

Report Card Reporter

October/ November 2007

I hope you enjoy the first edition of the "Report Card Reporter." We intend this to be an additional way to communicate with Lincoln families about what is going on in our classrooms as well as inform you of upcoming dates, events, and deadlines. The 2007 -2008 School Year has gotten off to a fantastic start. Thank you for sharing your children with us—we are enjoying getting to know them while inspiring them both to ask questions and to take ownership in their growing knowledge.

CALENDAR of UPCOMING EVENTS

October

- 29 Progress Reports go home
30 Red Ribbon Week end

November

- 1 Last day to turn in orders for the Magazine Drive
PTSA Reflections submission deadline (Theme: I can make a difference by...)
Book Club Meeting: *A Mango-Shaped Space* from 3 – 4, room 203
7th grade Writing Night 6:30 – 8 PM
8th graders should have completed the first 4 hours of community service
- 5 Applications available to become a Peer Mediator (6th & 7th grade)
State of the Schools meeting at the Santa Monica Main Public Library 6:00 PM
- 6 Election Day—Polling in the Auditorium Foyer
- 7 Yearbook Make up Photos
- 8 Choir Madrigals Festival 5 – 9 PM
- 12 Holiday—No School
- 13 Exploratory Classes start 2nd Rotation
- 14 Combined String Orchestra Rehearsal #1 3:10 – 4:30 PM
- 15 6th grade Student-Led Conferences (Purple Core) after school
PTSA Meeting "Adolescent Development" 7 – 8:30
- 16 Peer Mentor Bowling Trip
- 22 – 23 Thanksgiving Holiday—No School
- 26 8th grade Analytical Writing Night—Copper Core 7 -8 PM
- 27 8th grade Analytical Writing Night—Red Core 7 -8 PM
- 28 6th grade Student Led Conferences (Bronze Core) 8 – 10 AM
Combined String Orchestra Rehearsal #2 3:10 – 4:30 PM
6th grade Student Led Conferences (Silver Core) 4 – 7 PM
8th grade Analytical Writing Night—Blue Core 7 -8 PM
Lincoln School Site Council Meeting 3:15
- 30 Last Day of 2nd Grading Period

December

- 3 Combined String Orchestra Rehearsal #3 3:10 – 4:30 PM
6 Orchestra Instrumental Concert

*Reminder—
Morning drop off
is a stressful time
for us all. Please
help by making
sure your student
is ready to exit
the car with, back
packs, instrument,
lunch money,
goodbye kisses,
etc. ready to go
as soon as you
stop the car.
Thanks for your
help, attention to
the safety of your
child and others,
and courtesy to
each other.*

As the first six weeks come to a great close, the Purple Core Teachers want to share with you what your students will be learning and participating in for the next grading period. As always, feel free to contact your student's teachers if you have additional questions.

Purple Core

In Language Arts classes, the Fiction Book Report is due on Wednesday, October 31st, while in History we will embark upon studies of the civilizations of Egypt, Kush, the Hebrews, and India. We will take an Archeological Dig Field Trip to the Skirball Center on October 30th & November 2nd. If you would like to volunteer, contact your child's Humanities teacher.

In math classes, we will use Margaret Wise Brown's *The Important Book* to complete a geometry project. In addition, we will begin looking closely at Fraction Theory. In our science classes we are preparing for a field trip to the Santa Monica Beach---Tuesday, October 30 and Friday, November 2. In Ms. Burack's P.E. classes, the football/rugby unit starts on October 22nd, for five weeks. Make sure that your student is asking you to sign off weekly on 30 minutes of fitness homework per day.

Silver Core

As our first six weeks wind down, Silver Core is looking forward to their upcoming All-Star Reward Party. Students who have remained detention and guided study free the first 10 weeks of school will be honored as "Silver Core All-Stars."

In Silver Core Science, the students have just completed their first unit, which involved lab safety, an introduction to Earth Science and Scientific Inquiry. Students enjoyed the process of scientific inquiry by testing which sugar-free gum blew the largest bubble. Upcoming units will involve the study of Environmental Science. In mathematics, students have been busy reviewing basic number sense and learning various problem-solving strategies. Our next unit will cover a bit of Geometry, fractions and measurement.

The 6th grade Physical Education classes with Mr. Underwood are now at the closing of their first two units: Yoga and Juggling. The next unit that will be covered is paddle tennis.

During the first 6 weeks in our History classes, we studied Early Humans and the Rise of Civilizations. Students explored a cave and its artifacts, met an early hominid named Lucy, designed educational posters, problem solved for survival as villagers in an ancient Mesopotamian farming town, and took part in administering justice in Hammurabi's court. Over the next 6 weeks, students will be discovering the secrets of the early Nile River civilizations, as well as the early settlements of Israel and the development of Judaism.

In our English classes, students have been learning how to become Active Readers and how to improve their writing by focusing on the 6+1 Traits. Our daily DLR lessons have been used to review grammar and to begin introducing new concepts. Students are learning about persuasive writing and are currently working on their first book report, the movie poster, which is due on November 2. In the coming weeks, students will be doing short studies of prepositions and homophones. We will also begin our first novel study, *Bridge to Terabithia*.

Our Bronze Core sixth graders have been very busy learning new content, as well as the importance of organization.

Bronze Core

In MATH, Mr. Marcos has been working with the students on decimals. They will be studying fractions next. Please remind students to take advantage of the extra help sessions which are offered after school. In SCIENCE, the students have been discussing the creation of matter through the Big Bang Theory and stars with Mr. VanderVeen. Next month, they will learn about how the earth was formed.

In HUMANITIES, Mrs. DeBeech, Mrs. Levy and Mrs. Moazzez have enjoyed teaching many new ideas. LANGUAGE ARTS classes have included projects with the students' summer reading books and learning useful active reading strategies. Within the next few weeks, they will study the Six+One Traits of writing, begin reading the novel *-Tuck Everlasting* and prepare for Student-Led Conferences. In HISTORY, they have been studying archeology, early humans and the rise of civilizations. Our next unit will include Ancient Egypt, one of the students' favorite civilizations to study.

6th and 8th grade parents, volunteer to serve as an interviewer for 7th grade's culminating activity—the Worthwhile Life interviews! On June 5th and 6th, community members come to Lincoln to meet individually with each of our 7th graders as they share the contents of their Who am I? project folders and talk about what they think makes a worthwhile life. Contact Sarah Blitz at sarah.blitz@smmusd.org to volunteer.

What a great start to our 7th graders' second year here at Lincoln! We have enjoyed getting to know your students and look forward to sharing their own individual growth as they move forward with the "Who am I?" project that all 7th graders complete over the course of the school year.

In our history classes, we are coming to the end of the Medieval Europe (including Feudal and Medieval Europe unit and moving into a new unit

on the Byzantine Empire and the Rise of Islam.

In English, we have started the "Who Am I?" project with two pieces, the "Me! Collage" and "My Glory," an autobiographical narrative that details a proud moment in the student's life. The 7th grade Writing Night (set for Thursday, November 1st) will focus on editing a draft of "My Glory," where the parent and student work together to edit and revise the guidance from 7th grade Humanities teachers. Please plan to attend! In addition to writing, students are currently reading various novels at home (some thoughts electronically), with the Holt Handbook on grammar, and reading short stories in class. Beginning in early November, we will move on to the next major writing assignment to be included in the "Who Am I" project, a persuasive writing piece.

In math classes, fractions and inequalities have dominated instruction. The 7th grade math teachers will work and plan together on lessons, including several based on areas that past test scores indicate students need extra support. Stay tuned—the Stock Market Project is coming soon!

In science classes, all cores have been working through the Light unit and will be headed into Cells soon. We have had interactive labs and great class discussions. We are thrilled with our new textbooks this year. All students have their own book that should be at home. Be on the lookout for discussions about DNA and your genes after the cell unit.

8th grade Community Service is underway! Thanks to all of the 8th grade parents that are proving transportation and support as their students experience giving back to their community. This is an ongoing project that culminates Tuesday, March 4th in an individual student home base presentation sharing the learning and understanding surrounding the question, "What makes a good citizen of our community?" Presentations and completing 12 hours of service to a non-profit organization of the student's choice counts as 10% of his or her final grade in each core class for the second semester. No late work is accepted. The 8th grade teachers hope that this project will unite your family and our school in directing the energy of or young citizens toward positive pursuits.

7th Grade
Aqua, Emerald, & Gold Cores

In the Blue Core, we have many interesting units of study coming up. In English, we will begin a unit of Shakespearean Sonnets, which should be especially engaging since Mr. Lee spend many weeks this summer in England studying with the Royal Shakespeare Company and learning more about Shakespeare and his works. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the Student-let Parent Analytical Writing Night (11/28), where they will get a sense of the writing process while their student leads them through an analysis of their writing. In History, we will be studying the American Revolution and Colonial America. Your students may be talking about their "Tavern groups," ask them for details. In Math, we will be delving into solving equations, factoring and linear expressions. You can visit www.lincolnmath.com for more information.

Blue Core

Copper Core celebrated the end of the 1st Grading Period celebration on Friday, October 19th. Congratulations to all our students for a great start of the year. And big THANKS to all the Copper Core parents who helped put the event together! If you are interested in helping with future Copper Core activities, please email Ms. Pham at vy.pham@smmusd.org.

Copper Core

In P.E. with Mr. Stauffer, we are finishing the volleyball unit with great success. The teams were well-balanced and competitive. It was great to watch the kids' transformation from just whacking at the ball to actually working as a team to set-up scoring opportunities. Starting the week of October 22nd, we head into the pool.

For English with Ms. Gies, we will begin a unit of study on Edgar Allan Poe and work towards proficiency on analytical writing. Parents are strongly encouraged to join their student for the Student-Let Parent Analytical Writing Night (11/26), where each student and his or her parent will work side by side to revise and edit their in-progress piece of writing.

In Algebra, students have been mastering polynomials and factoring while the Essentials for Algebra classes have been focusing on rational numbers, writing algebraic expressions, and solving equations. For more detailed information, visit www.LincolnMath.com. Stay tuned for information on our Math-a-Thon, which will raise money for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Mrs. O'Brien and Mr. Schwartz have worked extensively to regularly update their websites to reflect what is going on and what is to come in their classes. To check out the history curriculum, visit www.mrschwartz.com; to see what is going on in science, visit Mrs. O'Brien's site at www.schoolnotes.com.

Red Core

The Red Core is proud to say that the visit by acclaimed author Delia Ephron was a big success. Mrs. Stivers set up a special assembly during period 4 on October 18 and approximately 100 eighth graders, with Ephron's new novel *Frannie in Pieces* in hand, were able to hear the insights and wisdom of Ms. Ephron. The lucky students were also able to have their novels signed by the author. The Red Core is looking forward to a special auditorium assembly on Halloween, and we are enjoying the glowing pregnancy of Ms. Allen! Don't forget to mark your calendars for the 8th grade Writing Night on 11/27—we look forward to having you participate in the writing process with your children.