

October 30, 2009



HARRISON LYSETH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Lyseth Newsletter

From the Principal

Dear Families and Friends of Lyseth School,

We've had a great start to the 2009-2010 school year and with October quickly coming to a close it's a good time to take stock of what we've already accomplished and to look ahead to what exciting events and happenings are on the horizon.

It's my hope to communicate to the Lyseth community in a newsletter every two months. This September/October communication is the first of a series of five you can expect from the main office. Please don't hesitate to also access this newsletter on the district website...just go to schools and click on Lyseth.

Our kindergarten students have made a marvelous transition to their new school! It's really great to see their growing self confidence each day as they make their way around the school. Thank you for your support in helping them make the big step toward independence.

I would like to thank all of the Lyseth parent community for your support of our Fall Fundraiser. While these are not the best of times economically speaking, you still gave generously. Your support brings events like the upcoming visit from storyteller Alicia Quintano. I know we can count on your support for the upcoming Lyseth Book Fair from November 2nd—

6th (always a favorite)! Why not get a jump start on your holiday shopping and help support Lyseth?

As always, I want to express my gratitude to our wonderful parent community. Classroom teachers rely heavily on this strong partnership to ensure that each student experiences success!

Lenore Williams, Principal

New England Common Assessment Program NECAP's

This past month brought with it our first administration of the New England Common Assessments. This assessment is state mandated and involves students in grades 3-5. In previous years students at these grade levels were involved in taking the Maine Educational Assessments. The "NECAP's" replace the MEA's. Each

year in October students will be evaluated on the previous year's learning. We are told that student and school results will be available to the school and the parent community in January, 2010. I can tell you that our students worked hard to do their best! I hope that you found the informational brochure about the assessments help-

ful and informative. We appreciate and anticipate that you will continue to make every effort to ensure your child is here each day to participate in daily school activities and assessments such as these.

Lyseth Banking Program

Once again, our branch of the Cumberland Country Federal Credit Union opened for business on Friday, October 2nd. Lyseth School has been offering the Banking Program for several years where students and staff can conduct banking transactions every Friday. At the Grand Opening our friends from the Credit Union gave away pencils, stickers and they even had \$10 gift cards as door prizes. We had an overwhelming turnout –over 100 pint size customers’ banked on opening day. The Banking Program is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn first hand about banking, saving and interest. Teaching our students the habit of saving money is a valuable life skill. Lyseth is one of a very few elementary schools in the country who offer this program and we invite all students to start saving for their future. If you would like an application for your child, please contact me at montes@portlandschools.org

Ruth’s Reusable Resources

Thanks to the generosity of our PTA, Lyseth was able to join Ruth’s Reusable Resources enabling teachers to greatly reduce out-of-pocket spending on supplies for their students and classroom. Since opening on August 15, 2009, 2,466 teachers and staff have shopped, taking away \$1,380,194 worth of product. As of October 22, 2009, LYSETH alone took away \$26,062.55 worth of product.

THANK YOU PTA!

Grade 3 Classes Visit Museum

The third grade classes are working with the Maine Historical Society on a project entitled RECOLLECTED GREAT WORKS AND NEW DISCOVERIES from the Brown library. The project consists of 2 class visits from the Maine Historical Society staff as well as a museum visit. At the museum one class tours the museum and completes related activities while the other class works on 3 projects that are connected to the theme. There is a final celebration night on December 1st at the Maine Historical Society for students and their families.

Partnership Developer News by Sylvie Montello

I would like to start off by welcoming all new and returning volunteers to Lyseth School. Lyseth depends greatly upon the generous contributions that parents make each year as volunteers and this year we had over 270 parents sign up. So whether you are helping out in the classroom, the library, fundraisers, the year-book, at the book fair or baking for our

many social events, **you make a difference!**

Lyseth has numerous opportunities for parents volunteers and we encourage you to join us. If you would like to volunteer and have not signed up yet, please contact me at

montes@portlandschools.org and I will forward a volunteer packet for you to complete.

“Volunteers don’t get paid, not because they’re worthless, but because they’re priceless”

Parent Teacher Conferences

Watch for information coming home to you from your child’s classroom teacher. This year, we will have a school-wide EVENING CONFERENCE NIGHT on THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2009. Specialists and other school personnel will be available from 3:00-7:00 PM. We look forward to having all hands on deck to be available to answer any questions about your child’s progress. On Nov. 23 and 24 the students are dismissed at noon.

Golf Lesson at Lyseth

Paul Adler, Assistant Golf Professional at Val Halla, visited the students in Mrs. Whitum’s and Mrs. Fenton’s class for a golf lesson. He talked to the students about golf rules and etiquette and then took the kids outside to demonstrate the golf grip, swing etc. The students then proceeded to hit golf/tennis balls



Students learn golf rules and etiquette from Val Halla’s Assistant Golf Pro, Paul Adler

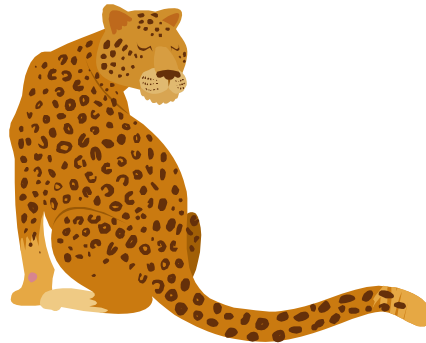
towards a target. Ms. McKenzie has been working on the game of golf in gym class during the month of September.

Student Achievement (Little Leopards Growing Their Spots!)

The 2009-2010 school year brings with it the second year of our school wide implementation of the Math Investigations program. This program supports an experiential “hands on” approach to teaching and learning and students are challenged to explore and test a variety of methods of determining solutions to math problems. Our teachers continue to be amazed at the depth of learning and understanding of mathematical thinking that your children are beginning to exhibit!

Students in all grades continue to have access to an intervention known as “Lit Lab” at Lyseth. This model provides students with a “second helping” of Guided Reading instruction to develop comprehension and fluency proficiency as readers. The assessment data we track indi-

cates without question that our students make significant gains in their skills when participating in this program.



In another attempt to meet student needs, we have revamped a model of support

where teachers meet to discuss concerns they have for student academic and/or social/emotional development. Our Child Study Team meets regularly to offer suggestions, strategies, and to track data on student progress.

As you can see, much work is underway at Lyseth to make sure our students make continuous progress with learning across the curriculum.

BREAKING NEWS!!! BREAKING NEWS!!!

Our new “Point of Sale” lunch payment process is moving along more smoothly. As with anything new, it has taken some time for students (ok, mostly staff;) to get acclimated to the process, but we feel it is a more efficient process for families and the school community. Your child has an account that only he/she can access by use of a student identification number. There has been some confusion about how students purchase milk at lunch. We are happy to oblige families that want to purchase milk through P.O.S. accounts to accompany a cold lunch from home but we also accept money for payment

directly from students at lunch time... your choice!

Starting November 2nd at Lyseth breakfast will be available to all students for the price of \$1.00. Breakfast is free to those who are eligible to receive free/reduced lunch. We will make the breakfast available to students from 8:30-8:50 AM each morning in the cafeteria. Breakfasts will consist of milk or juice each day and will always be “grab and go” and consist of a bagel or baked bread or muffin and yogurt or a cereal bowl. (Please see the

back of your school lunch menu for specifics.) We’ll have staff in the cafeteria to assist students and to ensure that they are ready to proceed to their classrooms to start their day by 8:55 AM with a full stomach! I am pleased to be able to offer this service to our school community. The research I’ve seen is conclusive...kids learn and perform better when they are well nourished.



Important Student Safety Issues

I want to thank you for all your support with keeping the traffic loops in the front clear during dismissal. It will make a great difference in safety and in moving the dismissal process along efficiently. As a reminder, all students are to be picked up in the grassy area near the flag pole. Please do not come across the circular driveway to meet your child. It causes confusion, congestion, and a potential safety hazard for all walkers and bus

students. I need to ask for your help with parking on school grounds. Please use the designated parking areas and do not leave your vehicles parked or stopped in the front circle. Student safety is always our primary concern. I am fully aware of the limitations of our facility and grounds and the inconvenience this may cause, however if we all work together we can keep our Little Leopards safe!

Nurse Notes

With flu season on its way, it is very important that you keep your child home if he/she has a fever. Your child needs to be fever free without the use of Tylenol or ibuprofen for twenty four hours before returning to school.

When calling your child in sick please let the office know if he/she has a fever.

**HARRISON LYSETH ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL**

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Where All Learners Will Excel"*

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November Calendar

- Week of Nov. 2—Bookfair
- Monday, Nov. 2—Flu Shot Clinic
- Tuesday, Nov. 3—Picture Re-takes
- Wednesday, Nov. 4—Early Release
- Wednesday, Nov. 11—NO School
Veteran's Day
- Wednesday, Nov. 18—Early Release
- Monday, Nov. 23—**12:00 Dismissal**
for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, Nov. 24—**12:00 Dismissal**
for Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Wednesday, Nov. 25—NO School
- Thursday, Nov. 26—NO School
Thanksgiving
- Friday, Nov. 27—NO School

Speech Therapist

Hello, Lyseth families! My name is Janice Boyko and I am the new speech therapist here at Lyseth School. I just started on September 29th, and believe me when I say I "hit the ground running". I am here all day, Monday – Friday and I work with students individually, in groups, and in their classrooms. It's so nice to be in one place all day long and get to be part of a school community. Former Lyseth School speech therapists, Suzanne D' Bourget and Ginny Milioto, are now at other elementary schools in Portland but have been terrific about helping me get settled in here, out in "Mod 2". I've already met many of your children, and look forward to meeting you and other families during Student Conferences in November. So, if you see me in the hallway, please say hello. I think we're off to a great start!

Phone Messages

In the event of an emergency, the office is happy to deliver a message to your child. However we frequently receive many calls at the end of the day making dismissal time very challenging. We encourage you to send a note to the classroom teacher when your child's dismissal plans change. Thank you for your help in this effort.