



# The Lake Fern Montessorian

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## Roxanne's Reflections

### News for all LFMA families!

◆ Welcome back to school! The first week has been a busy one trying to get everyone going in the same direction. The students have been great! They are energized, excited to see their friends and very ready to get back to a regular routine. There are still a few things we need from our parents:

- 1) Each year we must update some forms to ensure we have the most accurate information in the student files. Most parents have returned them but there are a few that have not. Please make sure you turn in any outstanding forms as soon as possible.
- 2) Most families have conformed to the dress code. Remember, Monday through Thursday are uniform days and Friday is dress down day. On Friday your child may wear any color or pattern. Characters are never allowed. Refer to the August newsletter for details. We still have a full inventory of LFMA logo shirts available, order forms are in the foyer. Plain tee's or polo's are fine, remember the intent is to remove the distraction of character clothing in the school environment.
- 3) As many of you are aware, the State of Florida has determined child care centers and schools as potentially hazardous food service operations (See the "Food Fight" article in this newsletter). Therefore we can

*continued on back*

## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ Welcome back to school! Our first week is over and we are already getting into the swing of things. Please refer to our website [www.LakeFernMontessori.com](http://www.LakeFernMontessori.com) for information regarding homework, spelling, and vocabulary words. I sent home a parent orientation handout on the first day of school as well. This will give you valuable information also.

This semester we will be studying plants, the rainforest, the human body and North America. If students have items related to these areas of study, they can send them for share time on Fridays.

Our field trip this month will be to the Orange County Regional History Center. The price is \$6.00 per student and \$4.00 per adult. We have never been here on a field trip, so I am looking forward to it.

Kindergarteners who participated in VPK last year (even if it was at another school) will be taking a short 3-5 minute test on letters, sounds, and phonemic awareness on Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Someone from the Brevard County Schools will be coming to administer this short test. This is one of the requirements for students attending VPK last year. Please make sure students are on time because I do not think the test can be made up. Thanks!

no longer provide snacks to reduce the risk to the public well being. We are asking that parents pack extra snacks in your child's lunchbox to eat throughout the day. Please make sure you provide a balanced diet of fruits, vegetables, healthy proteins and snacks each day. Parents need to be sure children do not forget their lunch and that they have plenty of food. The government has deemed it unacceptably hazardous for LFMA to give a child a peanut butter sandwich or a carrot stick. If your child's lunch is deficient, we must call you to remedy the situation.

- 4) Sign in and out everyday! There are two clipboards in the foyer, one for VPK and one for all other students. Please note VPK students must be signed in and out on both forms. Staff are available in the foyer to assist and verify, but we ask parents to ensure the foyer forms are properly filled out. This is our first line of student accountability with the second being role taking in the individual classrooms.
- 5) Check your family files in the foyer each day. This is our way of staying in touch with our families. The files are organized by last names in alphabetical order.

As always, please let us know your thoughts, questions or comments. We welcome your feedback on our educational programs. I know it is very early in the year but we have a diverse group of students looking to put their all into their education. Please support them by making sure they are prepared for the day. Help them remember lunchboxes, backpacks and assignments. It is well proven that children that have a solid support system at home are the students that perform well, are motivated to take on new challenges and feel secure in life.

Thanks You for your continued support!

## Pre-Primary Class News

### Miss Jessica and Miss Jennifer

◆ Welcome back to another great year at LFMA! We were so excited to jump back in and see what our students have learned and retained over the summer and we were pleasantly surprised! The children seem eager to fall back into their routine and our new students are quickly learning their way around the classroom. In science, we will be studying the solar system. In geography, we will be studying South America. We will be studying both of these themes through December. We will also have a letter of the week. This is where we focus on a particular letter and incorporate art projects and activities with that sound. Our letter for the weeks of August 24 through September 11 will be "B". Our letter for the weeks of September 14 through September 25 will be "M". Our letter for the week of September 28 through October 2 will be "T". Each Friday your child may bring an item to share that goes with our theme or the letter for that week. A big Thank You goes to those parents that have been supplying their child with extra snacks in their lunchboxes (See the "Food Fight" article in this newsletter). If you haven't done so already, please pack in your child's lunch box a snack (preferably a fruit or vegetable) for morning and afternoon snack time. Please remember that Scholastic is due September 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you would like to purchase from Scholastic, please fill out your book order form and return to school or order online by September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Books make great gifts and every order helps us earn free books and supplies! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email either Ms. Jennifer or Ms. Jessica. We look forward to a very exciting year!

## Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ Hello to all of my students and parents and congratulations on making it through the first week of school! It has been a busy start to an awesome school year. All of my students have had a successful start to the new grade they have just entered. Everyone, including myself, are now officially on track and are ready for how fast the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade day goes. This week we began reading *The Magic Finger* and will be finished with this book within the next few school days. We have enjoyed reading about the girl who, when she gets angry, uses her magic finger to solve all of her problems. Wouldn't it be nice to have a magic finger! We ended this very busy week with Fun Friday outdoor games and a really creative craft created by Mrs. Procaccini. All of the children made placemats with delicious breakfast recipes and a "To Do" list to remind them on how to have a successful start in the mornings. We had a lot of fun and the kids did a wonderful job. One last reminder, parents please take note that field trip money for the Orlando Regional History Center was due last Friday, August 28, 2009. If you haven't already turned in your money and field trip form please do so. We look forward to a wonderful school year and I look forward to being your child's teacher for the 09'-10' school year. Have a super-fantastic September!

## Mr. Price's Class News

◆ And so we're off! I'm very excited about beginning a new year. We have both returning students as well as several new faces. It is my hope that each and every child flourish, learning both academic and social excellence.

Science Projects: Soon it will be time to begin thinking about science projects. The earlier we begin the process, the more time they'll have to do it. I will soon be sending home material that will help students explore possible subjects and begin the process of "narrowing down" what they'll do.

AR reading: During these first couple of weeks of school, each student will complete an assessment that will determine their Lexile level. After they have a Lexile level, they need to find books on their reading level and start reading. Each child will need to read 25 points worth of books per semester. It is important that they start early. It is difficult play "catch up" when you need to read several books.

In science, we are continuing are study of nature's biomes. In history we will begin studying the World War II era. For literature, we are reading, *The Tiger Rising* by Kate DeCamillo.

Until next month, be blessed. As always, if there is anything you need, please feel free to contact me.

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.*

*That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.*

*That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it...*

(from the Declaration of Independence)



***Miss, is that watermelon legal?***

## The LFMA Food Fight (a.k.a “We’re from the government, here to help)

Most, if not all of you saw the letter we distributed at the orientation meeting detailing the issue we have been engaged in with Brevard County Environmental Health over food service licensing. For those who may have missed it, please see the Food Fight link on the home page of the web site for that and email communications we have had since then with EHS. To make a long story short, the State and EHS have decided that we do not have to have a food service license to open your three year old child’s thermos. But that is the only latitude that has been given. It is incredibly frustrating that EHS will not prepare any technical assistance papers like the Department of Education does with their mandates so a school has a chance of compliance. Instead, EHS speaks in generalities, “I think so” and says their inspectors are engaged with providers to help with compliance when in fact they are just writing violations and telling us to call the office, where you cannot get any specifics and what they do tell you is scattered around several State codes so you are left at your own peril. The EHS director will not engage and our local Commissioner had told one parent it’s a State issue, not my problem (yes it is sir, EHS is the local implementing agency).

That being said, let’s examine what we believe the State is mandating and the implementation position EHS is taking.

A child care center cannot do food preparation without a license. That makes sense, if a center is operating a kitchen facility preparing meals including cooking, hot storage, portioning, serving, and so forth. But let’s examine a center that does not do that but just wishes to provide some healthy snacks for the children, a small operation with a residential or smaller size kitchen, no stove and snacks limited to fresh veggies and fruit, bulk crackers and pretzels. This operation is treated as if it was a full service commercial kitchen with thousands of dollars of sinks and/or commercial dishwashing equipment required. The center is also prohibited from ordering in pizza or other foods from a licensed restaurant without more expensive equipment and onerous recordkeeping requirements even when serving upon receipt. The center cannot hold a family attended celebration picnic where families bring in food to share without it being a catered event. Florida Administrative Code essentially says these are potentially hazardous operations with a risk to public safety.

Yet, it is OK if a family puts an apple (was it washed?) or other fruits or vegetable in the lunchbox for a child to eat as long as it was done at home (where there are no different sanitation facilities than we have at LFMA, and was there a cold pack in the lunchbox and how long did it stay cold?). Apparently it’s also OK for the parent to stop in at 11:00 with a Big Mac and fries for a kids lunch bought at 10:30, sitting in the car since then and which will be consumed at 11:30. But we cannot order pizza delivered in hot packs at 11:15 and immediately distributed for chow time because that’s an unacceptable risk (the Big Mac thing happens more than you might think). And remember, the next time you have a picnic with your extended family or neighbors in your back yard, the State has determined you are much safer than if you were in the LFMA playground.

As described in other sections of this newsletter, we will no longer prepare snacks, order pizza or participate in picnics on school grounds. But we are taxpayers, we do have a voice and we do vote. We object to these regulations with clearly dubious benefits but with an assured loss of freedoms.



**Hazardous  
Activities!**

