



The Lion's Roar

(Lietz School Newsletter)
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Larry Thomas, Principal
Diane Nunes, Secretary

April 30, 2015

Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent
Jenny Torres, Health Clerk

Calendar

4/27-5/15: State Testing (CAASPP) – Grades 3-5
5/2: Math Olympiad Tournament at Dartmouth (9am)
5/4-8: Staff Appreciation Week
5/4: Band Concert for parents @ 3pm
5/5-7: Kindergarten Assessments (for incoming Kindergarten students)
5/8: Bike/Walk to School Day

It's Not Too Early to Mark Your Calendars for these Upcoming Activities:

May 27: Lietz Open House and Art Show from 6:30-7:30pm
June 3: Volunteer Tea at 2:00pm
June 5: Kindergarten Spring Sing at 1:15pm
June 11: 5th Grade Promotion at 10:30am
June 12: Last day of school – dismissal at 12:15pm for all students

Spring Clothing Reminders

We are all very happy that warmer weather has arrived! Spring is a good time to review our Dress Code (as outlined on page 19 of the Lietz Handbook.) Without going into every detail, it is important to remember that school is our children's place of work. What might be absolutely appropriate for a summer day at the park is not necessarily appropriate for school. As the weather gets warmer, please remember that students should dress appropriately for school. Clothes that show too much skin (short tops, short shorts) should be saved for the weekends. In addition, flip-flops are not a good shoe choice for school, as they do not allow for the running and activity that is part of our day.

Lietz Yearbooks:

We are sold out of yearbooks that you can order through the school. You can still order a Lietz Yearbook online. The cost is \$35 per yearbook.

In order for the student to receive the yearbook during the last week of school, the order needs to be placed by May 10. Orders placed after May 10 will need to be mailed to your home address.

To order your yearbook:

- Go to www.betteryearbook.com
- Click on "I want to pre-order my yearbook" link in the Parents/Students section
- Sign in with: User ID = lietz and Password = lion

Please contact Jennifer Rosenblatt at Jennifer_rsnbltt@yahoo.com if you have any questions

Please fill out the Elementary Parent Survey

In our quest for continuous improvement, it is important that we have your input. Please take a few minutes and fill out the Elementary Parent Survey.

The survey is on a google form and can be found at: <http://goo.gl/d4zp12> (If you read this newsletter from our website, you can click on the link. Otherwise, you can type the url.

Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP)

Union School District needs your input as we improve our Local Control Funding Plan (LCAP). Please take a minute to listen to the short LCAP summary and then take our survey.

<http://www.unionsd.org/Page/5761>

Union School District
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Lietz Elementary School
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(408)-264-8314

Dr. Jacqueline Horejs, Superintendent

Larry Thomas, Principal

Dear Lietz Community,

It is now the end of April and much of my attention and time is focused on the 2015-16 school year. Because I am starting to get questions about class placement procedures, I thought I would write to you about the process.

Class Placement

One of the faculty's tasks each spring is to develop class groupings for the coming school year. Considerable thought and attention go into formulating classes that will work best for students. The teachers and administration consider three major perspectives as we work together to develop class groupings: the needs of the individual child, the need to create balance within each classroom, and the need to create balance among classrooms at a grade level.

We seek to create balanced classrooms by considering such factors as gender, ethnicity, the academic readiness levels of the children, students' learning and working styles, and relationships among children.

We believe that your child's current teacher possesses the necessary information and understanding concerning your child to make an appropriate grouping for the coming school year. However, if you wish to provide additional perspectives about your child that you believe we are not aware of and that could be useful to us as we engage in the grouping process, we offer that opportunity through email to me (thomasla@unionsd.org). If you do plan to send me additional information via email, please do so by **Friday, May 8th**. Remember, this is optional. Please be assured that equal care and consideration will be taken in placing each child. There is no expectation that an email be sent. It is simply our way of offering an additional opportunity for those of you who want to provide more input.

We do expect that parents will trust and respect the judgment of staff in making classroom placement decisions. We do not accept requests for specific teachers because such requests would compromise our ability to develop balanced classes - which would impact all children. Since requests for specific teachers are not helpful to this process, we ask that you do not formally or informally make requests for specific teachers.

While we do not accept teacher requests, it is helpful for us to know if you have had an older child in a specific classroom that did not work well for him or her. If that is the case, feel free to email me that information and we will do our best to place your child elsewhere. Please note that while we do our best to accommodate these situations in the core classroom, it is not always possible. In addition, the placement process for flex reading (or other groupings) may not allow for such requests.

The actual process for composing classes involves all teachers at a grade level working together to develop classes for the next grade. As they work together during several meetings, the administration and support staff also provide perspectives based on their knowledge of the children. As appropriate, input from prior teachers is tapped.

One final note: although this activity begins this spring, a number of variables and unpredictable factors --- such as new enrollments, student transfers, staff changes --- delay the final class assignments until shortly before school begins in the fall.

In August, we will mail your child's classroom assignment with our typical welcome back information.

Sincerely,

Larry Thomas