



Lyseth Newsletter

November 2, 2007

Principal
Lenore M. Williams

Assistant Principal
Phoebe A. Russell

Principal's Message

Dear Families and Friends of Lyseth:

It is amazing to think that we are already well into the third month of school! There has been a great deal of activity in recent weeks. The PTA Fall Fundraiser has been very successful and we thank all of you for your support with this effort. Your generosity brings great programs (visiting author Toni Buzzeo, field trips to Merrill Auditorium for a performance by the Portland Symphony, new cafeteria tables, our Amphitheatre project and much, much more!) and learning opportunities to the school community. Early Release Wednesdays are back and up and running! The focus of our work as a staff during this time is to evaluate and refine our instruction of

mathematics. The Lyseth Staff has spent a great deal of time and effort determining what we want our students to know and be able to do at each developmental stage and grade throughout their educational journey here. Our focus now will turn to the "how" we will teach these skills and concepts and then develop assessments that will let us know when our students "know" what we want them to take away from a lesson or unit of study. Our intention is that you will hear about an excitement for math learning directly from our valued customers...our students...when you ask, "What did you do and learn about today at school?"

It is also an intent to share the work we are doing with a presentation

at a PTA meeting where we may have you take on the role as learner! In the coming weeks your child will also participate in NWEA testing which is in its second year in the Portland Public Schools. This assessment is done on computers in our Technology Lab and we are focused as a district on how to best interpret and analyze this data to inform our instructional practice. A quick reminder, as always, we welcome your involvement in the school community and there are many opportunities for you to do so. Thank you for your continued support! Enjoy these fleeting days of Autumn!

Lenore M. Williams
Principal

Upcoming Events:

Nov. 5-9
Lyseth Scholastic Bookfair

November 9
First Trimester Ends

November 12
Veterans' Day
No School

November 15
Picture Re-Take

November 19
Early Release for Parent/Teacher Conferences
12:00 PM Dismissal

November 20
Early Release for Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 21
NO School

November 22
NO School
Thanksgiving Recess

November 23
Thanksgiving Recess

Odyssey of the Mind

We are hoping to begin Odyssey of the Mind here at Lyseth this fall. Odyssey is for young people grades (K-2) or (3-5.) Odyssey is a creative problem solving competition and involves students writing scripts, making costumes, devel-

oping sets, and sometimes even building self-powered vehicles! Most students find it to be a lot of fun and they learn to work with their peers in a group decision-making process. It is coached by parents (usually 1-2 parents are

needed per seven member team.) Please contact Julie Anderson, Coordinator, for further information about your child's participation @ 878-5952.

News From the First Grade Classrooms

The first grade students have been busy – getting to know their new teachers, making new friends, and learning the routines of a new grade level. It is hard for all of the teachers to believe that two months of school have already passed.

During the month of September into October all of the first grade classrooms had a class pet(s). The first graders can tell you about the special caterpillars that turned into butterflies. Mrs. Murphy's class had *ten* caterpillars, five females and five males, all becoming butterflies. Mrs. Jewett placed a tiny white tag on the wing of the butterflies from each class and set them free for their long journey south. If anyone finds that butter-

fly, they contact the website and identify the location found. As Liam from Mrs. Dawson's class saw their butterfly, Beverly the Beautiful Blossoming Butterfly, take off, he said, "The tag on the butterfly's wing is her ticket to Mexico." We all hope they make their journey safely.

Literacy centers and guided reading groups are up and running in the classrooms. The first graders are enjoying Poetry centers, Listening centers, ABC centers, Writing centers, and Math and Science centers. When Mrs. Harris asked her class which center they enjoyed most, Ben said, "I like all of them". The Writing Workshop is an exciting part of the day in first grade classrooms. Richard, in Mrs. Lipson's class

said, "I liked learning what to do in Writer's Workshop. I like drawing and writing about it."

In Ms. Russell's class Melissa said she really likes Writer's Workshop because "people are really starting to write really good."

Field trips are an important part of first grade. During Fire Prevention Week we all had the chance to visit the Fire Station on Allen Ave. The students got to meet the firefighters, tour the station, look at the equipment, see the fire engines and ambulance, and learn what a firefighter does. Mrs. Murphy's class said, "Wow, they can get dressed so fast."

Our next field trip is to Chipman Farm on October 26. We can't wait!

Acrostic from Mrs. Judge's Class

Met our study buddies from
Miss Russell's Class
Rocket ship math is awesome
School is fun
Just the beginning
Using our imaginations and good ideas
Did graphs in math
Geography each week
Each day is exciting
Snacks are healthy
Created our own picture frames
Learned about the world's largest pumpkin
A lot of learning from Time for Kids
Spelling homework to learn new words
Saving box tops to help Lyseth

Menu Change

On Early Release Wednesdays, a sandwich will be substituted for pancakes. The students eat in the classrooms on Early Release days and it's too messy to serve pancakes.

Grade Two Visits the Farm

Snell Farm

Seeing dogs
Eating apples
Seeing tomatoes
Seeing tractors
Picking beans

Snell Farm is the best!
Nathaniel VanBuren

Snell Farm

Tasting apples
Seeing butterflies
Picking beans
Watching caterpillars
Listening to dogs
Eating ripe raspberries
Biggest apple crunch
Learning about peppers
Seeing peppers
Holding brussel sprouts
Looking at tomatoes
Seeing machinery

That was awesome!
Chloe Smith

Pediculosis

(also known as head lice)

Head lice infestation affects more people than all childhood communicable diseases not including the common cold. But like a cold, when children come in close contact with each other, it is easy to pass along. Shared hats, clothing, brushes, pillows and other personal articles are perfect vehicles to transfer lice from one person to the other. It has absolutely nothing to do with cleanliness; in fact head lice prefer a clean, healthy head to a dirty one. We ask parents to check your child's head often. If you do find head lice, don't panic - just follow the steps below to easily take care of the problem and please remember to notify the school nurse.

Wanted: Bookfair Chairpersons

NEEDED: two people for the Role of the BOOK FAIR CHAIRPERSONS:

It has been so much fun (and so rewarding) that I have been doing this since the fall of 1996! All you need to be is someone who is very well organized, flexible and has a good sense of humor. After all, this is **kids** and **books**. The ideal people would have flexible hours in a part-time job so that they can co-coordinate supervision of the fair. Once the fair is started you need to be there to place re-stock orders (by noon) via fax to Scholastic. The volunteers are usually seasoned and need little direct

supervision....just updates of procedures on how to handle "last copies" and out of stock items.

Scholastic offers many online resources for the new chairperson as well as in person support should you require it. I have years of documents and spreadsheets to assist the new chairperson and will be around for the next few book fairs to lend set up support and advise.

Alison Andreasen
aandreas@maine.rr.com
831-3161 (cell)
878-3940 (home)

"Sew"...what's new?

Any folks creative with needle, thread, and cloth? Mr. MacDowell is seeking out parents/guardians who would be able to make Greek, Armenian, and Serbian ethnic outfits for students. No need to be elaborate, just creative and willing to be innovative!

From the Drop Off Circle

Thank you to everyone for your patience while dropping off your children in the morning. Keeping to the far right, unloading on the right side, and moving right along have helped keep us all safe and has cut down on the late arrivals.

The Lyseth Mileage Club



Please join Lyseth's Mileage Club. The Mileage Club is a program used to encourage children to get moving. Students are rewarded with a foot-shaped token for walking 5 miles. If a child wears a pedometer every day, the mileage is very easy to determine. If a child walks to school, simply measure the distance using your car's odometer, and multiply it by the number of days walked. Some children participate in sports, and one mile is given for each practice

session, and each game. (ie:football, soccer, gymnastics, ice hockey, cheering, dance basketball, etc.) If your child walks or runs around a route in the neighborhood, try to measure the distance so that your child can get credit. If your family does activities at night or on the weekend, this can be added into the mileage. Some children walk around the field's perimeter during recess with each lap measuring ¼ mile. The bottom line is that we want

children to be active and fit. We want to encourage physical activities, and fight youth obesity. Because children love receiving the tokens, they will work to get as many as possible. In time, they will learn that the real reward is a fit and healthy body. Please calculate your child's mileage going back to September 1, 2007, and send a note to report it to Ms. McKenzie.

Postcards from Around the U.S.

Mrs. Dyer's class is participating in a postcard project. There is a participating classroom from each of the 50 states. We will be sending out 49 postcards this month that will list interesting information about the state of Maine. All of the other classrooms will send us a postcard with information about their state. We'll keep track of which states we receive postcards

from on a large map on our hallway bulletin board. We'll also put the postcards on the bulletin board for all to see! Look for it before the end of the month!



When you come

for

Lost and Found

your Parent/Teacher Conference, please take the time to check Lost and Found located directly across from the Custodians' Office. Please be aware that anything remaining in Lost and Found after November break will be donated to Goodwill or Salvation Army.

Food Drive

Lyseth School will be participating again in the annual food drive sponsored by a local radio station. The food collected is given to the food pantries in Portland where it is very needed. We will start collecting food by the second week in November. A notice will go home to parents. Thanks in advance for your help. This continues to be a very successful project at Lyseth and the radio station is always impressed with our collection of boxes full of food!

Betsy Van Betuw
Social Worker



Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Fall Book Fair is right around the corner! The Book Fair opens on Monday, November 5th and runs through Friday, November 9, 2007. The Book Fair will be open from 8:30 AM until 3:30 PM each day. Please note that the Book Fair will also be open Wednesday evening, November 7th from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Still Looking for Volunteers!!!

Monday (11/05)	1:30 – 4:00
Tuesday (11/06)	9:00 – 11:00 10:30 – 1:00 11:00 – 1:00 1:30 – 4:00
Wednesday (11/07)	8:30 – 10:30 9:00 – 11:00 10:00 – 12:00 10:30 – 1:30
Thursday (11/08)	9:00 – 10:00 10:00 – 12:00 10:30 – 1:00 1:30 – 4:00
Friday (11/09)	1:30 – 4:00 (Breakdown Fair)

We offer a discount to all volunteers. If you would like to volunteer at this “fun” fundraiser, please e-mail Alison Andreasen at aandreas@maine.rr.com.

Please be sure to include which day and time is best for you. She will do her best to accommodate everyone who responds. If you do not have e-mail, please call Alison at 878-3940 and leave a message.

The **Kindergarten classes went on a field trip to Chipman’s Farm** on October 22nd. The weather was sunny and warm, perfect for being outside all day. Here are a few comments from the kindergarten children:

“The haunted house had a spider web and a HUMUNGUS spider in it”

“You can do tricks on the big slide. You can slide down on your tummy”

“The go-carts go fast!”

“You can catch some breeze when you ride on the zip cord”

“The dragon castle had funny noises”

“There was an old woman in the haunted castle”

“We went on a hayride and picked a pumpkin”

“There were carrots, cabbage, broccoli, cucumbers, cauliflower, beets, potatoes and zucchini growing in the garden”

“We saw a horse, a donkey, a cow, sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and turkeys in the barn”

“We had fun and we learned a lot!”