

# LaMotte School News

## May 2010

### Mrs. Burke

This is the last newsletter of the year – seems unbelievable especially considering the snow is still falling. The good news is that the weather keeps the students a bit more focused on school and not thinking about all the outdoor activities that will keep them busy this summer. With just a few weeks remaining, it is our goal to maintain the rigorous level of academic expectation we strive for all year. Please help us by encouraging your student to continue to work hard and have a positive attitude. Thanks.

This time of year is so extremely busy for all of us. You will see many activities mentioned throughout this newsletter. If you are unsure of anything, please don't hesitate to contact the school to get clarification. There are a few very exciting events that we encourage all parents to attend. Next week **Montana Shakes**, a traveling school-based Shakespeare group will work with our students. Beginning with a performance at 9:00 and followed by three workshops, the students will learn about verse, stage combat and costume designing. Parents are encouraged to come for the performance or to drop by during the day to see the students in action. On June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Christ the King Lutheran Church, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will graduate. The band will be playing at the ceremony. All parents and families are invited to join us as we celebrate these students. And, on the last day of school we will have our traditional hot dog cook out and awards ceremony. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend as we celebrate the accomplishments of the students throughout the year.

**One last call for help!!!!** We are working toward landscaping the area around the Learning Annex. If you are willing to assist with planting, hauling, or would like to donate a tree, bush, or perennial (hardy and deer resistant), we welcome your assistance. Give me a call. Thanks. As the year closes, I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the tremendous support you show for our school, our staff, and our

community. It is a distinct pleasure and honor to work with all of you and your children.

### Mrs. Lonergan

Our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade class is looking forward to a busy week next week. On Tuesday we will participate in the Presidential Timed Mile event at the high school. We have been training daily for this event in order to build our endurance. Thank you for making sure that your child has proper shoes on daily. Then on Wednesday, we will be spending the day on a working farm in Belgrade. This Farm Fair is open to all 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade students in Gallatin County. It should be quite a memorable experience. Another activity next week will be our State Report Presentations. We have really been working on our presentation skills over the course of the year, and we are excited about this final presentation. It will be great! Finally, on Friday we will enjoy having Montana Shakes here at LaMotte. Our acting skills should be top notch after this event! What a busy week, but this week brings us much excitement.

Spring is here, and we are working hard! The past few weeks we have been working hard on our state reports. Students have been doing research, recording data, constructing power point presentations, designing state boxes with many artifacts, and now we working on our oral presentations. We will be presenting our State Reports next Thursday from 8:20-9:00. All are welcome to come and learn about 14 very interesting states.

### Ms. Larios

Congratulations to all of our LaMotte students for a great job on their performance on April 20! It is so good for the students to perform. It gives them self-confidence, a feeling of accomplishment, and positive group interaction. They worked very hard preparing their pieces, and it showed. They sounded great! It is especially beneficial for the band students to play in a larger group. I was so proud of all the students.

As the year winds down, band students are preparing music for the graduation ceremony

on June 3. The graduation ceremony will again be held at Christ the King Church, the same place as our band concert. It is very important for all band students to participate. We are all proud of our graduates and want to give them the best musical salute possible.

In primary music and children's choir, we will spend the rest of the year reviewing Patriotic music and some old favorites. We will also work on music reading skills. I will give demonstrations on band instruments to fourth grade students to help them decide on an instrument for next year. It is a good time to start thinking about getting an instrument.

***Let music surround you  
Write it on your heart  
Those who live in harmony  
Never grow apart***

### **Mrs. Frank-Bernstein**

¡Feliz Cinco de Mayo!

This date has traditionally been a time at LaMotte (and many other places) to celebrate diversity. This year the second and third graders will lead this month's flag ceremony and teach the rest of the school about the history and traditions of Cinco de Mayo. If you have ever wondered what "Cinco de Mayo" was really about (it's not Mexico's Independence Day...) find out and ask your youngster! I am sure they will be happy to share their knowledge.

Saludos,  
Doña Katharina



### **Mr. Brunt**

This year has zoomed by like a NASCAR champion on the final lap. Your kids have been as much fun as a barrel of monkeys, and I'll be as sad as a lobster in the tank at Albertsons to say goodbye to them for the summer. I'm more grateful than a cactus in the rain to you for sharing them with me this year. I do hope you have them practice their reading, writing, and

math facts this summer so they can start next year like rockets exploding off the launch pad. There are tons of free math games on the internet that are as easy as pie to find, and if you find topics your kids are interested in, they'll whip through books like wind across the High-line. I hope your summer vacations are as happy as Christmas morning! Thanks again! (After you read this, ask your kids what a simile is.)

### **Mrs. Vradenburg**

It is hard to believe that we are already in May! The final full month of school is in full swing! We are excited for our field trip to the Bozeman High School track next week. Many of the K-1 students are determined to "win" the race! The most anticipated event of the month of May is spirit week next week. Students are carefully planning who will be their twin on twin day and just how wacky and wild they can be on Wacky Wild Day! Happy Mother's Day to all of our LaMotte moms this Sunday! We hope that the K-1 moms know that we think you "rock!" Wink, wink! (all will be revealed when you see our gifts on Sunday!)

Has your student been telling you any good jokes lately? If not, ask them to share the joke of the day with you each day. We have been practicing reading to the group each morning by telling the group a joke. Students are really enjoying this daily routine. Our favorite joke so far is "Why did Mrs. Vradenburg wear sunglasses to school? Because her class was SO bright!" Have a great spring and we will see you at the end of the year awards ceremony!

### **Mr. Drake**

*"Never yet was a springtime, when the buds forgot to bloom."*

- Margaret Elizabeth Sangster

Thoughts like these are sources of strength as the vernal elements of the season test our resilience. The middle school students are embracing some challenging content as the light at the end of the tunnel of this school year begins to shine from the not-so-distant beacon of June 10<sup>th</sup>. Though the turbulent waters may occasionally obstruct the view of the finish line, the students are undoubtedly blooming.

In science class, the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders have just completed an introductory unit on atoms and bonding where the signature project was creating models and reports of atoms of the periodic chart. We have now moved onto observing chemical changes and reactions. The consensus of the class seems to favor exothermic reactions over endothermic as a number of our students have expressed interest in pursuing careers as pyro-technicians. After successfully locating Pythagoras in our last unit, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade math class is now exploring the visual properties of reflection, rotational, and translation symmetries and how they relate to the world of mathematics.

The 6<sup>th</sup> grade science class is nearing the completion of their unit on volcanism where they have investigated the types of volcanoes and their respective land formations. This week the students have constructed their very own volcanoes and they are looking forward to observing their eruptions before we move onto rocks and minerals next week. In math, the 6<sup>th</sup> graders have just completed an algebraic unit where they cultivated skills of identifying the dependent and independent variables and how to construct equations and solve for unknowns. Next we will be moving forward into further studies in ratios, proportions and percents.

All of these subjects continue to challenge the students but they routinely respond with an enthusiastic thirst for understanding. By quenching this urge, the students are blossoming before our very eyes. This hunger provides hope that although the warmth of spring appears to be diverted by the return of wintery gusts, the blooms of spring will, in fact, triumph through the power of budding minds.



## Mr. Pierre

The eighth graders recently completed chapter 3 of their algebra I series. The chapter covered a wide variety of equation-solving skills such as addition and subtraction equations, multiplication and division equations, multiple-step equations, equations with variables on both sides, decimal

equations, formulas, and problem-solving using algebraic skills. At this time, we are already halfway through chapter 4. This chapter covers linear concepts using slope-intercept form, a skill we previously discussed during our work with the Connected Mathematics Series. My goal is to finish chapter 5 before the end of the school year, so the students will be prepared for 9th grade algebra at Bozeman High.

## Mrs. Babcock

6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

April was National Poetry Month, and as a class we explored the traditional and invented forms of poetry. Each student wrote several poems, and also memorized a poem that they shared with their classmates. We are in the middle of our class novel, Stargirl. The students are studying four writing techniques: similes, metaphor, personification and analogies. We also plan to write persuasive essays over the next several weeks. The boys and girls will also have a class debate at the end of the persuasive writing unit. For social studies, we are working on a group webquest project. This research project is allowing the students to further explore ancient Rome. For our next unit we will be covering medieval times.

7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

In social studies, the students just ended a unit on Russia and the Eurasian Republics. As our additional project for the unit, each student was assigned a letter of the alphabet and they then matched the letter with a particular aspect of Russia. Our Russia ABC book will be on display in our classroom. Our next unit that we have already started is North Africa and Southwest Asia. The topics that the students are exploring range from Mesopotamia to Iraq. April was National Poetry Month, and each student explored the different forms of poetry. They wrote five poems and then chose their favorite four to publish. The students did a great job. They, too, chose a poem to memorize and present to their classmates. Both of our literature groups are working hard. One group is reading Johnny Tremain and the other A Wrinkle in Time. As a class this month, we will begin a unit on persuasive writing.



# DATES TO NOTE

## MAY 10-14 SPIRIT WEEK

- Monday~Twin Day
- Tuesday~Opposite Day
- Wednesday~Wild Wacky Day
- Thursday~ Crazy Hair Day
- Friday~ Dress up as your favorite character

**MAY 10** Kindergarten Roundup 1:00-3:00

**MAY 11** PE Timed Mile at BHS track

**MAY 11** Regular Board Meeting 6:00

**MAY 14** Montana Shakes- Shakespeare in The Park school performance and student workshops

**JUNE 3** Eighth grade graduation at Christ the King Lutheran church 7:00.  
The band will perform.

**JUNE 10** Last day of school. Join us for the year-end award ceremony at 10:00. The all school picnic will follow and students will be dismissed at approximately 12:00.

## Mr. Ferguson

Greetings my fellow health nuts; where is this spring weather we've been promised?

Mrs. Vradenburg's and Mr. Brunt's classes have been learning about the heart this past month. We have been talking about what the heart is for, why muscles need blood, and how different physical activities affect our heart rates. To test our hypothesis that running harder makes our heart work faster, we have been measuring heart rate by finding our pulse and keeping track of beats per minute. Try this at home! Also, feel free to pop quiz your kids on the anatomical names for the bones in the arms and legs.

Mrs. Lonergan's class has been spending time

adjusting around the weather every Friday (why does the weather always turn sour on Fridays?!). We have been staying active indoors, and spending time working on the Presidential Physical Fitness award, as well as incorporating games that keep our heart rate up, and smiles on.

The middle school students have been getting ready for the Presidential Physical Fitness test lately, starting classes with pushups, sit-ups, pull-ups, and squats. The routine gets varied, but the goal is the same: learn how to get fit, and what it can do for you. The kids have responded to the challenge well, and I have been very happy with the results I've been seeing. Especially with kids surprising themselves on the number of repetitions they can perform with historically 'tough' exercises. The Presidential Physical Fitness testing is this next week!

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**\*\*\*PLEASE BE SURE YOUR CHILD HAS AN EMERGENCY LUNCH IN HIS/HER LOCKER\*\*\***  
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Do you want a priceless cultural experience without leaving home? Host a foreign high school student for Mt. Ellis Academy. Mt. Ellis has received an unusually high number of applications for the upcoming school year and is looking for additional host families. There are currently 2 boys from China awaiting family placement. Both come with very strong character and academic references. Mt. Ellis offers a \$1000 stipend to host families to offset some of the costs of hosting. The foreign students are also given a free lunch plan in the academy cafeteria on school days. The students come to Mt. Ellis through an agency called STS Foundation. Host families will be screened by that organization. STS will also provide support and orientation to host families throughout the year. You can learn more about STS at their web site at [www.stsfoundation.org](http://www.stsfoundation.org). If you have an interest in hosting a student call Mt. Ellis Principal, Darren Wilkins, at 587-5178