

PENGUIN PRESS



The Newsletter for Lake Orienta Elementary

"Success for Every Student"

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January 1, 2015

From the Principal

Dear Penguin Families,

Happy 2015! We hope that all of you enjoyed time with your families and friends and feel rested and ready to focus back on the learning here at LKO. This is the time of year that we really get to work on academics and begin to focus on our upcoming new assessment for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Our new state test is called the FSA for **Florida Standards Assessment** and is focused on the new Florida Standards. It is rigorous, demanding and requires students to think and reason their answers to show what they know. Our teachers have had professional development on the new standards and the FSA and they are working diligently to prepare the students for these upcoming assessments.

You can learn about this as a parent of a 3rd, 4th or 5th grade student by attending our Title I FSA night on Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 6:30 PM. Please look for an informational flyer in the next week or so for more information and how to RSVP.

We are hoping that many of you are able to come join us to learn about this new assessment and how to help your child at home to be as prepared as possible to do their best. Our 4th and 5th graders will take the FSA writing assessment the first week in March and all 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will take the FSA in reading and math during April 2015. Our 5th graders will also add Science to their assessments.

Please help us by insuring that your child attends regularly and arrives on time to school. The time the tardy bell rings, the classrooms are hard at work. Students who are absent miss out on the quality instruction provided by our teachers and students who arrive late disrupt the routine of the classroom for all students.

Thank you for your continued support!

Respectfully Yours,

Donna Weaver

There's an "AP" for that!

News from the Assistant Principal- Mary Walters-Clark

I'm often asked about how parents can go about getting extra help for their children that are having trouble in different subject areas. The first step for this is to always start with a conference with your child's teacher. Think of your child's teacher as a primary care physician for your child's education. Most of the time they will be able to "prescribe" or suggest some different activities and resources to help your child. These may include, but are not limited to, morning tutorial, internet websites with activities targeting your child's needs, books to read with your child, books to have your child read, apps on mobile devices.

There are occasions where these resources will not be enough or beyond the capabilities of a classroom teacher. Some of the other personnel at our school can be seen as the "specialists" and may be called upon for more suggestions and additional helpful advice. These school employees can include, but are limited to our Reading and Math/Science coaches, our Media Specialist, our Resource Teachers, our teachers for students with disabilities, our Certified School Counselors, or our ELL (English Language Learner) teachers. The gatekeeper for all of these resources is your child's teacher. Keep open the lines of communication whether your concern is about your child's reading, his/her math, your child's behavior and socialization, or even if you feel your child needs additional challenges and enrichment. that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interferes with the individual's school performance or participation."

As parents, the first step to take if you think your child is being bullied at school is to contact your child's teacher. They will know more about whether it is something that is affecting the school performance. From there, if you feel that this is something that needs to be addressed outside of the classroom, please do not hesitate in contacting the office or me through phone or email. Thank you! We hope you have a great holiday season!



Lake Orienta Family Programs
Where Parents Make Things Possible!



Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

December 5, 2014

Dear Principal or Administrator,

The 2014-15 flu season is off to an earlier than usual start in Florida. Flu activity levels are increasing across the state but are currently highest in children (less than 19 years of age). Increased flu activity in children regularly comes ahead of increased activity in other age groups. The single best way to protect against flu and its potential severe complications is for children to get an influenza vaccine each year. **Please send a letter home to parents encouraging vaccination.** People infected with influenza are infectious to others early in their course of illness. **This means it is important to review school illness exclusion policies with staff, teachers and parents to ensure children sick with flu are rapidly identified and ensure parents keep children home when they are sick.**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently announced that this year's flu vaccine is not as effective against the current strain of the flu virus because the virus has changed. Despite the observed "drift" or changes in the most common flu strain identified this year, vaccination can still decrease severity of illness and can protect against other circulating strains of the virus. **The flu vaccine is safe and continues to be the best way to protect yourself and others from the flu.** The national Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends that all individuals six months of age and older receive the flu vaccine each year.

The Department urges schools to help fight the spread of influenza by:

- **Sending a letter to parents encouraging influenza vaccination** (sample letter provided) and **"The Flu: a Guide for Parents"** fact sheet found here:
http://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/a_flu_guide_for_parents.pdf
 - o Parents and staff can check with their physician, your local health department or visit <http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/locate-a-flu-shot.html> to search for a flu vaccine location.
- **Ensuring sick students, teachers and staff stay home when they are sick.**
- Coughing or sneezing into a tissue or your elbow, washing your hands frequently, and keeping your hands away from your face.
- Cleaning and disinfect commonly handled surfaces or objects.

For more information on preventing the flu as well as specific materials and tools for schools please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/>. Please report any influenza outbreaks to your county health department right away or contact them with questions. Thank you for your important contribution to protecting the health of those in the communities you serve.

Sincerely,

Anna Marie Likos, MD, MPH
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State Epidemiologist

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