

Lakecrest Link

February, 2006
Volume 13, Number 6



◆ Dates To Remember

Friday, February 3rd
Dress Down Day

Wednesday, February 8th
Parent Teacher
Interviews

Gr. 7-9 @ 3:10 to 5:00
p.m.

Thursday, February 9th
Parent Teacher
Interviews
Gr. 7-9 @ 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Friday, February 10th
Student Council Dance
Grades 6-9 @7:30 - 10
p.m.

Monday, February 13th
School Holiday-No
Classes

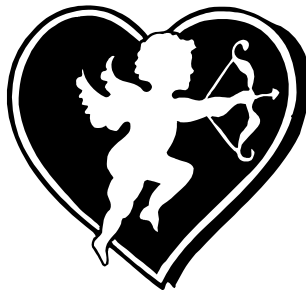
Tuesday, February 14th
Valentine's Day
Wear red and white

Friday, February 17th
Dress Down Day

Thursday, February 23rd
Kindergarten Parent
Orientation
Night @ 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 28th
Mardi Gras
Pancake Day

Wednesday, March 1st
Ash Wednesday



Valentine's Day

In keeping with the spirit of Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14th will be Red and White Day here at the school. That means students can wear those colours instead of the school uniform.

Pancake Day

Come and join us in the cafeteria before school in the morning (8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. for our traditional Pancake Day Feast, the World's Most Delicious Pancakes, Guaranteed. Chef Pellerin will prepare mouth-watering pancakes from scratch of course, based on a secret recipe that is very sweet, but contains no sugar or artificial ingredients. This treat is free to all parents, students, grandparents, siblings, relatives and caregivers. Parental Advisory: Children may claim these pancakes are better than mom's (or dad's).

Responsibilities

Lakecrest exists to provide a world class, personal education to the children who attend our school. Our Mission Statement, developed by our parents and teachers over the years, expresses our reason for being as a school:

Lakecrest is an intimate school community united by a passion for excellence in teaching and learning. Our goal is to provide our students with a personal, innovative, and well-rounded education so that they achieve their potential as leaders, independent critical thinkers, proponents of the arts and sciences, and champions of social and environmental responsibility.

In order for the school to grow toward this reality, it is vital that each person in our school community accept his or her responsibility. Below, we have outlined some ways in which different groups in our community can contribute to the realization of our Mission Statement through their actions. We welcome your comments on these points that we offer for your consideration.

Responsibilities

Parents

- to provide an environment at home in which study and homework can be done effectively. This includes establishing set times for homework when there is quiet and freedom from distraction.
- to contribute to the school their talents and resources through involvement in volunteer work and financial contributions to the extent that their circumstances and means allow.



*Principal for a Day
Cara Engelbrecht and
Sarah Veber make morning
announcements as part of
their duties.*

- to support their children's learning through communication and cooperation with teachers to ensure optimal learning.

Teachers

- to use their training and intellectual gifts to prepare and deliver instruction of the highest quality each day in the classroom.
- to assess the progress of their students and to adjust, where necessary, the methods of teaching to allow each student to learn to his or her maximum potential.
- to be role models as learners who challenge their students to meet and exceed the curriculum requirements to the extent that their students are capable.

Students

- to attend carefully to the teaching and learning happening during each period of the school day.
- to do the class work, projects and homework on time and as assigned to the very best of their ability.
- to cooperate with classmates and teachers in making the school a place where everyone feels safe and welcome.

Administration and Support Staff

- to do what is necessary to ensure the safety of everyone in the school.
- to provide the structures and conditions which allow teachers and students to carry optimal teaching and learning.
- to promote communication among all members of the community so that factors which may either promote or hinder learning can be addressed effectively.

These responsibilities are outlined in a general way. By looking at our Mission Statement and our Guiding Principles, we can see what we need to do in specific situations. Respect for others must always be kept in mind as we go about the business of learning. Some simple questions can help us decide what we need to do in most cases:

"Is this going to help our students learn better?"

"If this is preventing someone from learning better, why are we allowing it to continue?"

"Is my behaviour reasonable and respectful in these circumstances?"

Only when each person, regardless of age or role in the school community, accepts his or her responsibilities, can we hope to truly live up to our mission as a school.

Star Students

Jin-Soo Park, who was with us last year in Grade Five, participated in a Grade 6 English Grammar Competition in Kang-Won Province in Korea (population over two million). Jin Soo earned eleventh place. First to tenth place attained a perfect score and since Jin-Soo had made one mistake, he took eleventh place. This is a testament to the good teaching he had here at Lakecrest, to his own hard work and to his classmates who helped him with lots of conversation. Well done, Jin Soo.

Thomas Hickman, Alexander Jessome, Benjamin Jessome and Benjamin Rogers competed in the St. John's and Mount Pearl Regional Tournament of the Canadian Chess Challenge. Thomas took a silver medal and all our players are advancing to the Provincial Championships on March 18th at Memorial University.

Michael Connors scored on a penalty shot in the semi-final playoff game. **Noah Jeans** passed his test and received his yellow belt in karate.

Kanha Shete was awarded Most Valuable Player in his last game of the hockey tournament. **Michael Connors** made it to the semi-finals with their hockey team. **Holly Martin** has just gained her green stripe belt in Tae kwon Do. **Riley Crane** got his green stripe belt in Tae Kwon Do. **Hannah Martin** has just gained her yellow belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Ben Simms, Matthew Lahey and Chetan Muram competed in a tennis tournament at the Greenbelt Tennis Club. **Cole Hopkins** was selected to play for the XTreme Elite Minor Novice Team and complete against boys from all over the Avalon to win his spot. **Cole Hopkins and Jeremy Costello, Theo Stylianides and Parker Hopkins** all scored as their Universal Corporate Wear team cruised to its sixth victory.

Report Cards

Senior Reports Cards came home on Friday, February 3rd. The results were generally very encouraging. It is vital that students maintain the practice of doing some review each night in addition to the regular written homework and projects. This constant review, a bit at a time, will make a huge difference when the final exams come. Cramming for exams may seem to work for some, but the ability to recall information from our brains is stronger when it has been repeated in regular review and study.

Please return the cardstock portion of the report card to the office as soon as possible and keep the paper report for your records.

Mid Term Report Cards for Kindergarten through Grade Six will come home in early March.

Senior Exams

Our senior students in Grades Seven, Eight and Nine completed their mid-term examinations early in January. Our goal in having exams written in a formal setting in the Library is to better prepare our students for the examination situations they will face in high school and university. The strenuous preparation for the exams is good practice and discipline, we believe. The results of the exams were quite strong generally. Our students are to be commended for their excellent attitude and deportment during the exam process. They really took it seriously and benefited from the experience, we believe.

Recycling For Fun and Profit

A generous donor has offered to match every dollar we make through recycling. In a typical year, we receive over \$1000 for our recycling efforts. This year, if we do as well as usual, or better, we will double that amount. This is a great boost for our learning materials collection. Recycling Day is every Tuesday. Just bring in your drink containers (except milk cartons which cannot be recycled here) and leave them by the gate. Juice boxes and bottles, beer and wine and liquor bottles can all be recycled.

Policy Spotlight

In the coming months we will feature various policies from the School Handbook which will be completed by year's end. Good policies are essential in helping the school carry out its mission. Please review the Draft Special Services Policy below. We welcome your comments.

44 (a) Special Services Policy

Lakecrest does not have the resources to provide special services to students with learning disabilities. When a student requires educational assessment, it shall be the responsibility of the parents to obtain such testing. This educational assessment may indicate the need to provide accommodations or alterations in a student's program. Where Lakecrest, at its sole discretion, determines that it can provide these accommodations without compromising the quality of instruction offered to the other students in class, it will undertake to do this. If Lakecrest, at its sole discretion, concludes that it cannot provide the requisite changes in programming, it may be determined that the student will be better able to obtain the needed services in another educational environment.

Notwithstanding the absence of special services, parents may wish to have their child remain at Lakecrest because of the inherent advantages such as small class sizes, personal attention and a nurturing culture.

In such circumstances, the parents may seek the approval of the school to allow the student to remain at Lakecrest and if such approval is obtained, the student may remain at Lakecrest upon the parents providing to Lakecrest written acknowledgement and acceptance of the terms and conditions of this policy including the condition that the school will not be held responsible for any outcomes resulting from the school's inability to provide special educational services and supports.

In all circumstances, Lakecrest reserves the right to review the enrollment of a student when it determines that it cannot meet that student's educational needs.

Personal Independence

Having students take responsibility for things like putting their outdoor clothing away in lockers and getting their books and things out of their book bags in the morning is part of what they need to do to grow in independence.

Doing this for them when they are capable of doing it for themselves can slow this growth in independence. We are more than half way through our school year and we feel it is time now that all students take care of these morning routines for themselves.

Great Canadian Geography Challenge

Students in Grades 7, 8 & 9 participated in the Great Canadian Geography Challenge throughout the week of January 30th to February 3rd. Practice rounds were held in the classroom for two days. Friday was a marathon of questions as we had to catch up after the two storm days. The final school challenge was held Friday afternoon.

Ten participants, selected after the classroom run-off, vied for the championship: Michael Furey, Reniel Engelbrecht, and Ben Simms in Grade 7, Kanha Shete, Hannah Martin, Alexa Bailey and Alex Sansom in Grade 8 and Thomas Munn, Chetan Muram and Giles Ayers in Grade Nine.

Third Place:

Hannah Martin

Second Place:

Chetan Muram

First Place

Giles Ayers

Giles wrote a qualifying test on Monday and this was sent off to Ottawa.

We will hear soon whether he moves on to the provincial challenge.