



DOLPHIN DISPATCH



LAKE GARDA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER ♦ VOLUME 19 ♦ ISSUE 7 ♦ FEB 2018

Happy February! I don't know about you but I am glad that we are almost halfway through winter.

This issue is packed with details on upcoming events like Muffin Mania, Box Tops Collection, Annual Talent Show, Science & Invention Fair, Parents Night Out on the Town and more!

We will be hosting a Muffin Mania breakfast for our teachers on Valentine's Day. Please have all donations in to the school no later than Tuesday the 14th at 9:00am.

Preparations are underway for our annual Night Out on the Town for parents, our number one fundraiser for the year. Tickets will go on sale later this month. You should have received a letter regarding your child's classroom basket, the basket auction is always a big hit. If you are able, please consider donating an item or a monetary donation for your basket.

All these things are possible because of the generous contributions of our PTA volunteers. Have you joined the PTA yet? It is never too late to join. We appreciate any time or financial support that you can offer. Register on our online site linked below. You can also make a donation, buy spirit wear as well as birthday books on this site too.



Find us on
Facebook

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

www.facebook.com/lakegardapta

Sign up for the Lake Garda
PTA today!

[Click here](#)



Important Dates in February

2/2- PILN, 9:30 am

2/6- PILN, 9:30 am

2/8- Talent Show Rehearsal, LSM Auditorium

2/9- PILN, 9:30 am

2/9- Talent Show Production, LSM

2/12- BOE Meeting

2/13- PILN, 9:30 am

2/14- Muffin Mania for Staff

2/16- PILN, 9:30 am

TALENT SHOW

Friday, February 9th at the Lewis Mills Auditorium

6:30—8:00pm

Please join us for the annual Lake Garda Talent Show.

Principal's Message



Dear Lake Garda Families,

We are more than halfway through this school year and I don't know how it happened so fast! The 100th day of school will be this month. I'm not going to jinx us by putting the date down. Let's just say our 100th day will happen early this month. Many classrooms do special activities to celebrate this milestone.

February brings us the real Super Bowl, congrats to all the Eagles fans out there, the Lake Garda Souper Bowl, the LGS Talent Show and Valentine's Day. A busy month for sure! Teachers will be sending out information specific to their classrooms about Valentine's Day.

The weather this winter has been all over the place! In the event of a late opening or early dismissal, we don't have recess. It's always so disappointing to the kids who brought their snow gear in!

See you at the talent show!

Sincerely,
Stefanie Anderson



family **FUN** night



News From Around the School

Kindergarten News

The kindergarteners at Lake Garda are having a wonderful winter. We are working very hard during this new year. In Reading Workshop, we are reading all kinds of books and learning so many strategies. In Writing Workshop, we are writing lots of how-to books. Ask a kindergartener to teach you how to make some chocolate milk! The cold weather is here now. Please make sure your kindergartener (or older student) is prepared for the cold at recess time.



February has two special school holidays. This month we will be discussing and having special activities for Valentine's Day and the 100th day of school. We will be learning about love and kindness for Valentine's Day and sharing valentines with our classmates. For the 100th day, every kindergarten classroom will be doing fun activities to recognize that we are more than halfway to first grade!

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself, any direction you choose."

~Dr. Seuss~

Second Grade News

Our reading focus is on carefully thinking about character's feelings and traits and how they grow and change. Another essential skill is determining author intentions for writing a story and being able to state the theme/moral of stories.

We have a new social studies unit called *People and Groups Who Make a Difference in Society*. Students are learning why the past is important, even though we live in the present. Studying Burlington history and discussing the importance of people, artifacts, and how life has changed since the 1800s will help the students enjoy our spring field trip to important Burlington town buildings. Students are also researching a famous person past or present and learning about the impact people have on changing our world for the better.

Math lessons encourage students to explore measurement in the context of a giant's world, complete with inchworms, "footworms", and "yardworms." They have multiple opportunities to make conversions between inches, feet, and yards.

Fourth Grade News

Happy New Year! With the culmination of the holiday season, we look forward to what is traditionally a strong instructional stretch. Let's hope the weather cooperates!

As we currently conclude our Author Study unit, *Reading Workshop* finds us turning our sights to the biography genre as we begin our study of real-life characters who actually lived many of the themes we've been discussing in our fiction units. As we learn about the people who have made a difference to our world, we also glean knowledge about the culture, time period, and setting in which they lived. While completing story arcs of the person's life, we form an appreciation for the obstacles overcome that led to the achievements impacting society as a whole.

The literary essay has assumed center stage in *Writing Workshop*. As we learn to think more analytically about what we read, we are also learning to convey the results of that thinking in a well-evidenced and supported five-paragraph essay format.

Unit 4, *Bridges* addresses multi-digit addition, subtraction and measurement topics. We'll be exploring various addition and subtraction strategies along with the measurement of length, distance, volume, time, mass, and weight within a problem-solving context.

In science, Invention Convention activities are in full swing as your children bring their ideas from pencil and paper design to prototype. You are sure to enjoy their imagination and ingenuity!

PE News

Sneakers! Sneakers! Sneakers! It's winter boot weather outside, but it's always sneaker weather in PE. Please help your child remember them on PE days. While on the subject of shoes, practicing shoe tying can be a great time filler while waiting in line, during commercials when watching TV, or riding in the car. Untied shoes can be dangerous for your child and others while they are active in the gym. Let's keep everyone safe and learn how to tie our own shoes.

You may be asking your child, "What are you doing in PE lately?" Well, the 3rd and 4th graders are applying their invasion strategies of offense and defense during their basketball unit. They have learned some serious skills such as knowing how to pivot, fake a pass, make a crossover and even a jump stop! Our K-2nd graders currently are working on dribbling with their left and right hands and shooting at our multilevel baskets. They also have been sharpening their cooperation skills with exciting parachute games such as *Cat and Mouse*.

We will also be focusing on heart health in February across all the grades and getting the students ready for Jump Rope for Heart.

Enthusiastically,

Miss J. and Mr. Barlow



News from the Music Room

Our student musicians have been working hard through these cold winter days as they continue to develop their music skills. Staying busy is helping to keep us warm!

Our Kindergarten friends have been using their singing voices each day to sing with friends and sometimes by ourselves. We agree on the steady beat when we move around the room. Echoing rhythmic and tonal patterns helps us warm up our voices so that we always sing beautifully. Our winter songs are keeping us company through these cold, cold days. We sing about eskimos and deep snow. We even found time to listen to Antonio Vivaldi's *Winter* section of the The Four Seasons violin concerto.

First grade is learning to read and perform basic rhythm notation. We know how our rhythm patterns sound and now we are learning to recognize them at sight. Time signatures and measures and bar lines organize our music on the page so that we can read and perform rhythm notation.

All those rhythm reading skills are paying off in second grade because it is time to add melody skills to our tool boxes. We know how to sing our rhythms on syllables and count them in time. Now we are learning that there are different ways to name notes including letter names and solfege syllables. We have also learned that when music looks the same, it will sound the same.

Every day is a new opportunity to work on Recorder Karate belts for our third grade recorder players. We know that regular practice has helped us to improve and many of us are already up to our green belts. We have added *e* to the notes that we can play. And, this week we added ties and dots to our rhythm skills. We also learned that we can use special music symbols to repeat music when we read and understand the roadmap.

Fourth grade is learning to sing at sight. Ask our fourth grade friends how many ways they can read a new piece of music. We are working on the **Big Six Elements of Music** to help us prepare for our middle school music work and we are learning to read our music independently. We even figured out that everything, including the clef, has a purpose on the music page. All that black ink on the white space tells us something important and useful.

There are so many good things happening in the Lake Garda Music Room! Teaching and learning with your children each day continues to be my pleasure. All best wishes as we begin the second half of our school year.

Dawn Marie Conroy
conroyd@region10ct.org



Media Center News

Spelling Ideas to Use with Kids

As children learn some letter-sound matches and start to read, they also begin to experiment with writing. Figuring out how words are spelled improves both reading and writing.



Activities for younger children

- Cut out letters from paper, magazines, or use refrigerator magnets. Have your children spell words by using letters that match the sounds they hear. Start with simple three letter words like cat, mop, or nut.
- As your children become more familiar with letters and sounds, play a game with the letters by switching beginning letters (changing “hop” to “mop”) or ending letters (changing “hop” to “hot”).
- Say a word and have your children repeat the word, slowly stretching out each sound. Then have them write the letters that match the sounds in the word.
- Ask your children to draw a picture of a family activity. Have them write a sentence about it below the picture. Encourage your children to say the sentence and write letters to match the sounds in each word. Then have them read what they wrote.

Activities for older children

- Encourage your children to use the “**Look, Cover, Write, Check**” method.
- Encourage them to write on every possible occasion including having your children write letters and thank-you notes to friends and relatives.
- Praise their efforts and let them see you writing whenever possible.
- Play word games with them, for example, I Spy, Scrabble, Boggle.

Note: As your children progress, help them learn the correct spelling of the words they write by helping them understand more about letter patterns. However, *overcorrecting* can be discouraging. Offer occasional, gentle guidance, and let them put all their thoughts on paper before correcting.

From Reading Rockets.org: Adapted from *Beginning Reading Instruction: Practical Ideas for Parents*

I hope everyone has a happy and healthy 2017!

Diane Martin

PT and OT News

10 FUN IDEAS FOR PLAYING OUTSIDE IN THE SNOW

- Go sledding! If you don't have one, make a sled out of cardboard or use a tray, and have fun!
- Build a snowman by rolling the snow into balls, big or small, and search for rocks to make eyes, twigs for arms, and wrap him up with a hat and scarf!
- Make snowballs and have target practice. Set up something to throw at (something to knock over is always great) and let the kids get some practice throwing!
- Build a snow fort and dig tunnels.
- Have the kids help with shoveling the driveway, sidewalks, walkways, or the steps. Or have the kids shovel their own paths... maybe they can make a snow maze!
- Stomp through the snow and make footprints! The kids can try to follow the different paths.
- Look for animal prints and try to figure out if the prints are from a dog, cat, rabbit, squirrel, or deer to try to figure out what's been walking through your backyard?
- Paint the snow with food coloring and spray bottles!
- Lay down in an untouched area of snow and make some snow angels!
- Use buckets to load, dump, scoop, and pour the snow!

Feel free to visit handsonaswegrow.com for more ideas like these.

Renee Casner, PT

OT NEWS: Sensory integration

In the school system, an occupational therapist looks at how a student processes sensory information. Sensory integration can be defined as how our brain receives and then processes sensory information so that we can perform our day to day activities successfully. The AOTA (American Occupational Therapy Association, Inc) states that: Well-regulated and appropriately functioning sensory systems contribute to important outcomes in social-emotional, physical and motor, communication, self-care, cognitive, and adaptive skills development and maintenance. Being able to successfully take in sensory information allows us to have an appropriate motor output. With sensory integration, all 8 senses are looked at. The eight being the five that are normally thought of: vision, hearing, smell, touch and taste, and the three that are not always thought of are: proprioception, vestibular and interoception. The first 5 are self-explanatory, the other 3 will be discussed below.

Proprioception is the awareness of where our body is in space. Knowing where the top of your head allows you to put your hat on without needing to look in a mirror.

Vestibular refers to the awareness of body balance and movement. These senses arise in the inner ear.

Interoception is how our body tells our brain what is going on inside of it. For example, our body tells our brain that our heart is beating fast and this is in response to being afraid.

PTA Announcements



*The 8th Annual Night Out on the Town will be held
Saturday March 24th from 6:30 to midnight at the Farmington Club*

*Join us for an evening of
Dinner · Dancing · Silent & Live Auction · Class Baskets
Tickets on sale soon!*

Help Us Make This a Great Event

We are looking for volunteers for the following:

Ad solicitations for our program booklet - done via email or in person

Classroom Basket Coordinator (s) - each class will donate a basket for the silent auction. Coordinator picks the theme, collects the items, and participates in the Basket Building Party

Help at the Night Out – cashiers, raffle sales

Please contact Tracy Scarborough at tnb0578@yahoo.com or 860-872-2434 if you are interested in helping in any of the above areas. If you or the company you work for would be interested in placing an ad in our program booklet or donating an item and/or service, please contact Tracy.

BOX TOP COLLECTION THIS MONTH

Our school's next Box Tops for Education collection is coming up soon. Please keep clipping your Box Tops and remember to send them to school with your child on (or before) the deadline, which is [Thursday February 15th](#). Since our hard working volunteers process *thousands* of these, it would be much appreciated if they are unexpired and clipped neatly. Please place your Box Tops in a sealed envelope or ziploc bag with the **grade level** and **name of your child's teacher** clearly visible.



The grade that submits the most Box Tops this school year will be the stars of a super fun *dance party* in the halls of Lake Garda. More detailed information about the dance party will be forthcoming.

If you have any questions about the upcoming collection or would like to volunteer to help process them, please contact Keri Singh at epigirl105@yahoo.com

For a complete list of products that are part of the Box Tops program, click [here](#). Thank you for your support!

Region 10 Announcements



Writers' Express

Please submit your children's amazing stories, poems, or essays to **Writers' Express**, the school's literary magazine! We are accepting submissions until February 23rd. You may email submissions to: robinlincoln@gmail.com



Girls on the Run Program

Registration is now open for girls in grades 3 & 4. This is more than just a running program. Go to <https://www.gotrgreaterhartford.org/Program-Registration> for more information and to register. Registration closes **Thursday Feb 8th**. Practices will be on Monday and Wednesday s from 3:30 to 5:15 beginning 2/26and ending on 5/16. Our celebratory 5k will be on May 19th.

Please contact Tracy Scarborough at tnbo578@yahoo.com with any questions.



BJSA Soccer Program

Youth Soccer Registration is now open for Spring 2018 season. Please register no later than March 15th at www.bjsasoccer.com.



Burlington Little League

Registration is now open for Spring 2018 season. Please register no later than March 4th at www.burlingtonlittleleague.com.

Burlington Library Programs

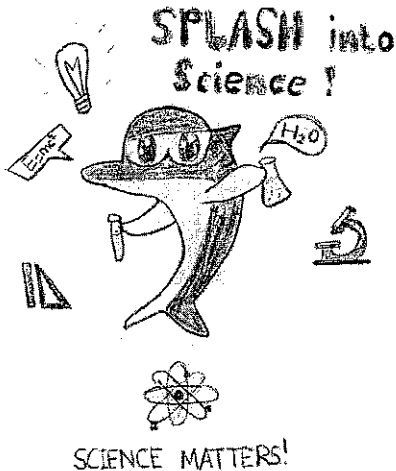
For details on upcoming library programs and more, visit the library website: www.burlingtonctlibrary.info



2018 Lake Garda Science and Invention Fair

Friday, March 2, 2018 from 6 to 7:30pm

Sponsored by Lake Garda PTA



Science Matters!

Congratulations to this year's
Logo Contest Winner:
Alex Casavant

A HUGE thank you to all the students
that submitted an entry.
You should be proud!



WHAT IS THE SCIENCE AND INVENTION FAIR?

It is a chance for you to display a project for students, parents, and teachers. At the fair, the gym will be filled with your experiments, models, collections, and research. You don't have to do a project related to the theme—you **can do a project on ANY science topic that interests you**. Join us by making a project to display, or come out to see all of your friends' great projects and enjoy some fun STEM-themed activities.

This event is for ALL Lake Garda students, Pre-K to 4th grade. You can work alone or in a group. Fourth graders may exhibit their Invention Convention project.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO SIGN UP!

Sign and return the form below to your teacher **by Friday, February 9.**

Soon after, you will receive a packet containing the safety rules, a permission slip, and an entry form that must be filled out with the details of your project. In addition to the night of the fair, you must also be available to set up your project **Thursday, March 1, between 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. All participants will receive a t-shirt as a participation award.

Questions?

Contact Sarah McCusker (librarysarie@gmail.com) or Michele Deeb (deebma@region10ct.org)

Science Fair Registration - Return by Friday, February 9, 2018

Student's name _____ Grade _____ Teacher _____

T-shirt Size (please circle one) Child: S M L Adult: S M L

_____ Individual project

_____ Group project with _____

Please list all students in group (If a group project, all students need to submit registration form.)

I intend to participate in the Science Fair on March 2, 2018.

Student's signature _____

Parent's signature _____

Phone number _____ E-mail address _____