



The Lake Fern Montessorian

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Roxanne's Reflections

News for all LFMA families!

◆ We made it through the first month of school! The ride has been a bit bumpy but for the most part it has been successful. It will take a while for everyone to learn their daily responsibilities and routine. This includes parents as well! There have been many questions about billing, when the due dates are, the difference between statements and invoices etc. You can find the details in the LFMA Parent Handbook. For those of you who may not have a copy, please see a staff member. We have print and soft copies on CD available.

Here are some explanations that will help:

1. Invoices and statements come out in the first week of the month depending on how dates fall around the weekend. Payments are due 10 days after the billing is issued. Payments can be made in cash or check, we do not accept credit cards.
2. Place your payment in the tuition box on the front counter. It is the brown wooden box on the right of the counter top.
3. Some families prefer to pay weekly. This is fine however payments are due on Monday of each week.
4. Late fees will be applied to any account that is not current by the end of the month.
5. Invoices have the detail of the current month's billing such as tuition, extra hours from the previous month, supply and late fees as applicable. Statements are a running total of

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Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ Kindergarteners will be taking their first spelling test On October 22nd. Please check out our website for a list of words. Also, kindergarteners can begin reading the list of Kindergarten sight words found at our site as well. These words correspond to the sound of the week. By the end of October, kindergarteners should be able to read words through list "I". After that, they should be able to read a new list each week.

By now everyone should be bringing home lists of sight words. Please work with your child on these words until they can read them without sounding them out. Complete lists are found on our webpage and can be practiced often. First and second graders can also be reading books to take quizzes on in class. A list can be found under "SRI booklist" at our site. I will send home each student's lexile (reading) level so you can help them pick appropriate books to read. This is a great way to improve your child's reading comprehension! Also, a 100 book club data collection sheet can be printed. I will give each child a prize after they have read 100 books. Parents in kindergarten can also keep track of how many books they read to their child and it will still count for the club.

There are several activities going on this month. On October 15th, individual school pictures will be taken. These are typical school "head shots" like you might collect of your child each year. On October 16th, we will be taking a trip to St. Augustine. This is a great follow up to the Orange County History Center we took last month. Students will not be coming to school that day. Instead we will meet in St. Augustine. A complete itinerary will be available shortly. Finally, our Fall Festival will be on October 30th. Students will have the

Roxanne's Reflections (cont.)

invoices and payments received. We always include the previous month's history so you can see your payments received and how they were applied to invoices. Invoices with zero balance will drop off the next month. Invoices with unpaid balances will continue to show on the statement with any partial payments applied.

If you have any additional questions please see me or you can write Mr. Jeff an email or a note and drop it in the tuition box.

It takes a community effort to raise a confident and educated child and LFMA is a part of that community. But we cannot do it alone. We rely on parents to ensure your child has all the necessary tools each day to be successful. These tools include: A healthy breakfast and lunch. Fresh fruits, vegetables and proteins are a vital part of good nutritional meals. Balanced meals keep your child focused and ward off illness. That is important with flu season upon us.

All K-8 upper level students must bring a backpack each day to carry their homework. Provide quality time and a quiet environment for your child to do reading and homework each day. Remember, assignments and spelling words are posted on the web site.

Pre-primary through second graders need a change of clothes in their cubbies. Speaking of which, if your child borrowed clothing or underwear from LFMA please launder and return them. Often they will have LFMA written on them. Our drawers are empty of drawers because the items have not been returned.

Pre-primary students only need nap time bedding if they are not in the VPK class. Please put the items in a cloth bag or pillow case all of which you need to launder weekly. Using cloth bags reduces the accumulation of germs on grocery bags.

If you have any questions or problems, please come and talk with me, I will assist in any way possible.

Mrs. Price's Class News (cont.)

opportunity to play games, make crafts, and get their faces painted. If you would like to bring a snack to share, it must be in single serve, pre-packaged containers.

Thanks to everyone who attended our last field trip. The students had a great time and I think they learned a lot. Have a great October!

Pre-Primary Class News

◆ Wow! The month of September flew by and here we are in October. The children are very excited for the change of the season and have welcomed fall with open arms. The letters we will be working on this month are T, A, and C. Please practice these sounds, as well as the sounds we have already covered. We have also been working on sign language. We have already worked on action signs (run, jump, walk, play, etc.) and will continue into the signs for colors and people. The children are very pleased with what they have learned, so encourage them to share with you.

We will be working on letters, numbers, and colors extensively this month. A great way to sneak these learning opportunities into everyday routine is to sing songs about numbers and letters in the car, while waiting in line at the grocery store, or during bath time. You can also ask your child to point out things that they see while riding in the car, such as a red sign or white cloud. Each exposure helps retain and reinforce these skills which will lead to a successful and self-sufficient student. If you have any questions about different ideas for reviewing, you can send an email or ask during parent conferences.

This month is full of events! Please make sure to check the door, foyer, and your family file for important information. October 15 will be individual school pictures. October 26 – 30 will be both Pre school level and VPK parent conferences. October 30 will be our annual Fall Festival.

Have a great October!

Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ In September the kids have finished two books. The book we just finished is *The Cricket in Times Square*. All of the kids enjoyed the book as well as myself. This month we will continue working on the different parts of speech in our Language Arts class. We will also be working again with sentence fragments and run-on sentences. In our math class we have been busy working with decimals and place value. We are starting October with Chapter 4 and I know the kids are ready to move on from column addition, subtraction, estimating. We will also be beginning some new literature. In Social Studies we are working on map skills. We will begin constructing our own maps and next week starting to make our own map. For this project we need children to bring in the tops of shoe boxes. Please start sending in your shoe box tops. We are going to do something a little different for test retakes in my class. I have had an excessive amount of retakes over the first few weeks of school. My goal is to see that change over the next month. I am hoping my new plan helps the retakes become less and less over time. If the children do poorly on a test, they have to take the retake either the next day during recess or the next school day during recess if the original test was on a Friday. I am hoping that this will help the students do really well the first time rather than giving countless retakes all the time.

Our field trip to the Orlando Regional History Center was fantastic. I learned so much and would love to go back again to have more time to explore. I hope everyone enjoyed it as much as I did. A quick note on field trips. If you are not planning on attending, please fill out the forms that are in your family file and check the box "no, my child is not attending". If your child does not attend it does count against their absences because they are missing a school day. Also, if you are taking your child on the field trip, please help us by taking other children with you in the car. This alleviates a lot of stress by having many cars to put children in with parents rather than a few cars and many children. Thank you for your help on this matter. I hope you guys have a fantastic October!

Mr. Price's Class News

◆ October is here and that means that we've been in school approximately six weeks. This is a very important part of the year because it is the time when students will "settle into" their academic habits for the year. Everyone knows what to expect and should be familiar with the days that certain assignments are given and due. At this point, I want each student to develop a system of study management. I want them to know which things to study each day. The more consistency they have in their study routines, the better they'll do and the more they'll retain.

The following is a "general" set of guidelines that will help parents and students better manage study sessions: Every evening, with the exception of Thursday, students will have literature excerpts they will need to read along with a brief summary of what they read. The daily summaries are extremely important as a study tool throughout the week. If they don't complete summaries, students may miss out on important information needed for the test. On five day school weeks, vocabulary packets are given on Monday. Students should complete those packets and have them turned in by Tuesday. Graded papers for vocabulary will be returned for corrections (if necessary) on Wednesday. Each vocabulary packet has a first page that can be detached from the packet and studied from daily. Spelling words are given on Monday and should be studied daily for the test on Thursday. For science and social studies, daily and weekly reviews are completed in class and should be studied in the evening. The day before a math test is given, each child receives a comprehensive review that is in the same format as the test. Each student is given the opportunity at that time to choose to take it as a test or a review. If they do well on the review, they don't have to take the test. Those that have to take the test the next day should use that review to "retry" the problems they missed or had difficulty with. It is critical that students fill out their weekly planner thoroughly.

This month students will select topics and prepare to do their science projects. I will send home questionnaires and discuss how to select possible topics and experiments. This is also the time of the year when we will begin looking at what we will be

PLEASE READ! - Field Trip Guidelines

Parents, we love attending field trips and being able to spend time out of the school building for learning experiences but we need you to help us out with a few things. First, please look in your family files frequently. When field trip forms are put in there, fill them out as soon as possible and return them to Mrs. Manley. This helps me greatly keep field trips organized and running smoothly. If you are not planning on attending, please fill out the forms that are in your family file and check the box "no, my child is not attending" and return it to Mrs. Manley. If your child does not attend it does count against their absences because they are missing a school day. If something happens and your plans change, you need to tell Mrs. Manley otherwise we wait for that person to show up. Unfortunately I cannot guarantee refunds for field trips because they require for me to pay them in advance, which is why it is also important for you to turn in the field trip money when it is due. Lastly, if you are taking your child on the field trip, please help us by taking other children with you in the car. This alleviates a lot of stress by having many cars to put children in with parents rather than a few cars and many children. Thank you for your help with this matter.



Great discoveries and improvements...involve the cooperation of many minds.

Alexander Graham Bell (1847-1922)

Mr. Price's Class News (cont.)

doing for our winter program. Information will be posted in the foyer.

Individual school pictures will be taken on October 15th. We will be meeting in St. Augustine for our field trip on October 16th. A complete itinerary will be available shortly. On October 30th we will have our Fall Festival. We will play field day games and activities. Your child may want to bring a change of clothes that they can get wet and dirty in. If you would like to bring a snack to share, it must be in single serve, pre-packaged containers.

Good Hygiene Practices

With football season upon us, many of us know defense is the best offense. That applies to hygiene practices as well. We are already seeing children becoming ill. LFMA has robust cleaning and disinfecting procedures in place to help keep the inevitable sickness season in check. It includes our after hours and weekend cleaning activities as well as daily hygiene practices enforced by the staff. Some web based resources you may find useful at home are below:

<http://www.germjuice.com/News.html>

<http://www.colgate.com/app/LatherUpForGoodHealth/US/EN/HomePage.cvsp#>

<http://www.hygiene-educ.com/en/learn/personal/guide/presentation1.htm>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- SCHOOL PICTURES
- THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH
- UPPER LEVEL FIELD TRIP – ST. AUGUSTINE
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH
- FALL FESTIVAL
- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30TH