

Lynch Elementary Newsletter



Ryan R. West, Principal

Monica Burel, Dean of Students

September 2016

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<http://lynch.lapeerschools.org/>

Mission: Elva Lynch will secure a dynamic environment for higher level learning. Together we will provide students with a quality education that will create independent, confident, and critical thinkers.

Vision: Elva Lynch inspires, supports and cultivates leading learners.



Calendar Highlights

September 26

- PTC Walk-a-Thon

September 26-30

- School Spirit Week
(look for more info in newsletter)

September 27

- Seven Ponds Field Trip
– Lawrence/Hayden

September 28

- Seven Ponds Field Trip
– McCaffery

September 30

- Popcorn/Spirit Wear Day

October 3

- Skinner Lake Field Trip – Callans

October 4

- Picture Day
- Project RED Field Trip (PM)
– 3rd grade

October 6

- Skinner Lake Field Trip
– McCaffery

October 7

- PAC Meeting, 8:45am

October 10

- PTC Meeting, 3:30pm

October 12

- Grade Level Color Day
E5/K/1st Blue, 2nd/3rd Green,
4th/5th Red

October 14

- PTC School Store

October 17

- School Dentist

October 18

- Skinner Lake Field Trip – Nichols

October is Attendance Awareness Month!

In conjunction with local community organizations Lynch Elementary will be promoting *Attendance Awareness* during the month of October. Our goal this year is to ensure that every student attends school regularly.

Showing up for school has a huge impact on a student's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and in life.

We realize some absences are unavoidable due to health problems or other circumstances. But, we also know that when students miss too much school— regardless of the reason – it can cause them to fall behind academically. Your child is less likely to succeed if he or she is chronically absent—which means missing 18 or more days over the course of an entire school year.

For more information regarding how attendance can impact student achievement please visit the following website. <http://www.attendanceworks.org>



BOLTS

At Lynch as well as around the district, we focus on a common set of expectations to support students and offer a clear set of guidelines for positive behavior.

These expectations are below.

Be:
Organized
Leaders
Trustworthy
Successful

Monthly Lynch students will be recognized by their teachers as “Lynch Lightning Leaders”. These students have displayed the qualities of BOLTS throughout the month and will be invited to enjoy a treat with Mr. West.

MAP Testing

During the 2016-2017 school year, kindergarten through 5th grade students will be taking the Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) test. This is an online computer based assessment that students take three times during the school year. Each assessment automatically adjusts for each student's ability and is paced based on their testing session. Students will take the MAP test at the start of the year to get a baseline score, mid-way through the year to display growth, and at the end of the year to see if students meet the projected growth based on the initial assessment. After all MAP assessments are complete a parent report will be sent home explaining your child's score.

Volunteer Info

Wanting to volunteer in your child's classroom, go on a field trip or help at a PTC sponsored event?

All volunteers must have an approved application on file in order to volunteer. Applications are available in the school office or online at www.lapeerschools.org, click on the parent tab and volunteer program. Please allow 2 weeks for the application to be processed. All approved applications are valid for 3 years.

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (810) 667-2448.

October 19

- Skinner Lake Field Trip
– Brown/Curry

October 21

- Popcorn/Spirit Wear Day
- PTC Monster Mash, 6pm

October 24- October 27

- PTC Book Fair

October 25

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
4pm-7:30pm

October 26

- Support your favorite team
U of M vs. Michigan State

October 27

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
4pm-7:30pm
- Upper El Box Tops collection ends

October 28

- No School for Students

Looking Ahead...**November 21-25**

- No School for students

**School Spirit Week
September 26 – 30**

- * **Monday, Sep 26**
Super Hero Day
- * **Tuesday, Sep 27**
MisMatch & Crazy Hair Day
- * **Wednesday, Sep 28**
Wake Up & Go Wednesday (PJs)
- * **Thursday, Sep 29**
Neon Day
- * **Friday, Sep 30**
School Spirit
(wear blue and green)

Lynch School Spirit Days

Every other Wednesday during the year (and a few other special holidays), students and staff are encouraged to participate in the following school spirit days to celebrate our great school.

- **October 12**
Grade Level Color Day –
E5/K/1st Blue, 2nd/3rd Green,
4th/5th Red
- **October 26**
Support your favorite team U
of M vs. Michigan State

Physical Education News

Your child will be participating in the Elementary Physical Education program this year. The students will be involved in activities that will help them in their growth and maturation, and ultimately help them in the classroom. Your child will receive 45 minutes of physical education per week in grades E5 through fifth grade.

On your child's report card, you will see a grade each trimester for physical education. Below is the grading key.

P = Performing as expected
IP = Inconsistent Performing
N = Not Performing

Participation in physical activity offers many health benefits, including increasing general mood, self-esteem, confidence and sleep quality. Due to the fact that we only see your child once a week, for 45 minutes, they are expected to participate every week. Students who cannot participate for one week need a written note from a parent. Students who cannot participate for multiple weeks will need a doctor's note.

One way that you can help your child have a successful year in Physical Education is by making sure that he/she is dressed appropriately on the designated day. It is important for students to have tennis shoes for Physical Education class. Tennis shoes are required to participate in Physical Education class. **Four** or more Physical Education classes without tennis shoes will result in an IP grade on the report card.

Sincerely,
Deb Cooper, Ken Baginski, John Fitzpatrick

Lightning Physical Fitness Tests

Students will be participating in the Lapeer Lightning Fitness Tests. Each test has a goal or benchmark that students will be trying to reach for each test. The benchmark is based on the student's age and gender. In order for students to successfully pass the test they need to meet the benchmark for their age and gender. A benchmark is an objective defining the necessary criteria each student needs to pass each of the fitness tests.

Students meeting the benchmark on **all five of the tests** will receive the Gold or Silver award at the end of the school year.

Fitness Benchmarks:

1. Sit-ups
2. Pull-ups/or Flexed arm Hang
3. Sit-n-Reach
4. Shuttle Run
5. Run/Walk
¼ Mile ages 6-7, ½ Mile ages 8-9 1 Mile ages 10-12

This DOES NOT include E5 & Kindergarten

**Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Parent Teacher Conferences are just around the corner, Tuesday, October 25, 4-7:30pm and Thursday, October 27, 4-7:30pm. More information on how to schedule your students conference will be sent home. Since our parent conferences are before the first trimester ends, report cards will not be available. However, teachers will be sharing information regarding your child's MAPS, Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP), DRA2, writing and math assessment results and progress. Our teachers use these assessments to determine and document student growth within each unit of study and trimester.

Teacher Contact

Teachers may be contacted by using their email address at Lynch Elementary. This is a quick and easy way to keep in touch with your child's teacher. Email addresses are the first initial and last name of the teacher @lapeerschools.org. Ex: mburel@lapeerschools.org

PAC

Our building level Parent Advisory Committee, also known as PAC, will meet again this year on Friday mornings at 8:45am. Join Mr. West for coffee these mornings for an opportunity to discuss building level information of all natures. Our first meeting will be Friday, October 7th at 8:45am at Lynch Elementary. We discuss topics such as drop off procedures, building security, homework and STEM in addition to any topics the community would like to address. Please consider attending these meetings throughout the year as a way to connect community and school on important topics in education.

PTC News

Lynch PTC officers are President – Monica Kinnie, Vice President – Cori Lomerson, Secretary-Stacey Aulph, Treasurer-Sarah Nicholes. We would like to invite you to be involved in the different activities and fundraisers throughout the year. You can sign up for our email bulletin list and/or "friend" LYNCH PTC on Facebook and we will keep you informed. We look forward to working with you throughout the year!

Book Fair

Our annual Fall Book Fair will be in the library the week of October 24th.



Students will be able to purchase items during the school day and in the evening during parent teacher conferences. We would like to thank PTC for organizing this fundraiser as well as the volunteers scheduled to work the book fair.

Student Transportation Changes

If you would like to change your student(s) regular method of transportation, you must send a note or call the office prior to dismissal that day. If contacting the office, please do so by 3pm.

Bus Information

For security and safety reasons, students must ride their assigned bus to and from their assigned stop. Students are not allowed to ride another bus to a friend's home, or get off at another stop. If you wish to change your student's bus stop location permanently this must be done by visiting the school or transportation department and completing a deviation form. Also, please review the bus expectations that are listed in the student handbook, with your child.

Allergies

At Lynch we have a wide variety of students with allergies ranging from peanut, tree nut, walnuts, citrus, bee stings, eggs, and many more. Each classroom that has students with various allergies will receive letters informing families of the allergies and what to avoid when sending treats, snacks, and lunches to school. With these letters we also have designated various areas of our school either nut free including classrooms and certain tables in the lunch room. Lynch staff, families, and students appreciate all that you do to help keep our students safe and following through with the various unique situations and requirements with our students.

Attendance

Attending school makes all the difference! Attendance at school each day is important. Missed days in many cases results in lost learning. However, any child who is ill should stay home. If your child is going to be absent, please remember to call the office at 667-2448. If they are not in school and we do not receive a call, the students' absence will be marked as unexcused. Our automated phone service will notify families of student absences.

What is "Title I"?

Title I is the name of a program from the federal government that provides funding to school districts across our nation. The purpose of the funding is to ensure that ALL students who are struggling in reading, writing, math, science and social studies can get extra support at school or in the classroom. This funding is part of the "No Child Left Behind" Act of 2001. This type of assistance has been in existence since 1965 when President Lyndon Johnson signed the Elementary & Secondary Education Act. Every few years, this legislation gets renewed, and gets a "new" name and new requirements. Title I is NOT a special education program. It is an added service to students to assist them in keeping up with teacher and grade level expectations.

Here at Lynch, Title I provides opportunities for our students to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards. Title I funding helps to provide the following services at Lynch: intervention instruction, before-school reading intervention for targeted grade levels, additional targeted activities for home support (take-home reading, literacy and math games, and Super Summer Success), Reading Recovery intervention for 1st grade students, additional learning opportunities and targeted skill groups during the school day, and paraprofessional support during the school day.

Title I Connection

Reading

Read for 20 minutes with your child! ☺

Set aside 20 minutes each evening to read with your child. This adds up to about 10 hours of reading time per month!

READING TIP: Use "5 Finger Rule" to Decide How to Read A Book.

Have your child open the book to any page in the middle of the book and read that page. Each time they come to a word they do not know have them hold up one finger.

- ✓ If your child gets to four or five fingers: this is a **STOP** signal, the book is hard. This would be a book to stop reading by themselves, and is a book you should read TO your child.
- ✓ If your child holds up three fingers (3 middle fingers to make a "W"), "W" is for Warning. They can read this book, but be warned that it could be frustrating. Your child should monitor her reading to be sure it is making sense. You should read this book with your child, allowing them to attempt to do most of the reading as you interact/discuss reading behaviors and help monitor their comprehension.
- ✓ If your child holds up two fingers (thumb and first finger to make an "L"): "L" stands for learning. They might need some help, but it will be a "just right" book to grow reading skills/strategies. You should read this book with your child, allowing them to do most of the reading as you interact/discuss reading behaviors.
- ✓ If your child doesn't hold up any fingers or holds up one finger (the thumb), thumbs up! The book is probably easy for your child and can be used to build reading fluency. This is a book that should be read independently BY your child.

Math

"Mathematical Fluency" can be defined as efficiency, accuracy, and flexibility. When referring to the "basic facts" it means automaticity *with* understanding. Automaticity is students' ability to effortlessly recall a fact *and* use it in computation strategies and problem solving situation.

Being automatic with basic facts frees the brain to focus on other math processes. Committing basic math facts to memory speeds up math tasks. As math tasks increase in complexity, they often require multiple steps to find the solution. These tasks are time-consuming, and often stressful, for students who must stop to figure out each basic fact along the way. And stopping to determine each fact disrupts the flow of the math procedure.

- Practice math facts with dice games: Roll the dice and record the number on paper. Roll the dice a second time and record the number on the paper. Add or subtract the two numbers by writing a number sentence. (4+2=6) Another way to use the dice is to roll and have your child count out the number using counters (bingo chips, pennies, etc.) to match the number on the dice.