



Celebrating 30 years!

# The Lake Fern Montessorian

Volume 30 Issue 2

February 2011

## Roxanne's Reflections

### **News for all LFMA families!**

◆ Oh my, do you realize we are down to the last four months of the 2010-11 school year? I have been so busy watching our students grow with leaps and bounds I lost track of time! I hope you have had a chance to spend some time with your child listening to him read, learn critical thinking skills and become an outstanding student. I am extremely proud of our children! They never cease to amaze me! I thank you as parents for letting LFMA be part of raising and educating your child. As you know, I help teach in the pre-primary level. Since we returned from the holidays I have seen our little guys master so many skills. They are truly amazing! I know the other teachers are seeing the same progression in their classrooms. I hope you are as proud of them as I am!

Last month we were able to get started on the playground renovation. During the first work day we moved the small swing set and erected the frame for the climbing ropes. We installed some raised bed planters for veggies and flowers and also spread lots of mulch. I want to thank the team of parents and kids who helped accomplish these things, they are Dawn, Jake & Soliel Johns, Art Edwards, Quincy and Jason West along with family friend Don (one hard working fellow!) Mr. Hammer, Raj and Maya Kharbanda and the Bollinger family.

We made a lot of progress, and we will

*continued on back*

## Mrs. Price's Class News

◆ February, although a short month, will be quite a busy one

On Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> we will be going to the King Center in Melbourne to see the Peking Acrobats. A driver's sign-up sheet will be in the foyer and additional information will be posted soon as well. It's been a few years since our class has seen a show like this, but everyone loved it the last time we went, so I am really looking forward to it.

Our class recently celebrated the hundredth day of school and we had a great time! The students made marshmallow structures, Lego designs, and a couple of different collages. They played relay games, did 100 exercises, and sat still and silent for a blessed 100 seconds. (This is more difficult for them than one would think!) They also learned to count to 10 in several different languages including Swahili, Mandarin, Greek, and Hindi to name a few. All in all it was a fun and exhausting 100<sup>th</sup> day of school. Thanks for helping the students complete their hundredth day projects and for bringing in the hundredth day gifts.

*Iron rusts from disuse; stagnant water loses its purity and in cold weather becomes frozen; even so does inaction sap the vigour of the mind.*

Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

## Roxanne's Reflections (cont.)

schedule another work day in the near future. If you would like to be part of our team please sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Remember, many hands make light work! We have some work to do before tackling our major objective, pouring concrete for the ball court. These projects benefit all of our students, so come out and be part of the team!

We still have cookie dough, pumpkin rolls and pizza dough left from the fund raiser. If you have used up your supplies, please come and see me! We had to buy items by the case, and we have reduced pricing on the items we have left. Please see me to restock!

Thursday, February 24<sup>th</sup> we will have the Ident-A-Kid program at school. This company provides an ID for your child including photo and fingerprint similar to a driver license. More info will be available closer to that time

See [www.ident-a-kid.com](http://www.ident-a-kid.com).

## Pre-Primary Class News

### Ms. Jessica and Ms. Jennifer

◆ We cannot believe it is February already! We have a lot going on this month so please keep an eye out for announcements. This month we will continue studying insects and Africa. The week of the 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> we will focus on the letter "l". The week of the 21<sup>st</sup> - 25<sup>th</sup> we will focus on the letter "u". The week of February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 4<sup>th</sup> we will focus on the letter "n".

Please continue reviewing the alphabet and numbers 1-10. The children have been working very hard on these concepts throughout the year and would love to show their parents what they have learned!

On March 1<sup>st</sup> VPK report cards will be placed in your child's file folder. Conferences will not be mandatory at this time, but if you would like one, please speak to Ms. Jessica.

On February 21<sup>st</sup> LFMA will be closed for President's Day. Have a Wonderful February!

## Hundredth Day of School Photos!



## Mrs. Manley's Class News

◆ February will be yet another busy but fun month at Lake Fern. My class has done very well coming back from our winter break which we all know is sometimes very difficult to do. This past month we have been learning about plants and their parts and forces in Science. The kids found forces very interesting and some of them couldn't help but quote lines from some of their favorite movies during our lessons. In math, the third graders have been working really hard on their multiplication tables and I am quite happy with their progress overall. Please be sure that if your child does not have those multiplication tables memorized and cannot say them immediately back to you, they have work to do. I expect that when they are official 4<sup>th</sup> graders that they will have them memorized. It will make the transition into 4<sup>th</sup> grade math much easier. If you have a 4<sup>th</sup> grader that is having difficulty with them, it is imperative that you work with them as much as you can. Make a game out of memorizing them, or start a reward chart so they can work for something for getting them memorized. Time is of the essence!

Our class just finished the book Flying Solo and has now started another literature book, Sarah, Plain and Tall. This book is one of my favorite pieces of literature, not only because of the story but it has so many elements of great writing in it.

Please don't forget about the field trip in February. It is Tuesday, February 15, 2011. We are going to see Peking Acrobats at the King Center in Melbourne. The itinerary and directions will be out very soon. There will be no school Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup> for President's Day.

I hope that everyone has a safe and happy February.

*If A is a success in life, then A equals x plus y plus z.  
Work is x, y is play and z is keeping your mouth shut.*

Albert Einstein (1879 – 1953)

## Mr. Price's Class News

◆ Last month, I implemented a new weekly assignment sheet. I found it necessary to make modifications in order to make them easier to use. The weekly assignment sheet will now consist of "check boxes" that will indicate if an assignment is completed or not. On Fridays, a strip of paper will be stapled lengthwise along the side of the assignment sheet. This strip of paper (the weekly grade report) will have the week's test scores. They will be highlighted based on the grade. Green indicates 80% or higher, yellow indicates a grade 70% to 79%, and red or pink indicates 69% and below. Incompletes (I) and Absences (A) will also be highlighted in red or pink. Many of the day-to-day assignments such as math will NOT be indicated by the assignment sheet or weekly grade report. It is just too difficult to track on a daily sheet. If you desire to know the individual, non-test grades for your child, please feel free to ask.

In an attempt to increase motivation and productivity, I have implemented a weekly incentive. On Fridays, I will allow students to bring in items to share with the class or use individually. These items CAN include electronics such as laptops, videos games, MP3 players, etc., BUT may ONLY be used during a designated hour on Friday (generally the last hour of the day). Neither I nor the school are responsible for the items brought. Any media such as music, videos, video games, etc. MUST be approved by me. Any violations may result in the student losing his or her privilege to participate or bring items. Students will be eligible to participate in this hour if ALL of their test scores are 70% or higher. Anyone with scores 69% or lower must use this time to study and prepare for a retake the following week.

There is a field trip this month to see the Peking Acrobats on Tuesday, February 15<sup>TH</sup>. Look for more information in the foyer. Also, the school will be closed Monday, February 21 in observance of President's Day.

## Playground Construction

By: Maya

Did the playground construction turn out well? All of the people I talked to said it did. I took a survey on January 25th at 8:10 am (one week following the construction) that consisted of some of Mrs. Price's students. Out of the seven students I talked to, all of them said that they liked what had been done to the playground (see Box A below). Students are anxiously waiting to see the finished climbing ropes.

A BIG THANK YOU to all the parent's that came to help!

Bad	Good
<b>Total</b>	
Bad	Good
0	7



*Our playground workday reporting and photography team, Maya and Soleil!*



### **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

#### **- PEKING ACROBATS FIELD TRIP**

- 15 FEBRUARY

#### **- PRESIDENTS DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED**

- 21 FEBRUARY

#### **- IDENT –A - KID**

- 24 FEBRUARY