



**LAKES INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE ACADEMY**  
An IB World School

## **LILA Lower School Life: October 29, 2018**

### ***PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE***

Lower School Families,

LILA uses a balanced approach to literacy instruction. Literacy instruction includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking. The following six elements are included in literacy instruction:

*Every child reads something he or she chooses.* The research base on student-selected reading is decisive. Students read more, understand more, and are more likely to continue reading when they have the opportunity to choose what they read.

*Every child reads accurately.* Good readers read with accuracy. Research on text complexity consistently shows the importance of students having access to texts they can read accurately and understand. Research shows that reading with high accuracy is essential for improving reading ability. When students read with accuracy, they are more likely to understand what they are reading.

*Every child reads something he or she understands.* Understanding what you've read is the goal of reading. Numerous studies have found that reading and re-reading of text that students find engaging and comprehensible enables the brain to develop the ability to read. In large-scale national studies, findings show that more authentic reading develops better readers. In these studies, exemplary teachers were more likely to provide all readers with books they could read accurately, fluently, and with understanding.

*Every child writes about something personally meaningful.* The opportunity to write about something meaningful provides an authentic way to practice the skills and strategies of literacy for an authentic purpose. When students write with a purpose they use conventions of spelling and grammar because it matters to them that their ideas are communicated.

*Every child talks with peers about reading and writing.* Research shows that conversation with peers improves comprehension. When students have daily opportunity to discuss what they've read with peers they are more likely to show gains on standardized test scores. The act of switching between reading, writing, speaking, and listening helps students make connections between the skills they use in each. This is especially important for English learners.



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*Every child listens to a fluent adult read aloud.* Listening to an adult model fluent reading increases students' own fluency and comprehension. Research demonstrates that this also expands vocabulary and increases background knowledge.

Here is a [handout from the Parent Pipeline](#) with a reading strategy you can use at home. It's called *Skip the Word, Then Come Back*. The handout describes the strategy and then gives ideas for using the strategy at home. Give it a try! We thank you for your continued support at home.

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
October 31, 2018	Halloween
November 4	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 5	No School, Professional Development Day
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	LILA School Board Meeting, 6:00-7:30 PM in Library
November 15	Boosterthon Glow Run! Ski Club Bus Registration Deadline (before prices are raised \$50)



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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

## ***THIS WEEK'S NEWS***

### ***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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### ***School Pictures***

School pictures have finally arrived! Please check your child's backpack today. Retakes are scheduled for Tuesday, November 6.

### **No School - November 5**

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

### ***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 5. Thank you!

### ***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](mailto:jmuras@mylila.org) if you are interested.



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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 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.



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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 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.***



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## ***NEWS IN REVIEW***

### ***Portfolio Exchange***

Last Monday was our annual Portfolio Exchange. Student in grades 1-5 visited last year's teacher for a morning meeting and then received their portfolio of accumulated work samples.. The energy and excitement in the building was palpable. I'm not sure who was more excited - the students or the teachers. What a wonderful LILA tradition!



### ***Reflection in Action!***

Second grade students in Profe Luis' class prepared for conferences by reflecting on their school year so far. Students practiced reading their hopes and dreams to a partner. They



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identified the strategy that will help them reach this goal. They read their personal reflection about second grade. (And of course, everything was in Spanish!)



## ***Lost and Found***

If you did not have a chance to check the Lost and Found for missing items, please stop by in the next week and do so. All remaining items will be donated on November 5.

## ***Halloween Costume Guidelines***

Next week is Halloween. For those students (and staff!) who choose to wear a costume, here are LILA's costume guidelines:

- No violence: no guns, no swords, etc.
- No blood or gore
- No scary masks (such as Scream mask)
- No inappropriate clothing
- Wigs and makeup are okay

Ideas for costumes:

- Funny costumes
- Animal costumes
- Sports player costumes
- Famous People



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- Candy Costumes (e.g. M&M)
- Pumpkins
- Movie/TV/Book characters

### ***Volunteer Background Checks***

LILA policy requires a criminal background check for all volunteers that will be interacting with students on a one-to-one basis. This includes classroom helpers and field trip volunteers. The background check must be completed prior to the event. Here are some important points regarding background checks:

- The cost for the background check is \$14/person. This cost is paid for by the volunteer.
- The background check is good for three years.
- Volunteers can do background check on the [website](#). **(Note: Applicants must enter an email address as part of the application.)**
- If the volunteer has had a background check completed somewhere else (in the past year), LILA will consider it current. The organization that completed the background check must forward the background check directly to LILA.

### ***LILA Ski Club Update***

A message from the LILA Ski Club:

- The bus fee is now available to pay on FeePay. This fee, along with the \$50 volunteer check and 3rd grade and under lesson requirement only apply to ski club members who are riding the bus. Reminder, students must be registered for ski club and have their bus fee paid and volunteer check turned in before November 15th or the bus price and volunteer check each increase by \$50.
- NEW THIS YEAR: LILA Ski Club is offering a limited number of scholarships for students who would like to participate but are unable to do so due to cost. A few scholarships are being made available to help cover bus fees, lift tickets, rentals, lessons or any combination as needed. To apply, please fill out the application available on [www.lilaskiclub.org](http://www.lilaskiclub.org).

### ***LILA Hires Caring Substitutes***

Are you or someone you know looking for a flexible job opportunity? LILA is seeking parents, recent graduates and retirees to work as substitute teachers. You decide your availability! If you have a 4-year degree, apply for a Minnesota Substitute Teacher license today. LILA offers



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competitive pay and a fun working environment! Bilingual Chinese or Spanish preferred, but not required.

LILA is hosting a substitute information session on November 8 from 9:00-10:30 AM. Call the LILA Main Office at 651-464-0771 to sign up!

## ***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](http://www.mylila.org).

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