



LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY
An IB World School

LILA Lower School Life: November 5, 2018

PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

Lower School Families,

When I was in elementary school, communication between home and school was fairly limited—report cards, notes home, and maybe a phone call. Today's schools and homes are much more connected. With websites, email, Facebook, and automated phone calls, communication between school and home is almost immediate. To help you make the best of LILA's communication options, I offer the following tips:

1. Check out the [Lower School Staff and Classroom Updates](#) on the website.
2. Join us on Facebook—Lakes International Language Academy
3. Create an Infinite Campus Portal Account. (Contact the office for your unique activation key.)
4. Make sure your current email address and phone numbers are on file with the office.
5. Check out the [Parent Resources](#) on the LILA website.
6. Check your child's backpack (and your email inbox) every week.
7. Read the LILA Lower School Life and classroom newsletters.

Even with all of these options at our fingertips, nothing can replace face-to-face communication. If you ever have questions, concerns, or ideas to share, please stop in and visit!

In partnership,

Kathy Griebel, Lower School Principal
Lakes International Language Academy

LOOKING AHEAD: IMPORTANT DATES

Here are some important dates for your calendar:

Date	Activity
November 5	No School, Professional Development Day



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November 6	Boosterthon Fundraiser Kick-Off Event
November 8	Substitute Information Session, 9:00-10:30 AM at Main Campus Ski Club Scholarship Application Due
November 12	Veterans Day, Observed
November 13	Annual Meeting to Review World's Best Workforce, 5:30-6:00 PM in Library LILA School Board Meeting, 6:00-7:30 PM in Library
November 15	Boosterthon Glow Run! Language Ambassador Host Family Information Sessions, 6:00-7:00 PM or 7:15-8:15 PM in Library Ski Club Bus Registration Deadline (before prices are raised \$50)
November 20	LILA PTO Meeting, 6:00-7:30 PM in Library
November 22	Holiday, No School
November 23	Holiday, No School
November 30	Ski Club Registration Closes
December 6	Grandparents Fundraiser Breakfast, 8:30-10:30 AM
December 7	Ski Trip for Grade 4 and 5, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM

THIS WEEK'S NEWS

Veterans Day - November 12, Observed

Lower School will be celebrating Veterans Day on Monday, November 12. We invite our families and staff to participate by submitting a picture to recognize a veteran in your family. To participate, please complete the [online form](#) by November 7. Thank you!



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Culture in Action!

Thursday, November 1 was Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead), a Mexican holiday. This multi-day holiday focuses on gatherings of family and friends to remember those who have died. An important part of this holiday is the creation of an **ofrenda** (Spanish: "[offering](#)"). An ofrenda is a collection of objects placed on a ritual display in remembrance of a loved one who has died. LILA staff member, Juan Zaragoza created this stunning ofrenda. Our kindergarten students had the chance to visit the ofrenda as part of their Celebrations unit of instruction. The ofrenda will remain on display this week.



LILA Dragon Glow Run - November 15

Tuesday we are having a different, exciting experience at school! We are kicking off our annual Glow Fun Run with a pep rally! Students will be introduced to a great program which will run through the next week and half focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) concepts that are taught through positive character lessons that fit nicely with our IB program. All Pre-K through 5th grade students will participate in a fun run on November 16th during the school day. You will see registration forms in your student's backpack this week, and you'll want to register them as soon as possible so they can participate in fundraising to help our school meet our goal this year: funding technology at lower school in the form of approximately 5 iPads per classroom, docking stations and lock boxes. If we exceed our fundraising goals, we are looking at purchasing educational apps and/or possibly other STEAM educational supports like robotics or coding supplies. We hope that you will participate in helping fundraise for technology at LILA. As always, if you prefer to sidestep fundraising and prefer to make a donation directly, we receive 100% of those donations, in addition to the possibility of matching funds from your employer. Checks can be made to the LILA PTO at any time. Please read the [attached FAQ](#) and check materials your child



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will be bringing home to learn more. Please direct any questions to the PTO rather than the school, at ptoboard@mylila.org.

Pledging is NOW OPEN for the [LILA Dragon Glow Run!](#)

LILA'S GOALS: 100% of families get pledges from sponsors + 5 pledges per student + \$45,000 School Profit for Technology!

The easiest way to help us reach our goals is through our easy SHARE feature on funrun.com.

- Make a Student Star video to share with Facebook Friends
- Copy and paste the email template and then send to family, friends, and local businesses
- Go to funrun.com from your mobile device, click share, and send texts to friends and family

EVERY PLEDGE COUNTS. THANK YOU!

Grandparents Fundraiser Breakfast - December 6

Save the date! The LILA Foundation's annual Grandparents Fundraiser Breakfast is scheduled for Thursday, December 6 from 8:30-10:30 AM.

Yard Signs

Over a third of the LILA yard signs were spoken for in the first few hours of availability. We still have some, so fill out [this form](#) and reserve yours today! The dates to display the signs are Nov 7 through January 15 (enrollment lottery day).

Substitute Teacher Shortage!

Do you have a four year degree in anything? Then you are eligible to get a substitute teaching license from the state of Minnesota! Do you also enjoy and do well with children ages 3 - 18? Then you are encouraged to become a substitute teacher for LILA! There is a statewide shortage of subs, that has become even more pronounced this year! LILA is hosting a substitute information session on Thursday, November 8 from 9:00-10:30 AM. Call 651.464.0771 to RSVP.

LILA Needs Bus Drivers!



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We need people with a school bus drivers' license to drive to various sports and activities, as well as for occasional field trips. You decide which hours you can take! Interested, but need help get your bus driver's license? We can help. We'll help guide you through the multiple steps, including providing the official supervision by a current licensed bus driver. Please call Tami in our HR office at 651-464-0771 x214 if you'd like to learn more or get started toward licensure!

Seeking Host Families for Spring

Before the snow comes, we are thinking SPRING! Interested in hosting a Language Ambassador during the spring semester? Come to a one hour informational meeting to learn more about it! November 15th from 6:00-7:00 PM or 7:15-8:15 PM. We are looking for 16 families to host our amazing group of Language Ambassadors this year!

Can't make it on November 15th but would like more information? Check out the website and apply to host here:

<http://mylila.org/get-involved/language-ambassadors>

Questions: contact Kelly at kfarrell@mylila.org

W Sitting (Submitted by Cassandra Borloug, LILA Occupational Therapist)

W sitting is a form of sitting in which one's legs form a W with the knees bent forward and feet back/pointing outward outside of their hips (see picture below).



Children naturally go in and out of this position during play, but if you notice a child sitting in this position for extended periods of time, please try to support by correcting it! W sitting can become a preferred "go to" sitting style due to the "ease" it creates for children. Sitting this way does not require them to use their back and stomach muscles in order to sit up independently (we don't want that!) Children need strong back and stomach muscles for them to sit up straight in their chairs, at carpet time, etc.



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This sitting style can affect joints in the long term; create stiffness; potential for hip dislocation; lack of strengthening of trunk/core muscles (back and stomach muscles); difficulty establishing hand dominance (they just grab from whichever side an object is on because it's easier that way); and so on.

How can you help support? Teach your child about alternative sitting styles - criss cross applesauce, long sitting (legs straight), side sitting (like a mermaid), kneeling (but watch that the feet do not creep outward forming the W). Often children will wonder "Why? Why do I have to change the way I'm sitting?" You can explain that you want them to grow big and strong, and right now they aren't using the muscles in order to do that! You can explain that you care about them and don't want them to get hurt. For correction, you can simply say something like, "Fix your feet" or you can even come up with a code word together to use when you see it.

NEWS IN REVIEW

Voting in Action

Third grade classrooms continued their government study by participating in a classroom Election Day. Students voted for one governor, two senators and four representatives.



We Love Our Lakes!

A visit from the Comfort Lake Watershed District taught our fourth grade students that anything that washes down the sewer drain ends up in area lakes. Students created chalk art to help educate passersby as to the importance of keeping sewer grates clean of garbage and letting only water wash down them. As IB learners, they were knowledgeable about the importance of caring for our water and showed lots of creativity and enthusiasm in carrying out this project!



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No School - November 5

There is no school on Monday, November 5. This is a teacher professional development day.

Upper School Coaching/Advising Opportunities

LILA Upper School has openings for coaching/advising positions for the upcoming winter activities/athletics season. These are all paid positions. Email Jenni Muras at jmuras@mylila.org if you are interested.

Boys' middle school basketball head and assistant coach: Duties include communication with students and parents, planning and coaching practices Tuesday-Friday for 1.5 hours each day, home and away games 1-2/wk, etc.. Season runs from January 8th-beginning of March.

Ski Club Advisor: Duties include parent communication, student communication, riding the bus to and from Trollhaugen (supervision and checking students on the bus), supervision at Trollhaugen (you can buy a ski pass and have time to ski as well as hang out in the ski lodge), etc. There are parent volunteers for the Main Campus students so you will be working with them as well as the language ambassadors while at Trollhaugen. This is a recreational ski club so



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you don't need any experience with skiing/snowboarding in order to be the advisor. Bus leaves from LILA HW around 2:25 and returns around 7:15 on Thursday afternoons/evenings. See below for dates of ski club:

December: 6th, 13th, 20th
January: 10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
February: 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Levies, School Funding and Charter Schools - By Shannon Peterson ***What can you tell me about the upcoming levy vote in District 831?***

I've been hearing that question frequently from LILA parents in the past few weeks.

In Minnesota, charter schools, including LILA, do not receive levy dollars directly. Yet, we all benefit from strong schools in our community.

A specific consequence for some LILA families, should the Forest Lake District's levy not pass, is that students who live within two miles of LILA and currently ride the bus may be required to pay a transportation fee or walk to school.

If you'd like to learn more, the Forest Lake School District will hold an information session for LILA parents on Monday, October 29, in the Main Campus Library at 6:00 pm.

How is it that some public schools get more money than others from the State of Minnesota?

The levy question has also prompted parents to ask me about school funding, especially for LILA and other charter schools.

Wide inequities certainly exist in Minnesota's school funding. To start, all public schools get a basic amount of funding for each student they enroll. In addition, some schools receive more money for various high-needs populations. (LILA does not.)

A levy is another way to increase revenue for traditional public districts, like District 831. Voters in the district may approve additional taxes to be collected, based on a referendum requested by the school district. (Public charter schools, like LILA, cannot request a referendum.) Levy



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funds are then added to the revenue each traditional district receives from the state. However, public charter schools, such as LILA, do not receive levy dollars.

So, funding is not equal from one district to the next, depending on local voters. The disparity is even greater between district schools and charter schools. For LILA, it's more than \$2000 less per pupil, per year. But we work very hard to ensure our learning outcomes do not reflect that imbalance. That's why we hold fundraisers, apply for grants, and buy used equipment. But with such a lean budget, we're concerned about offering competitive compensation to retain our outstanding staff, attracting new teachers as we grow, and keeping class sizes small.

How could the legislature create a more equitable funding plan for charter schools?

Allowing charters to also receive levy dollars would make a big difference. At LILA, if we received just the modest levy amount that the Forest Lake district is requesting at \$825 per pupil, we would add nearly \$1 million dollars to our annual budget. We would stretch that a long way toward maintaining small classes while retaining the best teachers for LILA students.

Please take time to learn more about the local levy. Contact your Minnesota legislators and ask them to support equitable public school funding for charter schools. Invite them to visit LILA to see why it matters!

As a rule, LILA will not tell you how to vote, but we will certainly urge you TO VOTE.

Voting is a learning opportunity for your student, too. Let your child see you researching candidates and questions, and, if you can, take them with you to the polls!

Thank you for valuing a global education. Thank you for supporting LILA.

STAY CONNECTED

Stay up to date on LILA news in the following ways: Follow us on [Facebook](#), update your contact info via [Infinite Campus](#), and check out our website at www.mylila.org.

To stay updated on PTO events, like or follow the [LILA PTO Facebook page](#).



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