



DOLPHIN DISPATCH



LAKE GARDA ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER ♦ VOLUME 18 ♦ ISSUE 1 ♦ Sept. 2016

WELCOME BACK FROM THE PTA

By Tracy Scarborough

The Lake Garda PTA would like to welcome back our returning families and wish a warm welcome to our new families. Our PTA mission is to bring closer relations between home and school and to promote the enrichment of our children in the home, school and the community. This newsletter is your go to source for news and events happening in our school and our community.

One of the main ways we are able to promote the enrichment of our children is by offering quality enrichment programs and events that bring our students, parents and teachers together. In order to accomplish this goal, we need your help!!!! Please consider becoming a MEMBER OF THE PTA. Don't be scared. Becoming a member does not mean that we will ask you to participate in every activity or attend all of our meetings. You can help through financial support and/or volunteering. We understand that your financial contribution may be all you can give at this time, or you may not be able to give financially but do have some time to donate. Either way, please visit our [new membership site](#) and let us know how you would like to help!

You read that right! We are so excited to partner with Membership Toolkit to provide **online access** to complete your membership, spirit wear, birthday book forms and so much more! You can now purchase these items using your credit/debit card or your Paypal account. No more writing checks and wondering whether your child will remember to turn them in (the option is still available). The best part is the information will carry over to the next year and, you will just need to verify your information and pay your annual dues! But wait there is more . . . By becoming a member of the PTA, you also gain access to our NEW ONLINE DIRECTORY. Since it is on the web, you will be able to access it anywhere and sort it by grade level or by teacher, which will come in handy when sending out birthday invites or making playdates.

Remember how I said you can fill out our volunteer interest survey? This is so EASY. Just click the check box next to the program/event(s) you want to help with and the committee chair for that program/event will reach out to you. We will also use this system for event signups such as the teacher's breakfast, book fair, family fun night and more. No more need to go to Volunteer Spot.

Interested in learning more? Come join us for our first **PTA meeting 9/27 at 7:00 PM**, immediately following Math Night. Childcare will be provided by the MILLS Club. We will give a brief explanation of the programs and events that we have planned for this year. This is a great opportunity for you to meet other Lake Garda parents and to share what you are looking for in your PTA. As we like to say, the PTA is for EVERYONE.



**Find us on
Facebook**

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



First PTA Meeting:
Tuesday, Sept. 27th
7:00 pm



Important Dates in September

9/8/16- Open House Grades 3-4 6-7:00 pm

9/9/16- Partners in Literacy and Numeracy (PILN)-
9:30 am

9/12/16- PTA Fall Fundraiser Kick Off

9/13/16-PILN- 9:30 am

9/15/16- Picture Day

9/15/16- Kindergarten Ice Cream Social/ 5:30-7 pm

9/16/16- PILN- 9:30 am

9/20/16-PILN- 9:30 am

9/23/16- PILN- 9:30 am

9/27/16- Math Night 6-7 pm

9/27/16- PTA Meeting 7 pm

9/30/16- PILN- 2:15 pm

DON'T MISS MATH NIGHT! Tues, Sept. 27th from 6-7:00 pm

Please join us for a night of Work Places. This a great opportunity to experience some of the activities the kids are doing during math class to help develop fluency. Fourth Grade students will be running the games so parents and students in the younger grades can do the activities. There is not a formal presentation, so feel free to drop in when you can and stay for as much of the evening as your schedule allows.

Principal's Message

Dear Lake Garda Families,

It was such a pleasure to welcome your children to Lake Garda on the first day of school. The halls were filled with new and familiar faces – all smiling. What a wonderful change from the (somewhat) quiet summer months!



Our kindergarteners are adjusting to the school routine nicely. We have extra staff in the cafeteria to help them open those tricky milks and yogurts. They are enjoying an additional recess during the first few weeks of school to help them adjust to the long days. Our more experienced students got back into the swing of things almost immediately!

As always, the Lake Garda PTA has been hard at work making our school a better place! Our flower beds and gardens look beautiful and the bulletin board outside the office brightens the hall! On the second day of school, the entire staff enjoyed a wonderful breakfast, thanks to our PTA. Additionally, they are hard at work researching exciting enrichment programs for our students, ordering plenty of new spirit wear, and much, much more. I encourage you to join our PTA and get involved! There are so many opportunities to volunteer that you are almost guaranteed to find a way that works for you. I'll look for you at the first PTA meeting in September!

We are going to have a wonderful year together!

Kind Regards,

Stefanie Carbone

News From Around the School

Kindergarten News



The graduating class of 2029 has begun their school career at Lake Garda!

Our kindergarten students are off to a great start this year. The students are making new friends, learning about routines, and building their classroom communities. We have been spending lots of time getting to know each other and already learning so much about reading and math. In math, we are analyzing patterns and counting the days we've been in school. Exploring our math manipulatives has been lots of fun. We are becoming readers and learning what good readers do in our Reader's Workshop. Our kindergarten students are practicing reading independently already! Students and teachers enjoyed sharing our classrooms with families during the Open House Night.

"All I really need to know...I learned in kindergarten"

~ Robert Fulghum

First Grade News

First graders are adjusting nicely to a new school year! They are busy reading and responding to books during Reader's Workshop. They are also practicing counting, graphing and playing fun games during math time/ First graders are very excited about our science unit on the monarch. Each classroom has real caterpillars that students are taking care of. We are all eagerly waiting to see what will happen to these special creatures. It's a great time to be in first grade!

The first grade teachers would like to welcome Mrs. Nolan to the team! We are excited to have her with us in first grade! It's going to be a GREAT year!

SECOND Grade

Second Grade News

We are off to a sensational start in second grade! Our students are eagerly participating in getting to know your classmate activities as well as learning the routines of a day in second grade.

Choosing "just right" books and building a reading/writing community are essential skills that will be reviewed/taught during this first month of school. Please encourage your child to read each night for at least 10-20 minutes.

Beetle glyphs, collecting 60 minutes a day, and using a number rack are just a few of the lessons second graders are engaged in this month.

Open house is always a wonderful opportunity to meet families, share pertinent information and most of all, allow students to take pride in their "second home," our classroom.

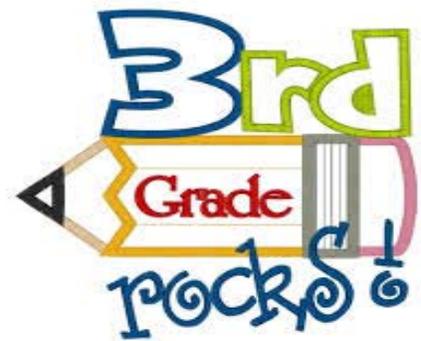
Third Grade News

Hello! The students are adjusting well to third grade and we are excited to have such prepared learners entering our classrooms.

In reading, this year we are kicking off our first unit about building a reading life. It is our purpose during this unit to have students begin to cherish their reading time.

In writing, students are in the first stages of building their stamina. We are using the Bridges program for math this year and as you know it is a very hands-on program. Students have already started creating their own graphs.

We are off to a great start this year and we are looking forward working with all of you this year. Thank you!



News From Around the School

Fourth Grade News

While summer has drawn to a close, the fourth-grade team has been planning for new beginnings! Launching a fresh school year along with the traditional excitement of meeting new students energizes our opening days. Along with establishing routines, classroom expectations and procedures, we'll also be busy continuing the implementation of the Readers' Workshop approach to reading instruction.

Readers' Workshop encourages classrooms to become communities of readers who will use, in light of teacher modeling and demonstration, a variety of strategies designed to foster independent reading. Through daily direct instruction, small group instruction, and conferring with adults and peers, students learn and reinforce those strategies most indicative of competent readers. Carefully targeted instruction supports a clearly defined set of expectations which strengthen reading comprehension, engagement and independence.

Grade four continues the *Being a Writer* program which centers on the idea of developing a community of writers learning to proficiently express their thoughts across a variety of genres while motivating and inspiring one another. As the year progresses, students will learn ways in which to develop meaningful ideas for their writing as they continue to implement the draft, revise and publish components of the writing process in personal and fictional narrative, expository (informative) non-fiction, opinion, and poetry pieces.

Math, as well, sees us continuing the *Bridges in Mathematics* program. Curriculum focus lies in developing deep understandings of mathematical concepts, skills, and problem solving strategies within the framework of direct instruction, investigative, and exploratory instructional techniques. Fourth graders will work in whole-group, small-group, and independent settings as they extend their understanding of multiplication and division, fractions and decimals, algebraic thinking, data analysis and geometry.



Spanish News

¡Hola y Bienvenidos al español!!

Las clases de español for third and fourth graders are off to a fantastic start so far this year! Students have shown great interest in learning Spanish and their eagerness during lessons is impressive.



I hope families have enjoyed interesting conversations either in the car, before bedtime, or perhaps at the dinner table about first words spoken and learning language as babies.

We all started with sounds and basic words repeated over and over again and here we are again, imitating the same process in our newest language! What's old is new again!! ¡Hasta pronto!

PTA Announcements



Box Tops for Education

Our first collection deadline is Wednesday, October 12th.

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way for you to help our school earn cash. Last school year, we earned over \$3,000 and used the money to purchase colorful t-shirts for students for Field Day. This school year, our school's earnings goal is \$3,500.

Are you already a Box Tops member? If not, please sign up at 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 zip-top bag to school with your child before the deadline. For every "25" Box Tops submitted with your child's name on it, you will receive a raffle ticket to win a prize. In addition, the classroom that has collected the greatest number of box tops will win an awesome prize!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Keri Singh, Box Top Chairperson, at 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 this year.

Open PTA Positions for 2016-2017

Garden Committee Chair	Works with garden committee volunteers to create and maintain a pleasant and welcoming environment at the entrance of our school as well as other key outdoor areas. Includes garden clean-up in March; determining new plantings or garden sites based on budget; planting perennials & mulching; planting annuals in late May, Watering, weeding & maintaining gardens are all on-going. August – plant mums; Sept/Oct. fall clean-up & plant spring bulbs.
Maker Fair Co-Chair (formerly the Science Fair)	Work with committee chair to implement this new event which was formerly known as the Science Fair. Using ideas provided by the administration this event will be more in line with the STEM program. Event is scheduled for November and responsibilities include coordinating registration & entry forms from students who wish to create projects for display; possibly creating extra activities for students; contacting outside sources to present activities at the festival; & soliciting a team of volunteers. Planning begins in September. Also includes making, distributing & collecting registration paperwork & coordinating volunteers.
School Picnic Co-Chair	This event is held on a Friday evening in June. Committee is responsible for staffing the event with volunteers & coordinating the activities for the picnic (such as dunk tank, bounce house, face painting, DJ etc.). Coincides with Art Show.

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

Support the Burlington Public Library!

September 2016 programs and events:

The Library is open Saturdays starting on Sept. 10th. Hours are 10:00—5:00.

Rhythm and Rhyme Story Time

Wednesdays @ 10:30 am

Ages 9 mos. - 35 mos. with caregivers

Pre-K Yoga & Stories

Fridays @ 10:30 am

Ages 3-5

Tuesday Art Club

5:00—6:00 pm

Ages 5 and up

BFG Read Aloud

4:30—5:00 pm

Grades 3 and up

Silly Science

Monday, Sept. 19th

4:30 pm

Grades K-3

For more details on these programs and more, visit the library website:

www.burlingtonctlibrary.info

Dolphin Dispatch October Newsletter

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

Meghan Rutherford

megrutherford63@gmail.com

call/text: 860-436-8534