



Lightning Tracks

School and PTA News

October 2009

CALL SHEET

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Partners in Your Children's Education

Joanne Jackson
Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The staff and children are all adjusting to the routines associated with the beginning of school. It was wonderful to see you and your children arrive for the first week of school. Smiling faces and hugs greeted the faculty and staff. We all enjoyed their smiles and hugs, and look forward to a special year together. We want to continue the enthusiasm and look forward to working with you as partners in your children's education.

We would like to thank the PTA and all of our students and their families who turned out for the first Station Celebration. Based on the smiles and comments from the attendees, it was a huge success.

Many thanks for attending our Back to School Night program. We want to thank all of our families who attended Lorton Station's Back to School Night on September 14th and 15th. It was wonderful to see so many people in attendance. We hope that you found the evening informative and enjoyable. The staff is committed to providing a quality instructional program for your children. We value High Expectations and believe all children can Learn and

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Odyssey of the Mind Kicks Off Tonight

Nanette Henderson
PTA 1st Vice President

An **Odyssey of the Mind team formation meeting will be held TONIGHT**, October 6, in the **library at 7:00pm**. Odyssey of the Mind (OM) is an annual international creative problem solving competition for students through college. The purpose is to foster the development of creative thinking and creative problem solving skills among young people. Participants compete in two formats – working on a long-term problem which may include building mechanical devices and putting on a mini-play, complete with costumes and props, and responding to an unknown spontaneous problem on competition day. Lorton Station has entered at least one team every year; usually we have two.

Continued on page 2; Odyssey of the Mind

At the meeting tonight, you can learn more about OM and teams will be formed for the competition. Children can (and should) come to the meeting. Problems for this year's competition were sent home with an interest form in the PTA packet the second week of school; if you cannot locate the papers, they are also on the PTA portion of the school website, in the "Before and After School Enrichment Programs" section. You can also find more about OM at their website:

www.odysseyofthemind.org.

If you have further questions, please contact Mrs. Bowers in the library. ✉

Innisbrook Fundraiser Still Needs Your Support to Succeed

Shirley White
PTA 2nd Vice President

It's not too late to place your INNISBROOK order! We have NOT met our goal! Your participation in the sale is greatly appreciated! Go to www.innisbrook.com and click on "EZ" to enter your order. Our school number is 113542. Enter an order and earn Jungle Scramble, a fun computer game! You could be an Instant Winner of a Smart Car, cash or product prizes! Email out of town relatives to support the sale. No computer? No problem! Call Innisbrook Customer Service at 1-877-525-5608 or send your order form and payment to the school to be entered by the chairperson.

All funds raised go to fund activities for YOUR children: after-school activities, family fun nights, field trips and much more! 50% of all purchases go directly to the PTA.

Thanks for your support!

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

(CONSEJOS PARA HALLOWEEN)



<http://www.cdc.gov/Family/halloween/index.htm>

<http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/octhalloween.cfm>

Succeed.

In addition, we want to extend our appreciation to Mr. Daniel Storck, Mount Vernon School Board member and Mr. Greg Schuckman, PTA President for attending and speaking at our Back to School Night.

The staff has planned several events for parents to receive information about the programs at Lorton Station ES. The next program, **Tools for Schools**, is scheduled for Kindergarten parents on **October 8th** from **6:30 pm to 8:00 pm**. This is an evening for the parents to browse and get information about all areas of the Kindergarten program. On **October 15th**, Ms. Chadbourn will be hosting an **Advanced Academics (formerly Gifted and Talented) information session**. She will be discussing the changes in the Advanced Academic program, levels of service, and referral process for level 4 services. Please plan on joining us in **the library at 6:30 pm**.

We hope to see you all again on **November 2nd and 3rd** for **Parent Teacher Conferences**. Parents and teachers will meet for individual student conferences regarding your child's progress over the first nine weeks of school. Teachers will arrange specific conference dates/times with parents. If you do not have an appointment, please contact your child's teacher immediately.

We appreciate parent support of our efforts here at Lorton Station Elementary School on behalf of your children—our students. ✉

COMING SOON: WATCHDOGS!

WatchDOGS are dads (or other adult males) who come in for about 45 minutes in the morning or at the end of the school day and help with Kiss and Ride. Dads and significant adult males can show our students how much we care by volunteering to help. We will be hosting a "Donuts with Dads" breakfast early in October to kick start this year's program. Watch your Tuesday folder for further details. The children at Lorton Station love our WatchDOGS—let's make sure we continue to make this program a success this year!

-Martin White
mscwhite@aol.com

Discover the Riches of Before and After School Enrichment Programs – Something for Everyone

Nanette Henderson
2nd Vice President

The Lorton Station PTA is offering a wide variety of before and after school enrichment programs.

They include Mad Science, a chess club, various sports programs, and Spanish language classes.

Since school starts relatively late in the morning, we have the luxury of being able to offer programs both before and after school. We are offering Spanish and chess as before school programs, and sports and science as after school programs. We have tried to schedule classes so that no programs will be offered at the same time, so children will not have to pick one over the other due to scheduling conflicts.

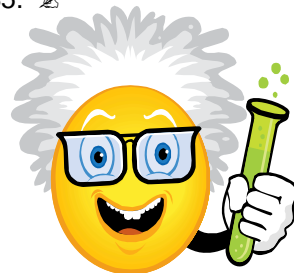
At this time, all classes still have spaces available. If you missed the registration forms that were sent home, please check the PTA section of the school website—all the forms are posted there.

According to recent research conducted by the US Department of Education, there are numerous benefits to such enrichment programs. The research shows that children with the opportunity to make social connections in after-school hours are better adjusted and happier than those who do not

have this opportunity. In addition, students who spent even one to four hours a week in extracurricular activities were 60 percent less likely to have dropped out of school by 12th grade than their peers who did not participate. (Source: An-Me Chung, After School Programs: Keeping Children Safe and Smart, US Department of Education, 2000.)

We are working on getting our Journalism club up and running, and theatre arts will be offered in the spring. In addition, there are a number of other classes that we are currently investigating.

If you have any questions about the PTA's enrichment programs, or would like to suggest or help with any of the programs, please contact Nannette Henderson at LSPTA1VP@gmail.com or 703-643-9085. ✉



LORTON STATION PARENTS' POLL: WOULD IT HELP YOU IF WE HELD A FLU CLINIC AT SCHOOL?

The PTA wants your opinion! With the flu season nearly upon us, the PTA is considering holding a flu clinic at school to help protect eligible students and their families. This could save parents the time and hassle of scheduling separate appointments or making special arrangements to get their kids vaccinated. If we have a flu clinic, it would be held on Tuesday, October 13, from 3:00-7:00pm. If you wanted your child or family to participate in this clinic, you would have to fill out additional paperwork. If you are interested in having a flu clinic service at Lorton Station, please send an e-mail expressing your interest to Nannette Henderson, LSPTA1VP@gmail.com.

Save the Date: LSES Movie Night



Please join other Lorton Station families at our first Movie Night of the year, on **Friday, October 23**. The featured movie is "**Imagine That**" starring Eddie Murphy, and is rated PG. (A great website to check on movie ratings and content is www.kids-in-mind.com.) **Doors open at 6:30pm, and the movie starts at 7:00pm.**

This is a **FREE family event** put on by the Lorton Station PTA, who also provides **drinks, popcorn and door prizes**. It's a great opportunity to meet other Lorton Station families and meet some of the other kids with whom your child goes to school.

Reservation flyers will be going home next Tuesday. Parents who would like to volunteer to help that night should contact the Movie Night Coordinator, Caryn Emanuel at ce4ever@cox.net or (703) 550-7162.

Volunteers Needed: Please Inquire Within

Nanette Henderson
2nd Vice President

*****UPCOMING VOLUNTEER NEEDS*****

Kindergarten Health Screenings

Wednesday, October 7, 9am-1pm--no training or experience required

Contact the Health Aide, Susan Farrell at susan.farrell1@fcps.edu if you can help.

Roadrunner Readers--read with students at all grade levels

Started October 1

Thursday mornings, 9:30am-11:30am

Contact Reading Specialist Susan Sall at LSall@fcps.edu for more details.

Junior Great Books--facilitate discussions of classic stories and fables--weekly meetings with students.

Training is provided; schedule is flexible

Contact Reading Specialist Susan Sall at LSall@fcps.edu for more details.

A **volunteer sign-up sheet** went home in the first PTA packet of the year. If you have not yet returned it, please take a few minutes and complete it. (Copies of the sign-up sheet are available on the PTA section of the school website.) Not sure how you can be useful? Just check the "I'm flexible—contact me whenever help is needed" box, and you can pick and choose your opportunities as they come available. There is something for everyone!

You can also send an email to our Volunteer Coordinator, Christine Watters, at LSVolunteer@gmail.com.

About Lightning Tracks:



Lightning Tracks is published monthly as a joint project of Lorton Station Elementary School and the PTA. Articles are strictly for the purpose of keeping parents and staff informed and do not take stands on any issue. Information provided by vendors or candidates for public office will not be accepted. We want to hear from you! If you would like to submit articles, news of events, comments, or suggestions, please contact Jackie Cho, Newsletter Editor, at jaccho2003@yahoo.com.

There's A New Roadrunner in Town!

New look adds new life to Spiritwear. Even more styles headed our way!

Kelly Wilson
Spiritwear Coordinator

First of all, a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has purchased Spiritwear items! It's great to see so many parents, students, and staff showing their school spirit. If you attended Open House, the Station Celebration, or the Back to School Nights, you probably caught a peek at our new roadrunner designs for Spiritwear.



There are six. Three of them are navy t-shirts and the other three are tie-dyed items. The new roadrunner is

featured on several of the new shirts. He is determined and confident, to go with our school's motto, "We Know We Can."

Orders that were placed on or before September 18th have been processed. Look for the items to come home with your children this week. If you wrote your phone number or email on the order form, you will be contacted when the Spiritwear is distributed.

Online ordering is made easy at www.wickssports.com/lse where you can see photos of the shirts and pants, view sizes, and complete your secure order. You can choose to have your items shipped directly to your home or pick them up at Wick's Sports Lettering on Richmond Hwy.

Keep an eye out for three new styles coming our way soon. One is a long-sleeved knit shirt and the other two are solid blue shirts for adults. All of these will feature the new roadrunner design.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at jimkelzack@me.com or 703-455-7758. ✉

JUST FOR KIDS

HALLOWEEN SCRAMBLE

Unscramble the letters under the blanks to find out what you can do to help stay safe while trick-or-treating.

1. Walk on

____ _
E I A S K D W S L

2. Stay in

____ _
O S G P R U

3. Avoid

____ _
T A E S N R S G R

4. Carry a

____ _
G T A H F S I L H L

5. Ask your parents to check your

____ _
S E T T A R

Source: U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services



School Hours



Mondays: 9:05 am -1:15pm

Tuesdays-Fridays: 9:05 am - 3:45pm

Children should arrive at school no earlier than 8:45 am. We cannot assume responsibility for their supervision before this time.

Office Hours

Monday-Friday: 8:30am to 4:30 pm

Transportation

Information about transportation is available at the school or by calling 703.329.3600

School Age Child Care

Before and after school age child care (SACC) is available. For more information, visit:

www.co.fairfax.va.us/service/ofc/sacc.htm

Cafeteria Prices



Breakfast:

Student: \$1.50

Adult: \$1.95

Lunch:

Student: \$2.65

Adult: \$3.65

2nd Entrée with Lunch: \$1.75

Available as a daily menu choice: Yogurt with pretzel, a deli, and chef's salad. Daily a la carte items also available. Meal cards are available.

OCTOBER CALENDAR CALL

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



Oct. 8: Tools for School (Kindergarten parents)

Oct. 12: Columbus Day Holiday

Oct. 13: PTA Meeting

Oct. 15: Advanced Academics Information Session

Oct. 16-23: Book Fair

Oct. 23: Family Movie Night

Oct. 30: End of 1st Quarter

Nov. 2-Nov. 3 – Teacher Workdays (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Did You Know?

You can join your child for lunch! No advance notice is necessary. Just check in at the office and meet your child's class in the lobby. Outside food is discouraged for food safety and sanitation concerns.

