

SARATOGA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2009



Fall Is Here!

Wow, September has gone by so fast! Your children have been busy learning routines and expectations. They are busy with the reading, math and writing curriculum also! They know their job at Saratoga is to learn and they take that seriously. One exciting thing that is happening in the classrooms is our technology integration. We now have a mobile computer lab that teachers use in their classroom. Students are busy learning how to access the web to enhance their learning.

Children love for their parents to visit their classroom and see what they are doing. We encourage parents to visit and love to have them here. Do remember that sometimes children can get excited by having visitors in their classroom so please keep your visit to no more than 30 minutes.



SAFETY

I tell the students all the time that my job as the principal is to keep the students safe. I need your help in this area. After school we have many parents picking up their children. Saratoga Street gets very congested and we are afraid a student could get hit some day. Please follow these guidelines:

- **Please do not drop off or pick up your child on 13th street, this is very dangerous.**
- **Please do not park on either side of Saratoga Street from the school's driveway to 13th street.**
- **Please do not stop on Saratoga street to pick up your student, this**

**is very dangerous for your child.
It also backs up traffic.**

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe.



FOOD PANTRY

Sometimes families need a little extra help with groceries during the month. Saratoga does have a food pantry that parents can access. Families just need to contact their child's teacher or the administration and we will help you.



A Note From the Health Office

The dentist will be visiting Saratoga in early November to check the teeth of children (grades K-5) who have not seen their regular dentist since last November. If your child has had a recent dental check-up, please send a note to the health office with the date of the visit and the name of the dentist. Or you can email the information to me at kduncan@lps.org

Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Kay Duncan, RN, Saratoga School Nurse

Parent Web Site

Lincoln Public Schools now offers a new Parent Center on the Web site at www.lps.org.

Go to the LPS Web and look for the Parent Center along the top navigation bar.

What will you find?

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Quick links to LPS info such as:

- Calendars (student, staff, special events)
- Employee address search
- Links to elementary, middle and high schools
- A wide variety of forms: attendance, health, facilities
- Home school lookup
- Honors
- Lunch menus and information for purchasing meals
- Student services
- Publications such as Important Information Booklet, Annual Report, Community News

The site also features a new item called ParentNotes, providing the most current information of interest to parents: services, resources, data and news from around the school district, as well as links to services and resources in the community.

ExCITE NEWS

We've been off to a great start this year. During the month of September, we have been making new friends, learning about school rules and studying weather and transportation. We had a great time riding on the city bus. We are looking forward to the crisp fall weather where we will be watching many changes taking place outside.

District Annual Yearly Progress (AYP)

Lincoln Public Schools has historically set high standards for "grade level proficiency," and has not altered those standards in the face of increasing expectations of proficiency for AYP purposes. As evidence of high grade level standards, instruction, and learning, we can look at LPS student achievement compared to the state achievement on other measures. We know, for example, that the LPS composite ACT score of 23.3 is more than a full point higher than the stat ACT average, which is 22.1. High ACT

scores are a reflection of quality instruction and learning at every grade from kindergarten on.

On the Lincoln Public Schools math and reading tests, the following achievement levels for all students were attained for the 08-09 school year:

- Elementary reading: 88%
- Elementary math: 87%
- Middle school reading: 88%
- Middle school math: 86%
- High school reading: 94%
- High school math: 72%

Only in math did the total student body not meet the AYP percent proficient target.

LPS is identified as "in need of improvement" because we had no level that met the AYP standard in math, even though the overall performance in math was high, especially at the elementary and middle school levels. The district has already taken steps to focus math instruction at the elementary level, including a review of time allocations, teaching and re-teaching expectations, the appropriate use of math intervention teachers and resource teachers in working with subgroups of students and the research on best practices in math instruction. The district is in the midst of instructional conferences with each elementary principal, reviewing the data for that school, the grouping practices, the use of support teachers and any other issues related to math achievement in that school. Such conferences will begin soon with middle school principals and high school principals.



IMPORTANT DATES!

- 10/5 ONE BOOK ONE FAMILY -3RD, 4TH & 5TH GRADE— 6:00-7:00 PM, CAFETERIA
- 10/6- PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 10/8 PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES
- 10/12 **NO SCHOOL FOR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS — ELEMENTARY PLAN DAY**
- 10/14 PARENT ACTIVITY —FAMILY BOOK BAGS — 6:00-7:00 PM IN CAFETERIA