



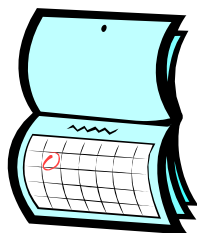
CHALK TALK

EMERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Margaret Seibel, Principal
Office: 529-4254

Sharon Kufel, Secretary
Absence: 529-4309

February 2010
Fax: 227-5752



FEBRUARY 2010

- 3 5TH Grade Outdoor Education
- 10 5th Grade DARE Graduation
2:00pm
- 11 Donuts with Dad – 8:15am
PTO Meeting – 9:00am
- 12 Valentine Parties – 2:30pm
- 15 NO SCHOOL – President's Day
- 24 Market Day Pickup
- 26 PTO Variety Show – 6:30pm



Principal Message

You should have received your child's report card for the second grading period. Please note that children are evaluated on academic achievement as well as effort and personal behavior. The achievement grade reflects your child's mastery of the Ohio state standards that were taught this quarter. The effort and personal behavior grades speak to a child's attitude toward work and his/her ability to function in a group. While our main focus needs to be on academic achievement, we cannot lose sight of the importance respect, responsibility and perseverance. These are the characteristics that are necessary to be a productive member of society. Please recognize and discuss these marks, as well, with your children.

District Message

As you may have likely heard, the Board at its Jan. 19 meeting introduced a resolution to place a 6.9 mill operating levy on the May 4 ballot. That works out to about \$18 per month for each \$100,000 of house value. For the past six months or so, we have been outlining in our district messages, community newsletters, web site and through media stories the precarious financial situation that the district is in. Fortunately, because of prudent and proactive measures taken over the last couple years by our Board and administration officials including cuts to the tune of nearly \$8 million, we are not in as bad of shape as many districts in Northeast Ohio find themselves. Yet, despite our careful watch of the bottom line and judicious cuts to staff and expenses, factors outside our control such as declining property tax revenues, reductions in state funding and a decrease in local income tax revenue have forced us to ask voters for the first time in eight years to approve a levy to provide new operating income.

We recognize that this economy has many Lakewood families struggling as they never have before, however, if we do not address the forecasted financial deficits, the academic programming that has earned the district its first Excellent status will be at risk. That is why that although a much higher millage would be needed to keep the district operating where it was before the recession hit, we will be asking for the minimum amount of mills to keep our district fiscally sound. In order to leave taxpayers with as much money in their pockets as we can, the levy will have to be accompanied by additional budget cuts as well. The Board at

its Jan. 19 meeting approved \$1 million in cuts for this school year. Even with a successful levy, another \$4 million in cuts for the 2010-2011 school year will need to be made.

Lakewood has been blessed with a community that has shown with its support that it understands the importance of a strong school system and the value of its tax dollars going toward our children's education. We are all in this together and everyone wants to see Lakewood City Schools succeed. Recently, all three of the district's employee unions and administrators agreed to a base pay freeze for the 2010-2011 contract year in order to help the district right its financial ship. With this spirit of cooperation and sacrifice we hope to earn your trust and secure the resources we need to continue offering the best education we can to every student we serve.

RANGER CAFÉ @ WEST SHORE DEBUTS!

The student-run restaurant of the Culinary Arts program at West Shore Career-Technical District has opened its doors in its brand new digs at Lakewood High School. The public is invited to taste the delicious treats created by our juniors and seniors in the program on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 216-529-4165 and selecting "1" for reservations. For more info, visit the restaurant's web page on the district web site. Go to www.lakewoodcityschools.org and click on West Shore Career-Tech under "Schools."

Dr. P. Joseph Madak
Superintendent

Board of Education

Betsy Shaughnessy, President
Matthew John Markling, Vice president
Linda Beebe
Edward Favre
John Kamkutis

STANDARDIZED TESTING

Lakewood City Schools will be conducting standardized testing beginning March 1, 2010 for multiple purposes one of which is meeting state requirements for gifted identification. Referrals for gifted identification testing are being taken for grades 3 and 5. If you would like to refer your child for testing please contact either your child's building principal or teacher. Lakewood City Schools will test all students at the following grade levels: grade 1; grade 2; grade 4; and grade 7 therefore referrals at these grade level are not needed.

Lakewood City Schools provides services beginning at second grade for those students who meet the requisite state criteria for gifted identification in ability and achievement. Services are provided at three elementary schools and both middle schools. Additional services are also provided for students who meet the criteria in reading, mathematics, science, and social studies beginning at grade 6.

If you have any questions regarding Lakewood City Schools please contact the Coordinator of Gifted/Talented at 216-529-4087.

EMERSON ARTISTS

Last year, we began a tradition of displaying one piece of artwork from each grade level (K-4) in the office. Our students completed their quarter of art and Mrs. McQuay, our art teacher, chose the following pieces to be hung for the remainder of the school year. The art work that had been hanging in the office from last year was returned to the students.

Tiger painting in primary/secondary colors- Erin Ptacek- kindergarten

Monochromatic flower drawing- Julia Martin- 1st grade

Bird painting inspired by John James Audubon- Lauren Heba- 2nd Grade

Landscape collage- Austin Moore- 3rd Grade

Watercolor tree- Emily Erhardt- 4th grade

ARRIVAL AND DISMISSAL

I would like to take this opportunity, once again, to thank families who adhere to our traffic guidelines. We continue to strive for a safe atmosphere for our children at arrival and dismissal. If you drive your child to school, please drop them off in the back parking lot at the gym doors. These doors open at 8:30 when we begin supervision of students. Please be aware if your child arrives before 8:30, he/she will be in an unsupervised situation. We strongly discourage arrival before 8:30. **The driveway at the east side of the building is for preschool, school vans, and daycare transportation only.** At dismissal, please follow the directions of our staff in the back parking lot. We are doing our very best to dismiss as quickly and safely as possible.

DAYCARE TRANSPORTATION

If your child goes to daycare after school, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the daycare provider if your child is absent from school and will not attend daycare. This avoids much confusion at the end of the day.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

While birthday treats are welcome at Emerson, we ask that you send individual treats that require no preparation. Teachers usually reserve the last 5-10 minutes of the day for birthday recognitions. This does not allow for any kind of preparation time.

WINTER WEATHER

All students go out for recess unless the temperature is below 20 degrees. When there is snow on the ground, students must have some type of boot to go on the playground area. Students are not allowed to throw snow on or around school property.

5TH GRADE DARE GRADUATION

We extend an invitation to all 5th grade parents to join us for DARE graduation on Wednesday, February 10 at 2:00. This is a change for us. We used to celebrate this in the evening, but have switched to a daytime event this year.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will take place in all Lakewood elementary schools on Tuesday, March 23, 2010, from 2:00 – 7:00 p.m. Children may register at their neighborhood school on this day only; if you are unable to register on March 23, you will need to register at the Lakewood Board of Education, 1470 Warren Road (between 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.). Parents may register a child who will turn five years of age on or before September 30, 2010.

You will need to provide the following documents at registration:

Child's Information:

- Certified copy of birth certificate (Passport or Visa)
- Social security card (or number)
- Immunization record, doctor's name and phone number

Parent Information:

- Valid driver's license / picture I.D.

Residency (provide two):

If you own a home or are purchasing:

- Current gas/electric bill – portion showing your name & address
- FAXed confirmation of new utility service: (216) 529-4104 (Attn: Ms. Griveas)
- Copy of mortgage information

If you rent:

- Current gas/electric bill – portion showing your name & address
- FAXed confirmation of new utility service: (216) 529-4104 (Attn: Ms. Griveas)
- Fully executed lease – includes landlord contact information and all persons living at this address

Or:

- School Residence Affidavit (form provided) completed by landlord and notarized; landlord lists contact information and all persons living at this address

Official documentation of custody (required only when child does not live with birth parents)

Emergency phone numbers:

- Father's business phone number
- Mother's business phone number
- Name and phone number of neighbor or relative

If you would like to have a kindergarten packet sent to your home, please call 529-4203. If you have friends or neighbors who have a child eligible for kindergarten in August but do not currently have a child attending Lakewood City Schools, please share this information with them.

Children enrolled in Lakewood City School's pre-kindergarten program are already enrolled in the District and do not need to re-register. Kindergarten information will also be sent to these families.

If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact your neighborhood school.





Emerson PTO News

Well, now we're really into the middle of winter. We hope you're all keeping warm!

Thanks to Mary Beth Kohl and Inas Jassani for organizing this year's Movie Night. "Up" was a fun movie for the whole family, and we all agreed that eating popcorn and sitting with friends was a great way to spend a cold January night.

Mary Beth and Inas are also hard at work organizing an opportunity for our students to learn first hand about recycling. Thanks to all the families who have been sending in their rinsed out milk jugs, we now have enough to begin constructing an igloo in our courtyard! The kids (and the rest of us too) are really excited to see the completed masterpiece. We are so lucky to be a part of a community that values recycling!

Also coming soon is the annual Emerson Variety Show. This is always a fun evening for our families, and is a wonderful opportunity for our students to show us their many and diverse talents. Roseann LaDue has agreed to chair the big event this year, and she'll be looking for some dedicated parents to help out. We'd love to have you join us at rehearsals AND the night of the performance!

Our PTO Nominating Committee will be meeting this month to discuss the slate of officers for the 2010-2011 school year. There is always room for more help and new ideas, so if you would like to get more involved, or if you'd like to suggest someone you think would be a good addition to next year's board, call us at the numbers below.

Speaking of volunteering, there is always a need for parents to help out in the classrooms, the LRC, etc. Keep an eye on our PTO board at the parking lot entrance for more information about our many school-wide volunteer opportunities.

And on a final note, be sure to keep your eyes open for information about our annual Donuts with Dad event! It will take place on March 11, just before our PTO meeting.

Our next PTO meeting is February 11, 2009 at 9:00 am.

Emerson PTO: "Enriching the Experience"

<http://www.lkwdpl.org/schools/emersonPTO/index.html>

Iselin Dimacchia (521-7537)
Jill Richardson (521-7341)
Emerson PTO Co-Presidents

Emerson PTO Meeting Minutes, 1/14/10

Jill Richardson called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m. The minutes from the November, 2009 meeting had been printed in the December/January Chalk Talk. A motion was made by Nicola Rose to approve the minutes and seconded by Jenny Rohrs. The motion passed and the minutes were approved.

Mrs. Klanac made a general "thank you" to all those who contributed to the holiday giving tree. It made a great difference to many Emerson families.

Counselor Lyndie Schuckert explained her role in counseling students and families. Students in grades K-2 may be referred to her by teachers or parents, while older students may also self-refer if they would like to meet with her. She visits each class in the school to discuss age-appropriate topics, with a focus on bullying. She presented information on the district-wide anti-bullying program. She would like to hold an evening session for older students and families on cyber-bullying, which becomes more prevalent in middle school. Mrs. Seibel also emphasized that all bullying is taken very seriously and addressed. If parents feel this is an issue for their student, they should not hesitate to contact her or Mrs. Schuckert.

Mrs. Seibel updated the PTO on upcoming events: 1) the January 8 movie night was cancelled due to weather concerns and was rescheduled for January 29, 2) there will be no school on 1/18/or 1/22, 3) the K-2 winter program will be held on 1/14 at 6:30 p.m. with an open house to follow, 4) a family math night will be held in March, 5) DARE graduation will take place on 2/10 at 2:00 p.m. during the school day—this change has been made at most of the elementary schools to ensure maximum 5th grader participation, 6) Mrs. Seibel will discuss district finances and the upcoming May levy in February—cuts will be made even if it passes, and 7) the Book Fair will be held in March, perhaps in conjunction with the family math night.

Jackie Werner, treasurer, explained that we were behind in fundraising due to cancellation of the November Adult Social. It was decided to pick another date and try this with greater promotion to make it successful. Heidi Murray, fundraising, is planning a Malley's sale with forms going home in late January/early February. They would be due back on March 9 with candy delivery the following week. Also, Heidi approached Lincoln and Horace Mann about partnering with us for the plant sale. If they distribute forms, they would get a "commission" for each plant someone in their school orders. She also reported that she has most of the supplies for the school supply sale which will happen in May. About \$350 was raised last year from this sale. A check for \$720 from Box Top redemption was received. Another Box Tops collection will be held in April.

Mary Beth Kohl reported that the COSI assembly cost \$1040 and was a great success. She also had the "bubble lady" do a program for the kindergarten (which did not participate in COSI). The total assembly expenditures for both were \$1280. She will talk with Mr. Shields about anticipated expenses for the very popular Lego assembly. The movie license was only \$75 and was extended since the original date was cancelled.

The "igloo project", spearheaded by Mary Beth Kohl, will take place in the next quarter and will be built in the courtyard during gym. She will have children estimate the number of milk jugs collected and when it is built some students will write about it and their work will appear in the Lakewood Observer. Glue guns are needed and Jenny Rohrs said she could help obtain them.

There was no correspondence received.

PTO membership stands at about 121 and a directory will go home in the next few weeks.

There was no report on the artist-in-residence activities.

The final class parties will be held on Friday, February 12, at 2:30-3:05. Roseann LaDue reported that the previous parties have gone well.

The Variety Show is slated to be held on February 26. Roseann LaDue agreed to organize this with Jill Richardson. Corinne Henahan's name was provided as someone who would like to help with the show.

A nominating committee was formed for the 2010/2011 PTO positions (e.g., president, 1st v.p., etc.). Heidi Murray agreed to chair the committee with volunteers Roseann LaDue, Jenny Rohrs, Katie Ptacek, and Jim Pido. A slate must be presented at the February meeting for approval. A new position for next year was discussed—"Communications". If a suitable person could be found, PTO would like to use more e-mail and social networking to keep school news flowing to families. The nominating committee will consider this.

Iselin DiMacchia and Jill Richardson will check with Mrs. Seibel for a possible date for the art show since the art quarter is almost over.

Chalk Fest will be held May 21. Nicola Rose has contacted an artist who will do a chalk art piece. No additional chalk is needed.

Donuts with Dad will be held February 11.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

