



# DOLPHIN DISPATCH



LAKE GARDA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER ♦ VOLUME 19 ♦ ISSUE 3 ♦ Nov. 2017

I am thankful!

November is here with all of the great things that it brings, friends, family, pumpkin pie, apple cider, and big thanksgiving dinners. It also gives us an urge to be more grateful. It is not that we haven't been grateful the rest of the year, but November reminds us to show more appreciation. Reflecting on that, I realize how lucky I am for the amazing friends, family in my life, and for being able to hug and kiss my children every day. For that alone, I am more than grateful.

I am thankful for our principal, Mrs. Anderson, who is truly engaged in our children's education and goes the extra mile to ensure that our school succeeds. I'm thankful for the awesome teachers we have, helping us shape our children's education with their knowledge, kindness and dedication. And for Nancy Hamilton and Keiko Goulet at the LGS main office, all year long they work hard, handling any situation that comes their way. I'm grateful for the amazing staff that most of the time work behind the scenes, helping either in the kitchen, maintaining the school, cleaning, guiding, assisting, supporting and lending a hand.

And last but foremost you!!! All the wonderfully committed parent volunteers, that I am so grateful to meet, year after year. Your countless hours of dedication and financial support is the reason we have a PTA, we could not do it without you. I am so thankful.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with your loved ones!

Paula Shellito

LGS PTA President

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 Find us on  
**Facebook**

Lake Garda PTA is on Facebook. Like our page for important updates on events and programs.

[lakegarda.region1oct.org/for\\_parents/p\\_t\\_a](http://lakegarda.region1oct.org/for_parents/p_t_a)

[www.facebook.com/lakegardapta](http://www.facebook.com/lakegardapta)



## Important Dates in November

11/3- No School, Professional Development Day

11/7- PILN, 9:30 am

11/10- PILN, 9:30 am

11/10- Picture Retake Day

11/13- BOE Mtg.

11/14- PILN, 9:30 am

11/14- PTA Mtg., 6:30 pm—Media Center

11/15- Fall Fundraiser Pick up-4-7 pm

11/17-PILN

11/22,23,24—NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving Break

11/28- Conferences

11/30- Conferences

12/1-PILN

12/1- 1:00 pm dismissal for conferences

## Message from the Principal

Dear Lake Garda Families,

Every November when I write the Dolphin Dispatch letter, I think of all the things we have to be thankful for at Lake Garda School. I like to start by asking the students what they are thankful for at school. Responses from this year included ice cream at lunch, teachers, library books, recess and friends. I'm thankful for those things as well (especially the ice cream!) and am also thankful for the wonderful LGS students, staff and families. All of you make Lake Garda School a really great place to be!

I enjoyed seeing many of you at Family Fun Night, the PTA meeting, the Book Fair and the Fall Social. I'm so grateful that PTA plans these fun events for the LGS community. I look forward to seeing you at conferences at the end of the month.

Kindest Regards,  
Stefanie Anderson



## News from Our School

### Pre-K News

We are off to a great start in the Early Learning Center at Lake Garda! We have been learning the rules, routines and expectations. Our themes began with Back to School and All About Me. We have learned about our body parts, emotions and our five senses. We are reading books, creating arts and crafts projects and playing in our theme-based centers including pretend play, kitchen and blocks. Additionally, we have math time daily and we began handwriting in the afternoon. Students in the Early Learning Center are also offered specials including occupational therapy group, speech group and physical therapy group. We are looking forward to a great year!

ELC Tip #1 - Building a strong vocabulary in infants, toddlers and preschoolers has a direct correlation to reading vocabulary in the primary grades. Keep your little ones talking and continue to encourage the use of descriptive words as they get older. Reading or telling stories is one of the best ways to encourage vocabulary building. If you are interested in more information about our program, feel free to contact me at [rhoadess@region1oct.org](mailto:rhoadess@region1oct.org) and 860-673-2511 extension 14113. Our application will be online this year and will open in January.

Sarah Rhoades



### First Grade News

During Reading Workshop first graders are reading independently for 15-20 minutes every day and working on building good reading habits and partnerships! They have become Word Detectives and have daily missions to help them solve tricky words!

Students finished writing small moment stories during Writing Workshop and are now are writing "How To" books. They are learning that writers not only write stories about things that happen to us but also to help teach others.

First graders love our math program, Bridges. During math time, students continue counting, and are exploring addition and subtraction through both Number Corner and Work Places.

Students had a blast on our field trip to Ruwets Farm in October. They spent the day on a hayride, got their very own pumpkins and had a tasty treat! Thank you again to all of our chaperones who made the day extra special!

## Third Grade News

The second month of school has flown by. In Reading Workshop we have finished our first unit. The purpose of this unit was to have students begin to cherish their reading time. Additionally, we have encouraged students to read and record their reading in their logs to help them track goals and see successes. Research has shown if students read at home and at school they will grow as readers! In writing we are working on informational writing. We have asked the students to think of an expert topic and write about it using different strategies that we are going over. We are introducing multiplication in math. We are using strategies such as pictures, repeated addition, and number lines.



## Media Center News

The summer reading numbers are in! We had 115 students turn in a summer reading log, with a total of 2,963 books read! Students who participated earned "Book Bucks" for every 10 books they recorded. The "Book Buck" can be used to check out an extra book during library class. There was one "Book Buck" that went home with the Governor's Reading Challenge certificate, the others are being kept in the library and counted down as they are used.

The kindergarteners are learning their way around the media center. We've loved hearing some favorites by Eric Carle and making some new favorites (The Tub People and The Tub Grandfather) and doing follow-up activities to extend our understanding. We are using a lot of "library words" while we read such as cover, title page, characters, setting, author, and illustrator and renew. We have also we've been practicing good listening and idea sharing skills.

First graders are hearing many non-fiction selections to accompany fiction titles I like to share with them. We will be exploring non-fiction features including index, contents, captions and photos as we share these throughout the year. Easy Readers are stressed in first grade, ask your children about the special "size and shape" of these fun to read books.

Second graders have enjoyed the "Library Mouse" books and creating their own little book to share and then hide in the library shelves. They will be bringing those home soon. We will be starting to learn about the set-up of the library and reading books from each section of the "Dewey Decimal System."

Third graders are completing a mini research project creating a license plate from a state they visited over the summer. They had to use state books and a cool license plate website to gather a few facts about that state and create their own design. Look in the hallway outside the media center to see where the third graders have traveled. The World Almanac and Factmonster.com will be explored in the coming weeks.

Fourth graders have enjoyed checking out the current Nutmeg books. They hope to finish 5 out of the 10 great books and then vote for their favorite one with the other 4-6 grade students in CT, in April.

All ages still love to be read to, try to share a great book with your child!

## ART NEWS

Your children and I have been extremely busy in the art room creating masterpieces and messes since the beginning of the school year. Please do not be alarmed if nothing has come home yet. I know you are all anxious to see what your children have created with their own little imagination and hands, but I tend to be an art hog until the end of the school year. That is when we will have our annual student art show and all of your kids will have one or more of their best pieces on display for all to see. In the meantime, below is a brief snap shot of what each grade level has been learning about.

Kindergarten is all about color, shapes, cutting and gluing. We have used primary colors to paint squares and rectangles like the famous artist Piet Mondrian. We also practiced drawing and cutting geometric shapes. After that, we had the most fun mixing the primary colors of paint to make the secondary colors. Those puddles of paint got turned into all different colors and kinds of fruit. This was so we could each create a still life! We used both geometric and free-form shapes to draw the fruit. But we didn't stop there. We are currently working on a Fall Farm Landscape where the students have an opportunity to mix paint colors again, and use geometric and free-form shapes for the trees and farm animals. They are so cute!!!

First graders have also been working a lot with colors and shapes. We practiced making free-form shapes and turning them into mice to go along with the story *Mouse Paint*. We even had a chance to mix puddles of colors like the three mice from the story. We are currently finishing up a color wheel project that goes along with my favorite story called *Fall is Not Easy*. Our color wheels become the tree top of a tree like in the book! So silly! Next we will be moving onto a tissue paper pumpkin landscape. Stay tuned...

Second graders had the opportunity to paint a color wheel and mix the primary colors to make purple, green and orange. We had so much fun turning them into hot air balloons and drawing a landscape or seascape that the balloons were floating over. The kids spent a lot of time choosing a place that they really wanted to draw! We are presently finishing up a Seascape at Sunset. The students learned about warm and cool colors and are currently drawing and painting a realistic looking boat or ship as the focus of the piece.

Third grade finished a rainy day fun project where they turned their color wheels into umbrella tops. They drew, colored, and painted a person under the umbrella using a wax resist technique. Since we were learning about color, after that we began an autumn landscape. They each had to choose a feeling, time of day, mood or type of weather that they wanted to communicate through their art. They made very thoughtful decisions about color combinations and brushstrokes. And now we have slowed down to draw and paint a realistic seascape painting using water colors and communicating a feeling of distance. They are gorgeous!

Fourth grade started the year off by designing and creating fire prevention posters for the Annual State of Connecticut Poster Contest. October is Fire Safety Month and a great time with your family to discuss fire hazards and safety measures. I am so happy that we are now getting our hands messy with paint as we begin our color wheel project that will eventually get turned into what I call a kaleidoscope painting. By the time it is complete, we will have practiced mixing secondary colors, learning about symmetry and about the complement colors as well! They always come out amazing!

Have an Artastic Year!

Mrs. Matthews



## OT NEWS

Visual motor integration or eye hand coordination is an area that is addressed by occupational therapists within the school system. It is defined as the effective and efficient combination between the visual and the motor systems. When a child has good visual motor skills, it helps them be able to copy drawings, letters, words and numbers that they see.

Many times problems with visual motor integration are not seen until a child is in school. Students may have difficulty with copying shapes, letters or numbers. With practice problems with visual motor integration can be successfully overcome a good percentage of the time. There are many activities that help the visual and motor system work together.

Some ideas of activities include:

- Drawing, coloring in both big and little spaces to help the child work on the control needed with their motor skills while engaging their visual system
- For younger children, lacing cards, stringing various size beads and building with blocks help develop visual motor skills
- Older students can do word searches, dot to dots, mazes and building various designs following directions (i.e.; Lego's, Kinex, erector sets, etc)
- Use tweezers of varying sizes to pick up cotton balls, beads or other items. Larger tweezers for younger children and smaller ones for older
- Tracing is a great activity to line up eye and hand coordination
- Playing ball games especially catching, balloon play and throwing a ball into a container (basketball into net, tennis ball into a bucket, etc)



Activities discussed above are suggestions, there are many more that can be done to help with visual motor integration.

## Thank You for Supporting the Lake Garda Book Fair!



Our Fall Book Fair was a great success! Thank you to all the families who visited the fair and thank you for the books you offered to our teachers. A special thank you to all our volunteers who helped us out before, during, and after the fair. We really appreciate your time and effort! Remember that our Online Book Fair is still open until October 31. If you didn't get a chance to come to the book fair or if you didn't find the books you wanted, check out this link:

<http://onlinebookfairs.scholastic.com/default.aspx?f=3735499>

## Family Fun Night

Thank you to all the families that came out for Family Fun Night. It was a blast as usual. A special thank you to our coordinators. It was a great event.



## Enrichment

On October 25<sup>th</sup> a Dome was brought to Lake Garda! Students had 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](mailto:nardi.claudia@hotmail.com) or Tina Romeo at [tromeo81@gmail.com](mailto:tromeo81@gmail.com).

## PTA Announcements

### Amazon Smile

We are now enrolled at Amazon Smile. What is Amazon Smile? Amazon Smile is a easy way to support a charitable organization every time you shop at no cost for you. Simple go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com), choose/enter Garda Elementary School PTA as your favorite charity, Amazon Smile will remember your selection every time and donate 0.5% of your eligible purchase to LGS PTA. You can still use your existing Amazon.com account, but make sure you are using Amazon smile.

### Shop with Scrip

The holidays are coming, and fast!! Scrip Gift Card Program is a great way to get a jump start on holiday shopping. This is another easy and a great way to help our school, every time you shop at scrip, LG PTA will benefit from it. You can access it at the school website or by going to [shopwithscrip.com](https://shopwithscrip.com) and enter the enrollment code: **LD5254FA3L464** Send payment by check through the school with your child. Orders received on Friday will be delivered to you by Friday the following week. Paper order forms also available. Let the shopping begin!

### Water Bottles for Sale

We have new water fountains at LGS that allow students to fill water bottles easily. Student Council is selling Lake Garda water bottles for the next few weeks.

### Box Tops for Education

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](https://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 ziptop bag to school with your child before the deadline. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Keri Singh, Box Top Chairperson, at [epigirl105@yahoo.com](mailto: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 .



### 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](https://lakegarda.region1oct.org/for_parents/p_t_a/shopper_rewards_program)

## Burlington Town News & Events!

### Parks & Rec

Start planning now for the Holiday Lights Competition [More info](#)  
Lion's Club Rec Winter Basketball Boys & Girls Registration Open [More info](#)

### Burlington Land Trust November Events

Nature Photography Workshop—November 5th. [More info](#)

### Burlington Library Update

For details on children's programming and more, visit the library website:  
[www.burlingtonctlibrary.info](http://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.

### Dolphin Dispatch December Newsletter

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This newsletter is produced monthly. The next edition will be produced in early December. Please submit articles/requests to:

Meghan Rutherford

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