

APRIL

News from Lyon & Pleasant Ridge



NO SCHOOL

Friday, April 14th

PARCC TESTING

Monday, April 10-Friday April 14

Makeup Dates

April 17, 18 & 19

EAGLE RUNNING CLUB

April 10-May 19th
Monday, Tuesday & Friday

EARTH WEEK

April 17-21st



INCOMING 3RD GRADE PARENT ORIENTATION

Wednesday, April 19

9:30-10:30AM

5:30-6:30PM

*Same Presentation, No Students



ATTENTION KINDERGARTEN & 2ND GRADE PARENTS

The State of Illinois requires proof of a dental exam for ALL Kindergarten, 2nd grade and 6th grade students by May 15th of the current school year.

If your child has been to the dentist in the past year, please ask the dentist to send your child's completed dental form to the Lyon School health office. Lyon fax # (847) 998-9701.

If you need a dental form, you can get one from the Lyon School website under Frequently Used Forms.

Any questions?

Please call (847) 657-2894

AFTER SCHOOL @ PR

Tues, April 11	3rd Grade Chorus 2:30PM
Wed, April 12	4/5th Grade Chorus 2:30PM Art 2:30PM
Tues, April 18	3rd Grade Chorus 2:30PM Art 2:30PM
Wed, April 19	4/5th Grade Chorus 2:30PM

THANK YOU JEWEL ON PATRIOT

for donating fruit to our ELL
tutoring program

BIKE/WALK TO SCHOOL

May 5th

From Kevin Dorken

Fostering Students' Independence

We hope Spring Break provided your family some quality time together and that the children are excited and ready for a strong spring at Lyon. It was great to welcome everyone back this week, and the number of smiles on faces was really wonderful to see!

As we head into our third trimester of the year, a noticeable shift can be observed as we have an increased emphasis on student independence throughout the course of each school day. Whether it is in regard to social skills and relationships or with particular aspects of their academic work, students will now be spending a greater portion of their time at school applying knowledge and skills. It is very affirming to visit classrooms and see students confidently navigating through their day, often with minimal direction from adults. They each have their moments when they are able to be a leader and help a peer with something, provide feedback to a classmate or serve as a positive model of what an engaged learner looks like. While none of these descriptions are absolutes, they are observable across all three of our grade levels at Lyon.

In the process of working with your children on a daily basis, we strive to shift the way we provide feedback to them over the course of time. What might have been more explicit and direct earlier in the year can now be delivered in a way that intentionally transfers increased ownership to the student. For example, I can frequently approach a student in need of some kind of reminder during the day and ask, "What am I going to remind you to do right now?" In the vast majority of cases, the student knows immediately and responds accordingly. Teachers can more readily respond to students with questions that accomplish the same transfer of ownership (e.g., "Which problem needs fixing?"; "Which piece of writing represents your best work?"). And in humorous and heart-warming moments, you even overhear students ask questions like this of one another.

You've likely seen this same gradual change in independence over the course of the school year at home as well. You can continue to challenge and support your children by remembering the things that they are capable of doing for themselves and letting them do them - even when it takes longer, and even when they attempt to wiggle out of it, preferring to let you do it for them. They will thank you for it later! (Well, they may never actually thank you, but they will have grown in a positive way as a result of it).

We are energized by the challenges that remain in our 2016-17 school year toward our goal of helping children become increasingly self-directed learners and responsible decision makers. As always, we thank you for your partnership in this effort, and we hope to see you at Lyon soon.

From the Principal's Desk

Ten Ways to be a Better Dad

Respect your children's mother -- This is the best thing a father can do for his children. Commit yourself to keeping your marriage strong. Support and show respect to the mother of your children, whether or not you're married to her. Parents who respect each other-- and let their children know it-- provide a secure environment for their children. "If Dad and Mom accept each other, then I must be accepted too", is the hidden but powerful message.

Spend time with your children -- Treasuring children often means sacrificing yourself for their betterment. If your children feel you aren't as concerned about them as with your other interests, they will realize they are not as valuable to you, no matter what you say.

Earn the right to be heard -- Too often, the only time a father speaks to his children is when they have done something wrong. Fathers need to build channels of communication early so that dialog about difficult subjects will be easier to handle. Talk about anything-- and as often as possible. Show your children that you are interested in their ideas and issues. Children want to be led, but fathers must earn the right to lead them.

Discipline with a gentle spirit -- All children need discipline, not as punishment but to develop character and correct wrongdoing. Discipline is a function of love. Fathers should be calm and judicious, not harsh or hard-nosed.

Be a role model -- A girl who spends time with her Father will grow up knowing how she should be treated and what she should expect from men. It is equally vital for fathers to set the standards for their sons. A father can champion the virtues of self-restraint, hard work, honesty and humility. He can admit it when he is wrong.

Be a teacher -- For too many fathers teaching is something somebody else does. Be alert for everyday situations in which you can teach your children the lessons of life.

Eat together as a family -- This builds communication and unity, which are integral to healthy family life. Sharing meals provides structure to hectic lives. It gives children an opportunity to talk and fathers a time to listen and offer advice and encouragement.

Read to your children -- Reading to your child builds intimacy and encourages literacy, which are crucial in the lifelong process of self-improvement. A father's desire to see his children stand on his shoulders unfolds the moment he opens a book and begins to read to them.

Show affection -- Children long for a secure place in this fast-paced world. As they grow, so does their need for acceptance and a sense of belonging. This need is met when a father offers a hug, a kind word and expresses appreciation for his children. Find ways each day to let your children know you love them.

Realize that a father's job is never done. -- One day you'll no longer coach your children's teams, help with homework or go to PTA meetings, but your support will remain vital in your children's lives. Older teens and young adults will look to you for wisdom if you've proven trustworthy in the past. Good fathers allow their children the freedom to direct their lives, but they don't abandon them at the dorm room, the alter or at the threshold of a first job.

Sincerely,
Mark Walther, Interim Principal

Adapted from Ten Ways to be a Better Dad – National Fatherhood Initiative

PTA News and Notes by Tracy Reeder, PTA President

Welcome back! I hope that you and your family enjoyed a relaxing Spring Break.

First, a round of applause for our benefit co-chairs Anne Binney and Whitney Langas along with Cynthia Baumgartner, Kelly Blair, Allie Lippert, Debbie Mulroy, Jayme Olthoff, Jessica Plopper, Galia Polyanovsky, Bill Varga, Dana Ward, class basket leads, and other volunteers for all of their work to make **Shake, Rattle & Roll** such a success! We had an amazing 368 attendees and netted \$43,000. Those funds enable us to accomplish the many activities and programs that the PTA provides each year.

The PTA has several activities happening in April and the beginning of May:

* **April 17-21 – Earth Week.** Environmental Chairs, Sarah Airola and Jamie Stevens, are busy planning for this educational and fun week for the students. PR students will enjoy an assembly by the Science Alliance on that Thursday.

* **April 18 at 9:15am at Lyon – Our Monthly General PTA Meeting.** All are welcome to attend. We will hear updates from committee chairs and our school principals. Plus, our guest speaker will be Jenny Bergeron, K-8 Math Instructional Coach, to discuss the new math placement process.

* **May 1-5 – Staff Appreciation Week.** Our Chairs Rachel Gilles and Kaylee Durow, are busy planning activities and treats to show our staff how much we appreciate all that they do for our children. Many volunteers are needed to make this week impactful.

* **May 5 – Walk/Bike to School.** Lyon and PR students are encouraged to **GO GREEN** and walk or bike to school.

Lastly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the following people who have been making it happen for the PTA:

- Incoming President Sharon Bux and the other PTA members who welcomed new and current families during Lyon's Kindergarten and new student registration
- Rachel Gilles and Kaylee Durow for the highly acclaimed staff appreciation Lyon breakfast, featuring casseroles, and PR luncheon, featuring homemade soups and grilled cheese
- Laura Floyd for organizing volunteers to support PR's Jump Rope for Heart. Our PR kids raised over \$52,000 for the American Heart Association.

As always, the Lyon/PR PTA welcomes all questions, comments and suggestions, so feel free to email us at lyprpta@gmail.com.

T R A F F I C S A F E T Y U P D A T E

Traffic continues to be a strong area of focus at Pleasant Ridge, in order to ensure the safety of our students, parents, and staff at ALL times. To help monitor the safety of others and help flow of traffic going in one direction, please adhere to the following guidelines:



- Please do not drop off students prior to 7:35 am for student safety of supervision.
- When dropping your child off before school, please pull your car up to the Main entrance and carefully drop you child off along the curbside.
- When picking your child up at the end of the day, please pull up all the way to curb leading to the main entrance. Your child is not allowed to walk in the parking lot at any time. Remain polite to other drivers, students, and staff members.
- Use of hand-held devices and texting is prohibited in school parking lots and zones per Illinois law. Dogs are NOT allowed in the student drop-off and pick-up areas.
- Please be respectful of the Crossing Guards at all times. Students and pedestrians in the crosswalk have the right of way.
- Drive extremely slowly and carefully near school at all times. One careless mistake is all it takes to severely injure or harm a student, parent, or staff member.

Thank you so very much for your help!

Questions & Answers?

Q: It's homework time, and I assume my child is working on her assignments in her room. But it turns out she's doodling, listening to music or just staring out the window. I end up furious; she ends up in tears. What should I do?

A: It's easy to see why you might get upset. When your child ignores her homework, it causes stress for everyone---you, her and the teacher! Here are some things you can do:

- **Talk to your child.** Find out if there is a specific problem. Does she find the work too hard? Is there too much of it? If she's avoiding assignments, it may be that the work is overwhelming her. Talk to her teacher about finding a solution.
- **Be sympathetic.** Don't excuse your child's homework avoidance, but do show her that you understand. "It looks like this is a tough assignment. Let's go over the instruction together."
- **Adjust her homework routine.** If your child isn't ready to hit the books right after school, give her some time to play or relax first. Consider having her do homework where you can keep an eye on her, such as at the kitchen table.
- **Don't shield her from the consequences.** You don't like to see your child get into trouble, but you're not doing her any favors if you rescue her when she fails to meet her obligations. If she doesn't hand in her work, let her face the consequences at school.
- **Celebrate her efforts.** When your child finishes her work on time, let her know how proud you are. It will reinforce her good behavior and make her feel terrific!