

Principal's Digest

1/4/16

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. Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Mark Armendariz
Principal

Thank you for reading the following information

Upcoming Events

- January 4 – After School All Star program classes do not resume this week. They resume the week of Jan. 11.
- January 6 – *Girls in the Know* presentation, 6:00PM-7:00PM, in the school library (session 1 of 4)
- January 8 – PTA Meeting, 9:00AM in the dining hall
- January 8 – Quarter Two Progress Report Distribution
- January 11 – After School All Star program classes resume
- January 11 – LSC Meeting, 6:00PM, in the school library
- January 12 – ALESMA Board Meeting, 6:30PM, in the band room (Room 116)
- January 12 – Career Day for Grades 7&8, 9:00AM-11:00AM
- January 13 – *Girls in the Know* presentation, 6:00PM-7:00PM, in the school library (session 2 of 4)
- January 13 – Galette des Rois (in French World Language and EFAC classrooms)
- January 15 – FOL Meeting, 9:00AM, in the school dining hall
- January 15 – French Cine Club, 3:45PM-5:30PM, in the school auditorium
- January 18, No School, Martin Luther King Day
- January 20 – *Girls in the Know* presentation, 6:00PM-7:00PM, in the school library (session 3 of 4)
- January 21 – Grade 8 Graduation Picture Day, 9:00AM-1:00PM. The students' official graduation photos
- January 27 – *Girls in the Know* presentation, 6:00PM-7:00PM, in the school library (session 4 of 4)
- January 28 – Grade 4 Assembly, 10:05AM and 1:50PM

General Information

- Please see the attached CPS academic 2016-2017 school calendar that was released over the winter break.
- After an appeal to CPS, the \$90,000 that CPS requested we return to them from our school's All Means All budget was rescinded. The funds will remain at our school to staff our special education teacher positions.
- The middle of the year NWEA MAP assessment (reading and math) will take place through February 4. The assessment is mandated for students in K-2. It is optional for students in grades 3-8. Many of the grades 3-8 will participate in the optional testing as it will provide the teachers and students with growth measures in preparation for the mandated spring NWEA test. The results of the spring assessment are used for all selective enrollment high schools/programs as well as for other elementary/middle school selective enrollment programs. In addition, the spring NWEA assessment results are used, in part, for promotion criteria for students in the benchmark grades of 3, 6, and 8.
- As the district is still uncertain about making its \$480 million budget pension shortfall combined with the possibility that they have stated they may have to cut teacher positions later in the year, we will not open a fourth 3rd grade homeroom. Due to this uncertainty, I would hate to restructure our program, hire a new grade 3 teacher, shuffle the students into new classrooms, and then be told that this new teacher would need to be cut. For the sake of continuity, we will keep the third grade students where they are for the remainder of the year.

- Due to the district's budget crisis, CPS Office of Access and Enhancement met with me to discuss the elimination of our CPS-funded International Gifted (IG) Program which serves our grades 6-8. There are two schools that have offered this program for the past three decades: Lincoln and Ogden. Ogden has agreed to no longer host the program and will not seek grade 6 IG students for the 2016-2017 school year. I did not agree to the elimination of the program. Lincoln will offer the program to an incoming grade 6 class for 2016-2017. The students currently enrolled in our IG program will continue in the IG program until they graduate. What is in question is the admission of a grade 6 class for 2017-2018 and beyond. CPS has offered to replace the IG program for the IB Middle years Program which will cost the district less. The faculty and I have discussed our options and the ramifications of various scenarios. I will continue this discussion with the faculty after winter break. I will keep you abreast of our discussions and host an information night (or at an upcoming LSC meeting) in the near future as to what this may (or may not) mean for our school.
- Local School Council elections are right around the corner! Are you interested in serving on our school's LSC? This is a great opportunity to become involved in the school. Elections are this April. LSC candidate applications are available in the main office. We are also looking for election judges; judges will get paid \$150 for the day. All applications (candidate and judge) are available in the main office. The six page candidate application/info is also attached on the school website as part of an earlier published *Principal's Digest*.
- 2015-2016 YEARBOOK ORDERS WILL BE TAKEN IN THE SCHOOL CAFETERIA ON JANUARY 6 - 7, 2016. Unlike previous years, teachers will not collect money for yearbook orders. This is the case because some teachers do not have secure places to store money once the money is collected. With this in mind, yearbook representatives will host a "WINTER YEARBOOK ORDER COLLECTION EVENT" in the school cafeteria on January 6th and 7th of 2016. These dates occur immediately after winter break. We encourage students who want yearbooks at the discounted price to submit their orders on one of these dates because after January 8, 2016, the price of yearbooks will increase. Complete the attached order form and return it with payment on EITHER WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2016, OR THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2016. ONLY Cash, Checks and Money Orders are accepted. Please make checks and money orders payable to LINCOLN PTA. Also, online ordering is still available. Please see attached flyer for additional information.
- 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.
- As you prepare visits to high school, please keep in mind the following CPS policy: High school shadow days at independent and parochial schools are unexcused absences and shadow days to CPS high schools are excused absence days. This is a district policy.
- 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.
- 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 four-session 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.