MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Lynn Cleary
Superintendent of Schools

As the second semester of this school year begins, we face many challenges within the district. It's no secret the nation's economy has not improved and families throughout our district will face additional hardships as they try to balance rising health care costs and skyrocketing energy bills against declining income and for some, unemployment. There isn't a day that passes that we aren't hearing of another company failing, layoffs imminent, or families leaving the state of Michigan to find work to support their families.

School districts are not immune to the same financial uncertainties that every family is now going through. We cannot continue to do ‘business as usual' and expect to remain solvent. The district expenses continue to increase while the revenue remains constant or is reduced by state legislators attempting to keep the state budget balanced. Sacrifices have to be made. Everyone must unite and do their fair share to help keep this district moving forward. Our challenge is to use our facilities in a manner that generates additional revenue and attracts new students through our school of choice initiative.

What are we doing to make this all come together? As we begin to develop our district strategic plan, many projects are beginning to take shape while others continue to develop. We will expand the Early College Alliance through Eastern Michigan University. We will review and possibly expand our partnership with the Michigan Institute for Aviation and Technology through Willow Run Airport. We will maintain AP classes in English, History, Government, Physics, Calculus, and Biology, and will be seeking approval for new AP courses for the fall of 2010. The district has partnered with Eastern Michigan University to write a National Science Foundation Grant to develop a magnet elementary school with an emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) curricula. We are exploring an International Baccalaureate program for one of our elementary schools. The high school is preparing to move to trimesters in the fall of 2010 and will provide for new course offerings as this new system is implemented. Our new student data system (Power School) is officially open to all secondary parents to monitor their child’s progress, attendance, and grades. (See the district website for information on how to register.) The middle school will host a number of visits incoming sixth grade students to meet the staff and students. They have also planned evening activities for fifth grade families to welcome them to the middle school. One exciting change for elementary will be the expansion of our full-day kindergarten offerings. We will offer full-day kindergarten for all students, while maintaining a number of half-day opportunities for those parents requesting the shorter day for their student. This move is one year sooner than mandated by the state.

I won’t pretend these programs come without a price tag. They do and unless we secure the funding needed to make them a reality, some may be shelved temporarily for future exploration. We will be looking at our facilities in the coming months and possibly recommending a reconfiguration for the future. With that we will seek community input in order to maintain the transparency we seek to accomplish. We will continue to explore grant funding and hope to increase our enrollment through school of choice.

I am very proud to be a part of this district and know that our children are part of one of the finest educational programs in the state. Lincoln staff is committed to excellence and they stop at nothing to obtain the resources needed to provide a premier education to our students. In spite of our challenges, rest assured that we will continue to offer outstanding programs that are challenging and rigorous to ensure our students are prepared for tomorrow. I ask that you support our efforts and understand that our main objective is to educate your children. If sacrifices must be made in order to preserve that goal, we will do whatever it takes to sustain the integrity of the classroom.
DISTRICT CALENDAR
Full year calendar available online

February
23-27 Mid-Winter Break—No classes

March
2 Classes resume
17 Students K-12 report all day; Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences a.m.
18 Students K-12 report all day; Kindergarten Parent-Teacher Conferences p.m.
19 Students K-12 report a.m. only K-12 Parent-Teacher; Conferences p.m. & evening
20 Professional Development Day—No classes
27 End of Third Marking Period

April
3 Students report a.m. only; Teacher comp time in p.m.—Spring Break Begins
14 Classes resume

ATTENTION: LHS STUDENT LUNCH ACCOUNTS
Beginning March 1, 2009, students at Lincoln High School will no longer be allowed to charge a negative balance to their lunch account.
Students must have enough money in their accounts or pay in cash in order to be served. No substitute lunch will be available.

LINCOLN AND EMU TEAM UP FOR ROBOTICS
On December 4, 2008, EMU Professor Al Tessmer and his Elementary Technical Education students came to Bessie Hoffman Elementary to teach second through fifth grade students about robotics. Using computers, students dropped and dragged software commands onto flow charts to program their robots. Next, they learned to download their programs with infrared remotes to their custom robot. The students could choose from a variety of commands dancing, zigzagging, turning right and left, forward, or backwards. Advanced students also used sounds, power difference, and light censors abilities with their robots. They will be testing their new found skills through gravel pits, hills, and sand environments.

REDNER ART ENRICHMENT
Redner Elementary art enrichment students studied the art of Dutch post-impressionist painter Vincent Willem van Gogh. Choosing three of his paintings, students created a collective work of art with each student completing their own grid section. The three paintings were re-created using oil pastel crayons and measure approximately 36 x 48 inches. They will be permanently displayed in the hallways of Redner. The participating students are: Jalen Arecheja, Jayla Bywater, Hailey Root, Daysha Moore, Eshara Johnson, Christian Kidd, Vanessa Peters, Maddison Green, Manual Smolenyov, Cameron York, Justin Awosika, Jonah Negusse, and Kristina Wilhelm.

LMS RECOGNIZES STUDENTS
Lincoln Middle School celebrates student achievement and outstanding citizenship through a recognition and reward program that brings attention to individual students throughout the course of the school year. The program includes honor roll recognition, student of the month celebrations, marking period reward raffles, and honor roll celebration programs.

Reward raffles have included an I-Pod Shuffle, movie passes to Showcase Cinemas, Best Buy gift cards, a gift certificate to Rock City (rock climbing facility), and tickets to Detroit Lions and Detroit Pistons games. The University of Michigan and Eastern Michigan University have also supported the reward program with free admission to events.
BRICK CELEBRATES MLK DAY
On Tuesday January 20, 2009, Mrs. Curmi’s class provided the entire school with a presentation expressing the importance and significance of Martin Luther King Jr. All the students from Ms. Curmi’s class expressed how important Martin Luther King was to not only them but to the world as well. To end the presentation, Ms. Curmi provided the audience a slide show about the life and times of Dr. King. Thank you Ms. Curmi for a moving presentation!

CHILD SAFETY NIGHT
Michigan Child ID program.
When: March 17 & 18, (during Parent-Teacher Conferences)
Time: 4-7 p.m.
Where: Model Elementary Gym
FREE SERVICE
The Michigan Child ID program provides parents and guardians with a “Child ID Kit” that contains all the vital information necessary to expedite law enforcement efforts to locate a missing child. The program also helps to educate families about abduction prevention and safety.

The Child ID Kit includes: Photo ID card, color photo, digital fingerprints, recorded interview, and dental impression.
This program is sponsored by the Michigan Masons and is funded through the Michigan Masonic Charitable Foundation. No identification information is kept by the Michigan Masons.

NEW SOCIAL STUDIES REQUIREMENT
Pursuant to Public Act 517 of 2008... In addition to all other eligibility requirements, a student who takes the Michigan Merit Exam (MME) in 2009 or after must now also achieve an MME score of Level 1 or 2 in Social Studies to become eligible for installment payments of the Michigan Promise scholarship.

If you have questions about this new requirement, please contact the Michigan Department of Treasury which is solely responsible for administering the Michigan Promise scholarship (call 888-447-2687)

CHILD SAFETY NIGHT
LINCOLN COMMUNITY EDUCATION
484-7007
Office Hours:
M-TH 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Full class catalog/Register online: lincolncommunityeducation.com

LINCOLN COMMUNITY EDUCATION
484-7007
Office Hours:
M-TH 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
F 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Full class catalog/Register online: lincolncommunityeducation.com

LINCOLN GOLDS AGES SENIOR CENTER
Open four-days per week. Located in Brick Elementary, west doors. For more information 734-484-7000 ext. 7557.

LINCOLN SENIOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE
March 6, 2009
12:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Stop by for coffee and see the renovations to the Community/Senior Citizen Center

ANNUALSPRING PLANTING & BAKE SALE
May 6 ♦ May 7 ♦ May 8
8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Brick Elementary Community/Senior Citizen Center
For Information 484-7000, ext. 7557
FREE OR REDUCED PRICED MEALS

Every family may submit an application for free or reduced school meals AT ANY TIME during the school year. If you think you may qualify, or your financial situation has changed, you may complete an application and submit to the Business Office at 8970 Whittaker Road Ypsilanti MI 48197.

Applications are available in each school building office, the Food Service Office, the Business Office, and at www.lincoln.k12.mi.us under the “Food Service” tab. If you have any questions, you may call the Business Office at 484-7042 or the Food Service Office at 484-7072.

ACCESS FOOD SERVICE ACCOUNTS ONLINE

Parents wishing to review their student’s food service account online may request a user id/password.

- From the Lincoln main webpage (lincoln.k12.mi.us), select the tab for “Food Service”
- On the left side menu, select “Student Account Login”
- Using the link at the bottom of the page, send an e-mail to the Lincoln Business Office. Include student name(s), parent name(s), and home address.
- Login information will be e-mailed back to the parent.

SUMMER STRIDERS

On your mark - get set - go check your calendars for our 5th season of Summer Striders.

When: June 8 - July 30 (8 weeks)
Where: LMS Tennis Courts
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Days: Mondays & Thursdays
Cost: FREE!!!

Daily raffles & prizes, mileage shirts & our 5th Annual Ice Cream Fun Run. Open to all members of the community, their families and friends.

All ages and abilities welcomed for this non-competitive running group.

Kindergarten Roundup

~Kindergarten students must be five years old by December 1st~

Join us March 10, 2009! This is a special opportunity for parents/guardians to learn about our kindergarten program, meet our teachers, visit our building, and learn about our full-day and half-day kindergarten options. Parents of incoming kindergarten students will also sign up for a Kindergarten Roundup appointment.

This meeting is for parents/guardians. Children will have other opportunities to visit our building.

Parents of children who will enroll in kindergarten are asked to call 734-484-7045 (Model/Childs) or 734-484-3150 (Bessie Hoffman) to be placed on our mailing list as we have much information to share!

MODEL & CHILDS ELEMENTARY
734-484-7045

Parent Night
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Location
Model Elementary

Kindergarten Roundup Appointments
April 20-23

BESSIE HOFFMAN MULTI-AGE ELEMENTARY
734-484-3150

Parent Night
Tuesday, March 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Location
Bessie Hoffman Elementary

Kindergarten Roundup Appointments
March 31 - April 1

Kindergarten Roundup provides an opportunity for us to become acquainted with you and your child. During your scheduled appointment time, your soon-to-be-kindergartner will participate in a brief screening, while parents complete enrollment paperwork.

Please bring the following documentation with you at your appointment time:
- your child’s original birth certificate
- a green health appraisal form signed by your pediatrician
- immunization records
- current proof-of-residency documents

READ MORE NEWS ONLINE AT www.lincoln.k12.mi.us

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Lincoln Board of Education
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