. As you all know from *open house* and *meet and greet*, it gets pretty hot in here! The cooler fall weather is just around the corner and we are certainly looking forward to it here at Lake Garda School!

October 2 is National Custodial Workers' Day. I'd like to recognize our custodians for their tireless efforts to maintain our school. They work behind the scenes to keep Lake Garda School sparkling clean and running smoothly. Thank you to Drew Meskun, Mike Pelosi, Jozef Bober and Chris Lovejoy for working so hard for us each day.

October looks to be an exciting month! Your kids are working hard to fill Splash's aquarium with Dolphin Dollars in order to earn another reward! We have a cool new enrichment activity planned that includes a planetarium type show for all students. Also, we have a couple of opportunities in the month of October for us to see each other...two returning favorite activities: Family Fun Night and the Book Fair/Ice Cream Social. It's going to be another busy month here at the Lake! As always, looking forward to seeing all of you.

Kindest Regards,

Stefanie Anderson

News from Our School



¡Hola y Bienvenidos Amigos!!!

Third and fourth graders are off to a fantastic start so far this year in FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary School)! What a unique opportunity our Region #10 students have to experience a world language different from their own. FLES instruction also encourages students to take a closer look at similarities between the Spanish language and culture and their own language and culture. Students have been surprised at how many English words have come originally from the Spanish language. Can your child name a few?

¡Hasta pronto!

Señora Smaldone

A Message from OT

Visual perception refers to the meaning that our brains give to the information that we see. It allows us to make sense out of what we see. There are a variety of different areas within the visual perception category including: figure ground, form constancy, visual closure, spatial relationships, visual discrimination, visual sequential memory and visual memory. More in depth information can be found online at: <https://therapyfunzone.net/blog/ot/visual-perceptual-skills/>.

Here are a few activities to help with visual perceptual functioning:

- ◆ Encourage your child to build with a variety of things- blocks, cushions, plastic pieces, legos. They can copy ones that you have built as well as have them construct some of their own.
- ◆ Puzzles, mazes, and other visual activities help with both visual perceptual functioning as well as visual motor integration. Start simple and work towards more complex ones.
- ◆ Books such as "I Spy" and "Where's Waldo" help with figure ground skills, such as being able to find a specific item within a busy background.
- ◆ Memory games such as "Concentration" or "I Spy Memory Game" will help children hold onto a visual image which is a great asset in school.
- ◆ Matching games are always good to do to teach children same and different.
- ◆ Building from a model helps teach children part to whole, as well as doing dot to dots, jigsaw puzzles and coloring.



There are so many things that you can do that are fun and enjoyable with your kids to help develop their visual perceptual skills. So go have fun!

Tips from PT:

Backpack Safety Tips

- ◆ Choose the correct size backpack no larger than your child's torso
- ◆ Padded shoulder straps and back are optimal
- ◆ Weight of backpack should not exceed 10% of child's body weight
 - ◆ (i.e. If a child weighs 50 lbs., then the backpack should not weigh more than 5 lbs.)
- ◆ Cleanout backpacks regularly to diminish unnecessary weight
- ◆ Use chest and waist straps to assist in distributing the weight of the backpack
- ◆ When loading backpacks evenly distribute the weight of materials through the various compartments
- ◆ Always carry on both shoulders
- ◆ If choosing to monogram – initials are safer than full name

www.nsc.org/learn/safety-knowledge/Pages/backpack-safety-for-kids.aspx

Remember to periodically check your child's backpack!

Renee Casner, PT



MATH NEWS

Thanks to everyone that was able to come to family math night.

We had an awesome turnout. I would estimate we had about 30 families attend and along with the 30 fourth grade workers, it was a very cozy cafeteria!

For a long time, schools have treated math differently than other subjects and have put kids under time pressure when learning fluency. There is a lot of research that suggests this is a harmful approach and we are trying to move away from this.

Putting time limits when practicing a new skill can cause stress for some people. Imagine when learning to drive if the person teaching you told you to go around the neighborhood as fast as you could. And if you did not go fast enough, they said, **"No, go faster! Faster!"**

That sounds sort of crazy, doesn't it? But that is similar to the way fact fluency has too often been taught, often in timed situations presenting facts in a random, isolated manner that does not involve thinking as much as blind recall. This can cause stress, actually freezing up the part of their brain that recalls facts resulting in them feeling they are not good at math. Please read this article for a more complete explanation of this topic.

"Fast math is not the same as good math."

See article: *Fluency Without Fear*

<https://www.youcubed.org/evidence/fluency-without-fear/>

During the night families were able to sample various ways to practice fluency without time constraints.

- ◆ Work Places – Game like activities that foster fluency (and other skills) – these are part of the Bridges math program we use at Lake Garda School
- ◆ Card Games – We played two games: Addition and Subtraction War
- ◆ Board Games – Many board games foster fluency as the players roll the dice and move a certain number of places on the board
- ◆ On-line Resources – We featured Thinking Blocks Jr. which works on fluency through word problems and new this year (Niko taught me this) – will read you the problems, so is more accessible to our youngest students.

Math Night Fun!

Thank you to all the families who came out for Math Night.



PE NEWS

At Lake Garda School in PE, we are focusing on getting our students to be as active as possible during their time in class. We accomplish this goal by addressing various fitness components across all grade levels through activity based learning, in order to create an understanding of how important fitness is throughout their lifetime.

In our kindergarten to 2nd grade classes, we are always focusing on fitness by having our students go through 10 fitness stations as soon as they come in to class. One focus during class is teaching students how we move based on locomotor movements (jumping, hopping, skipping, galloping, and side-sliding). In class, we introduce each of the locomotor movements through various activities before providing the students with time to develop their skills. Students also learn about how to maintain good space during activities to keep each other safe during class time. Once the students are in first and second grade, we will be assessing them on their ability to perform the locomotor movements we have practiced.

In our 3rd and 4th grade classes, we are preparing students for the Connecticut State Physical Fitness Assessment. These tests consist of the mile run, sit and reach, push-ups and curl-ups. During this unit, students will learn the correct form to properly execute each of the tests and have any opportunities to practice during class time. We do the best we can to make class time fun, by having them practice during various activities, as these tests can be a challenge for students.

Make sure to get outside and enjoy as many fun fall activities as you can with your family!! Here's to your health...



Kindergarten News

We are having a fun time exploring our senses in kindergarten. What a perfect time of year for it! We'll be taking a field trip to Indian Rock this month to learn all about apples- how they grow, how they taste, and how they are made into cider (among lots of other things!).

We are all building our reading stamina during our Readers Workshop time. We are learning to be good sharing partners as well. During Writers Workshop, we are adding labels and words to our pictures. We can use the letters and their sounds that we learn in Foundations to be great writers!

In math, we are learning about the base five number system and practicing writing our numbers. And as always, we are trying each day to be the best that we can be!

“Education is the kindling of a flame, not the filling of a vessel.”

Socrates



2nd Grade News

We are off to a sensational start in second grade! Our students have eagerly participated in getting to know your classmate activities as well as learned the routines of a day in second grade. Our manners banners are proudly displayed for all our Lake Garda friends to admire.

Choosing “just right” books and building a reading/writing community are essential skills that were reviewed/taught during this first month of school. Please encourage your child to read each night for at least 10-20 minutes.

A few of the math concepts being taught this month are using number racks to add/subtract to 20, odd/even and using strategies to solve story problems. Please encourage your child to practice addition facts to 20 using flash cards, web sites or addition war with playing cards.

Open house is always a wonderful opportunity to meet families, share pertinent information and most of all, allow students to take pride in their “second home,” our classroom.

Thank you for coming!

4TH GRADE NEWS

While summer has drawn to a close, the fourth-grade team has been planning for new beginnings! Launching a fresh school year along with the traditional excitement of meeting new students energizes our opening days. Along with establishing routine, classroom expectations and procedures, we'll also be busy continuing the implementation of the Readers' Workshop approach to reading instruction.

Readers' Workshop encourages classrooms to become communities of readers who will use, in light of teacher modeling and demonstration, a variety of strategies designed to foster independent reading. Through daily direct instruction, small group instruction, and conferring with adults and peers, students learn and reinforce those strategies most indicative of competent readers. Carefully targeted instruction supports a clearly defined set of expectations which strengthen reading comprehension, engagement and independence.

Grade four introduces Writers' Workshop which centers on the idea of developing a community of writers striving to proficiently express their thoughts across a variety of genre while motivating and inspiring one another. As mini-lessons progress in light of mentor texts, students write independently on a daily basis learning ways in which to develop meaningful ideas for their writing through small group conferring as well as whole group share. They will continue to implement the draft, revise and publish components of the writing process in personal and fictional narrative, expository (informative) nonfiction, and opinion pieces.

Math, as well, sees us continuing the *Bridges in Mathematics* program. Curriculum focus lies in developing deep understandings of mathematical concepts, skills, and problem solving strategies within the framework of direct instruction, investigative, and exploratory instructional techniques. Fourth graders will work in whole-group, small-group, and independent settings as they extend their understanding of multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, algebraic thinking, data analysis and geometry.

We look forward to a successful and productive learning experience for your child and enthusiastically encourage you to contact us with any questions which may arise as our year together unfolds.

4TH GRADE

Enrichment

On September 21st, the PTA coordinated an enrichment program entitled "Air - The Invisible Wonder." The program was enjoyed by all grade levels and based on the smiles and laughter, seems as though the students found it enjoyable! Through invented demonstrations, students learned about air and our atmosphere; the weight of air, the effects of the atmosphere and the properties and actions involved in a vacuum. Students experienced the cause and effects of an air cannon, frisbees and even a hovercraft! Two students even volunteered to be shrink-wrapped in the process; who knew air could be so interesting!

The next enrichment program scheduled for October 25th includes a Dome being brought to Lake Garda! Students will have an opportunity to experience age and grade appropriate presentations from within a Dome. More information on the upcoming enrichment programs will be forthcoming. Any questions or comments on enrichment programs can be directed to Claudia Nardi at nardi.claudia@hotmail.com or Tina Romeo at tromeo81@gmail.com.



PTA Announcements

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR & ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

October 24th and 25th, 4:00—7:00 pm, Media Center

Please join us in sharing a love of reading with our students at the upcoming Book Fair, held in the Lake Garda library.

ICE CREAM SOCIAL on Oct. 25th!

All proceeds from the book fair go towards the purchase of subscriptions to the Scholastic News that every child receives in their classroom, as well as to purchase classroom books. The on-line book fair starts on October 11th.

Fall Fundraiser

All orders and Forest friends coupons are due Tuesday October 3rd. Remember all funds raised from our Fall Fundraiser will be used for LGS students field trips. If you prefer you can also order [online](#).

Garrett Copeland Eagle Project

Garrett's project will benefit all teachers and staff at Lake Garda and will help beautiful our school. He is hoping to renovate an overgrown garden into a patio area for teachers and staff to use for lunch and breaks. Please consider making a donation: <https://www.gofundme.com/>

Open PTA Positions for 2017-2018

A special thank you to all of our existing chairs and volunteers. We are currently looking for help with some committees. Partner up with a friend or even a family member and consider chairing a committee, it's fun and rewarding. Take a look at our list and you may find something you would like to do. Contact Paula for more information. [Open Positions](#)

Shopper's Reward Program

An EASY way to help Lake Garda earn educational supplies and equipment. The more you spend at stores like Stop & Shop, ShopRite and Price Chopper, the more Lake Garda will earn. If you already have a store rewards card, all you have to do is add your number. Please note: ShopRite requires you to register every year.



SIGN UP TODAY on our PTA website: lakegarda.region1oct.org/for_parents/p_t_a/shopper_rewards_program

Box Tops for Education

Our first collection deadline will be in October. Stay tuned for more details. Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school earn cash. Are you already a Box Tops member? If not, please sign up at www.BTFE.com to stay updated on our school's earnings and find a full list of hundreds of participating products. Members also receive exclusive coupon offers and recipes and can learn about extra ways for our school to earn more cash.



Please send your "unexpired" and neatly-trimmed Box Tops in an envelope or zip-top bag to school with your child before the deadline. For every "25" Box Tops submitted with your child's name on it, you will receive a raffle ticket to win a prize. In addition, the classroom that has collected the greatest number of box tops will win an awesome prize!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Keri Singh, Box Top Chairperson, at epigirl105@yahoo.com. Also, if you would like to volunteer to help trim and bundle box tops, please let Keri know. We want to make our school's Box Tops for Education™ program a huge success this year.

Burlington Town News & Events!

Parks & Rec Spooktacular Family Fun Day

Saturday, October 28th 1-3:00pm at Johnnycake Mountain Farm

For more details, view [flyer](#).

Parks & Rec Scarecrow Contest

Register by Oct. 20th, prizes for winners! See [flyer](#) for details.

Burlington Land Trust October Events!

Johnnycake Mountain New Trail—October 7,8,9 from 1-3pm [Info](#)

Johnnycake Mountain Discovery Ramble—October 8th 1—3:30pm [Info](#)

Burlington 5K and Whigville Harvest Fest—October 29th [Info](#)

Burlington Library Update

For details on children's programming and more, visit the library website:

www.burlingtonctlibrary.info

If you haven't visited the library recently, you will be amazed at the expansion project currently underway. The new improvements will include a community room, a special teen room, study areas and much more.

There are several ways to be part of this new community project in terms of fundraising, donations and leaving a personal mark. Donate today and sign the Canopy Ceiling or Donor Wall. For more information, visit the website above.