



The Lion's Roar

All the Latest News from Lane Elementary School

Where students communicate, collaborate & care

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From the Principal's Desk ...



Dear Parents,

We are so excited to hold our fall parent-teacher conferences with you next week. This is a great opportunity for us share what is happening with your child at school. It is also a time for you to share what you are seeing at home. Together we can look at the whole child and come up with a plan to ensure success.

In preparing for these conferences, consider sending your child's teacher a list of questions ahead of time. While we try our best to make the conferences concise, knowing your questions can help the teachers tailor the conference to your specific concerns. You can find further information on planning for your conference on the next page of this newsletter.

We would like to take a moment to thank the PTA for the new electronic sign. This message board will help us to communicate information to the greater community.

Thank you PTA!

*~ Jay Nocco
Principal*

Be Aware of Highway Rules During Kiss & Ride Time

Fairfax County is working hard to make sure its Kiss & Ride procedures at all schools are safe for students, staff, parents, and community members. Officials also want to make sure that those who are picking up or dropping off students are aware of state highway laws that must be obeyed at all times. Please review the County's [School Community Traffic Concerns and County Code Information Fact Sheet](#) for more information.

Parent-Teacher Conference Days – Monday, November 7th & Tuesday, November 8th: Plan Now to Have a More Successful Conference



Submitted by Melanie Crosby Hardy, Parent Liaison

Next Monday and Tuesday are Teacher Workdays set aside as special days for teachers to hold 15-minute, end-of-the-quarter conferences with their students' parents. **Students do not report to school either day.**

If you have not yet scheduled a conference with your child's teacher, please do so as soon as possible. Available timeslots are filling up fast. The best way to contact a teacher is through e-mail. You can find a complete staff e-mail list on our website at <http://www.fcps.edu/LaneES/staffemail.html>.

Parent-teacher conferences are one of the most important ways you can learn about your child and how he or she is doing in school. At this conference, you will

- meet the teacher face to face and have uninterrupted private time to discuss your child.
- see your child's first-quarter grades and hear explanations about them from the teacher.
- hear about your child's work ethic, social skills, and behavior in class.

During the conference, you may also

- ask the teacher for guidance on how to help your child at home.
- get information on how you can work with the teacher or other school staff members to improve your child's school experience.
- give the teacher suggestions on how he or she might better understand your child and his or her academic needs and strengths.

Here are 5 tips* that can help you have a more productive conference:

1. **Plan for the conference** – think about and write out questions you'd like to ask.
2. **Keep an open mind** – remember that your goal is cooperation between you and the teacher to create the best environment for your child.
3. **Ask to see your child's work** – there's no better way to see how your child is progressing than by taking a look at the work he or she is doing.
4. **Ask for suggestions** – if your child is doing well, ask for ways you can help keep him or her on a positive track; if there are problems, ask what you can do to help solve them.
5. **Clarify and summarize as you go** – teachers sometimes use educational buzz words. If you don't understand what something means, ask.

On our website, you'll find two worksheets to help you prepare for your parent-teacher conference. Use the [Conference Planning Worksheet](#) to organize your thoughts and concerns before the meeting. [My Report Card](#) can be given to your child to fill out. It might help raise some new ideas or questions to consider.

* From the FCPS Family Services & Involvement Section (FSIS) Web page <http://www.fcps.edu/ccofam/ptips.shtml>.

Make Reading a Family Affair at “Partners in Print”

Attention parents of students in kindergarten through second grade: Are you looking for ways to help your young child with reading? If so, then please be sure to attend our annual **“Partners in Print” workshop on Thursday, November 17th at 6:15 p.m.** This special program, designed for students in kindergarten through second grade and their parents, will offer tips on how to read with your child, what questions to ask as you read together, and ways to make the most of the story and your time together. For more information, please contact our Reading Specialist Patti Exstein at psexstein@fcps.edu.

Picture Make-Up Day Is Thursday, November 10th

Photographers will return to school on **Thursday, November 10th** to take individual portraits of students who were absent on the original October Picture Day or who have joined our school since that day. Students who were photographed before but wish to have their pictures retaken will also be photographed. Order forms and payment envelopes will be sent to all students who were not photographed in October.

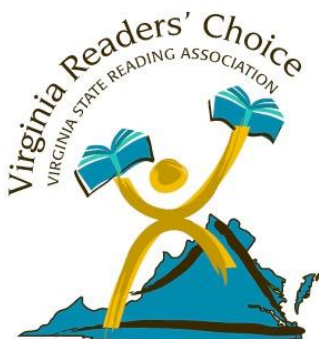
Book Fair Is Coming Soon!

Submitted by Carolyn Koehler, Lane Librarian

The Lane Library will host its annual Book Fair the week of December 5th. During the school day, students will have a chance to browse and make purchases. The big shopping night is **Family Night on Tuesday, December 6th from 5 to 8 p.m.** Mark your calendars now, because you won't want to miss this exciting Lane tradition that celebrates books! This is a great chance to get a jump on holiday shopping for the whole family. Books make great teacher gifts, too. Purchases can be made with cash, check, or credit card.



All purchases at the Book Fair benefit our school. We hope to see you in the library on December 6th!



From the Shelves of the Lane Library: Get Ready to Read and Make Your Choice

Before it sets up for the annual Book Fair in December, the Library will launch its traditional November reading incentive program known as Virginia Readers' Choice. This very popular program gives students the opportunity to read the books on the list and vote for their favorites. These books also make great gifts for the readers in the family. Follow this link to learn more about the program and to see the list of nominated books: <http://www.vusra.org/VRCindex.html>

SCA News: Celebrate the Spirit of Giving This Month

Submitted by Libya Doman and Laura Jacobs, SCA Sponsors

Now that our officers have been elected and our class representatives and alternates have been chosen, Lane's SCA is ready to start leading programs to help our school and the community.

Three exciting events are scheduled for the month of November:



Annual Food Drive November 9th – 14th

Celebrate the spirit of Thanksgiving by bringing canned and/or boxed food items for a local food program that serves families in need. Nutritional, hearty items, such as peas, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, tuna, etc. will all be appreciated. Collection boxes will be placed in the Bus Lobby.

SPORTS JERSEY DAY Friday, November 18th

All students are encouraged to wear a jersey or T-shirt from their favorite team or favorite sport to show their school spirit.



Toys-for-Tots November 23rd – December 5th

We'll finish out the month, and move into the holiday season, with our annual toy drive. Please bring in *new and unwrapped* items to help make the holidays special for local children in need.



Music Notes: The Sounds of November

Submitted by Bev Ogden and Joy Petty, Lane Music Specialists

It's hard to believe that the first quarter is almost over! In general music students have learned about the American composer, John Philip Sousa, and have also discussed the history of our national anthem, The Star Spangled Banner. Did you know that Francis Scott Key wrote only the poem, and it was later set to an English tune? The original flag that flew during that battle is on display right downtown in the American History museum.



As we wrap up the quarter, we would like to mention a couple "housekeeping" items:

- We are asking that all general music written tests be signed by a parent/guardian and returned to the music teacher. These items, and all upcoming assignments, can be found in your child's music pocket folder. The **Star-Spangled Banner test** should have already been signed and returned. The **Sousa biography test** just went home to be signed.
- All students in grades 4 through 6 are expected to bring their music pocket folders, recorders, and pencils to every music class. Bringing supplies to music is part of the quarterly effort grade.
- Look for upcoming chorus performance information and music help sheets on the Lane 24-7 website.



Art News: A Matter of Principles

Submitted by Allison Carlson and Libya Doman, Lane Art Specialists

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade are constantly learning new vocabulary in art! There are, of course, the names of specific materials and techniques, but there are also *principles* of art that students must learn. In this month's *Roar*, we will take a closer look at these principles so that you can talk about art at home with your children.

The making of an artwork includes two basic categories: Elements, which are the basic ingredients (such as color and medium), and Principles, which involve how those basic ingredients are arranged and put together. Here are some essential principles we work with in art class:

- **Pattern**

Kindergarteners are familiar with making patterns, which are created by the repetition of lines, colors, shapes, letters, and numbers. You can find patterns everywhere—in art, in clothes, even in childhood games. “Duck, Duck, Goose” is based on an A, A, B pattern.

- **Rhythm/movement**

Motion suggested using line or another element in a work of art is the principle of rhythm/movement. It is evident in both abstract and literal works.

- **Proportion/scale**

Proportion/scale relates to the size of elements and how those sizes relate to each other. When we review the face or learn how to draw the human body we discuss proportion in order to ensure that the drawings will look realistic, and that all the elements will relate correctly to each other. In the younger grades, we talk about using basic shapes to draw the arms and the legs (2 rectangles long.)

- **Balance**

Balance refers to the sense of equilibrium within the piece of art, whether the work is asymmetrical, symmetrical, or radial.

- **Unity**

Does the work look cohesive and all work together? If so, then it reflects the principle of unity.

- **Emphasis**

Has something in a work ever caught your eye? That is emphasis—the center of interest, to which a viewer's eye is drawn. It could be a color, an object, a pattern ... just about anything that stands out above the other elements in the work.

Next time you are at a museum or your child brings home a piece of artwork have a conversation with him or her about what he or she sees in the work. You'll be amazed at the purposefulness of the artist!



***From the P. E.
Department:
Fall for Fun Fitness!***

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

Fall is in the air, with vibrant colored leaves gradually falling from the trees and cool, crisp nights giving way to morning dew. As we moved into fall in P. E. classes here at Lane, we started talking about health-related components of fitness, such as the following:



- **Aerobic endurance** is the ability of the blood vessels, heart, and lungs to take in, transport, and utilize oxygen. This is a critically important component of fitness because it impacts other components of fitness and decreases the risk of cardiovascular diseases.
- **Muscular strength** is defined as the maximum amount of force a muscle or muscle groups can exert.
- **Muscular endurance** is reflected in the length of time a muscle or muscle group can exert force prior to fatigue.
- **Flexibility** describes the range of motion in the joints.

In addition to improving quality of life, health-related fitness:

- increases muscle tone and strength
- decreases injuries and illness
- improves posture
- decreases risk of serious diseases
- improves self-esteem and self-confidence
- increases energy level and academic achievement.

Throughout November we will be working on striking skills in a variety of forms such as using short-handled implements (tennis racket) and long-handled implements (hockey stick).

Don't forget ...

On **Wednesday, November 23rd** students will be released **two hours early** for the Thanksgiving Holiday. **School will dismiss at 1:55 p.m. that day.**

**School will be closed on Thursday, November 24th
and Friday, November 25th for the holiday.**



***Happy Thanksgiving from
all of us at Lane!***

Counselors' Corner: The Battle Against Bullying

Submitted by Matt Beckwith and Rachel Hoover, Lane Counselors

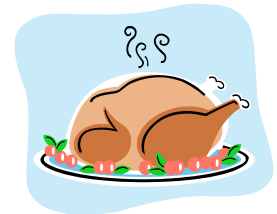
Bullying continues to be a major topic in schools and homes throughout the nation, which is why October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Incidents of bullying are being reported frequently in all areas of our country. Many of these incidents have been serious or tragic enough to become national and global news. Here at Lane, we have brought bullying to the forefront too, by focusing on bullying prevention.

Bullying prevention focuses on proactively talking about these issues before they start so that students, parents, and school staff and faculty are prepared to handle each unique situation as it comes. Unfortunately, bullying and harassment are inevitable perils in our society. The goal of our prevention program is to limit these occurrences and to educate our students and those that raise, guide, and teach them to foster prevention and to be able to respond appropriately when necessary.

During the month of October, the Lane counselors talked about bullying prevention with all of our classes. Depending on the grade level, the counselors used books, PowerPoint presentations, interactive activities, surveys, and more in order to introduce or further students' knowledge of bullying prevention. Together, the counselors and students covered definitions of bullying, types of bullying, examples of bullying, roles that students play in bullying, and knowing what to do if a student or others around them are being bullied. More specific categories within this topic may be discussed in future lessons or groups, as our school as a whole continues its proactive approach to minimize bullying.

One new item that was brought to the attention of both teachers and students in our upper grades is the passing of a bill in Virginia that has made certain acts of cyber bullying punishable by law (Class 1 misdemeanor). This has helped to show our school community just how serious an issue cyber bullying has become, and we hope that parents and guardians will also recognize the importance of this trend.

Lane PTA Helps Make Your Thanksgiving Simple and Savory



During the month of November, Lane PTA promotes great food through two fundraisers that also benefit our school. The Honey Baked Ham fundraiser, currently under way, offers tasty treats for your Thanksgiving table from fully cooked turkeys and succulent hams to savory sides and decadent desserts. A percentage of all sales during this fundraiser will be donated back to our school. **All orders are due no later than Friday, November 11th, and items MUST be picked up at school on Tuesday, November 22nd.**

The week before Thanksgiving, the PTA will give you the chance to get out of the kitchen and enjoy some spicy fare at a local restaurant to benefit the school. **Thursday, November 17th is Restaurant Day at Chili's** in Manchester Lakes. That day, all day long, a percentage of sales – including takeout orders – made by Lane families will be donated back to the school.

PTA is also encouraging the spirit of giving this month with its annual **Shoe and Clothing Drive November 1st through the 15th**. Items to be collected include gently used shoes, summer clothes, children's book bags, women's purses/handbags, and caps and summer Hats. Watch next week's Wednesday folder for more information.



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 9 – Monday, November 14	SCA Annual Food Drive
Friday, November 11	PTA Honey Baked Ham Fundraiser Orders Due
Thursday, November 10	Picture Make-Up Day
Thursday, November 17	PTA Restaurant Day at Chili's (includes takeout orders)
Thursday, November 17	Partners in Print, Reading Program for Grades K – 2 and their Parents <i>6:15 p.m.</i>
Friday, November 18	SCA Sports Jersey Day
Tuesday, November 22	Honey Baked Ham Order Pick-Up
Wednesday, November 23 – Monday, December 5	SCA Toys for Tots Toy Drive
Wednesday, November 23	Early Release for Thanksgiving Holiday <i>1:55 p.m. Dismissal</i>
Thursday, November 24 & Friday, November 25	Thanksgiving Holiday <i>School and Office closed.</i>
Monday, December 5 – Friday, December 9	Library Book Fair <i>Tuesday, December 6th is Family Night, 5 – 8 p.m.!</i>