



The Lakecrest Link



*Newsletter for the Lakecrest-St. John's Independent School Community
December, 2007*

Some Seasonal Thoughts

"This is the duty of our generation as we enter the twenty-first century -- solidarity with the weak, the persecuted, the lonely, the sick, and those in despair. It is expressed by the desire to give a noble and humanizing meaning to a community in which all members will define themselves not by their own identity but by that of others."

(Elie Wiesel)

During this time we witness a number of spiritual observances among our families. Earlier in November our Hindu friends celebrated Divali, the Festival of Lights. Ramadan, the holy month for Muslims, ended recently. Many Christian families enter the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas. Whether or not parents and children adhere to a religious tradition it is true to say that we all share some common values during this time. A regard for the less fortunate is a common theme in our thoughts and actions in a special way at this time of year. Likewise, the theme of quiet reflection on one's own behavior and interior motivations in relation to the universal truths is a common one among many as the year comes to a close. We are thankful for the gifts of life and the many good things we enjoy in our community. Our wish for each of you is the peace and joy that we all deserve.

Christmas, children, is not a date. It is a state of mind.

(Mary Ellen Chase)

Dates to Remember

Thursday, November 22nd - Thanksgiving Day (United States)

Special Thanksgiving wishes to our American Families

Friday, November 23rd - Annual Auction @ 6:30 p.m. @ Clovelley Golf Club

Monday, November 26th - Day of the Covenant (Bahai)

Wednesday, November 28th - Chapters Night

Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá

Thursday, November 29 @ 7:30 p.m. - AGM

Lakecrest Board of Directors Annual General Meeting

In the Drama Room (Second Floor)

Wednesday, Dec 5 First day of Chanukah (Jewish)

Thursday, December 6th - Christmas Luncheon

First Sitting (K-4) @ 11:30 a.m.

Second Sitting (Gr. 5-9) @ 12:45 p.m.

Wednesday, December 12th - Christmas Concert @ 7:00 p.m. in the School Gym

Last day of Chanukah (Jewish)

Tuesday, December 18th - Family Skate

@ Mile One Stadium @ 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Dec 20 Eid-al-Adha (Islamic)

Friday, December 21st - Christmas Assembly @ 11:00 a.m.

Wear Christmas Colours (Red, White, Green)

Noon dismissal - Christmas Holidays begin

Dec 25 Christmas Day (Christian)

Monday, January 7th - Classes Resume

January 23rd - 29th - Senior Exams

Auction Triumph

The exact returns are still being calculated but we know already that the Auction topped a figure well over \$40,000 this year ! What an incredible result. The Auction Committee under the leadership of Marta Fonseca and the Home and School has accomplished a monumental feat. Here are the members of that powerhouse committee :Marta Fonseca, Linda Rowe, Donna Hickman, Barbara Penney, Jean Cook, Christine Walker, Carol O'Dea, Debbie Tucker, Nickie Allen, Janet Howells, Lisa Dove Major and Denise Veber.

Planning for the Auction started way back in May. The Auction Team hit the deck running in September. Parents worked with students to create wonderful class projects. Team members solicited donations from businesses and agencies around the city. Kind donors came up with all kinds of good items for the auction. Former families pitched in with lovely contributions that went for big dollars in the live and silent auctions. The frenetic pace picked up over the weeks and culminated in the final preparations at Clovelly Golf Club. To think that a school with less than 80 families could come together to amass a total at the higher end of the 40K mark. Best of all, every single one of the nearly half million pennies earned in the Auction will go toward our children's learning. Thank you to everyone who participated so generously in any and every phase of this magnificent achievement.



Parents and friends enjoy the relaxation and excitement of the Lakecrest Annual Auction with a Hawaiian theme.

Enrollment Update

Our Kindergarten class for 2008 looks like it will soon be filled. If the trend continues, it is our plan to create a second Kindergarten class as soon as the numbers allow. We have applications coming in for 2009 and 2010. Recently we had a call from a parent whose child is not due to be born until February, 2008. The parents want their child first in line for the Lakecrest Kindergarten class of 2013!

We are running our television ad again on the NTV Evening News this week and next week. We do accept mid-year transfers and we want to promote our excellent education at a time when parents may be open to consideration in that direction. As always, the very best kind of advertising is word of mouth . If you get the chance during some social events in the coming season, don't hesitate to recommend a school visit to your friends, colleagues and acquaintances who have school age children or pre-schoolers.

*Gratitude is the heart's memory.
(French Proverb)*

The Spirit of Generosity and Social Responsibility Is Alive and Well at Lakecrest

The generosity shown by their parents and supporters of the school is something our children bring to school with them. While the school exists to deliver an academic curriculum, there is important learning going on on many other levels. The idea that they have a responsibility to do what they can to help others is a vital part of what they learn at home and at school.

Throughout the year our children participate in activities and drives that end up helping families and organizations who are in need. At Thanksgiving and Christmas times the Student Council organizes the efforts to raise funds and gather food and other gifts to share with those less fortunate in our city area.

As the days before Christmas close quickly, we ask that you help your children contribute to the collection of gifts, food and money for the causes we will support this year. More details will come home in the weeks to come about these good efforts.

Miss Jones had been giving her second-grade students a lesson on science. She had explained about magnets and showed how they would pick up nails and other bits of iron.

Now it was question time, and she asked, "My name begins with the letter 'M' and I pick up things. What am I?" A little boy on the front row proudly said, "You're a mother!"

On Time, Every Time...

Imagine you were having an important daily meeting, trying your best to achieve the goals of your organization. You have spent time and effort getting ready for each meeting.

Then imagine that ten to twenty percent of the people needed for the meeting's success showed up late a number of times. Some of these latercomers did not arrive on time on a regular basis, one out of every three or four days. How might that effect the start of your business day? How would it make you feel? What would you do about these people and their constant tardiness?

Put yourself in that position and you will begin to understand how many of our teachers are feeling at the beginning of the school day week after week. We sometimes have as many as twenty students coming into class after the bell has rung at 8:30 a.m. We see parents rushing up the sidewalk with their children at 8:27 or later, thinking they are somehow going to be "on time" for class. They almost never are at that rate.

The parents and students who have done what it takes almost every day to arrive in class on time (the majority of our families, to be sure) deserve the respect of being able to have class start without the distraction and disruption that late arriving students create so often. It is not fair to their classmates and their teachers for children to arrive late on any kind of regular basis. It contributes nothing to our efforts to provide a good education to all our children. It really has to improve.

We have not even had a serious snowfall yet and still we see the same children coming in late to class day after day. When the winter sets in we start to hear different excuses like slow traffic. Those who have lived in Newfoundland for more than a year should not be surprised that the going will be slower during the winter. Snow is no excuse for lateness. As one famous football coach said, "We don't want excuses. We want results." It means we need to get on the road earlier.

We put significant effort into teaching our children organizational skills. Being on time is one such vital organizational skill. It is not always easy, but it is necessary. For the sake of our children's learning we urgently ask all parents to arrange to have their children in the building not later than 8:25 a.m., (earlier would be preferable), so they can get to their classrooms and be settled and ready to work when the bell rings. If we are going to ask our children to do their best, to do what it takes to ensure optimal learning, then we have to lead by example.

We kindly ask that any parents who go down the hall or up the stairs remove their shoes as our students do. We have had some parents comment that they have wet socks because some other parents has not taken off their outer footwear and left a trail of water or mud on the stairs.



Lakecrest Board of Directors, 2025???
Grade Five Gentlemen in the Halloween Journey of Terror

A Note from One of our Longtime Corporate Patrons

In the event you, or anyone you know requires accommodations in St. John's during the period of December 1st through January 13th, we've an exceptional rate offering of \$79.99 per night. Feel free to call me (709-758-4268) on my direct line, and I'll make the reservations personally.

Thanks for considering us,

Kurt B. Schoenberg, C.H.A.
General Manager

(Quality Hotel-Harbourview donates scholarships annually to Lakecrest. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our Corporate Patrons and are happy to pass along messages like these in our newsletter.)

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. "
(Charles Dickens, Ebenezer Scrooge, A Christmas Carol)

Star students

At the Chess tournament at Mary Queen of Peace in November, Lakecrest students achieved an outstanding result. **Thomas Hickman, Liam Major and Theo Stylianides** all took Gold medals in their respective class divisions. **Daniel Major** scored a third place finish in his class and **Ben Rogers and Alex Hickman** came fourth in theirs. **Philip McDermott** won a silver medal in the BMO Skate Canada 2008 Sectionals in Corner Brook. **Christie Costello, Jeremy Costello, Kathleen O'Dea and Christoph Pike** all represented Lakecrest at the Junior League Math Competition . As a team they came 6th out of 25 teams, only 12 points behind winner. Christie and Kathleen also won a prize for best presentation. Congratulations to **Sarah Veber** who is headed to Halifax this weekend to receive the RCM Silver Medal for achieving the highest mark in Atlantic Canada for Grade 5 Piano, Royal Conservatory of Music Exam.

Chapters Night

You can do your Christmas book buying and help the school library at the same time on Wednesday, November 28th at Chapters on Kenmount Road. When you go to the cashier, just say you're with Lakecrest and the store gives us a book credit of 15% on all purchases you make. If your friends are going to buy books, please encourage them to do it on November 28th and mention Lakecrest when they make the purchases. We have raised thousands of dollars for books and materials for our school library over the years with this easy plan. We thank Chapters, another of our corporate patrons, for their generous support.

Family Skate

Each year we invite our parents, grandparents, relatives, especially siblings, and friends to join us for a skate at Mile One Stadium. It is a wonderful event. Many parents come and help with the tying of skate laces and they take a few turns around the ice with their children. Other parents are able to drop in for a few minutes to watch the fun. Please come along at 9:00 a.m. for this seasonal highlight. Students are taken by bus from the school to Mile One and return with their classes after the skate. We ask that students only take water while at the stadium. We ask that parents not give their children snacks or other drinks from the canteen or vending machines there. The students will have their snack when they get back to the school. If you have extra helmets or skates you can lend the school in case there are students who would like to skate but don't have the equipment, please send them along. You can put a piece of masking tape with your name on it so we can return them after the skate. All students must be wearing a helmet when

they go onto the ice. Bicycle helmets are permitted along with hockey or other approved kind of helmets.

Christmas Assembly

At 11:00 a.m. on Friday, December 21st in the gym we have our Christmas Assembly. Students wear Christmas colours. Christmas songs are sung and stories told. The assembly ends with a slide show of the term from September to December featuring our students and parents in all their activities. We invite parents, grandparents, relatives and friends to be there. Younger siblings can join their brothers and sisters if they wish at the front of the gym.

After the slide show, we dismiss for the Christmas Holidays. This happens around noontime. Students need to take home all their books and materials for the holidays, leaving their desks and lockers empty for cleaning during the break. Classes resume on Monday, January 7th.

Policy Highlights - Absence for Family Travel Outside Scheduled Holidays

While travel provides wonderful opportunities for learning, given the increasing number of parents who are choosing to withdraw their child/children for extended periods of time at times other than scheduled breaks, it is important to understand the educational ramifications of that decision. The purpose of this policy is to provide you with information regarding what the teacher is able to do to support the child's learning and what will be the responsibilities of the parent during this absence.

Essentially parents who choose to take their child/children out of school to go on an extended holiday or trip are choosing to home school their child for that period of time. *Before making this decision please talk to your child's teacher and consider the following factors:*

- Your child's/children's overall achievement and progress to date and the possible affect this absence may have on him/her/them. Remember that it is impossible to replicate all of the learning that will take place in his/her/their absence.
- *Although it is not the teacher's responsibility to provide programming during this absence, with sufficient notice (at least 2 weeks) and depending on the grade level teachers may be able to provide you with a folder of work that could include:*
 - textbook assignments, worksheets, journal assignments and assigned reading.

Please keep in mind that teachers are not able to:

- Provide you with a copy of a textbook that is shared between classes
- Replicate teacher-led lessons or hands-on experiences
- Provide you with copies of evaluations - tests, quizzes, etc.

Before you ask for work for your child/children please consider carefully whether or not it will be realistic for you and your child/children to do this work while away. The preparation of materials can take a substantial amount of teacher time. You can save everyone time and unnecessary anxiety by not asking for work if it is unlikely to be completed during the time away.

During the absence, if you are choosing to home school your child, it then becomes your responsibility to:

- Monitor and supervise the child's/children's learning

Upon your child's return to school it is his/her responsibility to "catch up" on any other work that he/she has missed. This will of course require additional time and assistance from home.

If you decide to withdraw your child/children from school but are not prepared to home school him/her/them during the absence then you need to accept the fact that your child/children will miss the learning that continues in his/her/their absence and that this may have an overall impact on his/her/their achievement.

Unscheduled School Closures Due To Weather

In the event that school must close during the day due to unexpected storms, water or furnace problems or other emergencies, we will make an announcement on local radio stations.

(VOCM - 590 AM, CBC 640 AM, HITS 99.1FM, OZFM - 94.7 FM, K-ROCK 97.5 FM. We will also attempt to call all parents to pick up their children. Children will be supervised in the school until they are picked up. When road conditions become hazardous or unexpected storms threaten, parents have the option of picking up their children before regular dismissal. In these cases, parents are asked to contact the school by phone if possible to have their children get ready to go home. Parents should come to the office and have their children paged rather than going to classrooms.

Winter Cautions

Children should come dressed to go outside at recess. Snowpants or splash pants are needed for children to play on the snow. School doors open at 8:00 a.m. We cannot ensure that someone will be there earlier so please don't drop children off at the door before 8:00 a.m.