

Dolphin Dispatch

Lake Garda PTA Monthly Newsletter

Welcome 2019!

As we kick off the new year, we ask for your help in making the PTA a great support organization for our school. We can't provide the great events and resources for our school without your support.

The PTA is a way for you, as families to be involved in your child's elementary school experience. Whether you choose to simply donate \$12 for annual dues to become a member, have a few hours to volunteer to help at an event or choose to chair a committee, all contributions are welcome and appreciated.

This year we are striving to get 60% of our families represented as member families. To become a member all you need to do is visit our [Membership page](#). Our next meeting will be held on January 15th at 6:30pm. Please join us, we'd love to see some new faces and hear your ideas on how we can keep getting better. If you can't come to the meeting, we have several great events coming up. We hope to see you there!



Class Updates Pages 3-5

Catch up on the latest happenings in your child's classes



Our Community Pages 7

Learn about events and activities in and around town



Save These Dates Page 2

Mark your calendars for these important events coming soon

FACEBOOK

Like us on facebook to stay up to date on news and events

Lake Garda PTA

WEEKLY PTA EMAIL

Look for a weekly email every Monday for important announcements.

PTA MEETINGS

Join us for idea sharing, committee updates and conversation.

1/15 at 6:30PM

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

1/8—PILN at 9:30am

1/11 - Parents in Literacy (PILN) 9:30am

1/15 - PILN at 9:30am

1/15 - PTA Meeting at 6:30pm

1/18—PILN 9:30am

1/18 - EARLY DISMISSAL PROFESSIONAL DEV DAY at 1:00pm

1/21—NO SCHOOL

1/25 - PILN 9:30am

1/25—Family Fun Night 6:30pm

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 25TH

TIME: 6:30 - 8:00PM

LOCATION: LAKE GARDA CAFETERIA

JOIN US FOR A FAMILY NIGHT OF BINGO, PRIZES, SNACKS AND FUN!

PRE-K NEWS

In the Early Learning Center, we continue with the themes of feelings and how to calm down, pumpkins, our five senses and bubbles. Our program consists of strong peer role models and students with identified needs. Each year the number of role model students we need changes.

We accept the most students into our three-year-old program and occasionally, the four-year-old program. If this is a program interests you, please look for our new application on the Region 10 website in early 2019. The application period will end prior to March 1 , 2019. If you have further questions, please email me at rhoadess@region10ct.org

FIRST GRADE NEWS

Students finished working on a Word Detective unit in Reading Workshop about how to solve tricky words. We have begun learning about reading nonfiction books. Students are exploring telling more by adding to their writing during Writing Workshop. They continue to practice strategies for spelling unfamiliar words. First graders have also begun writing nonfiction pieces during writing time.

During math time, students continue to work on their counting skills, addition and subtraction, shapes, and telling time. They also are practicing math facts to 10! We are counting down the days until the 100th day of school! We look forward to learning and growing in the New Year!

THIRD GRADE NEWS

We hope everyone had wonderful holidays. In math, we are working on addition and subtraction strategies, especially when solving story problems. In writing we are beginning our informational writing unit. Students are picking topics they are experts on and are writing to inform the class about them.

In reading, we are also discussing nonfiction books. Students will be working on note taking using boxes and bullets as well as growing ideas about a topic. We will eventually get into narrative nonfiction when we will be primarily reading biographies. We are looking forward to 2019!

SPANISH NEWS

¡Feliz Año Nuevo!

Here are a few fun facts to celebrate the Spanish language here at Lake Garda School:

- There are more than 329 million native Spanish speakers in the world.
- Spanish takes 3rd place as the world's most widely spoken languages.
- Mexico is the country with the largest native speaking population today.
- There are more than 20 countries in the world that boast Spanish as an official language.
- The US Department of State says that it takes an English learner 575–600 class hours to learn Spanish.

Check out the link below for more information: <https://www.thoughtco.com/spanish-language-facts-4136754>

Hasta pronto,

Señora Smaldone

LIBRARY NEWS

All students took part in an exciting week Dec. 3-7 and had a chance to participate in “Hour of Code.” This was a worldwide event to expose kids to computer programming! They loved it, and can continue learning from home on Code.org.

4th graders have become great researchers and are using many sources to gather social studies facts including Britannica School, Fact-monster, and TrueFlix. We are also using websites from our Destiny database (WebPath express), perfect for 4th grade. They are learning research skills they'll be using for the rest of their lives!

3rd graders have been reviewing how to locate books in the library that they're interested in. We are also working with the “World Almanac for Kids” discovering how to locate information using an index. They will explore “Factmonster” an online almanac, in the next few weeks.

2nd graders are exploring the Dewey Decimal System and learning about why certain books are grouped together on the shelves. In the next few weeks we'll be sharing a book from each 'hundreds

number' to expose them to all the different sections of the library in the hopes of checking out a wide variety of books. This will lead into learning how to use the computers to locate books they want.

1st graders are sharing "easy readers" like Frog and Toad, Mr. Putter and Tabby and Henry and Mudge. We have also found many non-fiction titles that are in the easy reader format. We'll be exploring many authors throughout the library in the next few months, comparing and contrasting several books by the same author.

Kindergarteners will be exploring many Caldecott medal winning books in the next few months. These are books that have earned an award for the best illustrations in any given year. We'll discover flying frogs (Tuesday by David Weisner), a family of ducks, (Make Way for Ducklings by Robert McClosky) and a favorite stuffed animal (Knuffle Bunny by Mo Willems), just to name a few favorites. We love to share books with the class by showing a favorite page or talking about a favorite character or favorite part.

NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE

Hopefully, your child has come home this year at some point talking about an exciting activity they did during Science time. Whether it was kindergarten students trying to figure out how to make UV beads change color, or first graders using flashlights to explore shadows, or third graders trying to solve the mystery of how the slime seemed to eat a magnet, the students are beginning to do science in a more inquiry or discovery based manner.

We are in the beginning process of learning and implementing new units (called bundles) that are more in alignment with the philosophy and standards as outlined in the Next Generation documents.

- Next Gen Parents Guide for K-2

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/ParentGuide%20Grades%20Kto2%20-%20General.pdf>

- Next Gen Parents Guide for 3-5

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/ParentGuides%20Grades%203to5%20-%20General.pdf>

So far, the students really seem to be enjoying the new bundles and the teachers are working together to learn the new content and fit the activities into their very busy days. You can expect to

see even more activities as we have the opportunity to implement Next Generation Science into our curriculum.

BOX TOPS

Lake Garda School participates in the Box Tops for Education program. Our next collection will be in February. Please clip all of your Box Tops and be sure they are unexpired and neatly clipped. Each Box Top submitted earns our school 10 cents. Every Box Top really does count and they add up quickly. The grade that submits the most Box Tops will earn a fun celebration in June. More detailed information about the celebration 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

PTA MEETING

Save the date - January 15th at 6:30pm and join us for our next PTA Meeting. Don't worry if you can't make it, if you have feedback or ideas, please email lakegardapta@region10ct.org.

24th ANNUAL TALENT SHOW

The Talent Show will be held on Wednesday, February 6th. The deadline is Friday, January 18 to register an act for the show. **For more information, you can view the flyer here:** [Talent Show Form 2018_2019.pdf](#) [Talent Show Dress Rehearsal and Rules.pdf](#)

NIGHT OUT ON THE TOWN

Save the date Saturday, March 9th for our annual Night Out on the Town fundraiser. This event is the PTAs biggest fundraiser and also so much fun. Would you like to be your child's classroom coordinator? An email will be sent home this week with the sign up for the classrooms. Click on the PDF for more info: [Parent Letter pdf](#)

LAKE GARDA SCIENCE FAIR

The annual Science and Invention Fair will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 6:30pm. This year's theme is "FULL S.T.E.A.M. AHEAD". Start thinking of your ideas, more information about submissions will be coming out soon. Be on the lookout for a flyer for our logo contest. All 3rd and 4th grade students can submit a logo. The winner will have their logo featured on promo flyers and T-shirts for the event.

BURLINGTON LIBRARY

Have you heard about the [Great Burlington Baking Club](#)? For more events and happenings at the town library, please visit our website. www.burlingtonctlibrary.org

BURLINGTON JUNIOR SOCCER ASSOCIATION

Registration for spring soccer is now open for all grades. If you would like more information or wish to register your child, please visit the website at www.bjsasoccer.com.

BURLINGTON LAND TRUST

Join our Midnight Ramble on Saturday, January 19th at 6:30pm. For more information, please visit our website www.burlingtonlandtrust.org.