

# Dolphin Dispatch

Lake Garda PTA Monthly Newsletter

## IT'S GONNA BE MAY...

Every time I see an "It's gonna be May" meme, I have to laugh. May really is one of the most busy months of the year. Spring sports, holidays, concerts, yard work, teacher appreciation week, end of year planning, so many to do lists...so many late nights!

Some of the PTA May Events include spring pictures and Teacher Appreciation Week. Spring pictures are more informal and can be done with siblings. Picture day is May 2nd. The PTA also sponsors a Teacher Appreciation Lunch on May 9th. This is a great lunch that our teacher's look forward to. Please help us by volunteering to bring in an item or two. The sign up is [here](#).

Our next meeting will be held on May 8 at 6:30pm. Please join us, we will be voting in our new PTA Board. We also have a few Committee Chair positions open. Come learn about what's available and see if it would be a fit for you. We would love to see some new faces and hear your ideas on how we can keep getting better.

### 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.

MAY 8

6:30pm



### Class Updates Pages 3-6

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



### Our Community Page 8

Learn about events and activities in and around town



### Save These Dates Page 2

Mark your calendars for these important events coming soon

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## **IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY**

**5/2 - Spring Picture Day**

**5/3- Read Aloud Day**

**5/3- Partners in Literacy (PILN), 9:30 am**

**5/6-5/10- Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week**

**5/7- PILN, 9:30 am**

**5/8- PTA meeting, 6:30 pm, LGS Media Center**

**5/10- PILN, 9:30 am**

**5/13- BOE Meeting, 7 pm, Learning Center**

**5/14- Nutmeg Symphony, Grade 3-LSM**

**5/21- PILN, 9:30 am**

**5/24-PILN, 9:30 am**

**5/27- Memorial Day - No School**

## **PRE-K NEWS**

We are learning about nursery rhymes for poetry month. The students in both the AM and PM classes are enjoying acting out our nursery rhymes. Moving forward, the PM class will begin preparing for kindergarten! The AM class will be looking forward to learning about the outdoors and environment.

**ELC Tip** - The students are enjoying the school year! The warm weather is coming and the students are looking forward to getting outside and playing all summer long to build their learning muscles. The learning muscles are the core muscles that all students need to sit in class and focus on the learning that is happening. Having strong core muscles not only improves students focus in class, it will also improve handwriting. If you must stay inside consider crawling races and time laying on your tummy to watch TV, playing on a tablet or reading a book. Every child and adult benefits from being outside, so get outside and get moving!

## **FIRST GRADE NEWS**

During Reading Workshop, first graders just finished learning all about characters and learned how to share their reading adventures with partners.

Our first-grade authors have been busy writing realistic fiction. They created their own characters and wrote a series of stories focusing on one character. Students even created a book box to go along with their stories.

Our little mathematicians have been learning about shapes, fractions, measurement and place value. They are solving word problems and having fun learning new work places.

First grade is getting ready to visit the Children's Museum in West Hartford later this month. We will attend a presentation on sound and explore many fascinating exhibits!

The first grade teachers are very proud of how hard all of our students have worked this year! Way to go everyone!

## THIRD GRADE NEWS

In third grade we have been working on many important things. In reading, we have spent the past couple of weeks working on reviewing for the Smarter Balanced Assessment. We have introduced multiple choice questions as well as short response answers. Students have been reading excerpts and getting used to reading and interacting with short passages.

In writing, we continue our work in research clubs. Students have been in groups researching multiple animals and are beginning to put together writing about their research.

In math, we continue to work on multiplication and division. We have discussed story problems and have even created our own story problems. We will be starting more work on area and perimeter.

In social studies, we are in the middle of discussing Native Americans and the first colonists of the Connecticut. Students have been very interested in this topic. We are looking forward to the warmer weather, and we have many great things TO do before the end of the school year.

## SPANISH UPDATES

Estimados Familias de la Escuela Lake Garda,

It is never too early to begin preparing for summer vacation. Many parents ask throughout the school year about how to bring Spanish into the home environment for weekends or over the long summer break. What a fantastic idea! Below you will find a few ideas to try:

\*Select one of the Spanish-speaking countries to “visit” virtually on-line. Read and research with your child about all the country has to offer. Also, check out the many books provided by the on-line library, Epic.

\*Click on one of the Spanish television channels for just five minutes a day. Talk about what you notice, words your child may catch and understand and expose yourselves to the sound of the target language for just a few minutes each day.

\*Create a family playlist of favorite tunes in Spanish. Explore some of the hot new musical talent the Spanish-speaking world has to offer and dance away!

**\*Expand your food choices. Research and prepare one food each week from a different Spanish-speaking country. Trust me, you will run out of weeks before you run out of countries.**

**\*Much like the television, program a Latin music station to your car stereo. Drive for 5 minutes or miles and enjoy the sound of Spanish.**

**Disfruta!  
Señora Smaldone**

## **ART ROOM NEWS**

**Wow!!! This school year flew right by and this can only mean one thing...the Annual Lake Garda Student Art Show is right around the corner!!!**

**The date is still yet to be determined for this exciting event but keep your eyes peeled for a letter in your child's backpack. This letter will inform you of the date and time along with which art piece/s your child will have on display. We worked incredibly hard all year creating the best masterpieces to show our Lake Garda families and community. We hope you will all be able to attend!**

**Lastly, prior to the last day of school, all of your child's art projects created throughout the school year will be coming home whether they were hung in the art show or not. I hope you look forward to seeing them as much as I have enjoyed watching them be created.**

**Thank you again for another wonderful and creative year with your children!**

**Sincerely,**

**Mrs. Matthews**

## LIBRARY NEWS

The library has been a very busy place. Kindergarteners have been enjoying many fun books along with Caldecott medal books, looking at the award winning illustrations, visiting familiar characters and meeting new ones along the way. Books we've shared include *Tuesday*, *The Hello-Goodbye Window*, *The Recess Queen*, (learning about recess manners), *This is Not My Hat*, and *Sam and Dave Dig a Hole*.

First graders have been hearing various books by our favorite authors, Marcus Pfister, Leo Lionni, Jan Brett and Arnold Lobel. We have noticed similarities between books by the same author and various styles of writing. We will finish out the year with a fairy tale unit which is always is the first graders favorite! We will be comparing and contrasting different versions of the same tale, while learning the elements of most fairy tales. Ask the students about the magic element, the numbers 3 and 7, and good and bad characters.

Second graders are learning all about the Dewey Decimal System, subjects that are grouped together by number. We have shared books from each 100's number throughout the library. This is in anticipation of learning how to use DESTINY, our on-line catalog. Once they know where books are located, it's fun to be able to find what we want, on our own, by using the call numbers on the sides of the books. This is a skill they'll be using for a life-time!

Third graders have been learning about Native American life through books, websites and a fun hands-on longhouse building group project. They have also learned about using our library databases to locate information on everything! Britannica School, Pebble Go and Webpath Express (locating websites perfect for 3<sup>rd</sup> graders) are among the favorite sites.

Fourth graders have been completing research on their different social studies and writing projects. We have become great researchers! They have used various databases including Britannica School, Trueflix, and Factmonster as well as books and websites about western expansion and the National Parks. We are in the process of writing and posting reviews of favorite books we've enjoyed from the library. Voting for their favorite Nutmeg book just took place. We'll find out which book is a favorite out of the group of 10 books. Nutmegs for 2020 are coming soon!

**PTA MEETING**

Save the date - May 8 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 [lgpta@yahoo.com](mailto:lgpta@yahoo.com).

**TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

Don't forget about the wonderful teachers, staff and administrators at Lake Garda School. They make every day great! You can show your appreciation by helping out with our Luncheon. We are still in need of some items. Sign up [here](#).

## **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 LAND TRUST**

Harbur Middle School Hike  
May 7 at 1:00 on Taine Mountain  
Contact [Jim Mann](#)

Trails Day June 1 from 1:30-4:30  
at Sessions Woods  
Informative hikes and falconer Christine Peyreigne

## **BURLINGTON PARKS & RECREATION**

- Shine On 5K - May 19th
- Brush & Pallet Painting Class - after school at Lake Garda for grades K-4
- Tennis Lessons - starting May 15th
- Foote Road Camp
- Foote Road Swimming Lessons
- Diamond Kings Baseball Camp - July 8th

For more information on any of the above programs, please visit: [myburlingtonrec.com](http://myburlingtonrec.com)

## **BURLINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**We are looking forward to seeing many of the second grade students as they work to complete their Burlington passport and take a field trip in May to visit our historical sites in town.**