15 December 2024

Dear Parents, Teachers, & Friends,

A happy group of parents and family members watched a very well-done **end-of-term performance** on Saturday evening. We all enjoyed the tasty food brought by the families afterwards. Then, many of the teachers and some of the attending family members helped clean up the eating / performance area and returned it to its classroom furniture arrangement.

Because we spent the majority of the time during the week practicing for the performance many of the classes did not meet or were shortened. We also had special activities during our two weeks of celebrating the Academy, such as a Loteria game (a Mexican form of Bingo) for all the students and a demonstration of Mexican fancy roping performed during Mexican charros (similar to rodeos.)

Schedule for the 2024 – 25 school year: Tentative; dates may be added or changed

Saturday, 21 December, 2024 – Beginning of Winter Holiday
Tuesday, 7 January, 2025 – First day of school, Spring semester
Monday, 20 January, 2025 – MLK Day, parent-teacher conferences, no classes
Monday, 10 March – Friday, 14 March 2025 – Spring break, no classes
Friday, 23 May, 2025 – last day of school

After-school clubs: For the fall semester

Monday – **Lego and engineering club** – Elizabeth Brasher, Jessica Houston, & Jason Begin
Younger students built instruments (noisemakers) out of Legos this week, while older students built and tested load-bearing bridges. **Lego Engineering Club is canceled on Monday, December 16th.**
Tuesday – **Sports club –** Kinder – 2nd grade - Brytney Gillingham
The club members had fun playing games this week. No sports club on Tuesday, December 17th.
Tuesday – Handball club – Frank Holguin
The handball club was cancelled because of the cold and wind. **We do expect to have handball club this week**.
Wednesday – **Math club, grades 1 and up** – Dr. Wei Tang
The math club met and had fun working on math problems & puzzles. **The club will meet this week.**
Thursday – **Board game club** – Katie Kuechmann
The club had a good time as always; thanks to Terry Bialostosky for helping.
Friday – **Theater Club** – Elizabeth Brasher
Students enjoyed playing some improv games this week. **Theater Club is canceled on Friday, December 20th.**

Donations:

Jessica & Kevin Houston, Ram Mohan Venepally & Rama Devi Medavarapu, Connie Maxwell, and **Shanta Padhi & Satyajayant Misra** made very generous donations to the **Annual Fund.**

Illness:

We have at least two students and several other LCA members and family members who caught COVID recently. The CDC recommends that if someone has COVID they stay at home while they have symptoms and/or a fever. They should wear a face mask for 5 days from the start of symptoms. If a student or teacher has a family member who has COVID, but they themselves have no symptoms, they should wear a face mask at school while that person is ill. If you are concerned about catching this disease you should get vaccinated and wear a face mask when in crowds or in big social gatherings.

Reports from teachers:

Report from Katie:

Handwriting, reading, math, kindergarten / early kindergarten:

- Students are learning about reading and writing through several activities. I spoke words and phrases for the class to write down on their own and then they checked their spelling to make sure the words were correct. The class read through early-reader books with me and practiced reading and writing sight words.
- The class did spelling activities in class over their -onk and -ung words and had their spelling quiz on Friday.
- Writing emphasized simple sentence structures: The students wrote down a list of words that had consonant blends and identified words that began with that blend of -sn, -st, and -sw. The class is continuing to independently write their lowercase and uppercase letters properly and write sentences with finger spaces between words, capital letters, and punctuation.
- In math class, students worked in their Singapore Math books with Ms. Lou Ellen and worked on any math book corrections with me.
- Class highlight of the week: The students enjoyed watching the lasso demonstration.

Reading, 1st and 2nd grades:

Students compared themselves to characters in stories. The class wrote and illustrated adjectives describing characters of books. Students had free reading time. The class continued to work on writing about the adventures their Flat Stanley's went on.

Social Studies, 1st and 2nd grades:

The class talked about how we measure time. We discussed things we do during the day and things we do during the night. We went over how we divide time in days, weeks, months, and years. We use calendars and clocks as tools to measure time.

Art, 1st and 2nd grades:

The class continued to decorate the classroom for the holiday season.

Spelling, 1st and 2nd grades:

Students worked on various spelling activities in the class to practice their -ape ending words and -itch ending words, such as using different colors to write the vowels and consonants of their letters for their given words. They had their test on Friday.

Writing, 1st and 2nd grades:

The class had fun writing about how to build a gingerbread house and used sequencing words in their writing such as first, next, and last.

Math, 1st and 2nd grades:

The class worked in their math books and some students worked on their math book tests. The class reviewed place value and addition and subtraction facts.

Science, K and 1st and 2nd grades:

The class learned about why icebergs float and connected it to knowing that ice cubes float in our drinks of water. The class also learned how cinnamon is made and connected it to how we know most of the foods we eat come from plants and animals. So, students found our cinnamon comes from a specific type of tree; when the bark is peeled the peels are dried into sticks which can be ground into a powder. Students were surprised to find out that some foods we eat contain dried up plant parts, including bark, flowers, and roots

Psychology, 6th-8th grades:
Students discussed something important that happened during the history of psychology. The class connected psychology to current events by discussing a psychology related news story. The class did some social-emotional exercises and then started working on their end-of-term projects, which involved doing research on various psychologists and mental illnesses.

Report from Elizabeth:

3rd-8th Fun Activities and Class Party:
Students brought home a handout detailing the fun dress-up days they can participate in during the week, as well as information about the class party, which will be on Friday afternoon. Please see the attached handout if you did not receive a printed copy.

English, Social Studies, Music Grades 3-8:
This week, students spent most of their time rehearsing for the end-of-term performance and participating in special activities, such as the school-wide *loteria* game and the trick roping demonstration. When classes did meet, students worked on revisions to their social studies tests (from the previous week) and were encouraged to catch up on any missing assignments. Students in 3rd-5th grade began learning about the English colonies and taking notes, while students in middle school began learning about the Carolingians, completing a summary overview of the topic and beginning their class notes.

Regular classwork will resume next week, including spelling work. Please see the reading assignments below.

For next week, the assignments are:
· Students reading "The Machine Stops" by E.M. Forester should **reread** the story for discussion on Tuesday.
· Students reading *Bluebird* by Sharon Cameron should read to chapter 25 for Tuesday.
· Students reading *Home of the Brave* by Katherine Applegate should finish the book for Tuesday.
· Some students will have a worksheet packet to complete by Friday.
· Students reading *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis should finish the book for Wednesday.
· Students reading *The Fellowship of the Ring* by J.R.R. Tolkien should finish the book for Thursday.

Government (elective):
This week, students learned about the powers of the President, as well as checks on his or her power. They began learning about the Judicial Branch.

Report from Yulin:

Elective class, Gardening:

For our seeds sprouting experiments, we used mung beans, and they sprouted very well this week. Students were introduced to ways of eating mung bean sprouts.

Chinese, Kindergarten:
Students are continuing to learn the names of pets. They also practiced for their end-of-term performance.

Chinese, Yellow, Green, Purple, Blue and Golden Groups:
As part of cultural exploration, students created Chinese white and blue porcelain designs on paper plates this week. They also rehearsed for their end-of-term performance.

Report from Vince:

Tennis.
Monday, 1:05-1:40 PM. Three young players rotated through singles; I coached them on charging the ball to avoid a high bounce going over their heads; one student picked it up quickly.
Monday, 1:40-2:15 PM. Four young players warmed up returning soft balls I hit to them. They then played modified doubles with some progress on serves.
Wednesday, 1:40-2:15 PM. Four experienced players rotated through doubles with much jocularity and some progress on their already good pursuit.
Thursday, 1:30-2:15 PM. We merged two groups when a Mexican roping demo ran into the time for the first group. We alternated between older students serving soft balls to three younger students by turns and the six older students rotating into doubles games.
Friday, 1:40-2:15 PM. Two older students scheduled for this time were joined by four other older students for very good games of doubles and then singles. All of them have blossomed this year to achieve impressive form in returns and in strong pursuit. It's a pleasure to watch them play.

Report from Lou Ellen:

Reading, 1st & 2nd grades:
I am reading books to the students that they would not normally read by themselves, to expose them to books, vocabulary, and a lifestyle that they would not typically meet. We are reading *Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH*. I am hoping to finish this coming week.

Science, 3rd – 5th:
The students are still learning about chemistry.

Elective – drawing:
The students have been spent the past few days finishing drawings, either flowers or other subjects. They also spent one day starting drawing & writing thank-you cards to the wonderful friend/neighbor of Yolanda, who gave us an amazing demonstration of Mexican roping tricks.

Hand writing, 1st – 8th:
Some of the students worked on handwriting, but the time scheduled for most groups was occupied by performance practice.

Math:

I work along with Ms. Katie and Ms. Shanta to help the students with their math. Since this subject requires lots of individual attention it helps to have another person involved. It also gives me a chance to know the individual students a bit better. This semester I work with the early kindergarten and kindergarten students as well as the 3rd - to 5th-grade students.

Thanks due to:

the members of the LCA Board of Trustees for spending part of their Sunday afternoon in a meeting to discuss LCA issues. Thanks also to **Jessica & Kevin Houston, Ram Mohan Venepally & Rama Devi Medavarapu, Connie Maxwell**, and **Shanta Padhi & Satyajayant Misra,** for their generous donations to the Annual Fund, and thanks also to the many families who donated toys and other supplies for the children served by **Jardin de los Ninos**. Particular thanks are due to the teachers who worked so hard for a very successful end-of-term performance, **Elizabeth Brasher, Yulin Zhang,** as well as **Yolanda Guevara** and **Katie Keuchmann.** Thanks also to **David Gutschick** for his consistent advice and support. And many, many thanks to **Vince**, for not only doing all the financial work of paying salaries and taxes on time as well as all the other necessary services, in addition to some teaching duties and those of the Chair of the Board of Trustees, but also for struggling through the unbelievably difficult challenge of bookkeeping changes this new fiscal year. Vince thanks **Lou Ellen** for teaching and doing the many duties that are needed to run a school, including compiling this newsletter.