



# *The Lion's Roar*

**All the Latest News from  
Lane Elementary School**

*Where students communicate, collaborate & care*

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Jay Nocco  
*Principal*

Roxanne Salata  
*Assistant Principal*

Pam Cherry  
*Administrative Resource*

Katie Reynolds  
*LEAD Administrative Intern*

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**February 2012**

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## ***From the Principal's Desk ...***



This month, we will be hosting our third International Night. Every year, this night continues to grow in popularity and has quickly become a favorite evening with students, parents, and teachers.

As you know, we are fortunate to have a very diverse community at Lane Elementary School. We know it is not enough to *say* we value our diversity: To truly value diversity means celebrating it. We celebrate diversity every day by learning from each other here at school in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground. International night provides a platform for each family to say, "This is who we are!" and to celebrate diversity with all our families.

We hope that your family will participate this year by creating a family display that showcases your heritage or a country you have lived in or know well. The highlight of the event is always the food samples that each family brings, so break out your family cookbooks and plan on attending Lane's International Night!

*Jay Nocco*  
*Principal*



**REMINDER!**

**Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup> is President's Day!**

School and the Office will be CLOSED.



## ***2012 Spelling Bee a Huge Success!***

More than 50 students from grades 1 through 6 tried to spell their way to S-U-C-C-E-S-S at this year's schoolwide spelling bee on January 11<sup>th</sup>, led by Reading Resource Teacher Mrs. Exstein and her team of judges – Mrs.

Koehler, Ms. Reynolds, Ms.

Koelsch, and Ms. Cherry. In the final round, one speller remained as school champion – third grader Nathan Luong! Nathan will go on to represent Lane at the countywide spelling bee at Hayfield Secondary School on March 18<sup>th</sup>.

Congratulations to all of our class champion spellers! The spelling skill demonstrated – as well as the outstanding sportsmanship – was a pleasure to watch. We are so proud of our Lane Lions, and we wish Nathan lots of luck next month at the County bee.



## ***Get Ready to Travel the World at International Night, February 23<sup>rd</sup>***

Are you ready to travel around the world without ever leaving the neighborhood? If so, pack your sense of fun and adventure, and join us for our third annual **International Night, “A Taste of Lane,” on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.**

All families are invited to share their culture and traditions with our school community at this fun and educational event. You can create a display board, cook up some cultural cuisine, do a dance, sing a song, or wear your native costume. Participation forms were sent home in January. You can download the form and find more information on our school website.

International Night is designed to be fun for the whole family, but please remember that ***all children must be accompanied by an adult at all times and must follow the school rules.***

If you would like to bring food, remember “finger-food” is best. Please bring all food to the cafeteria by 6:30 p.m. No serving utensils or paper products will be provided by the school. Families must provide all napkins, plates, cups, serving spoons, etc. needed.

We hope to see you on February 23<sup>rd</sup>!

## ***Special Placement Deadlines Looming***

If you are interested in placing your child in one of the county's special academic programs for the 2012 – 2013 school year, please make note of these important deadlines coming soon:



- **Language Immersion Program Registration closes Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>** – Placement in these popular foreign-language programs at selected elementary schools across the county is determined by random computerized lottery. You must register by February 17<sup>th</sup> to be included in the lottery. You can find more information about the programs and the process at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml>.
- **Magnet School Applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** – Applications for the county's two elementary magnet schools are available on the individual magnet school's website. The FCPS magnet schools are Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences and Hunter's Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences. To be eligible, students must be above grade level in language arts and math and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. You can find more information about the programs at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>.



## ***Cluster Honors PTA Reflections Contest Winners***

Congratulations to the following students, who were recognized with cluster-level awards last month for their artistic submissions to the 2011-2012 Reflections Creative Arts Contest.

- Nicole Askenazy (Grade 5) – Music Composition, Intermediate Level – Award of Excellence (Second place)
- Clara Wrazen (Grade 1) – Visual Art, Primary Level – Award of Excellence (Second Place)
- Christopher Joseph (Grade 6) – Photography, Middle Level – Award of Merit (Third Place)

All Reflections participants will be recognized at the March PTA meeting with a special reception beginning at 6:45 p.m. All families are welcome to attend and help us celebrate these creative students!

## ***SCA News: Lane Elementary Cares and Shares***

Submitted by Libya Doman and Laura Jacobs, Lane SCA Staff Sponsors

### **Care-&-Share Collection February 28<sup>th</sup> - March 6<sup>th</sup>**

This is Lane's third year of organizing the Care & Share Collection. We will collect hair-care products, skin-care products, dental-care products, and other health-related items for families in need. New and unopened toiletries from hotels or even your home stash would be a welcome gift to an individual without these basic survival needs.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

There will be no SCA Spirit Day in the month of February.

**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>** will be "*Dream Job Day*," a day to wear a shirt that represents the job you dream of having one day.

Looking even further ahead, get ready to **Wear Green for Earth Day** on **Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>**.

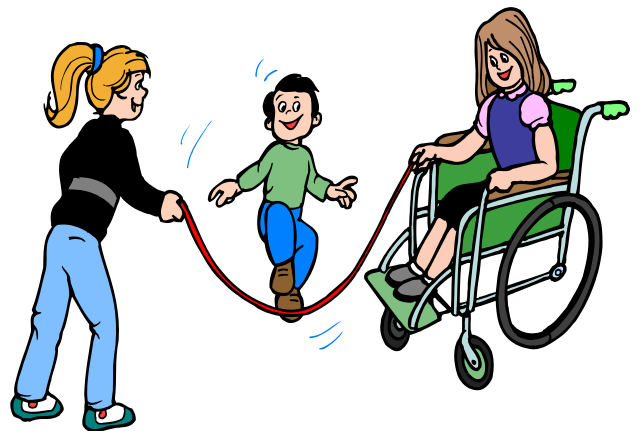
Finally, for Officers, Representatives, and Alternates only, Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup> will be our **Annual School Clean-up Day**. More details to follow in the months ahead!

### ***From the P.E. Department: Moving and Grooving in P.E.***

By Linda Farace and Tiffany Schutt, Lane P. E. Specialists

As we enter into our heart healthy month – February – our P.E. classes will engage their hearts through dance and jump-rope activities. Students in upper grades will focus on finding their heart rate and sustaining it to benefit from aerobic activity. Lower-grade students will learn about the changes that take place in their bodies while being aerobically active in P.E. class and elsewhere. Our emphasis will be on understanding the importance and benefits of exercising our heart muscle.

You can help your children at home by encouraging them to stay active outside of school. Make time to engage in physical activity with them for at least one hour each day.



# ***Art News: Sixth Graders Offer Advice After Touring the National Portrait Gallery***

Submitted by Libya Doman and Allison Carlson, Lane Art Specialists

Every year, FCPS sixth graders are invited to tour an art museum in Washington, D.C. This year, Lane students were led by museum educators at the National Portrait Gallery to look at and read portraits. The students engaged in exciting yet meaningful dialogue as they observed some of our country's most celebrated portraits.

Below you will find key vocabulary the educators emphasized during the tours as well as some suggestions from our savvy sixth-grade portrait critics about how you can analyze portraits, too!

## **Key Terms**

- Portrait: a likeness or image of a person that is created by an artist
- Image: a picture of something or someone
- Sitter: the person or people in a portrait
- Symbol: something representing something else by association; objects, characters, or other concrete representations of abstract ideas, concepts, or events

## **Lane Sixth Graders offer these tips for reading portraits:**

- You can use visual *clues* to decide when and where a portrait was created.
- *Objects* can be *symbols* offering important information – for instance, the American flag can mean patriotism or freedom.
- *Clothing, hair, and setting* are great clues for the time period.
- The *pose*, or the position of the sitter's body, gives a sense of his/her activities.
- *Expression* gives us a sense of how the sitter is feeling and what the artist wants us to think about the sitter.
- The shape of *frame* has been used to symbolically tell us more about the sitter; for instance, an oval frame can signal that the sitter was a hero or very important.

## ***Celebrate Art During Black History Month!***

*Check out the following exhibits this month at local galleries*

### **The National Portrait Gallery** (free)

#### **The Black List: Photographs by Timothy Greenfield-Sanders**

**Through April 22, 2012**

50 portraits represent some of the most dynamic and inspiring personalities in the fields of politics, music, business, civil activism, literature, the arts, and athletics as well as a few people who are not as recognizable but who are influential in their field. See Raven-Symone to Vernon Jordan.

### **The Corcoran** (entrance fee)

#### **30 Americans**

**Through February 12, 2012**

*30 Americans* showcases works by many of the most important African-American artists of the last three decades.

## ***Counselors' Corner: Put Kindness on Your February Calendar!***

Submitted by Rachel Hoover and Matt Beckwith, Lane Counselors

February is National Kindness Month. It is a great time to reinforce principles of empathy, courtesy, and respect with our children. The following offers some concrete ways to encourage these positive traits on a daily basis.



### **FOSTERING KINDNESS IN CHILDREN**

**By Cindy Jett, LICSW**

Practicing kindness generates good feeling, a broader understanding of the world, and fosters happiness in both the giver and receiver. Most people would agree that it is an important virtue to teach our children. Here are some strategies to encourage kindness in children.

**Teach empathy.** The bedrock of kindness is empathy, the ability to put oneself in someone else's shoes and feel compassion for their experience. Help children adapt to different kinds of people and encourage them to look below the surface. Why is that little boy so quiet? Is he shy? Afraid? Why might a friend seem sad? Is there something your child can do to help them feel better? Ask your child what helps him when he experiences similar feelings, and encourage him to try out different ways of being there for others.

**Teach manners.** Help your child understand that manners aren't simply conventions; they are ways of showing respect for and honoring other people. A rule, such as not interrupting others, is a way of valuing what someone has to say. Saying thank you is a way of showing gratitude and acknowledging someone else's effort.

**Be kind to your kids.** Show your children that you love them, respect them and value their feelings. Practice good manners with them. Never berate your children or call them names. Set limits with your kids. Being kind doesn't mean that you are always "nice." Children need limits and to need to respect your authority. They will need to be told when they are out of line and punished accordingly. Limits are about teaching your child how to be in the world and to treat others with respect. In many ways, setting limits is a way of teaching children the standards of respectful and kind behavior.

**Reinforce acts of kindness in children.** If your daughter brings you a bouquet of flowers, show your joy. If you see your son sharing his favorite game with a friend, acknowledge it. Encourage children to give cards when people are sick or to thank them for gifts.

**Encourage children to be kind to the world at large.** Reach out in your community in some way. Perhaps you can volunteer at a local soup kitchen, visit the sick or the elderly, or walk the dogs at the local animal shelter. Often, giving back to the world can be a family practice.

**Model kindness.** Treat others with respect, demonstrate thoughtfulness, volunteer, and practice empathy. Children are more likely to internalize what you do, than what you say to do.

## ***PTA News and Notes***

The PTA is currently looking for volunteers to assist with several of its upcoming programs:

**LIONS ON THE RUN:** Volunteer coaches are needed to run the PTA “Lions on the Run” spring program. *Lions on the Run* is an after-school fitness program open to all Lane Elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade. You will need to be able to help the students learn fundamental movement skills and cultivate an enjoyment of running. **If you are interested in running this program, please contact Pamela Dorsey at [Pamela.dorsey@lanepta.org](mailto:Pamela.dorsey@lanepta.org).**

**GIRLS ON THE RUN:** Volunteer coaches are also needed for the spring session of *Girls on the Run*, which will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:15 – 5:15 p.m., March 12<sup>th</sup> through May 25<sup>th</sup>. A special 5K run is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup>. This program is open to girls in grades 3 through 6. **Please contact Tiffany Schutt at [tsschutt@fcps.edu](mailto:tsschutt@fcps.edu) for more information.**

**BASKET BINGO:** Basket Bingo, one of the PTA’s biggest fundraisers of the year, will be held on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup> and many volunteers are needed to make the event a success. There are many roles to fill, from selling tickets to serving food or managing a bake sale. Families are also invited to “adopt” an entire themed basket, or donate gift cards (use those credit card points!) or products to help build a basket. Cash donations are also welcome! **Contact Shay Millner at [shay.millner@capitalone.com](mailto:shay.millner@capitalone.com) or 703-201-2718 for more information about volunteering or making a donation.** Ticket sales will begin next week.

The PTA will also warm up these winter afternoons and evenings with its ongoing program of after-school education programs and family-friendly social events.

Registration is now under way (for grades 3 through 6 only) for the PTA’s “**Joy of Cooking**” class, taught by Lane staff member Mrs. Jacobs. **Registration closes tomorrow, February 9<sup>th</sup>, and classes begin Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>.**

This month’s restaurant fundraiser offers not one but two different nights to dine out and donate to Lane at the same time. Families can enjoy the fare at **Red, Hot & Blue** throughout the day on both **Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>** and a portion of the total purchases will be donated back to our school.



## ***Upcoming Events***

**Monday, February 20**

President’s Day Holiday  
*School and Office Closed*

**Wednesday, February 22 &  
Thursday, February 23**

PTA Restaurant Day -  
Red, Hot & Blue, Landsdowne

**Thursday, February 23**

International Night  
*6:30 p.m., Cafeteria*