

Principal's Digest

11/9/15

Dear Lincoln Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for reading the *Principal's Digest*. Please remember to refer to the school's website calendar (www.lincolnelementary.org) and the monthly PTA newsletter, *The Linc*, on a regular basis for school-related information and events.

Sincerely,

Mark Armendariz
Principal

Thank you for reading the following information

Upcoming Events

- November 2-December 15 – Two Hands, Two Cans: Lincoln School's Annual Holiday Food Drive
- November 9 – EFAC Board Meeting, 6:30PM in school library
- November 10 – ALESMA Board Meeting, 6:30PM in the band room (room 116)
- November 10 – LSC Meeting, 6:00PM in school library
- November 11 – Veteran's Day, No School
- November 12 – End of Quarter One
- November 13 – No School for Students, School Improvement Day for teachers and staff
- November 16 – Quarter Two Begins
- November 16 – After School All Star programs begin
- November 17 – FOL Meeting, 9:00AM in the school dining hall
- November 18 – Adults-Only Report Card Pick-Up Day (**11:30AM-3:00PM and 3:45PM-6:30PM**), No School for Students
- November 20 – Thanksgiving Fest Assemblies and PTA Bazaar
- November 25, 26, 27 – Thanksgiving Holiday break, no school
- December 2 – Picture Day: K-8 Retakes, Band and Fall Sports

General Information

- I know this isn't the most optimistic way to start this week's *Principal's Digest*, but it is important: Several parents have asked me if there will be a teacher strike and, if so, when will it happen. I do not know if there will be a teacher strike...no one knows and no one knows, at this time, when it will be if it happens. I do know that CPS' financial situation is dire and CPS needs to come up with approximately \$480 million that they currently don't have. In addition, the Chicago Board of Education and the Chicago Teachers' Union (CTU) has not found a solution to the pension issue and other items on the table. As of today, 11/9, no strike vote has been taken by the teachers. I do know that no one "wants" a strike. If a strike happens, here are a few things you should know:
 - When a CPS teacher strike takes place it is for the entire school district (all 600+ CPS schools) at the same time. Individual CPS schools cannot enact a strike or not;
 - If there is a strike, no children or teachers are allowed to enter the school buildings;
 - The only individuals allowed in the schools are principals and assistant principals (and possibly engineers and custodians);
 - The last teacher strike, 2012, CPS identified some schools throughout the district to remain open to provide daycare. These schools were staffed with non-CTU employees;
 - The best way to keep abreast of developments is to stay tuned to the news;
 - The EFAC program cannot have its classes at Lincoln School if there is a strike. You will need to communicate with Mrs. David and the EFAC board regarding EFAC classes during a teacher strike (EFAC teachers are not members of the CTU);

- If there is a strike, the district will alter the school calendar to make up days of school missed due to the strike. How will a teacher strike affect graduation and spring and summer breaks? I don't know.
- I recommend you contact your elected officials to express concern about a possible strike and about the lack of a state budget. They need to hear from us/you!
- Strike or not, every person in this building is dedicated to public education.
- COME ONE, COME ALL! ORDER YOUR 2015-16 YEARBOOK AT REPORT CARD PICKUP. On Wednesday, November 18, 2015 from 11:30 AM to 6:30 PM representatives from the yearbook team will be stationed in the east building on the 3rd floor near the 8th-grade classrooms taking yearbook orders for the entire Lincoln Elementary School community, K-8. Take advantage of this opportunity to order your yearbooks early! Yearbooks are now on sale for \$25.00 without a name on the cover and \$28.00 with a name on the cover. As of January 9, 2016, the price of yearbooks will increase, yearbooks will be on sale for \$30.00 without a name on the cover and \$33.00 with a name on the cover. You may pay via cash, check, or money order. Please make checks and money orders payable to Lincoln PTA.
- Thank you for your generosity during our school's Friends of Lincoln Annual Phonathon! A special thank you to Colleen Morrissey and Amy Pape for organizing this year's event. 25 Lincoln staff members and 25 parents came together the evening of the phonathon to work to raise funds for our children. 100% of the funds go directly to our children's educational experience at Lincoln School. Again, thank you for keeping Lincoln, Lincoln!
- Lincoln families turned out in great support for those in need of warmth this winter with another successful coat drive for the Salvation Army! Great thanks to the parents who volunteered to collect and transport the donations every day: Tamara Kowal, Michael Gasner, Paulina Hubli, Mele Sarmiento, Nathalie Cerutti Berton, Vickly Mork, Kim Coyer, Carolyn Variano, and Linda Arrandt. Thanks for pitching in and teaching your children about giving back. Special thank you to Ginny Moffat for organizing this collection each year! We collected:
 - 198 coats (114 kids and 84 adults)
 - 71 hats
 - 43 pairs of gloves/mittens
 - 37 scarves
 - 22 pairs of snow pants
 - 15 down vests
 - 11 sweaters
 - 2 pairs of boots
- Thanksgiving Fest, an annual Lincoln tradition, is on the school calendar for 11/20. Students in grades K-5 will perform Thanksgiving-themed skits/songs in the school auditorium and all students, K-8, will have the opportunity to visit and shop in the PTA Thanksgiving Fest Bazaar. This is a wonderful family day at Lincoln and we encourage you to come to watch the assemblies and "shop" with your children for early holiday gifts. The grades K-5 students will perform in the auditorium at the following times. Grades 6-8 will perform in another assembly in the near future. Thanksgiving Fest Assemblies are:
 - 9:30 – Grades K and 3
 - 10:45 – Grades 1 and 4
 - 2:00 – Grades 2 and 5
- For families that are interested in learning about the grades 6, 7, 8 International Gifted (IG) Program at Lincoln School, the application process, and application deadline dates, etc. please refer to the CPS Office of Academic and Enrollment's website at <http://www.cpsoe.org/index.jsp>. I suggest you periodically check the website for updates posted by CPS. Please know that students selected for the IG Program are selected by CPS not by Lincoln School personnel. Lincoln students are not given priority for enrollment into this program; all applicants are on the same footing. Please, please, please make sure you read all their instructions VERY CAREFULLY and do not miss deadline dates.
- PLEASE CONTRIBUTE A TREAT TO THE TEACHERS' BREAK ON REPORT CARD PICK UP DAY - **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18th**. Every Report Card Pickup Day, the PTA provides a treat for the teachers' 3:00pm break in the library. It is a way for parents to show their appreciation for all the hard work that our teachers do. If you are the parent of a **1st, 3rd, 5th, or 7th grader**, please bring a sweet or savory snack for the teachers (even-numbered

grades will bring treats for the 3rd quarter report card pickup). Homemade treats are welcome, but store-bought are great too! Please drop off items in the library before 2:00pm on Wednesday, November 18th.

- As the temperature begins to drop, please ensure that your child comes to school appropriately dressed for the cold, windy weather. We believe that our students benefit from recesses, running outside, socializing with friends, and exercising their growing bodies. Our students go outside and have recess every day unless the temperature dips below 20 degrees and/or if it snows or rains too hard for them to enjoy the outdoors. So, dress warmly kids!
- As it becomes colder I'm sure more families may decide to drive their child to school. If so, remember to help prevent congestion in the streets and alleys around the school. Be courteous and safe drivers. In the mornings, I would appreciate it if you could drop your child off at the designated kiss and ride on the west side of Geneva Terrace. This has been highly effective in preventing congestion. I encourage you to drive southbound on Geneva to access the kiss and ride. **Remember, there is FREE parking at the former Children's Memorial Hospital Parking Garage located at 2316 N. Lincoln; it's a short walk away and will save you a headache while helping us provide a congestion-free area around the school.** If you walk your dog to school, please make sure you keep your dog on the opposite side of the street of the school; there are children that are fearful of dogs and I want to make sure all students feel safe. Also, if you ride a bicycle to school, please be mindful of others and walk your bicycle through the closed, crowded streets.
- December 2nd Picture Day: K-8 Retakes, Band and Fall Sports-K-8 retakes are for the following students: any child new to Lincoln who missed Picture Day in October, any child who was absent on Picture Day, any child who is unhappy with his/her pictures (in this case, child must bring the picture package they received from October's Picture Day to give to photographer). Time: 9:00AM-11:00AM in gymnasium. Fall Sports: All students who participated in a Lincoln school-sponsored fall team sport will take their team pictures for the school yearbook. Students will have an option to purchase a group photo. All team members must wear their team's uniform for this picture. Band: All band members will take group pictures for the school yearbook. Students will have an option to purchase a group photo. All band students must wear required band clothing for pictures. Time: TBD
- When your child is absent from school, please call to notify the main office **AND** submit the attached Reason for Absence Form to your child's homeroom teacher.
- Beginning the first day of the second quarter, November 16, the entire school student schedule will transition into a "six-day week" (Day 1, Day 2, Day 3, Day 4, Day 5, Day 6) versus the traditional five-day (Monday-Friday) week. I spoke about this at the Adults-Only Fall Open House. The six-day week will allow all students, K-8, to experience the specialty classes that are important to our school culture (music, band, art, French, library, PE). In addition, grades 7 and 8 students will have their specialty class electives that they chose in their new schedules. The "days" (i.e. Day 1-Day 6) will be indicated on the school website calendar so parents can be informed. Here is an example: in the past, traditional schedule, let's say Johnny in Room 201 had art every Wednesday; in the new six-day schedule, Johnny in Room 201 will have art on Day 3 (this "Day 3" could be on a Monday, a Thursday, etc. and the "day" of this "Day 3" will change from week to week). The reason we are doing this schedule change is to accommodate the growing number of students in the school with the limited number of specialty class teachers that we have on staff. The six-day schedule, in effect, gives us another "day" in the week to offer specialty classes which is an extra seven periods in "the week." FYI, the "bell schedule" will not change.
- Keep track of your student's grades by using the CPS online Gradebook. To obtain access to your child's grades contact Mrs. Miles in the Main Office for instructions and for your child's access PIN number.
- The Lincoln School PTA Wellness Committee will sponsor a mother/caregiver-daughter speaker series entitled "Girls in the Know." This is a speaker series for mother/caregiver-daughter teams to learn from female health care professionals while strengthening the bonds of mothers/caregivers and their daughters. This is open to girls aged 9-13. Please see the attached flyer for additional information. This will be hosted at Lincoln School.
- From our neighborhood to yours...Lincoln School's Annual Holiday Food Drive. Two Hands, Two Cans has evolved over the years, yet maintains the same giving spirit. Please help us to support the Lakeview Pantry and bring in canned goods this holiday season. Students may bring items to their homeroom from November 2nd-

December 15th Appropriate Items: canned foods (soup, tuna, vegetables, beans, etc.), peanut butter, tomato sauce, rice. Please do not send items in glass containers. The Lakeview Pantry is dedicated to:

- Providing food to fill the basic needs of hungry people;
- Increasing the independence of their clients through self-help initiatives and other innovative programs;
- Raising awareness of hunger and poverty and working towards solutions to eliminate them.