



# REMEMBERING VETERANS' DAY

Honoring Veterans' Day was one of the most memorable experiences at Lakehurst Elementary School. Fifty servicemen and women entered the school's gymnasium while students gave them a standing ovation for a special school assembly. The sixth grade students in Mrs. Narozniak's class and Mr. Kelley's seventh and eighth grade social studies classes presented an outstanding program for our school community, parents and veterans. The students planned for several weeks, organizing an assembly that was both interesting, educational and heartfelt.

The program focused on the men and women who have retired from the military and parents who are

actively serving in the military. A number of veterans were formally invited. Each one of these men and women have had an opportunity to share a few reflections and experiences within his or her specific area of work to approximately five hundred parents, students and staff in attendance. During the assembly, the veterans were presented with certificates for their courage and commitment. Mrs. Davis, the school principal, extended a commitment to provide a quality education to the students of both military and civilian families of the Lakehurst community.

Both preschool teachers, Mrs. Putvinski and Miss Schroeder, instructed their students in creating a life

size, hand printed American flag. Immediately after the chorus sang the Star Spangled Banner, the students saluted the veterans. The applause of the audience was infectious. The school community designed a handmade American flag which hung proudly in the school's gymnasium. Each star represented the name of a veteran.

The veterans were pleasantly surprised as they were led by Mrs. Hamilton, interim superintendent, into the media center for a reception. Favors and refreshments were served while students participated in a question and answer session.

## AN "ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE" FOR VETERANS

Each year the students of Miss Yaede and Mrs. Moyse share many traditions in honor of Veterans' Day. The students are encouraged to show their appreciation by writing letters to the local veterans. The students are pleasantly surprised by the response letters they receive from the veterans. The class also participates in a celebration at

Lake Horicon with local veterans and members of the Lakehurst community. The ceremony was conducted by Dean Hepzel, commander of VFW Post. Along with a wreath presentation, a special poem was read by the third grade students in honor of Veterans Day. The poem was presented to each veteran in attendance.

As well, students from Ms. DiCicco and Mr. Kelly's eighth grade class discussed the book, *Prisoner of War: A First Person Account*. The book provides a personal account of Senator John McCain's experience as a Vietnam veteran. The students will end their lesson study by writing a letter to the author.

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### Special points of interest:

- *Eighth Grade Cap and Gown Pictures, January 20, 2011*
- *Abbreviated Day, December 23, 2010*
- *School Closed for Winter Break, December 24, 2010*
- *School Resumes, January 3, 2011*

# PROJECT WISDOM: BE A GUEST READER!

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This year we are continuing our school-wide effort to create the most positive school climate possible through the use of a program called *Project Wisdom*. In this program, a thought-provoking and scripted message is read to the students via the public address system every day during the morning announcements. The messages include topics covering social values, civic responsibility, and personal choice.

The Project Wisdom program has been used in over 7,000 schools nationwide. The one-minute messages build character by encouraging students to do their best, and community spirit by inspiring students to contribute to the world

around them. A student is selected to read the Project Wisdom message at 8:20 a.m. each day during the morning announcements.

Parents, school staff, and community members are welcome and encouraged to participate in the Project Wisdom program by being a guest reader. Please contact the school at 732-657-5741 if you wish to accept our invitation so we can schedule a day that would be convenient for you. We look forward to hearing from you!

## WINTER WEATHER!

Winter weather seems to have finally arrived. We ask that you support our many reminders to the children to dress for the cold outdoor temperatures (hats, gloves, winter coats). Recess is an important part of the school day for students so, unless the weather conditions are wet or extreme in wind or temperature, there is outside recess every day. It is also suggested that students wear sweaters, sweatshirts, or long sleeved shirts to school during the winter months.

# HOW ABOUT A SECOND CUP OF COFFEE?

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The first “Second Cup of Coffee” was hosted by Mrs. Davis, our school principal at Lakehurst Elementary. Connecting family-school partnerships directly to the district’s school improvement initiative and performance goals for students is paramount. Mrs. Hamilton, interim superintendent, Mrs. Hughes, school social worker and a host of parents met on November 3rd in the media center to

share and discuss ideas that would build community trust and a strong working relationship between home and the school. Many of the topics that were shared centered around developing families that create a culture of partnership throughout the school by setting high standards for a family-friendly

school—and inviting all students, staff members and stakeholders to meet those standards. Mrs. Davis said, “Ultimately, the only way our students will succeed is when our community and our school begin to take seriously the business of working together.

*“What are we implementing or developing in our school to cultivate student achievement academically and socially?”*

# TAKING THE FIRST STEP TOWARD.....LEADERSHIP

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You may have noticed students wearing yellow safety straps, patrolling the entrances, playground areas and bus areas in and around the school. The students are part of our 2010-2011 Safety Patrol Organization, and they are taking their new responsibilities very seriously. This year, under the direction of Mrs. Davis, a large number of students have joined the Safety Patrol Organization. “I can remember when I was a safety patroller

many years ago,” says Mrs. Davis. “Our patrollers want to sincerely do the best job possible. They are diligent, respectful and need the support, guidance and encouragement of our staff and parents. They are not adults; they are students learning to be leaders.” Each student is assigned a post before and after school. Our Safety Patrol Organization is developing youth leadership in a number of ways. Students are learning to equip

themselves as responsible citizens of our community and positive role models for our younger students. They are also developing skills which are needed in order to ensure the safety of our students as they walk to and from school each day. Nationwide, it has been proven that safety patrollers within the school community have reduced injuries and fatalities among school children between the ages of 5 to 14 each school day.

# HUNGRY GOATS ENJOY EATING POPCORN AT THE POPCORN ZOO

Lakehurst Elementary School P.A.T. (Project Academically Talented) students recently visited the Popcorn Park Zoo in Forked River to see firsthand how zoos can play a role in helping to save endangered species. The students are studying how humans play a role in their demise, but can also play a role in saving them. Students have been exploring the habitats of various animals by using the Internet and discussing how people around the world are destroying these habitats by cutting down trees, building up cities and polluting the Earth. Mrs. Kotch, the P.A.T. teacher for the class, says the students this year are very Earth-conscious. They understand the importance of recycling, saving resources and making sure that we have enough space to share between humans and animals. She adds

that the students are “passionate about learning and are eager to play a role in keeping animals from becoming endangered.” The class began their lessons about the environment by first looking back in history at some of the more famous extinct animals, such as the dodo bird, saber-tooth tiger and woolly mammoth. “Humans usually play a major role in the extinction of animals, and we want to be sure that the trend for that changes.” the students also looked at the food chain and discussed how losing a link in the chain can cause a reaction that can be devastating to the cycle of nature. The students will be sharing the knowledge on the subject of endangered species and environments throughout the school year with other classes, by writing their own books on the subject and preparing pres-

entations on the topic. The trip to the zoo allowed the students to see animals in re-created habitats and to understand the importance of taking care of animals as they are an important part of our lives.

Currently, students are compiling an oversized book on ecosystems to display in the library and share with the elementary level students. Each student has been researching a different ecosystem using the school’s technology and resources. They are illustrating the book and writing summaries along with facts about the desert, wetlands, grasslands, ocean and tropical and temperate forest. Not only are the students eager to share and learn, they are developing social and team work skills during the process as well.

## FIRE AND SECURITY DRILLS

The School Security Drill Law, which became effective on November 1, 2010, requires every school in New Jersey to have a least one fire drill and one school security drill each month. You may recall that information regarding this new law was presented to you during Back-to-School Night. Although there are several types of security drills, there are four specific drills that must be held at least two times per year: active shooter, bomb threat, lockdown, and

evacuation (non-fire). Mrs. Hamilton and Mrs. Davis attended training sessions that were provided by the New Jersey Department of Education. The District Emergency Management Plan was updated to reflect the new requirements, staff members received security drill training, drill procedures have been reviewed with students, and coordinated plans are in place with our local police depart-

*“It has been said that “amateurs practice until they get it right, while professionals practice until they can’t get it wrong.”*

ment. Students and staff have always been prepared to respond rapidly to a fire emergency. They now will be prepared for a quick response in the event of a non-fire school emergency as well.

## KINDERGARTEN CELEBRATES FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Kindergarten students started their new school year by learning all about classroom routines and making new friends! Sensational centers were introduced to students reflecting the reading, writing and math curriculum. A big hit in the month of September included an apple tasting activity celebrating Johnny Appleseed’s birthday. Students also decorated their school lobby windows, showing pride for their school. October was filled

with Columbus Day projects and celebrating Fire Prevention Week. Students wore firemen hats donated to them by our very own local fire company. A BIG “Thank you” goes out for all that they do to keep us safe. October ended with kindergarten students dressing up in costumes for the Halloween parade. In November the students learned about Thanksgiving and the Pilgrims. We are off to a FANTASTIC year!

**\*QUOTE OF THE DAY\***  
**Mighty oaks do indeed grow from little acorns. Efforts, when enriched with strong motivation and determination, will grow into fruition. Remember that the mighty oak tree was once a little acorn nut that held its ground.**

~ Author unknown



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***Wanted: Used instruments for our  
Music Department!***

WWW.LAKEHURSTSCHOOL.ORG

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU!

From the Administration and  
Staff Members of Lakehurst  
Elementary School

## SCHOOL VIOLENCE AND VANDALISM AWARENESS

Our state of New Jersey has designated the week of October 18th as "School Violence Awareness Week". During this week, our district participated in a variety of activities (grades Pre-K through grade eight) which focused on preventing school violence and vandalism through addressing topics of conflict resolution, tolerance, and bullying.

Parents often ask what can they do to help prevent youth violence? The following recommendations were taken from the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center:

**\*Communicate openly with your children, and encourage them to talk about all aspects of their lives** such as school, social activities, and their interests and concerns. Listen respectfully and solicit their opinions. Then, if a problem or crisis arises, they will be more likely to come to you.

**\*Set clear standards for your children's behavior, and be consistent**

**about discipline.** Involve your children in the setting of rules whenever possible, and discuss the reasons for rules with them. Make sure they understand what you expect and the consequences for disobedience, and then enforce rules consistently.

**\*Promote peaceful resolutions to conflict by being a good role model.** Deal with conflict at home calmly, considerately and quickly and manage your anger without violence. Talk with your children about handling disagreements, and help your children learn how to examine and find non-aggressive solutions to problems.

**\*Talk to your children about the consequences of drug and weapon use, gang participation, and violence.** If you own firearms, make sure that they are unloaded, locked up, and inaccessible to children. Other dangerous weapons should also be kept out of the reach of children.

**\*Try to limit your children's exposure to violence in the media.** Monitor the programs your children watch, the music they listen to, and the video games they play. Take time to watch television programs with your children and discuss any violence with them. Is the violence realistic? What would be the real-life consequences of such violence?

**\*Try to limit your children's exposure to violence in the home or community.** Work toward making your home a safe, nonviolent place, and always discourage violent behavior or hostile, aggressive arguments between family members. If your children are exposed to violence, a psychologist, or a counselor at school are among those who can help.

**\*Take the initiative to make your school and community safer.** Join up with other parents in supporting the development and implementation of school and community plans to address the needs of youth.