

Lakecrest Link

March, 2006

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◆ Dates To Remember

Wednesday, March 1st
Tuition Deposit Due
Ash Wednesday
Idol Day
Last day of Intercalary Days
(Baha'i)

Thursday, March 2nd
Backwards Inside Out Day
(Spirit Week)
Dance for Grades 6-9
7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Friday, March 3rd
International Day (Spirit
Week) Dress in International
Theme
Parent/Teacher team plays
Students in Spirit Week
Basketball Game
2-2:45 p.m.
Report Cards, K-6 come home

Wednesday, March 8th
International Women's Day

Tuesday, March 14 and 15
Purim (Jewish)

Friday, March 17th
St Patrick's Day
Professional Development Day
- no classes

Monday, March 20
St. Patrick's Day Holiday
No classes
Earth Day

Tuesday, March 21st
Persian New Year, end of
fasting days (Baha'i)

Easter Vacation
Friday, April 7th is the last
day of classes before
holidays

Monday, April 24th
Classes Resume



Report Cards

Report Cards come home this week for Grades Kindergarten through Six. It is good to sit with your children and go through the different sections of the reports with them. These reports represent the teacher's assessment of your child's progress in academic skills and the personal attributes associated with successful participation with others in the learning process. The teacher evaluates behaviour and performance according to what she or he observes in the classroom. It is vital that we all keep in mind that an assessment of learning behaviour is not an estimate of a child's personal worth. Even as adults it is sometimes difficult for us to separate our sense of self-worth from our actions. We are not our actions.

There may be times

when the report card marks or comments do not reflect what we had hoped for. It is especially important at these times that we help the children to understand that mistakes and wrong choices can be reviewed and action taken to improve. Our teachers take a great deal of time with their reports. They know the children so well that it is sometimes difficult to find the right words to capture their impressions of the child's progress. The individual attention the children receive and the thoroughness of the assessment process bring the learning process here at Lakecrest to a high level. When there are questions about why certain marks are assigned or comments made on the reports, we hope parents feel free to seek clarification. The children will only benefit from open communication.



*Serving up the world's
most delicious pancakes
for Mardi Gras/Pancake
Day.
MMMM...some good.*



Rock stars, hockey heroes, soccer superstars and hotshot bikers were among the costumes we saw on Idol Day as part of Spirit Week celebrations.

Taking Responsibility

One only has to watch newscasts or read the papers to find example after example of persons in positions of responsibility who don't seem able to accept any. We must, it seems, be role models for each other of personal responsibility. Our children need to embrace this attribute at every age, as they are developmentally able to do so. Making wrong choices and behaving in ways that are inappropriate are signs of humanity. It is how we teach our children to deal with these breaches that will make the difference. When school work is neglected or hurtful behaviour is exhibited, we do our children no favours by making excuses for them. Taking the position that "children will be children" instead of confronting unacceptable behaviour in a loving but firm and clear way can lead to a belief in them that it is alright to do these things. They can come to expect that someone is going to rescue them from the natural consequences of their actions and choices. Ignoring inappropriate behaviour for fear of hurting their "self esteem" can be equally damaging. The discipline process in our school takes into account the developmental level of the students. Nevertheless, trying to minimize the seriousness of their actions or deflecting blame to everyone but themselves cannot be accepted as a response from any student.

Traffic and Safety

We thank everyone for their patience and cooperation with the new "No Stopping" restrictions in front of the school. We have sought a meeting with the Traffic and Parking Division at City Hall to ask specifically why the changes were made. We want a chance to put forward ideas on behalf of our parents that we believe will create a better balance between safety and convenience, especially during the morning drop off time. One thing we will emphasize is the need to continue to have the sidewalk in front of the school cleared in a timely manner. Without that, there will be a considerable increase in general risk with students and parents having to negotiate a slippery path up a busy street.

Traffic (continued)

When some parents called City Hall last week to inquire why our sidewalks had not been cleared, it was learned that, for some reason, Lakecrest was not "on the radar" with other schools in the plans that give priority to school frontage in snow clearing. It no longer matters why we had been overlooked. The City, to their credit, responded positively and our sidewalks are being taken care of promptly. In the spirit of fairness, we will be communicating to the appropriate officials our appreciation for this attention to the needs of our children. We will continue to monitor the conditions closely and express our views as needed. We will keep you up to date with our efforts to review the new restrictions on parking.

"Though we travel the world over to find the beautiful, we must carry it with us, or we find it not."

(Ralph Waldo Emerson)



Crazy Hair and Pajama Day help our Kindergartens lighten up from the burdens of the academic grind.

Responsibility (continued)

"I don't remember doing that." or "It was an accident." are two reactions that can be used to excuse questionable behaviour. One of the best attempts to avoid responsibility I ever heard was "My hands went up around his neck and started choking him...by an accident." Needless to say, this was at another school, not Lakecrest. Sometimes it is hard to keep a straight face when we meet with some of the excuses and alibis. Nevertheless, as long as we keep things in perspective and insist in every instance that the child acknowledge his or her misbehaviour and take the steps needed to make things right, he or she will grow as a healthy human being.

It is a true privilege to work together as parents and teachers to help our children develop the personal attributes that will make their lives happy now and in the future.

Responsibility (continued)

Our school community is a good place to be because the homes and the school share fundamental values. We have to work with each other to ensure that this continues to be true. We are fortunate that the level of discipline and cooperation in our school is very good. Careful attention and a sense of humour will help to keep it that way.

Star Students

In the April newsletter we will list all the Lakecrest students who have taken part in the **Kiwanis Music Festival**. While the Festival is in progress we have been announcing on the P.A. the names of any students who participated in the Festival (when we receive notice of their involvement through notes and emails).

Giles Ayers won the right to compete in the Provincials of the Great Canadian Geography Challenge in April at MUN. **Meghan White** and her bowling team took the Gold Medal and are getting ready for the Provincial tournament. **Matthew Lahey** took third in the Atlantic Junior Tennis Championships in Halifax. He is ranked second in his age group. **Chetan Muram** competed in the Atlantic Tennis as well. **Joanna Snelgrove's** team won a silver medal in boys' hockey. **Iona Stylianides** captured gold in her section of figure skating.

Alex Sansom wrote the Pascal Mathematics Competition and **Jennifer Helleur** took part in the Cayley Mathematics Competition. **Anna Stylianides** won a silver medal at the Frosty Festival Figure Skating competition in Mount Pearl. **Riley Crane** took two silver, a bronze and a fifth place finish in diving.

Laura Dawe passed her bronze level in swimming and is now in purple.

Peter Roth participated in the Cub Car Rally in his "Newfie Bullet" and he advanced to the Regionals. He competed in the Canspell Written Bee as well. **Maris Miller** competed in downhill skiing at the Winter Games.



Ms. Jeannie and Ms. Donna serve up lunch decked out in their genuine New Orleans Mardi Gras beads.

*"There is more to life than increasing its speed."
(Mahatma Gandhi)*