

Lamar Limelight

Lamar Elementary School
1300 Many Pines • The Woodlands, Texas • 77380
Phone 832-592-5800 • fax 832-592-5810
Mary Jane Kirbo, Principal
Lauren Rush, Assistant Principal • Renee Neckar, Counselor

MARCH 2008

A Message From The Principal:

Dear Parents,

EARLY RELEASE Friday, March 14th: We will have early release on this day followed by our Spring Break which is March 17th - 21st. Students in grades K-4 will attend school from 8:05 - 12:05. AM/Pre-K students will attend from 8:05 - 10:05 and PM/Pre-K from 10:05 - 12:05. If you are going to make any changes in transportation, please send your child's teacher a note as soon as possible! It is important that we get all students home in a timely manner to allow our teachers time to conference with parents throughout the afternoon. Below is a list of lunch times for March 14th!

EARLY RELEASE LUNCH SCHEDULE:

Pre-K/K - 10:00-10:30

1st - 10:15-10:45

2nd - 11:00-11:30

3rd - 10:30-11:00

4th - 10:45-11:15

Teacher/Humanitarian of the Year: Please join me in congratulating Mrs. Melissa Powers and Mrs. Susan Hensley. They have been selected as Lamar Elementary School's 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year and Humanitarian. Mrs. Powers is a second grade teacher and Mrs. Hensley is a

Instructional Assistant in Special Education. These are well-deserved honors for two wonderful educators.

Report Cards – Report cards will be sent home on March 28th. It is important to remember that students must maintain an average of 70% in each core academic area. Please arrange a conference with you child's teacher if you are concerned about your child's academic progress.

Intra District Transfers: The intra district transfer window for 08-09 will open March 3rd. The deadline for intradistrict transfers is May 1, 2008. If necessary, please find the form on the CISD website, www.conroeisd.net.

Elementary Honor Choir: The Elementary Music Festival is quickly approaching. The concert will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 PM at Fellowship of The Woodlands church.

Spring Carnival: We are so excited about the Spring Carnival here at Lamar. We will be participating in all of the carnival activities and I look forward to seeing out students and their families there. **ALOHA!!**

Counselor's Corner with Ms. Neckar: We will be starting signups for the next group sessions with the counselor next week. One of the groups for the next session will be an *Altered Family Group* for children who have experienced changes in their families whether through divorce, separation, living with grandparents, foster care or incarceration of a parent, etc. Another group will focus on *Anger Management* to help students learn that they can recognize and control their anger by using strategies they will learn. A third group will be focusing on *Friendship*- how to choose good friends, strategies to try to make friends and options to resolve conflicts with them when issues occur. Please look for the colored permission sheet coming home soon.

Another issue to think about is SCHOOL ATTENDANCE. To improve your child's attendance, try some of these strategies.

- Talk with your child about the importance of being at school regularly.

- Avoid scheduling family trips or doctor appointments during school hours (after 9:00 is best if you must make appointments) and return your child to school as soon as possible after the appointment.
- Don't accept excuses for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.
- Discuss with your child what happened at school each day.
- Show your child why education is important and give specific examples of how education helps people succeed.
- Make sure your child stays healthy by eating nutritious food and getting enough sleep and exercise.
- Did you know ...

*****Kids ages 6 to 9 need about 10 hours of sleep a night. Bedtime difficulties can arise at this age from a child's need for private time with parents, without siblings around. Try to make a little private time just before bedtime and use it to share confidences and have small discussions, which will also prepare your child for sleep.**

Children ages 10 to 12 need a little over 9 hours of shuteye a night. But it's up to parents to judge the exact amount of rest their children need and see that they're in bed in time for sufficient sleep.

Lack of sleep for kids can cause irritable or hyper types of behavior and can also make a condition like [attention deficit hyperactivity disorder \(ADHD\)](#) worse according to some sleep information.

Clinic News from Mrs. Kivimaki:

An Ounce of Prevention: Keeps the Germs Away

The most important thing that you can do to keep from getting sick is to wash your hands. By frequently washing your hands, you wash away germs that you have picked up from other people, from contaminated surfaces, or from animals and animal waste.

What happens if you do not wash your hands frequently? You pick up germs from other sources and then you infect yourself when you

- Touch your eyes
- Or your nose
- Or your mouth.

One of the most common ways people catch colds is by rubbing their nose or their eyes after their hands have been contaminated with the cold virus.

You can also spread germs directly to others or onto surfaces that other people touch. And before you know it, everybody around you is getting sick. The important thing to remember is that, in addition to colds, some pretty serious diseases—like hepatitis A, meningitis, and infectious diarrhea—can easily be prevented if people make a habit of washing their hands.

When should you wash your hands? You should wash your hands often. Probably more often than you do now because you can't see germs with the naked eye or smell them, so you do not really know where they are hiding. It is especially important to wash your hands

- Before, during, and after you prepare food
- Before you eat, and after you use the bathroom
- After handling animals or animal waste
- When your hands are dirty, and
- More frequently when someone in your home is sick.

What is the correct way to wash your hands?

- First wet your hands and apply liquid or clean bar soap. Place the bar soap on a rack and allow it to drain.
- Next rub your hands vigorously together and scrub all surfaces.
- Continue for 10-15 seconds or about the length of a little tune such as the Happy Birthday tune. It is the soap combined with the scrubbing action that helps dislodge and remove germs.
- Rinse well and dry your hands.

(CDC-National Center for Infectious Diseases)

Library with Mrs. King: Lamar Library is in the midst of converting library programs, courtesy of Conroe Independent School District. The new program, Destiny, will be a fabulous addition to our school. Be looking for new information on the website soon!

The spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming! The dates are March 31st - April 4th. I will need volunteers to set up the fair on Friday, March 28th, and to pack it up on Friday, April 4th at noon. Please contact me if you are interested! Thanks! The proceeds from the Book Fair will be used on library programs.

Art with Mrs. Woerner : We are creating many different forms of Art this month, but the most impressive is the clay the fourth grade is

working on. They are making a chimera/gargoyle, from a variety of animal parts. They are quite unique!

Third grade is using a real, live still life of tropical fruits to inspire their current work. This theme is inspired by the upcoming Lamar Luau. Their tropical, impressionistic still life will be a paper cut-out from laminated tissue paper. The colors are beautiful!

Second Grade has just finished their Eric Carle styled tropical fish. The finished items decorate the hall outside the gym, where their musical program was performed. They are colorful!

First Grade completed their space rocket and landscape. They are out of this world! They have now started a still life of primary and secondary colors in a North American inspired pot.

Kindergarten has enjoyed their symmetrical heart butterflies, and have moved into texture. They drew their families, and then used texture plates to make the cloth textures of their clothing. We are now starting a castle project inspired by Rapunzel. They have touched bricks, and noticed the pattern of their arrangement on the walls. Students will be making rubbings, I will cut them into bricks, and they will build a castle wall.

Thank you to all of the families who have sent in their "trash". Calendars are excellent examples of images, small containers are used for glue pots and slip pots, egg cartons will be used by kindergarten very soon for caterpillars, and meat containers are used daily for crayons and water trays. Second Grade is currently using newspaper for a cityscape, and will need classified sections for cars and trucks. I enjoy surprising students by using unusual items in creative ways!

Consider heading to the Museum of Fine Arts the first Sunday of the month, when there is free admission!

Music with Ms. Kramer: Congratulations to our second graders! They presented an **outstanding** performance of the musical program "*Go Fish!*" I was proud of each one of them!

Fourth graders are busy learning how to play the recorder. Through a program called Recorder Karate, they move at their own pace in order to earn "Karate belts." Fourth grade parents, please remind your students to bring their recorder every day to school.

The students representing Lamar at the Elementary All District Music Festival concert are: Summer Carper, Caroline Clausen, Nathan Cuenca, Francessa Daniel, Tyler Duncan, Reiley Jones, Lyxantha White, and Jasmine Workman. These students learned ten very difficult pieces of music and will perform with other fourth grade students from all over the district. Congratulations Honor Choir members. You are awesome!

The First graders are beginning to work on their grade level music program, "The Cheese Stands Alone." The program will be held on May 8th at 7:00 PM. You will be hearing more about this as the time gets closer.

Keep Singing!

Computer Lab with Mrs. Hanline: We are almost at Spring Break and many more students are completely finished with the district curriculum lessons on Learning.com! Yeah, to those of you who have finished and keep up the hard work to the rest of the students. My goal is to be finished with this before we start Spring Break and we are almost there in many classes. A **HUGE** round of applause to Mrs. White's 4th grade homeroom. They were the first complete class to finish all the lessons in their grade level! A few students have learned to keep their fingers on the home row to type in our Type to Learn activities and that is a fabulous achievement! All classes from Kinder to 4th grade have learned to use the Education City web site and are really enjoying those lessons/activities. I hope all of you have a safe and fun Spring Break and come back energized for the final few weeks of school!

P.E. with Mrs. Redding: March is on its way. Since February was Heart Month, we were busy learning new jump rope skills and learning about the heart. The 4th graders did an amazing job with their heart projects this year. Many have been posted in the gym. The other grades learned about the heart - how to take your pulse, why it is important to have and keep a

healthy heart, and how to have a healthy heart. The third graders learned the Heart song and will be performing it during their program in April.

The CISD Cupstack Tournament is March 27th at McCullough. We will be practicing and picking teams and individual cycle people ASAP.

Jump Rope For Heart was a huge success this year with a total contribution of over \$1600. Thank you so much for your contributions and your help. The American Heart Association appreciates all the contributions for it's research of heart disease for all of us.

The Alaskan Iditarod Race began March 1st. We ran laps, converted them into miles, drew and decorated 4 dog sleds and then raced them around the gym. We learned some things about some of the cities the race goes through. Ask your child about the race and how the dogs and mushers get ready for the race.

The third grade P.E. music program will be April 17th. More information will follow as the time gets closer.

PTO News: ALOHA LAMAR FAMILIES....LUAU AT LAMAR....SPRING CARNIVAL...SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH FROM 1-5PM!!!!

1. Check your BOB's in the coming weeks for info regarding the carnival.
2. Any auction or raffle items you would like to donate - please submit by 3/14 to the school.
3. Coloring contest winners were announced on Friday morning (2/29) and the drawings will be displayed on the DOME stage.
4. Raffle tickets (\$.25) and Carnival Punchcards (\$5.00) will be sold at lunch 3/10, 3/11, 3/13, 3/24-3/28. If you would like to volunteer to sell during lunch, please email Alana Ashley @ ala70@comcast.net.
5. **PLEASE SIGN-UP TO VOLUNTEER** - 1 Hour shifts are available beginning @ 12:00 and ending at 6:00 on the day of the carnival. **The sign up board is located outside the front office or e-mail Sally Wintner @ sallywintner@swbell.net.**

6. And most importantly....come have fun at Lamar's Luau!!!

We will have games, inflatables, caricatures, face painting, craft fair, auction, raffle, limbo & hula contests, dunk booth, Rico's Surf Shop, food, drinks, and lots more!!!!

Yearbook orders are due by March 13th!!! This is the final deadline, so please order now!!

Please join us for our next PTO meeting on Thursday, March 13th at 1:30 PM.

March Events:

4 th	Voting Poll for Primary Election (7:00am-7:00pm)
5 th	3 rd Grade TAKS Reading 4 th Grade TAKS Writing It will be a CLOSED CAMPUS 3/5 - 3/7!!!
13 th	PTO Meeting (1:30 PM) Elementary Music Festival (7:30 PM-Fellowship of The Woodlands church)
14 th	EARLY RELEASE DAY (12:05 PM)
17 th - 21 st	SPRING BREAK HOLIDAY!!!
27 th	Cupstacking Tournament (4:30 PM /McCullough Jr. High)
28 th	REPORT CARDS GO HOME!
29 th	PTO SPONSORED SPRING CARNIVAL 1:00 PM - 6:00 PM Please sign up to work a shift!!! Signup poster located in foyer of Front Office area!!

Mondays: All American Monday: Wear Your RED, WHITE, and BLUE

Tuesdays: BOB Folders Home with Students

Fridays: Lamar Spirit Day-Wear your Lamar Leopard T-shirt

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