

August 27, 2009

Pawprints is a weekly paper that is sent home every Thursday with students. Pawprints contains school information, news, and upcoming events. Also, at the beginning of every month, the school newspaper, The Lyons Den, is sent home. Parents are encouraged to please look for and read these communications – a good way to keep informed of all that is happening at Lyons.

NO SCHOOL:

**THERE WILL BE NO SCHOOL MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2009
DUE TO THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY.**

School resumes Tuesday, September 8nd

WELCOME BACK:

Welcome back – we hope everyone had a wonderful summer vacation and is ready to start a new school year with enthusiasm.

A **BIG WELCOME** to the following new members to the Lyons' team this year:

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| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Kinder | Ms. Torres |
| Art | Mr. Kopp |
| Speech Therapist | Ms. Perry |
| Teacher Assistants | Mr. Diaz Jr. Mr. Sanchez |
| Life Skills Aide | Ms. Colunga |

We also had some assignment changes:

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Mrs. Barboza | From 3 rd to Reading Lab |
| Mrs. Bradley | From 2 nd to 1 st Grade |
| Mrs. Casares | From 1 st to Literacy Coach/Intervention |
| Ms. Edwards | From Art to Intervention |
| Mrs. Flores | From PPCD. Assistant to Teacher Assistant |
| Ms. Lugo | From 2 nd to 4 th |
| Ms. Mondelli | From Kinder to Intervention |
| Ms. Rivera | From Life Skills Assistant to Teacher Assistant |
| Mrs. Seng | From Reading Lab to 3rd |
| Ms. Velez | From 3 rd to 1 st Grade |

We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!!

CONGRATULATIONS LYONS!!

Lyons Elementary has once again been named as an Exemplary School. Thank you teachers for all of your hard work and dedication to our students! And a special THANKS to our parents and students for working so hard with us.

PRINCIPALLY SPEAKING:

I would like to thank everyone for a great start to this school year. Everything went so

smoothly on opening day. The children seem eager to get back to school and their routine. I

am asking parents' cooperation in following our procedures in order to keep things running smoothly and also for our students' safety. Please bring your child early enough so that he/she can eat breakfast and be finished by 7:35. This is when the first bell rings. The second bell rings at 7:45, and this is the start of the instructional day. All students should be in their desks at that time. If you pick up your child in the afternoons, please use the carpool lane. There are staff members on duty to assist your child safely. Also, due to our large enrollment and limited space, we will not be able to have parents eat breakfast or lunch with their child. When your child is absent, please call and when your child returns to school, please remember to send a written absence excuse. It is very important that we have correct working telephone numbers on file for your child – please remember to notify the school office when your phone number changes. Please do not to block the driveways so that other parents can pick up their children safely and the traffic can flow smoothly. Remember to be considerate of other and of our neighbors – do not park in or block their driveways. Your cooperation with these issues is greatly appreciated. I look forward to a wonderful school year as we raise expectations and reach for new heights! -- *Cecilia A. Gonzales*

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH:

Hopefully everyone is reviewing information that has come home so far and you are aware about the following:

- 1) Code of Student Conduct Book
- 2) Free/Reduced Lunch Application
- 3) Media Release Form
- 4) Enrollment Cards
- 5) Employment Survey
- 6) Student Agenda (w/student handbook)
- 7) Student Residency Questionnaire
- 8) VIPS Registration/Criminal Background Check Form

➤ Required forms to be completed and returned:

- 1) Acknowledgement of Receipt of the District's Code of Student Conduct
- 2) Enrollment Cards – ***must be completely filled out – At least 3 working phone numbers must be included***
- 3) Lunch application
- 4) Media Release Form
- 5) Student Residency Questionnaire
- 6) Employment Survey

School information will be sent home on Thursdays. The PawPrints, the Lyons' weekly newsletter, will also go home on Thursdays. Once a month, a monthly calendar will be sent home at the beginning of the month. We believe that strong communication will take us a giant step forward in working together.

STUDENT SAFETY:

OUR STUDENTS' SAFETY IS OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO US. PLEASE INSTRUCT CHILDREN WHO WALK TO AND FROM SCHOOL TO CROSS THE ROAD ONLY WHERE THE CROSSING GUARD IS LOCATED. PARENTS DROPPING STUDENTS OFF ON THE STREET, SHOULD DO SO, ALSO, WHERE THE CROSSING GUARD IS LOCATED SO SHE CAN GUIDE THEM SAFELY ACROSS. PLEASE OBSERVE THE SPEED ZONE – 20 MPH. PARENTS, WE ASK THAT YOU PLEASE BE RESPECTFUL OF THE CROSSING GUARD AND FOLLOW HER/HIS DIRECTIVES FOR THE SAFETY OF THE CHILDREN. THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION IN THIS MATTER.

TARDIES:

Being late to school is not acceptable!! If your child is late. . . .then he/she is missing important instructional time and is a disruption to his/her class. The first bell rings at 7:35 A.M. – students will be allowed in the corridors and classrooms at that time. Students are to be in their classrooms by 7:45 A.M. Parents must make an effort to get their children to school on time. This is your responsibility!!!

SCHOOL HOURS:

School hours are from 7:45 A.M. – 3:15 P.M. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. **Note: Every Wednesday is early dismissal at 1:00 P.M.**

PLEASE BE ON TIME TO PICK-UP YOUR CHILDREN, AS THERE IS NO SUPERVISION AVAILABLE AFTER 3:30 (After 1:15 on Wednesdays).

DO YOU NEED TO TALK TO YOUR CHILD’S TEACHER?:

Here at Lyons, students come first! We want to work together with you to do the very best for your child. Communication between parents and teachers is a very important step in making sure this happens. Each grade level has a specific time in which teachers are available to return phone calls or meet with parents who have previous arrangements with the teacher. Conference times are as follows:

| Grade Level | Conference Times | |
|---------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| | <i>M, T, TH, F</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> |
| Pre-K. | 1:00 – 2:00 | 8:30 - 9:30 |
| Kinder. | 9:30 – 10:30 | 9:30 – 10:30 |
| 1 st | 12:00 – 1:00 | 12:00 – 1:00 |
| 2 nd | 10:30 – 11:30 | 10:30 – 11:30 |
| 3 rd | 12:00 – 1:00 | 12:00 – 1:00 |
| 4 th | 1:00 – 2:00 | ** 8:30 – 11:30 |
| 5 th | 2:00 – 3:00 | ** 8:30 – 11:30 |
| PPCD. | 8:30 – 9:30 | 8:30 – 9:30 |
| Life Skills. . . . | 8:30 – 9:30 | 8:30 – 9:30 |
| Ancillary. | 7:45 – 8:30 | 7:45 – 8:30 |

** Please check with your teacher for their available time.

YMCA AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM:

The YMCA is offering an after-school program here at Lyons again this year. The hours are from 3:15 – 6:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday – from 1:15 to 6:00 on Wednesday. The registration fee is \$30.00 and weekly fee is \$45.00. The YMCA offers financial assistance to those in need. For more information, you may call 713-697-0648.

VIPS REGISTRATION & CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS:

Safety for our children is one of the greatest concerns throughout the Houston Independent School District. Houston ISD requires **ALL** school volunteers to pass a Houston Police Department Background Check. (Volunteer activities include escorting students and chaperoning on field trips.) In keeping with HISD policy and for the protection of Lyons’ students, we will be obtaining criminal history information of all Lyons’ volunteers. ***This information will be kept strictly confidential!!*** VIPS and Criminal Background Check forms will be sent home with students and will also be available in the main office throughout the school year.

SIGN-IN PROCEDURES:

All parents and visitors who enter our building are asked to please enter through the front doors, register at our reception desk (located at the front entrance in the main hallway), and wear a visitor or volunteer pass. A valid driver’s license or picture I.D. is required to sign in (HISD policy) – please remember to bring your driver’s license (or valid picture I.D.) with you every time you come to Lyons. ***This procedure is for the safety of our children!!***

FROM THE NURSE:

ALL students requiring medication during school hours **MUST** have a 2009 - 2010 medication form completed by their physician on file at the school. (Last year's form is no longer valid.) This form may be obtained from Ms. Dixon, the school nurse.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

The standard dress for Lyons' students is a Lyons' shirt with pants, shorts, or skirt of your choosing (*must* be of acceptable length – refer to dress code in student planner). The school shirts are available in the front office – parents will be informed when the shirts are available. These must be paid for with cash only.

FREE BREAKFAST:

BREAKFAST WILL BE FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS AGAIN THIS SCHOOL YEAR!!
Breakfast is served from 7:00 to 7:30 A.M.

Remember that breakfast is the most important meal of the day – it gives us the fuel we need to do a good job throughout the day!

Student lunch costs \$1.60, reduced is 40¢. Breakfast is served from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Lunches may be prepaid after breakfast between 7:30 – 8:30 A.M. Lunch applications for free/reduced breakfast/lunch were sent home on the first day of school. Please fill this form out and return as soon as possible. **You need only fill out one application per family.** Students who were on free/reduce Houston ISD lunch last year may continue as free/reduced until Tuesday, October 6, 2009.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION:

Did you remember to save your BoxTops over the summer? Now is the time to bring them to school and turn them into Mrs. Hoffman. You may tape them to the summer collection paper that was sent home in May or obtain one from Mrs. Hoffman.

Lyons will once again be collecting BoxTops for Education and Campbell Soup Labels - please help Lyons by saving your Box Tops. You may turn in your Box Tops and Campbell Soup Labels to Mrs. Hoffman. For a complete list of General Mills Box Tops for Education participating products visit www.boxtops4education.com.

YEARBOOK:

There are still some 2008-2009 school yearbooks available for purchase! They are on sale for only \$10.00 – what a bargain! It is full of wonderful times/memories from the past school year, including end of school pictures of Awards Day, Cinco de Mayo Celebration, 5th Grade Dance, and Kindergarten Promotion.

SCHOOL-WIDE FUNDRAISER:

Get ready! Get ready. . .it is that time again – Cookie Dough is coming. Kick-Off is Monday, September 15 from 8:30-10:00. Please look for information that will be sent home. Again, we will be selling cookie dough, cheese cakes, kolaches, pizzas, and more. Let's make this the best year ever! ALL of the money earned will be used to benefit our students and their needs.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

REMINDER: EARLY DISMISSAL EVERY WEDNESDAY AT 1:00 P.M.

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|------------|--|
| Sept. 7 | Labor Day – NO SCHOOL |
| Sept. 8-21 | TPRI &Tejas/Lee Testing Grades 1 &2 |
| Sept. 9 | Open House 1:30-4:00 P.M. |
| Sept. 9-16 | Lyons Fall Book Fair |
| Sept. 13 | National Grandparents Day |
| Sept. 15 | Cookie Dough Kick-Off 8:30 -10:00 a.m. |
| Sept. 17 | Grandparents Day at Lyons |
| .Sept. 28 | Fall Holiday – NO SCHOOL |

Approved: _____
Cecilia A. Gonzales, Principal

CAG/vc