



# THE LAKECREST LINK



Newsletter of the Lakecrest-St. John's Independent School Community  
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## **Do Your Job**

On the wall in the locker room of a professional football team there is a sign that reads simply, “Do Your Job”. The message is clear. Each person in that very successful organization is expected to know his or her job and do it.

For our school, this phrase has great meaning. Our primary mission is Teaching for Learning. In order for Lakecrest to be truly successful, each child must be learning to his or her capacity every day. This requires that every person in our school community do his or her job. For students, this means coming to school prepared with assignments done well, paying attention in class and doing all their schoolwork carefully and to the best of their ability. For teachers, it means knowing the curriculum, preparing lessons meticulously, assessing student work and delivering lessons with precision and enthusiasm. They must be continually studying the art and science of teaching. For parents it means getting their children to school on time. It means monitoring their children’s assignments and agendas and ensuring that there is a quiet place and time devoted to homework each night, with whatever help is appropriate is crucial. For support staff it means making sure the property, buildings and classrooms are well-maintained and clean. The correspondence, bookkeeping, and other tasks must be seen to with devotion daily. For our volunteer parents it means keeping their commitments in preparing and serving lunches, driving on field trips, giving presentations and working with children in class. For all of us adults it means giving to the extent that our means allow to support the financial needs of the school through donations and participation in the Auction, Wine Tasting and Annual Giving Campaign.

We have had several new families visiting and touring the school recently. Each time we take these parents around, we see how impressed they are by the children in all grades who seem so focused on their work and at the same time so happy and peaceful. Our children are doing their job. Supporting them is our job. It’s what we do.

*“All that is necessary to break the spell of inertia and frustration is this: Act as if it were impossible to fail.” (Dorothea Brande)*

## Dates to Remember

Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> - Dress Down Day

Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Candlemas - Presentation of Christ in the Temple



February 5<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Day/Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras (Pancakes served free in Cafeteria from 8 - 8:45 a.m. on Tuesday. Dress this day in Mardi Gras Colours - Green, Yellow (Gold) and Purple)



Also Recycling Blitz - leave your recyclables at the gate on the way in to pancakes.

Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup> - Chinese New Year

Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup> - 100<sup>th</sup> Day of School

Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup> - Beginning of Spirit Week- (See the letter and notes on Spirit Week below) - Retro Day  
Vasant Panchami (Hindu)

Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> - Spirit Week-Pyjamas Day

Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> - Spirit Week - Opposite Day



Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - Valentine's Day  
Spirit Week - Red/White/Pink Day  
Senior (Grade 7-9) Report Cards come home.

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> - Professional Development Day for Teachers-no classes

Saturday, February 16<sup>th</sup> - Canadian Chess Challenge Eastern Regional @ St. Edward's

School, Kelligrews (Details can be found at [www.chess.nl.ca](http://www.chess.nl.ca))



Monday, February 18<sup>th</sup> - School Holiday - no classes

- Washington's Birthday

Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> - Parent-Teacher Interviews for Grades 7-9 (3:15 to 5:00 p.m.)

Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> - Parent-Teacher Interviews for Grades 7-9 (6:00 to 8:00 p.m.)

Friday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> - Orientation Day for Kindergartens entering in 2009

- Session starts @ 9:00 a.m. in the Kindergarten Room (Please encourage your friends with children turning five years old in 2009 to bring them along.)

Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> - Recycling Blitz

-to March 1<sup>st</sup> - Intercalary Days - Baha'i

Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup> - Orientation Session for Parents of children entering Kindergarten in September 2008

- Starts at 7:30 p.m. in the Kindergarten Classroom

Friday, February 29<sup>th</sup> - Junior (Kindergarten to Grade Six) Report Cards come home  
*Looking Forward to March...*

*Monday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> - Tuition Deposit Due (\$500 for returning students, \$1000 for new students, including Kindergartens for 2008.*

*Wednesday and Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> - Parent Teacher Interviews for Kindergarten to Grade Six.*

*Thursday, March 21 - Holy Thursday (Last day of classes before holidays)*

*Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> - Easter Holidays begin*

*Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - Classes resume after Easter Holidays*

**The School Calendar is now available in detail for each month on our website. Go to [www.lakecrest.ca](http://www.lakecrest.ca)**

**Click on "School Calendar" on the blue line along the top. Scroll down to "Monthly Calendar". Then you can click on any day that is marked to get the details of the event.**

*"No man or woman...can really be strong, gentle, pure and good, without the world being better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness." (Phillips Brooks)*



**Physical Education class at Pippy Park Ski trail.**



**Study Buddies enjoy some outdoor activity.**



**Ian brings down the gavel to restore order at City Hall. His Worship Mayor Andy Wells welcomes our Grade Two and Three Social Studies class to discuss democracy and citizenship during one of our many interesting field trips.**

## **Spirit Week**

**During the week of February 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> classes will go ahead as usual except that each day there will be a special activity for the students to enjoy. Each day of this week is a special Dress Down Day with the themes outlined below. Not to worry if a child does not have exactly what is suggested.**

### **Monday- Retro Day**

- Students can wear anything that precedes the 2000s. So get out the poodle skirts, those bell bottoms or even the neon scrunchies!
- Throughout the day, in different grade groups, students will also be playing some retro board games to bring back some old school fun!

### **Tuesday- Pajamas Day**

- Students you can roll out of bed and head to school. Remember appropriate wear is still expected.
- Students may also bring their favourite stuffed animal as a buddy for the day.
- Geo-Challenge for Grades 7-9 in the afternoon, while Grades K-6 will watch in support.

### **Wednesday- Opposite Day**

- It is what it says. Do everything you can in the opposite way. Students can wear their clothes inside out, their pants backwards or even dress as the opposite sex.
- On Wednesday during Study Hall, student council will also be hosting a talent show. It is open to all students from Grades K-9. If students are interested in participating, they must sign up on the sign up sheet in the front lobby no later than Tuesday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. Due to time restraints, the performances must be no longer than 5 minutes. So get your talents ready to dazzle your fellow students.

### **Thursday- Red/White/Pink Day**

- In light of Valentine Day, students are asked to dress in those colours.
- Students will have some study buddy activities during the day as well.

## **Star Students**

Brett Bittner's team took silver in hockey. Jeremy Costello, Christopher Connors, Jonathan Woodford, Maggie Connors, Benjamin Jessome and Theo Stylianides played in a hockey tournament over the Christmas holidays. Michael Connors and his team took second place in the Atom A hockey tournament. Michael Noseworthy won bronze with his hockey team. Matthew Wells and Riley Crane took fourth place in their Avalon House League tournament. Sophie Penney, Thomas Hickman and Rachel Howells participated in music recitals. Philip McDermott won second place in figure skating in Corner Brook and won a \$1000 scholarship in dance. Meghan White and Alexander Jessome sang with Shallaway on the "Out of the Fog" television show and also in concert. Reniel Engelbrecht swam in a national invitational meet in Montreal and took home three golds, four silvers and three bronze medals. Nathaniel Loman participated in Hip Hop dance. Lydia Rowe won a match in the consolation round at the Casely Tennis International Championship Camp in Florida. Ben Rogers, Thomas Hickman and Alex Hickman competed in the St. Paul's Chess Tournament in January. Ben took gold, Thomas silver and Alex won two games as Lakecrest shone in the Primary Division. Current School Chess Champion

Daniel Major fought off a challenge by Christoph Pike in the recent Championship Match. Daniel had taken the crown from Theo Stylianides who held it last year and most of this year until Christmas. Please send in notes about your child's participation in activities outside the school and we will feature them in our "Star Students" section of the Link newsletter and announce them on the P.A. in the morning and afternoon.

*"You may be deceived if you trust too much, but you will live in torment if you do not trust enough."  
(Frank Crane)*

### **Extracurricular Activities in Full Swing**

A solid slate of Extracurricular Activities is underway for the term. Everything from Hackmatack Book Club to Basketball to Chess to Volleyball and Soccer go on after school during the week. We are thankful to the teachers and parents who are giving of their time and talents to provide these valuable experiences for our children. "A healthy mind in a healthy body" is an ancient Greek saying that is just as true today.

### **Our First Waiting List**

With the submission of an Application Form last week, we now have our first official Waiting List for Kindergarten. The Kindergarten class of 2008 has grown a lot as a result of the efforts of the Recruitment Committee of the Board and the constant good word of mouth from you, our parents. Most visiting parents mention that they have spoken with current parents and the tour confirms the recommendations. Our class of 2009 now has more than ten expressions of interest and 2010 has started well with four inquiries and three applications to date. Believe it or not, we have already have one application for 2011. This child's parent's came in when she was only fourteen months old, to make sure they secured a place at Lakecrest for her.

### **Professional Development**

Our Teachers are continually working to upgrade their knowledge base and skillsets in teaching. Aside from regular faculty meetings, teachers meet every third Tuesday to explore challenges and ideas in seeing how they can work together even more effectively on behalf of our children. This is a continuation of the process that began late in August before school opened. Through the two designated Professional Development days during the year (next one on February 15<sup>th</sup>) to the days after classes end in June, our Teachers are learning. Our current emphasis is on Enrichment and building a professional learning community in support of student learning. We congratulate our faculty on their initiative and persistence in working to make their excellent work even better.

*"In every person's heart there is a secret nerve that answers to the vibrations of beauty."  
(Christopher Morley)*

### **Slideshow and Concert Disks**

Copies of the Christmas PowerPoint slideshow are available, along with copies of the Christmas Concert DVD. These can be had upon request by email to admin@lakecrest.ca. There is no fee, but you are invited to make a donation to the Home and School Association if you wish to support the production of these shows and the good work of the Home and School Association.

*"A child needs your love most when he deserves it least."  
(Erma Bombeck)*

## **School Policy Highlight-Absence/Vacation Outside Scheduled Holiday Times**

*When students are not attending classes due to family vacation or other reasons while school is in session (outside the regularly scheduled school holidays or breaks):*

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 holidays and 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 and student during these absences.

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. It is a professional courtesy to request such leave from the administration and to inform Teachers of this request.

*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 the student's progress. 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 an outline of work that could include:*
- textbook assignments, 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 or provide detailed lesson plans
- 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 your child/children to complete this work while away. The preparation of materials can take a substantial amount of teacher time so please help by*

- Not asking for work if it is unlikely to be completed.

During the absence, since 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 find out about and "catch up" on any other work that he/she has missed. This may require additional time and assistance from home.*

## **Procedure when school is closed due to weather or other emergencies**

When it becomes necessary to close the school due to weather or for other unexpected reasons, an announcement will be sent to these local radio stations :

**VOCM – 590 AM,  
COAST 101.1 FM**

**CBC 640 AM,  
OZFM – 94.7 FM,**

**HITS 99.1FM,  
K-ROCK 97.5 FM**

### **School Closures (continued)**

Every effort will be made to email parents with the decision before 7:30 a.m.. The announcement will be put on our school telephone answering machine early in the morning. On the rare occasions when unforeseen circumstances make it necessary to close the school after classes have already begun (furnace, electrical or other such problems, or when an unexpected storm hits in the middle of the school day), we contact the local radio stations with that announcement. 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. Weather conditions can vary greatly within St. John's and surrounding communities with blinding snow in one section of town and light flakes in another. 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.

### **D.A.R.E Program**

Constable Barrett of the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary is meeting weekly with our Grade Sixes this term to deliver the Drug Abuse Resistance Education program. Defining the challenge, Assessing options, Responding with informed choices and Evaluating the appropriateness of the response are the steps in the program.

### **Community Outreach**

We received a letter of thanks from the Easter Seals NL campaign. Our children raised \$342 for their Penny Power program. The pennies collected by our children will go toward disability solutions, therapy programs and public education. This is one of many ways in which our children learn to address the needs of others in the community. Our thanks to Cathy Hoyles for bringing the program to our attention and to Mrs. Slaney-Howell and the teachers for supporting the children's efforts.

*"Life appears to me too short to be spent in nursing animosity or registering wrong." ( Charlotte Bronte)*

### **Urgent Reminder About Parking in Front of the School**

Please remember not to stop or park in the Handicapped Parking Space by the Church at any time. The fine is \$75 and it is enforced 24 hours a day. Also, we ask you help in not parking too close to the crosswalk. We have checked and the law is that you are not allowed to park within Six Metres of a crosswalk. Recently we had a close call when one of our students walking onto the crosswalk from behind a car parked less than three feet away from the crosswalk. The driver of the car coming down Patrick Street could not see the child entering the crosswalk until she was almost in the middle of the street. Six metres from our crosswalk extends almost to the end of the wall and iron fence in front of the school beside the white house next to us. On the opposite side of the street, you should really not stop or park any closer to the crosswalk than the light pole by the red house. We thank you for respecting these measures which are simple, although sometimes inconvenient, and vital to the safety of the children and other people who use the crosswalk.

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to  
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