

# Dolphin Dispatch

Lake Garda PTA Monthly Newsletter

## BUSY TIMES FOR THE PTA!

February is a busy time for the PTA. Thanks to those of you who came out for Family Fun Night last month. Always a fun night out with the family. There are several events coming up in February as well - Valentine's Muffin Mania, Night Out, Book Fairs

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. To become a member all you need to do is visit our [Membership page](#).

Please help us understand what you are looking for in a PTA. We are soliciting all feedback in a survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8S5WGYS> Responses are due this week. Our next meeting will be held on February 26 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 3-8

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



### Our Community Pages 10-11

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.

2/26 at 6:30PM

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## **IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY**

2/8 – PILN at 9:30am

2/11 - BOE Meeting, Lewis Mills 7pm

2/12—PILN 9:30am

2/15 - PILN 9:30am

2/18 & 2/19—NO SCHOOL

2/22 - PILN 9:30am

2/25 - BOE Budget Workshop 7pm

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The kindergarteners at Lake Garda are having a wonderful winter. We are working very hard during this new year. We are talking, reading, and writing about snow (we're almost ready for it to go now!). Please make sure your kindergartener (or older student) is prepared for the cold at recess time. We try to get out and get our energy out as much as possible.

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. Suess

## SECOND GRADE NEWS

Happy New Year!

We start 2019 with a reading focus on carefully thinking about character's feelings and traits and how they grow and change. Additionally, students are learning how to determine the author's intentions for writing a story and being able to state the theme/moral of stories. In writing, students have been creating realistic fiction series books filled with characters and events that they have created inspired from own lives or mentor texts.

In mathematics, our focus moves to fostering understanding of the importance of standard units of measure. The hands on and interactive 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.

We have begun a social studies unit called People and Groups Who Make A Difference in Society. During this unit, students are immersed in learning activities that allow them to discover why the past is important, even though we live in the present. Through studying Burlington history and discussing the importance of people, artifacts, and how life has changed since the 1800s, students will begin to build background knowledge that will help the students enjoy our spring field trip to important Burlington town buildings. Students will also have an opportunity to research a famous American person past or present and learn about the impact people have on changing our world for the better.

## 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 that the weather cooperates! Both Reading and Writing Workshop find us initiating new units in non-fiction reading and informational writing. Once again forming a strong reading/writing partnership, we currently take a look at the role of Westward Expansion in our country's history. On subjects ranging from the hazards of the journey to the Trans-Continental Railroad, from the Gold Rush to the Pony Express, we're sharpening thinking and note-taking skills as we evaluate those facts from the reading which are most important to our research. Conveying complex, written, analytical thinking about what we've been reading is a challenging task, and we're working hard as we begin our first non-fiction, informational essays.

In math, upcoming Bridges unit four addresses addition, subtraction and measurement. We'll be measuring length, distance, liquid volume, time, mass and weight within a problem-solving context. We also urge you to carefully review the Bridges Unit 4 reference sheet which will soon be coming your way. In addition to providing you with an overview of multi-digit addition and subtraction strategies, it addresses often-posed questions regarding the use of standard algorithms for adding and subtracting larger numbers.

Invention Convention activities in science are in full swing. We've just begun building, and we can't wait to see what your kiddos come up with!

## READING NEWS

READING TIPS FOR YOUNG READERS COURTESY OF REACHOUTANDREAD.ORG

Reach Out and Read encourages all parents to make reading with their children part of their daily routine. Books build better brains.

Make reading part of every day, even for just a few minutes.

Have fun.

Talk about the pictures. You do not have to read the book to tell a story.

Let your child turn the pages.

Show your child the cover page. Explain what the story is about.

Run your finger along the words as you read them.

Silly sounds, especially animal sounds, are fun to make.

Choose books about events in your child's life such as starting preschool, going to the dentist, getting a new pet, or moving to a new home.

Make the story come alive. Create voices for the story characters.

Ask questions about the story. What do you think will happen next? What is this?

Let your child ask questions about the story. Talk about familiar activities and objects.

Let your child retell the story.

Visit your local library often.

## **TIPS FOR HELPING CHILDREN IMPROVE READING COMPREHENSION**

By Ginny Osewalt and courtesy of [www.understood.org](http://www.understood.org)

**Make connections.** Connecting what your child already knows while she/he reads sharpens her/his focus and deepens understanding. Show her/him how to make connections by sharing your own connections as you read aloud. Maybe the book mentions places you've been together on vacation. Talk about your memories of those places. Invite your child to have a turn. Remind your child that good readers make all kinds of connections as they read.

**Ask questions.** Asking questions will make your child want to look for clues in the text. Pose questions that will spark your child's curiosity as you read aloud. Frequently ask her/him, "What are you wondering?" Jot down those "wonderings" and then see how they turn out. Remind your child that good readers challenge what they're reading by asking questions.

**Create "mind movies."** Creating visual images brings the text alive. These "mind movies" make the story more memorable. You can help your child do this by reading aloud and describing the pictures you're seeing in your own imagination. Use all five senses and emotions. Invite your child to share her "mind movies." Notice how they're different from yours. You might even ask your child to draw what's in her imagination.

**Make inferences.** We "infer" by combining what we already know with clues from a story. For example, when we read, "Her eyes were red and her nose was runny," we can infer that she has a cold or allergies. You can help your child with this reading skill by predicting what might happen in the story as you read aloud. Then invite your child to do the same.

Figure out what's important. Determining what's important is central to reading. When you read a story with your child, help her/him you keep track of the main characters, where the story is taking place, and the problem and solution of the story. Nonfiction texts look different from fiction. They're organized with features like the table of contents, headings, bold print, photos and the index.

Monitor comprehension. Readers who monitor their own reading use strategies to help them when they don't understand something. Teach your child how to use some of these fix-up strategies:

Re-read

Read on—now does it make sense?

Read out loud.

Read more slowly.

Look at illustrations.

Identify confusing words

## MUSIC NEWS

Our student musicians have been working hard!

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.

Every day is a new opportunity to play our recorders in third grade. We know that regular practice has helped us to improve. We have added d to the notes that we can play. And, this week we introduced the Big Six Elements of Music. We also learned that we can use special music symbols to repeat music when we read and understand the roadmap. 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. We are listening to the differences in intervals to decide if they are repeated notes, close together (step

intervals), or far apart (skip intervals). Training our ears and our eyes will help us perform at our best.

First grade is preparing to read and perform basic rhythm notation. We know how our rhythm patterns sound and now we are learning to recognize them at sight. We have learned that the steady beat organizes our music in sound. Next, we will learn how to organize written music on the page.

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 wet and rainy days. We sing about chickens and animals at the fair. We even found time to listen to Gustav Holst's Uranus: The Magician section of the The Planets.

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.

## PE & HEALTH

In the second marking period, students will continue to work on overhand throwing, catching, locomotor movements and other fundamental skills. They will also be doing bowling, trestle tree and Jump Rope for Heart.

Students will practice helpful feedback and positive communication during skill development and practice. Helpful feedback is providing specific tips and methods to improve technique or performance without being critical or hurtful. Examples of ways students are asked to give feedback might be, "remember to step forward with the opposite foot when you throw" or "keep your back straight when you do the push up." Sportsmanship is incorporated into all lessons in addition to teaching the importance of including others in games by teaching grouping strategies that they can use to make groups at school and at home.

In health, students will have lessons about kindness and good sportsmanship. Brief video clips (1-2 minutes) showing children and adults facing difficult choices will be viewed, followed with teacher-guided discussions. Students will have multiple opportunities to talk about personal experiences with their classmates and practice decision making skills through role play and small group conversations. We hope that students will practice these skills in the classroom, gym, recess, organized sports, etc.

Grades 3-4

During the second marking period, students will engage in units of bowling, invasion strategies, adventure PE, and badminton. Invasion strategies (offensive and defensive strategies) will focus on

performance skills including ball-handling, passing, moving to open space, and communication. Students will practice helpful feedback and positive communication during skill development and modified game play. Helpful feedback is providing specific tips and methods to improve technique or performance without being critical or hurtful. Examples of ways students are asked to give feedback might be, “remember to step forward with the opposite foot when you pass” or “remember to move to open space when asking for the ball.” Sportsmanship and game etiquette are incorporated into all

lessons in addition to teaching the importance of including others in games by teaching grouping strategies that can be used at school and at home. Our Adventure PE unit focuses on teamwork, communication, cooperation and problem solving. Students will be given challenges and activities that they need to work together to be successful, and hopefully complete before the end of the class. Group sizes begin as partner work and progress up to whole class activities. The importance of using both verbal and nonverbal communication becomes quite evident as the group size increases.

In health, students will have lessons about kindness and good sportsmanship. Brief video clips (1-2 minutes) showing children and adults facing difficult choices will be viewed, followed with teacher-guided discussions. Students will have multiple opportunities to talk about personal experiences with their classmates and practice decision making skills through role plays and small group conversations.

We hope that students will practice these skills in the classroom, gym, recess, organized sports, etc. Heart health and discussions on proper use of over the counter medicines, Community Helpers, and exercise.

## PTA MEETING

Save the date - February 26th 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](mailto:lakegardapta@region10ct.org).

## PTA SURVEY

Please help us make improvements to our PTA. **Deadline to complete the survey is this Friday, February 15.** Let us know what works for you, what you would like to see more of, suggestions on what you would change. It only takes 5 minutes and can help us a great deal. Please click on the link for the survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8S5WGYS>

## 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. Grab a few friends and join us for a fun date night with great food, amazing auction items and lots of laughs with friends.

If you misplaced the flyer to purchase your tickets, just send an email to [lgpta@yahoo.com](mailto:lgpta@yahoo.com).

REMINDER: Donations for your classroom baskets are due this Friday, February 15th. Cash/check are acceptable and welcome. You do not need to shop, your coordinator can do that part. Simply send in some money with your child and you will directly help the PTA with our #1 fundraiser.

## 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 some great science fair ideas and be part of the fun. You can read more information or register your project here. <http://bit.ly/LGSteam>

## BOX TOPS COLLECTION

**Deadline to submit unexpired Box Tops is this Friday, February 15.** Please send all unexpired Box Tops to school with your child, in a zip top bag, or envelope, with your child's name, teacher's name and grade legibly printed. Every submitted Box Top counts and helps pay for a variety of programs and supplies and/or other important resources at Lake Garda School. If you have any questions, **please contact Keri Singh** at: [epigirls105@yahoo.com](mailto:epigirls105@yahoo.com). Thank you all for your support!!

## **BURLINGTON LIBRARY**

Story time, Book Clubs, Movies and more. Find out what's happening this month at [www.burlingtonctlibrary.org](http://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](http://www.bjsasoccer.com).



## **BURLINGTON LITTLE LEAGUE**

Registration for tee ball and little league is now open for all grades. If you would like more information or wish to register your child, please visit the website at <https://tshq.bluesombrero.com>



## **FARMINGTON VALLEY MUDHOGS FLAG FOOTBALL**

Open to grades K-8. \$80 per child. Program runs from May 4th to June 13th. Register from now until April 8th at [www.mudhogsfootball.com](http://www.mudhogsfootball.com).

## **DONATE YOUR USED SNEAKERS TO A GOOD CAUSE**

Troop 23 in Burlington, is proud to present our troop's sneaker drive fundraiser. We have partnered with GotSneakers, a sneaker recycling organization, which will compensate \$1 for every pair of wearable athletic sneakers. After the sneakers are collected, GotSneakers will distribute these sneakers around the world, specifically within impoverished nations. It is estimated that over 300 million pairs of sneakers are thrown away each year in America's landfills and that over 600 million adults and children worldwide live barefoot. We can touch the lives of thousands by simply cleaning out our closets and collecting our unwanted sneakers. The request is simple; clean out your family's closets of all unwanted paired sneakers. Please drop off to the following lobby locations:

- Any Region 10 School Lobby

- Burlington & Harwinton Public Libraries
- Burlington & Harwinton Town Halls

Thank you for your partnership and support!

## **MAKE A MARK COMMUNITY CHESS TOURNAMENT**

The Make A Mark Enrichment Fund is proud to sponsor our annual region-wide, inter-generational chess tournament on March 2nd at Lewis S. Mills High School. The single elimination tournament is a fun and exciting opportunity to practice your chess skills and meet new people or see old friends. Players of all ages and skill levels are invited to participate!

DATE: Saturday, March 2

TIME: 10:00 am

PLACE: Lewis S. Mills Cafeteria

ENTRY FEE: \$5.00 per person

•• Gift Card Prizes for Level Winners! •• Practice Area for Free-Play and Volunteer Instruction (Bring your own board for Free-Play) •• Light Refreshments Will Be Available for Sale (Provided by LSM National Honor Society) •• Senior Citizens Eat for Free ••

Register to Enter here. <http://region1olakegarda.ss7.sharpschool.com/common/pages/UserFile.aspx?field=12201725>