

Lake Harriet Upper Campus

October 2015

An accredited program by the MN Afterschool Accreditation Project



Minneapolis Kids

Minneapolis Community Education

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Afternoon: Anita, Terry, Beau
Parent Advisory Council Rep: Rhonda Geere (Jonas' mom)

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Accreditation Update

The MN Afterschool Accreditation Program (MAAP) promotes program improvement and recognition of quality through focusing on 5 foundation areas—administration, wellness, activities, relationships, environment.

This is a state-wide voluntary program and we are proud to say that our site successfully completed the process in 2012. We submit a yearly report showing we continue to maintain the standards. Now we are in the midst of a formal review which is required every 3 years.

Last spring, we decided as an organization to take a “pause”

on the Accreditation process for a few things to be clarified. That has been done and we are now moving forward. We plan on a final validator visit sometime this winter.

Kids can make a change! Our Kid Survey showed that many were unhappy with the afternoon **snack menu**. We made a suggestion box for snack ideas and submitted the results to the Nutrition Center in May. We heard the **new items** added to this year’s menu were from our suggestions: goldfish crackers, cheddar cheese cubes, go-gurt, tortilla chips and salsa, popcorn. Yea!

Walk.Scooter.Bike Club

Kids (and parents) appreciate the opportunity to practice going to/from school on their own. About 10-12 kids participate daily and it varies day to day as to who participates. A signed permission form must be returned before participating in this program.

When your child is coming in on his/her own, **please call** our cell phone **612-919-2004** to let us know when to expect him/her.

We will act as your proxy for the day. We do NOT do “standing” arrival/departures to eliminate any possible confusion. If you do not call us to tell us otherwise, we have to assume you gave your child permission to be out on his/her own and as a result, s/he won’t be allowed in the building.

Forms are available on the Family Table in the cafeteria.

Lights On Afterschool

On **October 22**, Minneapolis Kids will host an Open House as part of Lights On Afterschool, a nationwide rally for afterschool programs that is expected to include some 7,500 events this year. In all, one million Americans are expected to join in events across the country to draw attention to the need for more afterschool programs.



Open House

We held an informal Open House during the school’s Curriculum Night on September 17. It was great to see so many people.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to talk with Anita or any staff person. We strive to do our best and encourage feedback. We especially want to hear what your kids are thinking and the brilliant ideas they share with you so we can incorporate those ideas into our program.

Kids Welcome:

Before School 6:30-9:30 am
After School 4:10-6:00 pm
Non-School Days at LHL
6:30 am-6:00 pm

Happy October Birthdays!

1—Cody K
5—Terry
22—Mateo O
30—Anna V

We are CLOSED:

Thurs & Fri, Nov 26 & 27
for Thanksgiving



Many thanks to Jonas' mom, Rhonda Geere, for being our site rep for the Mpls Kids Parent Advisory Council. Feel free to contact her if you have overall program improvement ideas, concerns, or anything else you wish to discuss regarding Minneapolis Kids.

Morning Families

Kid Leaders—Our thanks to Colin M! He suggested a floor hockey tourney to coincide with the MN Wild regular season opener this month and will help lead it. If your child has an idea of a project or game to do and/or lead, let us know and we will add it to the calendar!

Computer Lab—A highlight of many! Despite repeated requests to be there all morning, the lab is only open 7:45—8:25 am and there is a 20 minute limit per person. Games played must be “school appropriate”- no weapons, violence or other questionable content. Homework is always encouraged!

Art Table—We have many enthusiastic crafters this year. Hot glue appears to be a

key attraction and we are in the process of expanding our hot glue station areas. And now that we are all on the same page as to what “clean up” means and how to store and maintain our supplies, the space is enjoyable for all.

Gym—We play 3 organized games a morning and suggestions are written on the white board. Voting happens before each game. To be fair to all, those in the gym during voting time are obligated to play the game chosen. The favorite games continue to be football, soccer, and basketball. To stretch our gym rats game range, we limit each game played to 3 times per week. It has been successful so far. Tennis shoes must be worn in the gym.

Afternoon Families

If your child will **NOT be attending** after school as scheduled, please give us a call at **612-919-2004** or **send an email to Anita by 3pm**. The school does NOT let us know if your child is absent during the school day. We must find every child who does not show up as scheduled after school and it will save us a phone call to you. Thanks!

Closing Time—Thank you for honoring our 6pm closing time. We really appreciate it!

Community Ed After School Classes—We have a unique partnership with the Afterschool Class program and it has

been a win-win for both of us. For those scheduled with us the afternoon of a class, we pay for the class. Kids check in with us and then head to the class. They return to us after the class, typically 5:10pm. Registration closed Sept 28 and those classes with not enough registered participants will be cancelled. Classes are open to the whole school so hopefully most will be in session.

Sports Games—Kids are able to watch the home volleyball games (and soon basketball games) in the gym. We stress good sportsmanship and the teams like having people other than parents cheering for them. Go Dragons!

Non-School Day Families

We will be at **LOWER Campus for ALL** non-school days due to staffing constraints. Please use Door #3 on Drew Avenue.

Send a **lunch + drink every day**. Refrigeration is not available. Use an icepack if needed. Send weather-appropriate outdoor gear too. We go outside every day.

On **field trip days**, please be at **LHL** at least **30 minutes prior** to departure to allow us time to take a final attendance, get kids into groups and review expectations.

Send a bag lunch to give your child the freedom to enjoy the rest of the trip without having to remember where his/her lunchbox was last seen.

Our **calendar of activities** is posted on our website. Ask us for a hard copy. It is a handy reference to post inside your cupboard or on your refrigerator.

Registration for January—April non-school days will open soon. Watch for a notice from the Main Office.

Wednesday, Oct 14

At LHL—I Spy with My Little Eye

Thursday, Oct 15

FT—Sever's Corn Maze 10:15—3:30

Bring: disposable lunch + drink.

Friday, Oct 16

At LHL—World Food Day

Lunch NOT provided. Taste-testing only.

Thursday, Oct 29

FT—Good Times Park 11:00—3:45

Required: socks & tennis shoes

Bring: disposable lunch + drink

Friday, Oct 30

At LHL—National Frankenstein Day

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.