

Parent Advisory
Council Rep:
Anne Thielen
(Oliver's Mom)

LHL Tribune

April 2015

Minneapolis Kids
Minneapolis Community Education

www.facebook.com/MplsKids



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Extra! Extra! Read All about Us!

Finally, some nice weather!!!! Children can find out what they need to wear with the always fashionable C-3PO and R2-D2 on the white board as you come in. They will be sporting all clothing items that need to be worn outside. May The Weather Be With You!



All kids have been trying to beat out the previous winner's record on our world record challenge. Some records to try to beat are:

- ◇ Longest hula hooping 1 hour 45 mins (Piper)
- ◇ Jump rope on one foot

- 4 mins 25 sec (Kailey)
- ◇ Longest airplane flight 51 feet (Theo)
- ◇ Largest group hula hooping at the same time (Amelia, Ada, Ali, Julia, Katherine)
- ◇ Statue Contest 30 min (Gus) Remember no moving
- ◇ Longest Finger Knitting 20 feet (Karenna)

Keep up the good work my world record holders!

A GIGANTIC thank you to all our Lake Harriet Families. We went from 35 late pick-ups since January to a handful in March.

Welcome/Goodbyes

We would like to say farewell to both Ben and Hannah.

Ben decided to take a job with Cargill and we couldn't be happier for him. He will be greatly missed, especially by our gym friends.

Hannah has taken a position with LHU as an Intervener in the Special Ed department. She hopes to still work at LHU on occasion and will be back for non-school days. We will see you soon Hannah.

Also, we would like to welcome Crystal to our team. While not with our little tikes she is dishing out hot meals to our friends over a Field School. Welcome!

Accreditation Corner

We decided as an organization to take a "pause" on Accreditation at this point and extend our final validator visit to the next school year instead of this spring.

We here at LHL do take this process very seriously and this was a very difficult decision to make...but the right one for our program in order

for a few things to be clarified.

We plan to work on all the areas we indicated that needed growth and will continue our efforts on always striving for better programing.

Spring Break Non School Days

Wed, Apr 1: Field Trip—Good Times Park

Grades 2+ 9:30—1:00 / Grades K-1 12:00—3:30

3265 Northwood Circle #100, Eagan 55121 651-454-5736

www.goodtimespark.com

****Bring tennis shoes.** Grades 2+ will eat lunch when they return to LHL. Grades K-1 will eat lunch at LHL before they leave.

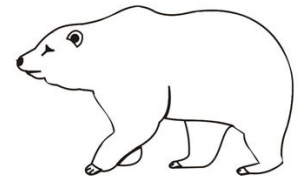
Thurs, Apr 2: On Site at LHL—Goin' On a Bear Hunt

We are going over, under, and around obstacles as we search for those elusive bears. Along the way, we'll have a few other indoor/outdoor adventures to delight all our friends.

Fri, Apr 3: Field Trip—Science Museum 10:15—3:45

120 Kellogg Blvd, W. St Paul 55102 (651)221-9444 smm.org

****Bring a bag lunch and drink.**



Kids Welcome:

Before School 6:30-9:40

After School 4:00-6:00



MINNEAPOLIS
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Staffing—It’s A Work in Progress

This year has not been our strongest for keeping staff on board. We want to give you a little insight on the everlasting staff turn over.

For many years with the kindergarten half-day component, staff worked 8 hours per day which included before or after school. With full day kindergarten now in place, all of our staff have been reduced to 6 hours or less per day. These hours are split so everyone works both before and after school, typically 7—10am and 3—6pm. Other jobs become more enticing with more hours over a shorter part of the day. Thus the Welcome/Goodbye headline that has stayed on our newsletter month after month.

Despite the turnover, we continue to get amazing qualified staff. We need to adjust to the reality that for many Mpls Kids may be a layover to a better opportunity.

Our talented staff continue to meet these requirements:

1. A minimum of 60 post-high school credits with most having a 4 year college degree
2. CPR & First Aid certified with defibrillator training
3. 24 hours of in-service training completed per year

We want to thank you for your patience and forever commitment with LHL Minneapolis Kids. We appreciate all of you!

The More Information We Have the Better!

Every child must be accounted for **EVERY AFTERNOON!** All 120 little darlings daily with a high day of 140. Most families typically have 2 or 3 kids, now tack on another 118 to care for and that’s a lot of kiddos!

When a child does not show up for Minneapolis Kids after school, we consider them “missing” and have a very short window of time to locate the child. There are several procedures we need to follow and here is a glimpse of what happens daily.

- ⇒ Check with the school secretary to see if they were missing from school.
- ⇒ Check with the school nurse to see if they were sent home sick.
- ⇒ Check email
- ⇒ Check with their teacher
- ⇒ Touch base with Paula the bus coordinator
- ⇒ Check to see if the child is in a community ed class.
- ⇒ Check to see if any other school activity is taking place.

⇒ Call the parent if all the above doesn’t work

⇒ If the child was placed on the bus by the teacher, we call LHL Mpls Kids to have them take the child off the bus. When it arrives at LHL, staff keep them until a parent picks up or we call the bus back to LHL to drop the child off with us at the end of their route. A big thank you to LHL for their continual support.

⇒ If we are unable to get them at LHL or the bus won’t return to LHL, staff go to your home. We cannot transport children in our own vehicles so we stay with the child until an adult arrives or walk them back to school.

Please continue to email both Jenn and Karen with all information, even if a change has been made with the main office or Paula (bus coordinator). We are proud that we have a great relationship with the school, but on occasion that information doesn’t get relayed to us. If you don’t hear back from us, take that as we never got the message. Thank you!

Code RED

We had our very first code red drill in the morning in March. It coincided with the school’s drill.

The drill needs to be as true to the real thing as possible to be effective. No one is allowed to enter or exit the building during a code red. We know it was frustrating for some parents because they were stuck outside during the drill. Thank you for understanding our need to practice to keep everyone safe in an emergency.

The drill consists of the following:

1. All doors are locked and curtains are closed.
2. There is a designated safe place in every room for all children, away from windows and doors.
3. Children must sit as still and quiet as possible until the principal announces the “code green”, meaning all clear.

While the “code red” is in place, a select team is checking the building to be sure all doors are locked.

We plan to do these drills quarterly along with fire and tornado drills.

Our Mission: To provide high quality school age child care for families. We offer a safe, nurturing, educational and recreational experience where children are encouraged to pursue interests and develop friendships, independence, and confidence.