



# *The Lion's Roar*

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

*Where students communicate, collaborate & care*

**7137 Beulah Street  
Alexandria, VA 22315**

**703-924-7700  
www.fcps.edu/LaneES**

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*Principal*

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*Administrative Resource*

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## **January 2012**

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



Happy New Year, Lane families! It always seems strange to me to wish people “Happy New Year” in January, because as a principal the new year begins at the end of August. In school, this is our mid-year point and we are having a wonderful time getting back into our groove after the winter break.

Goal-setting is something almost everyone thinks about in January, with New Year’s resolutions or just planning for the year ahead. Here at Lane, we have been teaching our students how to set goals. Specifically, they are learning how to set SMART goals. SMART goals are:

- **Specific**
- **Measurable**
- **Attainable**
- **Results-oriented**
- **Time-bound.**

While a general goal might be “to become better in math,” a SMART goal would be “to learn multiplication facts by the end of January as evidenced by completing flashcards with 100% accuracy.”

- Specific – learn multiplication facts
- Measurable – through flash cards
- Attainable – yes
- Results-oriented – objective-based
- Time-bound – by the end of January.

The next step is for the students to develop a plan for achieving their goals. So in the above example, a plan may be to

- practice multiplication facts with flash cards daily
- use computer-based programs
- dedicate time to extra homework practice
- pay more attention during class.

You can help your child develop SMART goals and plans to make them happen. With this support, you will be encouraging a life-long skill that helps ensure goals become realities. See the “Counselors’ Corner” article below for more information.

*~ Jay Nocco  
Principal*

## ***Community Offers Condolences to Lane Family***

It is with sadness that we let our school families know that Anthony T. Lane, Jr. – son of the man for whom our school is named – passed away last month. We send our deepest sympathies to the family. If you'd like more information, please contact the school office.

## ***Some Friendly Reminders from the Front Office***

We know that winter can be a stressful time of year, struggling with busy schedules and inconvenient cold weather, but we ask all parents to please take a few extra moments to review and comply with our established school policies. Here are some key areas where we really need your help:

- **Absences & Tardies**

If your child is going to be tardy or absent for the day, please call the school office at 703-924-7700 to let us know. This saves us valuable time trying to contact you for information on why your child is not in school. If you do not call us to report an absence and we are unable to reach you, we will report the absence as unexcused and you will receive an automated call from Fairfax County, which you must follow up on. Our Attendance Line (703-924-7777) operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week; you can call anytime and leave a message. You can also e-mail [LaneESAttendance@fcps.edu](mailto:LaneESAttendance@fcps.edu) to report the absence. More information on absences, including what's excused and unexcused, can be found in our [School Handbook](#) on our website.

If your child is tardy (meaning he or she arrives at school after 9:15 a.m.), you **MUST** park your car and walk your child into the office to sign him or her in for the day. When you arrive at Kiss & Ride, if the adult monitors have left the area, **DO NOT** just drop off your child.

- **Early Pick-Ups**

If you need to pick up your child early for any reason, please be sure to send a note to your child's teacher that morning, including approximate pick-up time, so that the teacher can have your son or daughter packed up and ready to go when you arrive at the office. Please remember that we cannot call your child from the classroom to the office until you have actually arrived and signed him or her out.

**Please note:** If you plan to sign your child out early, you must do so **no later than 1 p.m. on Monday and 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday – Friday.** This is to prevent classroom disruption during the final transition and dismissal stage of the day.

- **Lunchtime Food**

Parents are always welcome to visit their children at lunchtime. No advance notice is needed; just check-in in the office and meet your child in the Cafeteria. **Do not bring meals purchased in restaurants (including fast food establishments and pizza places) into the Cafeteria for you or your child (or other children) to eat.** Please bring healthy food from home or purchase an adult lunch at school. This encourages students to make smart nutritional choices as well. Also, because of the crowded conditions in our Cafeteria, please do not bring younger siblings to join you and your little Lane Lion for lunch.

*(continued)*

- **Birthdays**

Parents who would like to provide a class treat are welcome to do so. Treats should be pre-portioned finger foods that do not require adult assistance to cut or supervision to serve (cupcakes, cookies, and packaged snacks work well) and should be distributed in the cafeteria during lunchtime. Also, please notify your child's classroom teacher in advance so you can avoid any foods that may be hazardous to a student's health due to allergies.

- **Bringing Medicine to School**

Prescription and over-the-counter medications require strict adult supervision. Forms to authorize school staff to administer medication are available in the school office or online at [www.fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se63.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/DIT/forms/se63.pdf). Medication cannot be administered unless required procedures are followed. The **parent or guardian must bring the medication to and from school. Do not send medication to school with the child.** The first dose of any new medication must be given at home, and the parent or guardian must personally collect any unused portion of the medication. If you have further questions about your child taking medication at school, please call our School Health Room at 703-924-7710.

- **Parent Cell Phone Use in School**

Lane Elementary is a cell-phone free zone. Please refrain from using your cell phone or other handheld electronic devices for any purpose when in the school building during school hours. This applies to all public areas, including the office, the Cafeteria, classrooms, and hallways. If you need to make a call or check your e-mail, please step outside of the building. **Never use your cell phone when in the Kiss & Ride lane.**

## ***Advanced Academic Program News and Deadlines***

Parents/guardians of second-grade students who were automatically placed in the eligibility pool for Level IV service next year have received notification letters. Parents/guardians of second-grade students NOT placed in the pool may appeal that decision. **All appeals must be sent to the FCPS Advanced Academic Office by Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup>.**

Parents of students in grades 3 – 6 may complete a referral form if they are interested in having their child placed in a full-time highly rigorous advanced academic program. The Parent Information Packet and necessary forms are located online at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/packet/ParentInformationPacketFCPS.pdf>. **All referrals and supporting documents must be turned into Advanced Academic Resource Teacher (AART) Vickie Tyquiengco at Lane by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

For additional information and support, visit the FCPS AAP website at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/aap/index.shtml> or contact Mrs. Tyquiengco at [VLTyquiengco@fcps.edu](mailto:VLTyquiengco@fcps.edu).



## ***Language Immersion and Magnet School Application Deadlines Coming Soon***

If you are interested in placing your child in one of the county's alternative magnet schools or language-immersion programs for the next school year, please take note of the following information regarding application and registration deadlines.

All parents of **kindergarten students** received a letter last month with information about the FCPS **partial-immersion language programs** at several elementary schools throughout the county. Languages include Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Online registration for these popular programs for the 2012 – 2013 school year will be open until **4:30 p.m. on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**. A random computer-generated lottery determines acceptance and wait-list placement. More information and registration is available at <http://www.fcps.edu/is/worldlanguages/immersion.shtml>.

**The application window for the county's two elementary magnet schools** is also now open. The magnet schools in FCPS are Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, located in Falls Church, and Hunter's Woods Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences, located in Reston. To be eligible for enrollment at either school, students must be above grade level in language arts and math and demonstrate positive interpersonal and school behavior. **Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2012.** You can find more information about the programs—including upcoming information nights, applications, and curriculum details—on the FCPS magnet schools page <http://www.fcps.edu/is/magnetschools/index.shtml>.

## ***Class for Multicultural Parents Begins Winter/Spring Session on January 25<sup>th</sup>***

After a very successful fall session, ESOL Teacher Hanifa Sori and Parent Liaison Melanie Crosby Hardy will be starting up a new class for our multicultural parent community beginning at the end of the month. Two programs will be offered this time – the structured Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) program and a more casual English conversation group that will also include some basic English grammar, reading, and writing practice.

The PEP program is designed for parents who are relatively new to the United States and the American school system or who have no or very limited English communication skills. The conversation group is designed for parents who have completed the initial PEP class and would like to continue or who would like a chance to practice their English skills. Both groups will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The program is free.

**All participants must register in person at the general registration on Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 to 7 p.m.** Watch for further information, including details about child care, in next week's Wednesday folder for details.

# ***From the Shelves of the Lane Library***

Submitted by Carolyn Koehler, Lane Librarian

## **Annual Bookmark Contest Now Under Way!**

It's time once again for the annual **Safe and Drug-Free Youth Bookmark Contest!** Each year, FCPS – along with the Drug Enforcement Administration, Arts and Education in Concert, and Arlington-Fairfax Elks Lodge – sponsors a bookmark contest. This year's theme is **“Making My School and Community Drug- and Bully-Free”**

If your child wishes to participate, please review the list of rules and important dates below. The contest is being coordinated through the Library and the point of contact for draft submissions/poster board/final submissions will be either Mrs. Koehler or Mrs. Cafferky.

### ***Important Dates***

**Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup> – Contest began.** When students submit their draft, they will be given pre-cut poster board for their final entry.

**Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> – Last day to submit drafts to Mrs. Koehler**

**Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> – Final entries due to Mrs. Koehler**

### ***Rules***

- Entries must promote the theme, “Making My School and Community Drug- and Bully-Free” and convey a zero-tolerance message for violence, alcohol, and other drug use.
- All artwork must be the individual's original, hand-done creation. Any work that has been copied from any published source, or which includes such material, may not be submitted. Entries must not contain computer- or electronically generated art or text. A parent/guardian or teacher must sign the entry form indicating that the child's work is original and in compliance with the contest rules.
- In an effort to promote a positive message, bookmarks that include alcohol, drug, or weapon paraphernalia, regardless of the context, will not be considered in the competition.
- **Drawings must be vertical. Students can pick up pre-cut poster board from Mrs. Koehler in the library.**
- The medium used must be limited to pen and ink, tempera paint, markers, crayons, and colored pencils. Please bear in mind that whatever method is used, the color should be applied hard enough to allow for photographing. (Charcoal and 3-D entries are not acceptable.)
- Contestants must affix a fully completed official entry form to the back of their bookmark.

## Library Volunteer Needed!



The Library is looking for some parent volunteers to assist with shelving books on Fridays. If you are available and would like to help, please contact Mrs. Koehler at [CAKoehler@fcps.edu](mailto:CAKoehler@fcps.edu).

## ***Clothes Needed in the School Health Room***

Sometimes students get their clothes soiled or ripped during the day and a change of clothes is needed. The School Health Room keeps extra clothes on hand for those moments, but our stock could use some replenishing, especially sizes for older students. If you have gently used **SHIRTS or PANTS** or would like to donate some **NEW UNDERGARMENTS FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS IN GRADES 4-6**, please send the clothes in to school with your child or drop them off on your next visit to the school. Thank you!

## ***Counselors' Corner: Achieving Resolutions the SMART Way***

Submitted by Matt Beckwith and Rachel Hoover, Lane Counselors

A new year often brings with it hopes of positive change or continued growth within our lives. Whether you're trying to break a bad habit, learn a new skill, or simply get more enjoyment out of your life, it is often best to devise a plan before striving toward a goal. As students progress through FCPS, they learn about goal setting and the process of working to reach their objectives. Ultimately, our older students learn a more precise method of goal setting called SMART goals.

SMART goals take our hopes and dreams and help to make them into a reality by making goals that are **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**ttainable, **R**esults-oriented, **T**ime-bound. This ensures that we know exactly what we are seeking to accomplish (Specific) and if or when it is accomplished (Measurable). It also forces us to define the steps that it will take to reach a goal (Results-oriented) and the deadline by which each step, and the final goal, should be met (Time-bound). As with all endeavors, it must also be something that is possible for us to do (Attainable).

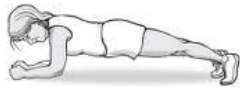
Utilizing SMART goals can be a great way for you and your entire family to start off the new year. Decide what you would truly like to accomplish or change and work toward that aspiration together by making a comprehensive plan. For example, your family may decide to help others more this year. That is a great thought, but a better way to set this goal would be to say, "Our family will provide a total amount of 50 hours of community service by the end of this school year." The first steps to put into place to reach this plan could be to find out what services or agencies need help and to arrange certain days and times to perform the services that will fit into your family's schedule. A good deadline for this step might be by the end of this month.

The great thing about this method of goal setting and plan making is that it can be used with virtually any goal, dream, or resolution. Also, not only will this greatly help you and your family achieve more, but it will also give you all valuable experience with this goal setting style that will most certainly be a part of our students' lives in the near future.

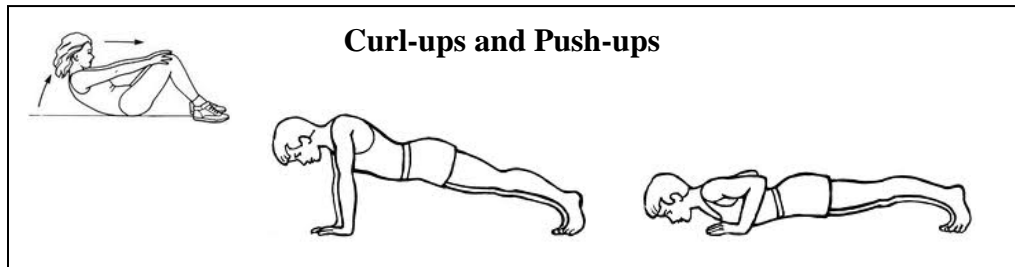
## ***From the P. E. Department: Kicking Off the New Year***

Submitted by Linda Farace and Tiffany Schutt, Lane P. E. Specialists

Kick off the new year with your children by participating in some fitness activities. Here are a few ideas to get you started:



**Plank and Wall Sits - Try to hold for 30 seconds**



Take a "TV Time Out" and try these exercises to help improve muscular strength during these cold winter months!

During the month of December, Lane students had the opportunity to improve various areas of fitness through activities on long climbing ropes, the balance beam, tumbling mats, and a spring board for various jumps. This month, students in third through sixth grade are going to dive into volleying skills by focusing on a forearm pass, overhead pass, and serving, which are used in a volleyball game. In kindergarten through second grade, we will be working on volleying skills by using an overhead pass to keep a balloon in the air.

If your child would like to get a jump start on fitness this year by learning some new jump rope techniques, consider enrolling him or her in the PTA's new before-school Jump Rope Club, which starts Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>. Look for more details in Wednesday folders and on the school and PTA websites.

### ***International Night is Coming Soon!!***



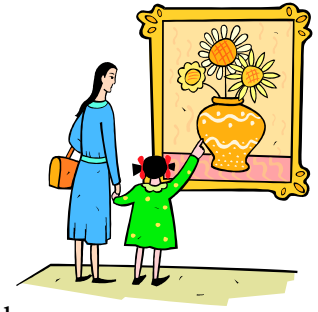
**Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>  
6:30 - 8 p.m.**

You won't want to miss this wonderful celebration of Lane's diverse community filled with food, friendship, and fun from around the world!

Watch your Wednesday folders next week for more information on how your family can participate in this spectacular event!

## ***Lane Art News:*** ***What Is an Art Critique? The Feldman Model***

Submitted by Allison Carlson and Libya Doman, Lane Art Specialists



In art class at Lane, students don't only learn to create works of art, but they learn to critique works of art as well. What exactly is an art critique? It occurs when a large or small group teachers and students look at finished or in-process artwork and discuss that work. During the critique, teachers use guiding questions to help the students describe what they see, analyze what they see, evaluate the work aesthetically, and come to conclusions about what it means. This can be as informal as asking simple questions such as "What do you see?" or "What were some things you noticed about how artists' in the room used color?" or moving into more intangible areas with questions like "What do you think the artist wanted you to think about or feel when you look at this work of art?"

The Visual Arts Department at Lane is teaching students to use the Feldman method of art criticism because it helps our students meaningfully reflect on their work and the art process in an active and explorative way. There are four parts to this method: description, analysis, interpretation, and evaluation. This month we will focus on description and analysis. Here's what these terms mean:

- **Description** - The students look at the work and explore what they see. Teachers ask guiding questions like "What do you see when you look at this work of art?" This phase is limited to describing factually what one sees and does not include using opinion words or phrases. During this phase we also make note of first impressions, which may change the more students look at and think about it a work of art.
- **Analysis** - During this phase, students look at the composition of the work and evaluate how the artist used the elements and principles of art in the work. We stress using art vocabulary words learned in class and focus on *why* the artist may have used certain materials in certain ways.

Having children describe and analyze artwork may help them understand the decision making process the artist went through when creating the piece and also help them make connections.

## ***SCA Happenings***

Submitted by Libya Doman and Laura Jacobs, SCA Sponsors

Our next SCA Spirit Day on Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> is "**All About Me**" **Shirt Day**. This is a new event for our school, envisioned by our students. We are asking each student to wear a shirt that represents a personal interest, like a favorite color, sports team, hobby, etc. Shirts must, of course, be appropriate for school.

The SCA would also like to thank all students, parents, and staff who contributed to our annual food and toy drives. We were able to provide an abundance of items to families in need via the Koinonia Cares Foundation and Alexandria Community Shelter.

### Upcoming events:

February 28<sup>th</sup> – March 6<sup>th</sup>: **Care & Share** Collection (hair, dental, skin, health care items for those in need)



## ***Music Notes: Happy New Year from the Music Department!***

Submitted by Bev Ogden and Joy Petty, Lane Music Specialists

We hope you had a safe and happy holiday. We also hope you were able to take advantage of some of the special holiday music events held this time of year. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful variety of cultural arts in our area!

### **Recorders for Third Graders!**



This is an exciting time for our Lane third graders, because in February they will begin learning to play the soprano recorder. A letter will be going home soon, which will give all the details, including the price (approximately \$5.00) for recorder purchase. We ask that you buy one from the school, rather than at a local store, because they are usually cheaper, are of better quality, and will sound more uniform when the students are playing together. The third graders are beginning to read notes on the music staff in preparation for this big step in their musical studies.

### **Composer Corner**

We introduced Tchaikovsky in December and will continue to talk about him through the first part of January. In addition to the *Nutcracker Suite*, he also wrote such interesting pieces as the *1812 Overture* and *Swan Lake*.

### **Music Supplies and Procedures**

This is just a reminder that all students in fourth through sixth grades must bring their recorder, their music folder, and a pencil to every music class. This is part of their effort grade. Also, written tests are sent home regularly for a parent signature and must be returned the next music class. We want your child to show you how they are doing in music! If you have any questions, please contact one of us at Lane Elementary (703-924-7700).

## ***Happy New Year from the Lane PTA!***

2012 has only just begun, but the Lane PTA already has a whole roster of activities planned and ready to go for the new year ahead. This month, on **Wednesday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**, we will celebrate another **Restaurant Day at Z Pizza** on Frontier Drive across from Springfield Mall. From 4 to 9 p.m. that day, a percentage of all sales to Lane families will be donated back to our schools. Both dine-in and carryout orders qualify for the donation. (Delivery orders do not count.) Please remember to bring the flier sent home in Wednesday folders with you when you go to the restaurant, so that your purchase will count!

Don't forget to register your Eat Well, Do Well cards at Silver Diner. Every time you dine there and use your EAT WELL, DO WELL card, a percentage of the sales will go back to our school, and you will also earn rewards for yourself. Simply register and link your card to our school online at [www.silverdiner.com/eat-well-do-well](http://www.silverdiner.com/eat-well-do-well).

Our next **Box Tops and Labels collection date will be Thursday, January 26<sup>th</sup>**. Keep clipping those little symbols, because every one means more money for our school!

**SAVE THE DATE:** Make your plans now to attend this year's **Basket Bingo on Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**, and get ready to enjoy some valuable prizes! Watch Wednesday folders in the coming weeks for ticket information.





## ***Upcoming Events***

**Wednesday, January 11**

Advanced Academic  
Programs (AAP) Meeting  
*6:30 p.m., Library*

**Friday, January 13**

Advanced Academic Eligibility  
Appeals Due to County Office

**Monday, January 16**

Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Birthday Holiday  
*School and Office Closed*

**Friday, January 20**

SCA Spirit Day –  
“All About Me” Shirt Day

**Wednesday, January 25**

PTA Restaurant Day -  
Z Pizza

**Thursday, January 26**

Strings Concert  
*7 p.m., Cafeteria*

**Monday, January 30 &  
Tuesday, January 31**

Teacher Workdays  
*No school for students*

**Friday, February 3**

AAP Parent Referrals Due to Lane

**Tuesday, February 7**

PTA Meeting  
*7 p.m., Library*