



Lexington Middle School

Week of March 23, 2009

From the Assistant Principal

Greetings:

We are nearing the end of the third nine weeks. We have completed PASS testing for the writing portion and are preparing for nine weeks tests. Please mark your calendar for March 24 - 26. I encourage you to ask your child about the schedule of testing, content to be reviewed and to see that he/she has a good night's rest and is prepared for the testing.

Lexington Middle School is excited to welcome the French exchange students. Thirty students and 3 teachers are coming from France on March 20th and will be here until March 31st. This exchange program between their school, Blaise Pascal (<http://www.clg-blaise-pascal-clermont.ac-clermont.fr/index.html>) and ours was started 9 years ago by Mrs. Carole Fuziol, French Teacher at LMS. The students, along with their families, love the opportunity to serve as a host for 10 days as the French students learn about our southern culture. Some sites they will visit while they are in South Carolina are the State Museum, Congaree Swamp, Charleston and the Riverbanks Zoo. This is an exciting time for all who are involved and creates life-long friendships. Many of our students will go to France in the summer of 2010 as part of this exchange.

We are proud to announce that the Actors' Theatre of LMS will be presenting "A Midsummer Night's Midterm" based on William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. The play will be presented Friday, March 27th at 7 p.m. in the Lexington Middle School Theatre. The drama classes are under the direction of drama teacher, Victor Jepson. Please come and join us for this production in our new theater.

A talent show featuring our students will be held on April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the theater. Students auditioned for this evening which will feature a variety of acts. This is our first talent show and we are every impressed with the entries. We believe you will be equally pleased. Two of our teachers, Mrs. Jamie Powell and Mr. Andrew McMillan will be the emcees for the show.

This year's Relay for Life is scheduled for May 15th -16th at the old Wildcat Stadium on Ball Park Road. Lexington Middle School has formed a team of teachers, administrators and students. We have held raffles, dress down days, coin drives, and hosted concession stands at events to help raise money for the fight against cancer. The school's relay team will have a tent that weekend with food and games. If you would like to join our team and walk the track with us, please contact Sara Hanle, shanle@Lexington1.net, for more details.

The yearbook is still available for this year. The 2008-2009 *Cat Tracks* is an all color book with 140 pages. The book will serve as a record for the school year and the cost is \$60. Payments are being taken in the office.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact us if you have a question or a concern.

Sincerely,
Mike Sheley
Assistant Principal

The Guidance Department is planning our 7th and 8th grade Career Day. We are looking for volunteers to share information about their professions. We would like our students to learn about a variety of careers and would appreciate anyone who participates in our Career Day. Volunteers will set up their displays at 8:00am on Friday, April 24, 2009: and students will come through in groups to ask questions about your professions. Please call the guidance office at 821-3734 if you are willing to participate in our Career Day. This would be a great way to be a part of your child's school day. Thank you for your support of this learning experience for our students.

LMS Career Day 2008-2009

Date: Friday, April 24th

Time: 8:00 - 11:00

Location: LMS

Happening This Week

Monday

Tuesday

- 3rd 9 Weeks Testing
- Firehouse Sub Night 5:00 - 8:00

Wednesday

- 3rd 9 Weeks Testing

Thursday

- 3rd 9 Weeks Testing
- Last day of 3rd 9 Weeks

Friday

- *A Midsummer Night's Midterm*, Drama Play 7:00 p.m.

Saturday

Coming Events:

*Student Talent
Show
April 2,
7:00 p.m.*

*The Snow
Make-up Day
May 25*

Important Information

Firehouse Sub night is Tuesday, March 24th 5:00 - 8:00 10% of sale comes back to LMS Eat out and Support LMS! Class with the most participation receives a Cookie tray

A Midsummer Night's Midterm Drama Play 7:00 p.m.

Snow Make-Up Day: Monday, May 25

Letter from Cindy Hallen, parent of former LMS student:

When Paige Hallen and her sister, Caroline, were French students at Lexington Middle School, they were given an opportunity that changed their lives and eventually the lives of their parents. They were able to host a student from Clermont-Ferrand, France. Then, the following year, they were able to go stay with those students at their homes in Clermont-Ferrand. It was a wonderful opportunity to bring the world closer together. After the exchanges, the Hallens remained friends with one of the families in Clermont-Ferrand, exchanging Christmas cards and emails over the years.

When Paige and Caroline had graduated from Lexington High, Paige went off to Wofford College and Caroline became a nursing student at Clemson. But the experience with French friends through LMS had been a positive one, and when the Hallens moved to Atlanta in 2007, Cindy Hallen needed to get a job. She realized there were probably many international young people in Atlanta. On a whim, she sat down and googled the only thing she knew about international students, the word "au pair". "Au Pair in America" popped up. Hallen was intrigued and visited the company's web site. She liked what she read about the company and clicked to see if there were any job openings. There were seven positions available around the country, and Hallen was surprised and excited to see one of the jobs was for a local coordinator in the Dunwoody area. At that moment, Hallen said she knew she was meant to have that job.

"This is my dream job," said Hallen. "Where else can you meet a need for others while making friends in your community, across the United States, and around the world?"

Today, Hallen works with 31 host families and au pairs. Her au pairs come from countries around the world, including Germany, South Africa, Brazil and Thailand. The young women travel to the United States on student visas, allowing them to stay for two years and attend college when not providing childcare to their host families.

Hallen said working with the au pairs and local family hosts has been a "great experience" in learning about and sharing in different world cultures. Most importantly, Hallen said her job allows her to fill an important role for the au pairs who are separated by thousands of miles from their own families.

It all started with Mrs. Fuziol and LMS. "This is my opportunity to return the kindness shown to my two daughters when they were did exchange programs abroad," said Hallen. "I enjoy being there for someone else's daughter while she is living in America."

Food for Fines

Does your child owe library fines or have library fines building up on books that need to be returned to the Lexington Middle School Library? From now until April 1, students can reduce their overdue fines and help their community.

Until April 1, students may pay library fines with non-perishable food items. Students may bring a non-perishable food item to the media center and have their fines removed. Please note that this does not include lost book fees.

The food will be donated to LIC- Lexington Interfaith Community Services. Additional food donations are also welcome.

If you have any questions or would like to check if your child has a fine or an overdue book, please call the media center at 821-3714.

Lexington, SC May 5th,

2009: JTL or Junior Tennis League is celebrating their 35th year fostering and supporting a very specific instructional and team tennis league for youth in the Midlands, Camden and Newberry! Registration will begin March 15th. Registration forms will be available at local parks, tennis clubs and on line at www.juniortennisleague.org Application deadline is April 18th, 2009. Children must be 8 years old (by 5-1-2009 to participate). All skill levels of tennis are welcome (beginner, Intermediate and advanced). For more information contact: Kimberly Campbell, Executive Director
JTL Office
425 Oak Drive
Lexington, SC 29073
803-781-1888



Dear Parents and Community Members,

In December, Lexington Middle School opened a theater on campus. It has quickly become a center for teaching. The facility is a wonderful setting for the arts, as well as, for the academics. We are so excited to have been able to add this facility, which seats 420, to our campus and believe that it completes our mission to prepare our students for the future. I do firmly believe that all lessons are not taught within the covers of a textbook; much is to be learned from the arts and involvement in the performing arts. Not only will the theater be used by our school, but we have already hosted numerous community activities and have more posted for the future.

We are still in need of several items to complete our furnishings. I am asking for your support and assistance with this, because I know that the Lexington community has long been a supporter of the arts and understands the value of it in our day-to-day life. Many of you believe that the arts enhance life and the enjoyment of daily life. Because I trust that you understand my vision, I am appealing to you for assistance.

Let me be specific as to my goals for the theater. We have a full size stage with a floating floor which provides support for dancers as well as other entertainers. I would like to put a baby grand piano on this stage. I have priced pianos and looked at them for not only size but tone, touch, and cost. We are now working with Hannah Music Company of Columbia to purchase a Yamaha C3 for \$19,999 + tax. This is a used piano that comes with a 10 year warranty. I feel this is a good and sound investment for our school. I also need risers for our chorus students. The ones that we have are at least 25 years old and are very heavy, hard to move, and do not meet safety codes. For a chorus our size, the risers cost \$11,000. We have raised \$4,000 to date, so as you can see, I am still in need of additional funds.

We will post a keyboard showing the first 88 who have donated \$200.00 in the theater. At present we have 18 keys purchased. (All gifts have not been for \$200.00.) We have established the following categories:

Friend of the Arts - less than \$200

Keys to the Arts - \$200

Encore - \$210 - \$300

Concerto - \$301 - \$500

Symphony - \$500 and above

Please help us by supporting our performing arts programs as the legacy of excellence continues. I encourage you to call if you have questions, concerns, or would like a tour of our facility. Lexington Middle School is very proud of the addition and very grateful to our school district for its support which made this facility possible.

Contributions should be sent to:
Lexington Middle School Theater Fund
702 North Lake Drive
Lexington, South Carolina 29072

Again thank you for your support. Please share this information with anyone who is a supporter of the arts.

Sincerely,
Laura S. McMahan
Principal