

Lake Harriet Upper Campus

December 2015

An accredited program by the MN Afterschool Accreditation Program

Minneapolis Kids
Minneapolis Community Education

mce
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 Morning: Anita, Angelique, Carl, Beau, John
 Afternoon: Anita, Terry, Beau
 Parent Advisory Council Rep: Rhonda Geere (Jonas' mom)

WINTER IS COMING...



After our unbelievable November with 50 degree days, it's hard to believe snow and cold will be here for 4 long months. Or at least I hope it's gone by the end of March!

We appreciate families doing what they can to encourage our strong-minded kids to wear warm coats, boots, hats, waterproof mittens, and maybe even snow pants for those who like to really be one with the snow.

While we give the option of going outside every morning and afternoon, the school requires 100% participation in daily outdoor recess. For many, personal experience needs to cement the idea that proper outdoor gear is good and a few minutes of shivering will enlighten them to this brilliant idea. Hopefully they discover sooner rather than later that they may be more comfortable with the proper outdoor gear on their bodies.

We will bring out the bucket of shovels once snow starts to accumulate on the blacktop. The district plows most of the blacktop throughout the winter so there are snow banks to dig into for forts and such. The very tempting "hill" in the corner of the prairie garden by Vincent Ave and 50th Street is off limits for sledding and the like due to the brick wall near the bottom and the protruding sign posts throughout the garden. No injuries for us!

Accreditation Update

We are re-evaluating our program and now anticipate a formal validator visit in May. Part of the evaluation is to bring together a stakeholder team comprised of people who are vested in the program. Thanks to those who came to our aid and are able to help us out on this endeavor!

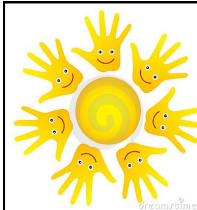
The next part will be surveys of parents, kids, staff, and our school hosts. We can ensure a near 100% return rate of staff, kids, and school host surveys because we can check them off when the surveys are dropped into the box.

The **parent surveys** are a bit trickier to track and we must have at least a 60% return rate. We can't move forward until we get the minimum return. **We need you! Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete yours.** You will earn a sticker or lollipop if you let us know yours is done! It works with the kids! ☺

Observations of our program in action will be completed by December 17 and then we can put together an action plan of items to implement beginning in January. Again, thanks for your help!

Monday, Dec 7

Online registration opens for the Non School Days in January—April. Both younger and older kids are at LOWER Campus for all non school days.



Thank You!

To the parents who took the big step and volunteered to be on our accreditation stakeholder team, observing our program in action and giving us feedback:

- ◇ Rhonda Geere
- ◇ Sue Hendrickson
- ◇ Mark McCleary
- ◇ Dalen Towne

Let Anita know if you want to be added to the list!

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 December Birthdays!

5—Kailey	26—John
6—Greta	30—Gray
	31—Beau

Happy 1/2 Birthdays—June!

2—Stella D	15—Shreya
9—Ali	21—Ava
11—Meghan	30—Emmett

We are CLOSED:

Dec 24 & 25 and Dec 31 & Jan 1
Happy Holidays!



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Morning Families

Kid Leaders—The suggestion box has been filling up with great ideas! We hope to implement many of them in the coming weeks and months. Keep the ideas coming! Encourage your child to let us know if s/he wants to lead a particular project or activity. We welcome kid leaders!

Washburn Entry—As the weather turns colder you will see more and more kids in the Washburn entry (door #7). Kids are not allowed to enter the building until the first bell at 9:25 am. They must keep the area between the two marked doors free of bodies and backpacks to allow our families and other adults to easily enter and exit the building. We monitor it closely, but if you find the door-

way not free, please let a staff know so we can fix it. Thanks.

Atrium Sign In—We've been getting lots of positive comments about moving the sign in iPad up into the atrium, especially how it's saving a few minutes in the rush to get to work on time. We are glad you are liking it! Please know that you are welcome to wander down the stairs anytime and chat with the staff or see what your child is working on. We are always glad to have you visit!



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.**

Thanks for your patience! We were unexpectedly in the midst of the area Knowledge Bowl competition hosted here by our LHU team on November 19 with 9 middle schools participating. The cafeteria, media center, and top floor of the school were jam-packed and it was a little chaotic for us to say the least. We based ourselves out of the Computer Lab, had a few games and activities available,

and opened outside for a few takers. Of course it was a windy cold day so most were relieved to be settled in the lab. It felt like Carnival day! Congratulations to our own Knowledge Bowl kids —Jonas G and Sophia S! ☺

Outdoor Gear—Playing in the snow is particularly popular after school. Please encourage your child to bring snow pants, boots, a hat and waterproof mittens to really enjoy the snow. It's so much more fun when you're warm.

Non School Day Families

Monday, December 7
Registration opens for January—April!



LOCATION CHANGE FOR WINTER BREAK!

We are all moving to **Upper Campus for Winter Break only** to allow the painters to do their thing at LHL. They are sprucing up the gym and other areas in the older part of the building. It'll look beautiful when they're done.

Reminders:

- MUST be **pre-registered**. Sorry, no drop-ins are allowed.
- Bring a **lunch + drink** every day. Make it **disposable for FT days**.
- Send outdoor gear
- Arrive at least **30 minutes prior** to departure time for field trips to allow us time to take a final attendance, get kids into groups, review expectations
- Contact the main office with scheduling questions
- Activity Calendar — on website. Ask us for a handy hard copy for your frig.

Upcoming Non School Days

Winter Break—At LHU

Mon, Dec 21 12:30—3p Optional Ice Skating at Linden Hills Park. Bring your skates!

Tues, Dec 22 11—3:30 Water Park of America. Bring your swimsuit!

Wed, Dec 23 1:15—2:45 Parkshore Senior Friends visit us to play board games

Thurs—Fri, Dec 24—25: CLOSED

Mon, Dec 28 10:30—12 or 12:30—2:30 Optional Sledding at Minikahda Vista Park. Bring your sled!

Tues, Dec 29 10—4pm Base Camp Bring your tennis shoes!

Wed, Dec 30 Clue Mystery Game in Real Life, after lunch. Bring your brain! ☺

Thurs—Fri, Dec 31—Jan 1: CLOSED

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.



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