



Longfellow Longhorns

"A Great Place to Learn"

Rick Herrejon, Principal

BOARD OF EDUCATION INFORMATION

SUMMER SCHOOL

The Board of Education is continuing to consider the educational and financial benefits of the District-supported Summer School program for at-risk students in grades K-4. The Board of Education reflected on student performance in previous summers, the lack of State funding to support specific Summer School programs, and the realities of further anticipated cuts from the State of Illinois on the District budget, such as the recent significant reduction in State funding dollars for Transportation of approximately \$700,000. The decision will not affect programs that are State funded including the ESY and SELA Summer programs.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

The Board of Education approved the 2012-2013 school year calendar. This calendar has already been posted to the District 21 website and is linked from the District's homepage on the web at: <http://www.ccsd21.org>

NEXT MEETING...

February 16, 2012--7.30 PM
Administration Center

Longfellow Parents,

We have officially begun the assessment season! Over the course of the next several months we will be giving the students state and local assessments. This month we administered the state ACCESS test. This test measures the English proficiency of our second language students. In early March, we administer the Illinois Standards Achievement Test (ISAT). This assessment measures student achievement relative to the Illinois State Standards in Reading, Math for grades 3-5 and Science for grade 4. Finally, in early April students in grades 2-5 will participate in the administration of the Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) test. This test presents students with age-appropriate content in reading and math. As the student responds to the test, the test responds to the student adjusting up or down in difficulty until a range is found for each individual student. All of these assessments provide the staff insight into each and every student.

Parents can help in many different ways during this time. Parents can relieve anxiety about tests. No one assessment is a be all and end all for your child. Parents can also help by talking about the importance of proper eating and sleeping habits. This will affect the results more than most other variables. Parents can also help by letting their children be children. As adults, we are most productive when we have a balance between work and play. The same is true for our children.

Finally, on a lighter note – Valentine's Day is just around the corner! Please adhere to the district snack list (food policy). Some valentines have been known to come with a place for a sucker or piece of candy. We are asking that you not buy those cards. From our informal survey of valentine card offerings, there appears to be enough alternatives to the candy/sucker cards. Thanks in advance for your cooperation in this issue.

ISATs 2011: Please Mark Your Calendars

ISATs will be given this year during the week of March 5, 2012. Students in grades 3-5 will be tested in reading and mathematics. Grade 4 students will also be tested in science. As schools are evaluated as having made adequate yearly progress (AYP) based upon student performance as well as participation in these assessments, parents are requested to avoid making flexible doctor's appointments or vacation plans during this time period. Please remember this is just one assessment and in order to get an accurate reflection of your child's ability, test conditions should always be positive. Parents can assist by putting this assessment into perspective for your child. Even if you have had your own test anxiety as a child, remember: relieve anxiety not re-live anxiety.

Dates & Events

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

9:30 a.m. - Kindergarten
Registration begins

Thursday, February 2

6:30 p.m. – 2nd & 3rd Music Show

Monday, February 13

4:00-7:00 p.m., Kindergarten
Registration
7:00 p.m., PTO Meeting

Tuesday, February 14

2:15 p.m., Classroom parties

Friday, February 17

No School

Monday, February 20

No School, Presidents' Day

Thursday, February 23

Market Day

Friday, February 24

Bingo Night @ Cooper

Important Reminders

- Please make sure that children are dressed for the weather before they leave for school each day. Remember that generally students go outside for all or part of recess unless the temperature or wind chill is below zero,
- All personal property that students bring or wear to school should be labeled with the name of the student.
- For safety purposes, students should not loiter around school grounds after school hours. Also, students who walk or bicycle to or from school should do so with a friend.

Seven Ways to Help With Fine Motor Development

Children generally aren't able to write well until they have developed good fine-motor skills. Fortunately, these skills improve with practice. The following activities can help your young child develop the precision, balance and hand-eye coordination needed to perform the fine-motor skills used in handwriting:

1. Give your child clay or play-dough to play with to strengthen the major muscles used in handwriting.
2. Encourage playing with Legos, miniature cars, small blocks, action figures and other small toys.
3. Do puzzles with your child.
4. Provide creative art projects that involve using crayons, marking pens, scissors and finger paints, as well as tearing paper.
5. Play games with your child that involves the handling of cards and small game pieces.
6. Ask your child to sort collections of coins into stacks of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters.
7. Help your child learn to manage such skills as tying and lacing his shoes and buttoning his clothes.

Remember, every child has a different timetable for acquiring fine-motor skills. The more your child uses his or her fingers in activities, the sooner these skills will be acquired. -- *Source: Peggy Gisler, ED.S and Marge Eberts, ED.S –*

Family Education Network

Kindergarten & New Student Registration

On February 1, 2012, Longfellow School will begin the process of registering students for the 2012-2013 school year. (Students must be 5 years old by September 1, 2012 to start kindergarten.) Also note that students who will be entering Longfellow for the first time next year (in grades 1-5) can be registered any time after February 1, 2012. To register, you will need a certified birth certificate, a property tax bill (or lease if you are renting) and two utility bills (not a phone bill).

You may register on school days from 9:30-11:30 a.m. & 1:00-3:00 p.m. or on Monday, February 13, 2012, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Please also note that over the past several years we have had many additional students enter our first grade who attended kindergarten elsewhere. As we work to project next year's section numbers for each grade level, having the most accurate count of our students will help us in our budgeting and staffing.

If your child is currently enrolled in a pre-school program in a District 21 school and will be entering kindergarten next year at Longfellow, you will receive registration materials directly from your child's pre-school. You should not register your child for kindergarten at Longfellow.

NEWS FROM DISTRICT 21

For Immediate Release, January 23, 2012,
Board of Education Vacancy - Contact: Terri Fergus (847/520-2727)

The Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District 21 welcomes applicants for the position of Board member created by the resignation of Elva Arreola. Letters of interest, including past and present involvement with the district, will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on February 15, 2012.

Please direct the letter of interest to the Board of Education, 999 W. Dundee Road, Wheeling, IL 60090.