



# *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**

Roxanne Salata  
*Assistant Principal*

Jay Nocco  
*Principal*

Katie Reynolds  
*LEAD Administrative Intern*

**October 2011**

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



The cool weather has finally arrived just as we finish our first month of school, and what a month it has been! We welcomed nearly 840 students back to school and that number continues to grow. This is over 100 more students than we had last year. Each child brings unique talents and gifts to our classroom communities, and we are thrilled every one of them has become a Lane Lion.

As we said in our Open House flier, we may need to reorganize grade levels throughout the year to create smaller classes. While this is not our preference, we know as you do that being in a smaller class means your child will receive more teacher attention to his or her individual needs. When we do make the decision to reorganize and add an additional class, we first start the search for a perfect teacher. We know that having a high-quality teacher is the number-one factor in determining student success. We make sure that the new teacher has the lowest number of students in the grade level and then provide extra support as students transition to his or her classroom. Kids are amazingly resilient and quickly adapt to their new teacher. We appreciate your understanding and support if this type of change has to occur at your child's grade level.

This year will be about flexibility for all of us. As our school grows, our schedules may change, our routines may be altered, but our dedication to making sure each and every student succeeds will remain constant. We look forward to working with you as we teach our students to communicate, collaborate, and care!

*~ Jay Nocco  
Principal*



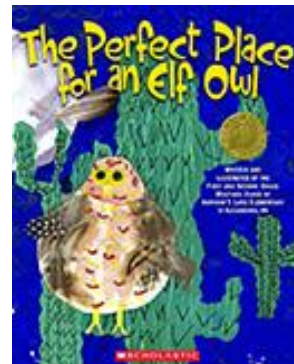
***Fall Picture Day Is Tomorrow – Thursday,***

## October 6<sup>th</sup>

Make sure your child brings his or her best smile to school tomorrow because it's Picture Day! An individual portrait will be taken of every student. Picture packages must be paid for in advance, so be sure to send the picture envelope and payment with your child if you plan to purchase these pictures. *Please note: This is the picture that will appear in our school yearbook.*

## Elf-Owl Book Takes Flight at September Book Signing!

The cameras were rolling and flashing on September 21<sup>st</sup> as the local paparazzi came out to help last year's Multiage class celebrate the national release of its award-winning nonfiction book, *The Perfect Place for an Elf Owl*. The book won first place in Scholastic Books' 2011 "Kids Are Authors" competition in the nonfiction category.



Lane held a special book signing to mark the event, spotlighting the student authors and teachers Ms. Groeneweg and Ms. Doman, who helped the students craft the story and create unique three-dimensional textured artwork for the book. Reporters from local newspapers and NBC Channel 4 covered the event. You can view the NBC video clip online at [http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Elementary\\_School\\_Class\\_Now\\_Published\\_Authors\\_Washington\\_DC-130823878.html](http://www.nbcwashington.com/news/local/Elementary_School_Class_Now_Published_Authors_Washington_DC-130823878.html).

*The Perfect Place for an Elf Owl*, published by Scholastic Books will be on sale at Scholastic Book Fairs this year across the country. Congratulations to our published authors!

## New PEP Class Starts October 24<sup>th</sup>

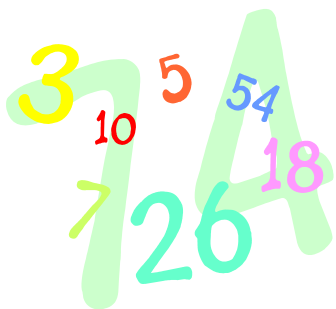
Each year Lane continues to grow more and more diverse. Our school community is filled with families from all over the world who speak many different languages. Multicultural families face many challenges when transitioning to a new home. Here at Lane, we hope to help with the transition to a new school system by launching a new program called **Parents as Educational Partners**, or PEP. This program is designed especially for our multicultural families. Classwork focuses on learning about how our school operates and how parents can help their children succeed in this educational system.

PEP classes will be taught by ESOL teacher Hanifa Sori and coordinated by Parent Liaison Melanie Crosby Hardy. They will be held on Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 p.m. **Registration will be held on Tuesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7 p.m. and Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m.** All interested families must pre-register for the class.

During the PEP class, Lane will also sponsor a Homework Club for the children of parents attending the class. They can receive help with their homework from volunteers and be supervised while their parents are in class.

All ESOL families will receive a flier about the PEP class in today's folder. If your child is not in ESOL and you would like more information about the class, please contact Melanie Crosby Hardy at [MACrosby@fcps.edu](mailto:MACrosby@fcps.edu).

**Fall into Math Fun on October 27<sup>th</sup>**



Our fall **Math Night** will be held **Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>**, from 7 to 8 p.m. This night is a great chance for parents and children to learn about and enjoy a variety of math games together. Each game will be taught by a Lane staff member and will be targeted to specific grade-level math skills. Watch your child's Wednesday folder for details and registration information.

## ***Are You Connected?***

### **E-Communications**

Our e-mail communication databases are now up and running. **As of this week, the school will stop sending out paper copies of information-only fliers (those with no forms attached).** They will be posted on the school website instead (<http://www.fcps.edu/LaneES/takehome.html>.)

Paper copies will be sent only to families who request them in writing (one copy per family). If you'd like to request a paper copy, please send a note to Melanie Hardy through the school office or leave a message for her at 703-924-7717.

If you signed up for our e-mail list, you should have received an e-mail today alerting you that the school website and Virtual Wednesday Folders had been updated online with this newsletter and other important information. If you did not receive this e-mail and expected to do so, please contact Parent Liaison Melanie Crosby Hardy at [MACrosby@fcps.edu](mailto:MACrosby@fcps.edu) so we can make sure you're in the system with the correct address. You can also contact her to change your e-mail address at any time.

A few e-mail addresses bounced back when we sent the reminder. If you receive a note in next week's folder indicating your address bounced, please return it with an accurate address to ensure that you are receiving all the information we send.

***Please note: The Lane PTA will continue to send paper copies to all students, one per student.***

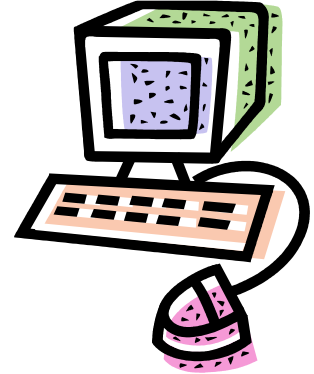
### **24/7 and Parent View**

All of our teachers now have active classroom pages on FCPS 24/7 (also known as Blackboard). This Internet-based, password-protected communication system allows you to keep up with what's happening in your child's classroom. Teachers post assignments, newsletters, and resources, among other things. Only parents of students in the class can view the information.

You can log on to 24/7 using your child's student ID number (which can be found on the previous year's report card), or you can create your own account through Parent View. Through this one account you can access all the class pages for all your children in FCPS from kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> grade. You will need your child's student ID numbers to register, and

you will need to bring your registration confirmation with its unique key number to the school office for validation to activate your account. You'll find more information about [Parent View](#) on our website. If you are new to Fairfax County and need to obtain your child's student ID number, please come in to the school office with a photo ID. We cannot provide this information over the phone.

***School Health Room Needs Clothes!***



Sometimes students get their clothes “soiled” or ripped during the day. Our Lane School Health Room has some extra clothes on hand for those moments, but available clothes seem to disappear quickly. The Health Room needs some extra changes of clothes to help fill the void. They are specifically requesting **PANTS FOR BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS IN ALL GRADES**, as well as **GIRLS UNDERWEAR FOR ALL GRADES**. Please send the clothes in to School Health Aide Sheryl Bright Keller. Thanks to those of you who already dropped off items!

The Health Room is also looking for parent volunteers who are willing to be trained to help out in the Health Room when the School Health Aide is out of the office. The training schedule has been posted on our website. If you’d like to be one of our Health Room Volunteers, please send an e-mail to Parent Liaison Melanie Crosby Hardy at [MACrosby@fcps.edu](mailto:MACrosby@fcps.edu).

## ***SCA News Elections and Red Ribbon Week***

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

The SCA (Student Council Association) is the student government for the entire school. Lane is in the process of holding its second computerized election. In just a few weeks our new President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary will be ready to organize and lead student events for the year. Each class also provides a Representative and Alternate who represent the student body by attending meetings and voting on monthly spirit activities that demonstrate what Lane values most.

Our first events for the 2011-2012 school year are during **Red Ribbon Week, October 24<sup>th</sup> through October 29<sup>th</sup>**. As a school community, we will say “yes” to being healthy and drug-free with following symbolic events:

**Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup>**

(Dress like a friend who also believes in living drug-free.)

***Dress Like a Friend Day***

**Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>**

(The entire school will wear Red as a symbol of our commitment.)

***Wear Red Day***



***Reminder!***

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>  
is Columbus Day!**

**School will be  
CLOSED.**



## ***From the P. E. Department: Welcome to a New Year of Lane Physical Education!***

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

We welcome our new and returning Lane Lions to physical-education class. Our Lane Lions are full of energy and excitement as our 2011 – 2012 P. E. classes get under way. This year, we begin classes with expectations and cooperative learning activities that promote S.A.F.E. (Self-control, Attitude, Follow directions, and Effort) in our gym. We want all of our Lane Lions to be responsible team players who demonstrate taking turns, sharing equipment, listening to teacher instruction and each other, and participating actively and safely throughout class. Our goal is to provide a safe and effective student-centered learning environment through a wide variety of fun and cooperative activities following Fairfax County Public Schools five standards of learning: skilled movement, movement principles and concepts, personal fitness, responsible behaviors, and a physically active lifestyle. We look forward to working with you and your children to provide a safe, active, and fun school year.

Here are a few procedures that will help make P. E. safe for everyone:

1. Everyone must wear sneakers, and all shoes must be tied for safe participation.
2. Students need to dress in comfortable and appropriate clothes for full participation.
3. If a student has a medical condition or injury, please send a note or medical excuse.
4. If you have a concern or question, please e-mail us: Linda Farace, [llfarace@fcps.edu](mailto:llfarace@fcps.edu) or Tiffany Schutt, [Tsschutt@fcps.edu](mailto:Tsschutt@fcps.edu).



## ***New Rules Make Recess Rock!***

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

Our Lane Lions learned the expectations of outdoor activity and recess play during P. E. classes in September. Please remind your children to use the school playground equipment properly. We want all Lane Lions to play safely. Here is our new list of Recess Rules that all students are asked to follow:

1. All students must have their shoes tied.
2. Students should leave nature in its place. (No rocks, flowers, mulch, etc., should be picked up off the ground.)
3. The fenced-in playground area is for students to play on the equipment properly.  
For example:
  - Swings: sit on bottom, stop with feet, then get off
  - Slide: seated with feet first, one student at a time
  - Monkey bars: hand to hand, no sitting on top
  - Basketball hoops: shooting basketball, no hanging on the rim
4. The field can be used for tag games and other outdoor games, but please be mindful of P.E. classes who may also be using the field.
5. The blacktop is used for basketball shooting, jumping rope, and 4-square.
6. Equipment checkout is located by Door 5 (recess door), and teachers can designate two students to sign out equipment for their class.

# ***Music Notes: September Off to a Great Musical Start!***

**Submitted by Bev Ogden and Joy Petty, Lane Music Specialists**

Welcome back to school, and a special welcome to the many new students joining the familiar faces in the Lane Music classrooms this year. We're already off to a great start!

In September, we sang songs and reviewed steady beat with the lower grades and began new recorder songs in the upper grades. All grade levels have learned about the American national anthem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. Did you know it was written as a poem during the battle at Ft. McHenry, near Baltimore, MD? The upper grades will be bringing home a test on the words to *The Star Spangled Banner*, which will need to be signed by a parent and returned to their Music teacher at the next class. We will follow the same procedure with all written tests in Music throughout the year. This is part of each student's effort grade each quarter.

Some reminders for parents:

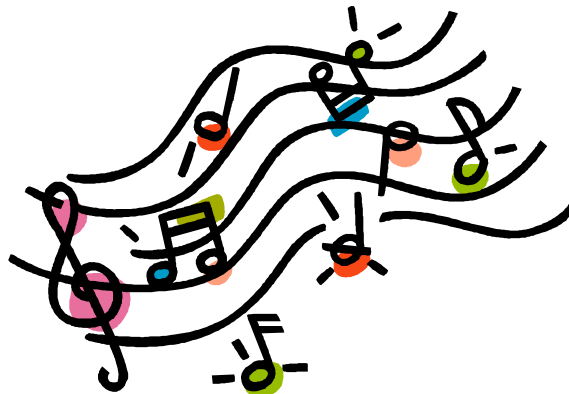
- Students in fourth, fifth, and sixth grades need to bring their recorders, pocket folders, and pencils to every music class. This is also part of their effort grade. A few students still need to purchase a recorder, which can be bought from either Mrs. Ogden or Mrs. Petty for \$5.00.
- Your child should be practicing the recorder regularly at home to maintain recorder skills.
- All Music assignments can be found on the bright yellow assignment sheet in your child's Music folder.

## **Pyramid Concert**

Our first Chorus Concert of the year will be held at Hayfield Secondary School on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>. This special Pyramid Concert brings together members of elementary school choruses from across the Hayfield Pyramid. Hayfield Secondary choral groups also perform.

Participating students will need to wear black and white, and Lane Chorus members must report to Hayfield no later than 5:45 p.m. More details concerning this event will be sent home with a permission slip soon. This information will also be posted on the Lane 24-7 website. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Ogden or Mrs. Petty at 703-924-7700.

We're looking forward to another great year of Music!





## ***Lane Art News: Starting Art SmART!***

Submitted by Libya Doman and Allison Carlson, Lane Art Specialists

As the year progresses, we will continue to experiment and refine all our art skills by drawing, printing, painting, and hand-building with clay. Please remember that the art room is full of paint, ink, clay, and other messy materials, and we require students to wear appropriate and casual clothing to art.

Mrs. Carlson and Ms. Doman are also excited to continue to increase our students' **visual literacy**. In Art classes and in *The Lion's Roar* newsletter throughout the school year we will share the basics of a long-respected art-interpretation program entitled the ***Principles and Elements of Design***. We look forward to sharing the first segment of this program in next month's newsletter.

In the meantime, please read some reasons that Art is a meaningful part of your child's education:

- 1. The arts teach children to make good judgments about qualitative relationships.** Unlike much of the curriculum in which correct answers and rules prevail, in the arts it is judgment rather than rules that prevail.
- 2. The arts teach children that problems can have more than one solution** and that questions can have more than one answer.
- 3. The arts celebrate multiple perspectives.** One of the large lessons is that there are many ways to see and interpret the world.
- 4. The arts teach children that in complex forms of problem-solving purposes are seldom fixed but change with circumstance and opportunity.** Learning in the arts requires the ability and a willingness to surrender to the unanticipated possibilities of the work as it unfolds.
- 5. The arts make vivid the fact that neither words in their literal form nor numbers exhaust what we can know.** The limits of our language do not define the limits of our cognition.

To see five more reasons, please visit the National Art Education link below:

<http://www.arteducators.org/advocacy/10-lessons-the-arts-teach>.

## ***Counselors' Corner***

Submitted by Rachel Hoover and Matt Beckwith, Lane Counselors

As we welcome back our former Lane Lions and welcome our new students and families into our school community, the Lane Counseling Department is excited about supporting a new year focused on the provision of key educational and life skills to our student population.

We offer comprehensive programming that includes (but is not limited to) crisis and individual brief, solution-focused counseling, as well as group counseling on topics such as school success, study skills, coping with stress and anger, deployment, self-esteem, and changing families.

We offer a student mentoring program that connects one of our students with a staff member as added support throughout his or her educational journey at Lane. We also work with staff and students to encourage the smooth transition of students to their first school experience in kindergarten and help to prepare our sixth graders to transition seamlessly into middle school.

Finally, we offer to all students within the classroom character-education lessons that address key issues, such as bullying prevention, and lessons designed to further support our school-wide focus of caring, communication and collaboration.

Whenever you need us, we are here to help. Please don't hesitate to contact us with your counseling needs. Our 2011 – 2012 grade level assignments are:

Matt Beckwith, NCC

(703) 924-7769

Grades: 1, 3, 5, Multiage and Kindergarten (Holmes and Lyden)

Rachel Hoover, NCC

(703) 924-7734

Grades 2, 4, 6, Special Ed and Kindergarten (Ableman, Dierman, Schadle and Shick)

We look forward to a fantastic year working with you and your children!

## ***PTA News & Reminders***

Here are some timely reminders from the Lane PTA:

### **First Restaurant Night a huge success!**

Thanks to everyone who came out and showed their school spirit at Genghis Grill! **Mr. Nocco, Ms. Reynolds, and Mrs. Sori** did a great job delivering food to tables, and Mr. Nocco even got to carry the dessert tray at the end of the night! The school earned \$500 from this event. Our next Restaurant Day is **Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at Firehouse Subs** in Kingstowne. Once again, 20 percent of total sales for the entire day will be donated back to the school – including take-out!

### **Beautification Day – Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 9 a.m. to noon**

Volunteers are still needed for this important service event. Lane Lions of all ages are welcome to help us weed, rake, trim, and otherwise spruce up our school grounds. If you are available to help, please e-mail Vicky Hallberg ([vicky.hallberg@lanepta.org](mailto:vicky.hallberg@lanepta.org)) as soon as possible. Please include times you will be able to volunteer and any specific skills and/or tools you will bring.

## Fundraiser reminders

- **Dutch Mill Bulb Orders** are due today, **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**.
- Government and military employees: Lane is now part of the **CFCNCA (Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area)**. Please support your neighborhood school by designating your contributions to Anthony T. Lane Elementary School. Our **CFC# is 47880**. Please share this information with your neighbors and co-workers. With the recent population growth at our school we need to purchase additional Smartboards.
- Don't forget to register your **Giant Food Card** so that Lane can earn money through the **A+ Rewards Programs. Our school code is 03244**. *This DOES NOT affect your Gas Rewards points*. The program runs from October 7, 2011 – March 29, 2012. We currently have 116 supporters which is 35 percent of our goal. Please encourage your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers to support us as well. It costs them nothing. To sign up online visit, [https://www.giantfood.com/our\\_stores/bonus\\_bucks/designate\\_school.htm?execution=e1s1](https://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/designate_school.htm?execution=e1s1).

## Education update

- **Lions on the Run** begins today, **Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**. The after-school program runs from 4 to 5 p.m. (This program is full, and registration is now closed.)
- **After School All Sports** began this week, too. Sessions are held on Mondays from 1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Spots are still available!)
- Fliers for several more programs – including Chinese, French, and Math – were sent home last week. Those programs begin soon. Please register as soon as possible.

## Membership

It's not too late to become a member of the Lane PTA and start receiving your benefits. Please fill out the membership form, attach a check and submit it to your child's teacher today!

## Stay informed

It's easy to stay up-to-date with the Lane PTA online:

- There is now a section on the **Main Page of the Lane PTA website** entitled "**News You Need**." This will include important, time-sensitive information for our Lane families.
- To access all **PTA fliers** distributed in school, parents can click on [www.lanepta.org/recent-flyers](http://www.lanepta.org/recent-flyers) or visit [www.lanepta.org](http://www.lanepta.org) and click on the tab that says "**Recent Flyers**."
- For up-to-the-minute information visit:  
On **Facebook**: "LIKE" us at **Anthony T. Lane Elementary PTA**  
On **Twitter**: Follow us @**LanePTA**.

## Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 1st

Please attend our next PTA meeting and learn what the PTA can do for you! This meeting is open to all Lane parents and caregivers. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month in the Lane Library.



## ***Upcoming Events***

<b>Thursday, October 6</b>	Picture Day
<b>Monday, October 10</b>	Columbus Day Holiday – <i>No School</i>
<b>Monday, October 24</b>	Parents as Educational Partners (PEP) Class Begins – <i>6 p.m.</i>
<b>Wednesday, October 26</b>	SCA “Dress Like a Friend” Day
<b>Thursday, October 27</b>	Math Night – <i>7 p.m.</i>
<b>Friday, October 28</b>	SCA “Wear Red Day”
<b>Saturday, October 29</b>	PTA Beautification Day – <i>9 a.m.</i>
<b>Tuesday, November 1</b>	Pyramid Chorus Concert – <i>7 p.m.</i> , <i>Hayfield Secondary School</i> <i>(Lane students must report at 5:45 p.m.)</i>
<b>Tuesday, November 1</b>	November PTA meeting
<b>Monday, November 7 &amp; Tuesday, November 8</b>	Teacher Workdays and Parent/Teacher Conferences – <b>No School for Students!</b>