



The Lake Fern Montessorian

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Roxanne's Reflections

News for all LFMA families!

◆ Welcome Back! This school year marks our 30th year of providing quality educational programs for the families of North Brevard County. Our official opening was September 7th 1981. We began with only 7 students and this year we have about 100 children enrolled. We do not have a fully accurate count, but our records reflect that in these 30 years we have touched the lives of about 1500 families, and they have touched ours as well. Through the years there have not been many changes. We still have our basic mission statement that forms the backbone of our existence. A copy is in the parent handbook and on the LFMA web site. If you have not read it lately or are new to our community, please take the time to review it. It is an agreement between the LFMA staff and the families for the benefit of the children.

We have been able to keep our tuition rates stable for the last three years in spite of our increasing costs. We understand the state of the economy and that many families are struggling. We strive to keep our programs affordable and available to as many as possible. You can help us in this endeavor by volunteering some time this year. We also realize that time is limited, but if every parent can commit to volunteering 10-15 hours during the course of the year, that will help us keep our costs down, and your costs down. That is less than 2 hours per month. We have many opportunities available from preparatory work in each classroom to outside work in the playground.

continued on back

Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ The summer is winding down and a brand new school year is beginning. New friends are joining our family and old ones are coming back after what I hope was a restful summer vacation. The new school year excitement is starting to rise and I think both the students and the teachers are ready to get started on what I hope will be an amazing year.

During the first few weeks of school, we will be evaluating each student to identify areas of strengths and needs so that I can best tailor each individual student's curriculum. Kindergarteners will be spending a great deal of time on letters and sounds so that we can begin reading as soon as possible. First and second graders will benefit from practicing sight words and spelling words which are listed at our website.

In science, we will begin studying the Earth and Space. In Social Studies we will start with the United States of America. Students may bring in share items related to these thematic units on Fridays for share time.

Students will be bringing home take home folders each day with completed class work, any homework assignments, notes, and behavior records. Please be sure to check this folder each day and send it back to school. I am sure we will have a wonderful year and can't wait to get started!

As always, if you have any questions, feel free to speak with me or email at lfmaTyka@cfl.rr.com.

Roxanne's Reflections (cont.)

We have tried to get a project going in the past to build some playground equipment, but have failed due to lack of participation and a couple of folks to work with Mr. Jeff to lead the effort. This will be our year long project and we will set up a kick-off meeting in September. If you are interested in participating, please let me know. That includes helping plan as well as helping build. If anyone has any good ideas, we would like to hear them! Each teacher has projects that need assistance for those of you that wish to volunteer in the classroom, so please speak with a staff member if that is your preference. There is always someone here on the weekends as well, for those that might prefer that, we can make arrangements.

Last year we had a few problems with students being out of compliance with our uniform policy. It is the parents responsibility to enforce it at home. Monday through Thursday your child must wear proper colors and styles. Friday is dress down day. On that day your child may wear other colors and prints. Remember that if your child comes to school inappropriately dressed, you will be called to bring something acceptable to wear. Details of the dress code are available in your orientation packages and in the Parent Handbook, or you may consult any staff member.

We look forward to getting started on another super charged school year!

Mr. Price's Class News

◆ Here we go again! Another school year is upon us! Though many things stay the same in terms of academics, there some new exciting wrinkles I'm adding this year. For the last couple of years I've wanted to implement a system that encourages students to engage in independent study and gain experiential experiences. I've developed an achievement badge system that will allow students to choose from a vast subject area and gain meaningful learning in that area. There will be subjects ranging from the Arts to Robotics. I hope that each student will complete many of these achievement badges which will be presented during our awards ceremony. For this year, we are also expanding our science equipment. We have purchased a microscope that interfaces with the computer as well as a weather station that will allow us to observe and record many aspects of our local weather. For my class only, I'm moving to a four grading period, two semester school year. This is in accordance to how other schools pattern their year. I want there to be a relative degree of cohesion between us and the schools that students may be coming from or going to. Please read the orientation handout thoroughly as there have been some changes and amendments to existing policies. As always, if you have any questions, feel free to speak with me or email at lfmaGreg@cfl.rr.com.

Check out the painting of George Washington crossing the Delaware in Mr. Greg's classroom. It is an original signed print by the artist Steve Penley. Awesome!

Scholastic News

In September all families will receive a Scholastic books order form. If we get \$200.00 in orders we can earn extra points to help us buy books for all our classrooms. There are also coupons available for purchase that can be used at anytime during the school year. These books are great because they are very affordable and good quality. They make great gifts for birthdays, holidays or as a special reward for your child. Please help us earn extra points in September!

I cannot live without books – Thomas Jefferson



Mrs. Manley's Class News

♦ Welcome back to those who have returned and welcome to my new students! I am so excited to meet you for the first time and ready to have my previous kiddo's return to me. I hope everyone had a super summer and had some well deserved rest. I hope everyone is ready for a fantastic school year.

In my third through fifth grade class we are implementing a lot of fun and exciting new things to our curriculum. One of the items we received this year that I can't wait to dive into with the kids is our new math books. We are now working from the Saxon Math curriculum. If you haven't had the opportunity yet to look at the Saxon math curriculum, it is fantastic. Throughout each chapter, each section, and until we reach the end of the text it is consistent and constant repetition of the previous skills the students have learned. This puts an end to the idea that we learn something for a test and then never use it again until a few chapters later or in some cases until the following year. One of the other great things items I have added to our curriculum is sign language. I fell in love with a TV show called "Signing Time" when we were working very hard on trying to get my son to communicate. This TV show has now come up with an educational version of the show that is to be utilized in the classroom and not only will it just be used as part of a special but we will be utilizing the things we learn into our classroom. These are just a few of the new things I have planned to add into our daily classroom schedule.

This year we will be taking three field trips. The first field trip will be to the Orlando Science Center it will be in the October time frame. In February we will be going to the King Center to see the Peking Acrobats. In May we will be enjoying a day at Disney's Animal Kingdom. We will also be doing a few in-house field trips as well. We will notify you as the time gets closer for those.

Please remember to have your child dressed in uniform Monday thru Thursday. Fridays are dress down days. Children can wear any pattern or

Mrs. Manley's Class News (cont.)

design, but it cannot have characters on them. Some examples of these include Hannah Montana, Hulk Hogan, and Winnie-the-Pooh. Please also make sure that your child does not come to school with any bracelets (this includes silly bands), necklaces, or dangling long earrings. In regards to lunch, please be sure to have a protein and a fruit or vegetable in your child's lunch box. Soda, candy, and fruit snacks are not permitted.

Please do not hesitate to call if you have any questions or need help with anything. If email is a preferred way of contact for you my email address is lfmatavin@cfl.rr.com. I look forward to another fantastic year at Lake Fern with you and your child. See you August 23!

Pre-Primary Class News

Ms. Jenn and Ms. Jessica

♦ Welcome back to another year at LFMA! Over the summer we have worked hard preparing new materials and exciting projects. This year we will be taking a look at the human body; the organs, muscles and the skeleton. Our continent for the first half of the year will be Africa. We are looking forward to discussing the different animals, countries and cultures throughout. At orientation you will be given a new Circle Schedule for the year, this will enable you to know which letter we are covering for that week and for share time. We are looking forward to a fantastic new year!

If you have any questions or concerns, please email us at lfmaJessica@cfl.rr.com or lfmaJennifer@cfl.rr.com.

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. 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)

What I Did On My Summer Vacation

By Mr. Jeff

Well, right now it feels like what didn't I do! At least my body is telling me that! We did a lot of outside work on the campus this year. First, we rebuilt the ramps on Mrs. Price's building and the main building. Then we applied about 20 gallons of wood sealer to all the ramps to protect them. After that, we replaced the Hardipanel skirt around the main building and painted it. We also did some repairs to the picnic tables, applied sealer and put up some new shade sails in the playground so there is plenty of shade at lunchtime. Then, we excavated and poured 20 yards of concrete around the parking lot to protect the edges from damage being caused by the garbage truck and cars driving off the edge of the lot in various places. After that, we spent a couple weekends applying 315 gallons of driveway sealer to the entire parking lot. That was a lot of work, and it was expensive, but as I told Roxanne, it's cheaper than repaving the lot! Next up, I will have the stripes repainted. Some of the kids have noticed the stripes were covered and asked how people will know where to park! Inside, we had the carpets cleaned and did some floor tile repairs. Before the beginning of the regular school year we will bring in about 15 yards of fresh mulch for the playground. Some of you may have noticed the mulch got finer at the end of last year (because more was coming home stuck to clothes). I'm happy that our supplier has gone back to the larger chip setting on their machine so that problem should fade away. Finally, we did some tree trimming and vegetation cleanup.

Big helpers and highly recommended businesses that assisted are Southern Rentals on SR 520 (Ms. Jenn's dad) and Mow Muscle in Titusville. Consider using these folks if you need to rent tool or small construction equipment or need expert tree trimming.

I hope everyone has a great new school year! I am taking a weekend off!

Do your kids eat breakfast? By many reports, 40% of kids don't. But everyone knows that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, right?

Here is some proof:

The State of Minnesota Breakfast Study showed that 'students who ate breakfast before starting school had a general increase in math grades and reading scores, increased student attention, reduced nurse visits, and improved student behavior.

Children who eat a healthy breakfast 'meet their daily nutritional needs, keep their weight under control, have lower blood cholesterol levels, attend school more frequently, and make fewer trips to the school nurses office complaining of tummy aches.

Kids 'who eat breakfast are more likely than children who skip breakfast to consume foods with adequate levels of minerals, such as calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, and vitamins, such as riboflavin, vitamins A, C, and B12, and folate.

Kids 'who skip breakfast do not make up for the missed calories at other meals

So why aren't your kids eating breakfast each day? Most likely it is because your family is already rushed in the morning and you don't feel like you have time to provide a nutritious breakfast. But remember that breakfast doesn't have to mean home-made waffles or french toast every day. There are many quick and easy breakfasts that you can give your kids that are also nutritious.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL

- MONDAY, AUGUST 23RD

- LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

- MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

He that lives upon hope will die fasting.

Benjamin Franklin