



Lylburn Downing Middle School

302 Diamond Street
www.lexedu.org

February 2010

Principal's Message

Report cards were sent home on Tuesday, January 26, 2010. I hope you were pleased with your child's progress or have contacted the school to discuss any concerns or questions you have about your child's report card.

We can learn many things from a report card. Hopefully, when you look at your child's report card you will consider the following things.

- **Are the grades a true reflection of my child's ability**
- **Are the grades what I expected**

If the grades on the report card are a true assessment of your child's ability, you should be very happy with your child and congratulate him/her for doing his/her very best. If the grades are not a true assessment of your child's ability, we may have a problem. We have to determine why the discrepancy is there. Is your child working as hard as he/she can? Has your child been misplaced and does not have the ability to be successful? Is the class too easy for your child? These are all very important questions that must be answered and discussed with your child and the classroom teachers.

If you are surprised by any of your child's grades, there could be a break down in communication between you and your child, or you and your child's teacher. Hopefully, the



grade was higher than expected and you were pleasantly surprised. However, if it was not as high as you thought it would be, I suggest you first seek an explanation from your child and secondly make an appointment with your child's teacher.

Does your child come home and work hours on homework or claims not to have any homework night after night? If your child studies and does homework on a nightly basis, there should be a direct correlation to success in the classroom. If you seldom see your child open a book at home, your child's grades should also reflect this.

In any case, the report card should be used as a tool to measure your child's progress in a subject area. We must work together to ensure our children do their best. If you have any concerns, please call Mrs. Blackburn (463-2000) to set up a meeting with the classroom teachers and help us ensure your child's success at LDMS.

Guidance Newsletter – February 2010

February and March are busy times for our eighth graders, as two important things are coming up: Rockbridge County High School registration and Writing SOLs. On February 3rd and 4th, eighth graders will go to RCHS for a tour (half will go on the 3rd and the other half on the 4th). Students will receive the RCHS

Program of Studies, learn about all the elective opportunities and witness firsthand what it looks

like when 1,100 students spill into the hallways between classes! On February 10th at 6:30, you and your rising ninth grader are invited (and strongly encouraged) to attend **Curriculum Information Night** at RCHS. At this time, you will learn about what courses are offered at the high school, graduation requirements, diploma options, SOLs, extracurricular opportunities and much more. Also, you and your child will have the opportunity to visit seven ninth grade classes of your choosing. This is a great way for students to be exposed to all that RCHS has to offer and it gives you a chance to get familiar with the curriculum, the faculty and the building. Throughout the month of February, I will go into eighth grade classes to answer any questions that students have and begin working with each of them on a plan for appropriate courses. On Thursday, February 25th, eighth graders and their parents will again return to RCHS sometime between 4:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. to formally register for 9th grade classes. This is an exciting time for eighth graders, but it can also be stressful and confusing. Please call me if you have any questions about this process.

Coming up.....

- The **Too Good for Drugs** program has begun for sixth and eighth grade students. This is being presented once a week during P.E. classes.
- Tara Lewis, from **Project Horizon**, will provide a **Cyberbullying** program for our seventh graders starting in March, through English 7 class.
- Eight-graders will take the **Writing SOL** in early March. The Writing SOL is a two-part assessment. On Tuesday, March 2nd, eighth graders will take the multiple choice part of the writing SOL. On Wednesday, March 3rd, they will take the direct writing. The direct writing portion involves a writing

prompt to which the students respond. Remember, SOLs are *untimed*, meaning students may take as long as they need to complete them. If your child misses school on either of those days, make up days will be Thursday, March 4th and Friday, March 5th.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR FAMILY FUN NIGHT

Family Fun Night is just around the corner on March 12, and the silent auction and bingo tables are in need of your fun donations. Please take a good look around your homes for gently used items you think others may enjoy or gain some benefit. Holiday gifts that were just NOT what you needed may be recycled through the auction to benefit our kids. Some examples from last year are throw pillows, comforters, creams & lotions, works of art, unopened paints/art supplies or candlesticks/candles. All the money raised goes back into LDMS to give our kids the best possible experience at the middle school level. Please direct your questions about items to Cindy Downes at 463-9234 or Natalie Garvis at 463-9719. Items can be brought to the LDMS office and given to Mrs. Reynolds or Mr. Dowd. Thanks in advance and let's make this the best Family Fun Night ever!

Learning...Dedication...Mastery...Success



Music Notes

On January 29 and 30, five band members will represent LDMS in the Central Highlands All-Area Band at Bath County High School. Savannah Lambert, Camila Bailey, Maddie Haywood, Austin Kalasky and Ben Ritter will share their musical talents with students from Alleghany, Bath, Highland, Rockbridge counties and the cities of Buena Vista and

Covington. An itinerary went out Monday, January 25.

District V Honors Band weekend event will be Feb. 5-6 at Harrisonburg HS. Parents should look for a detailed memo by Feb. 2.

On March 12th, the 7th and 8th grade band will be performing at the District V Concert Band Festival at Broadway H.S. This is a very educational event. Each band will play for a panel of judges who are professional musicians. These judges will give us musical feedback on what the band does well and on what needs improvement. The band will also sight-read for a judge. Also, we will listen to other middle school groups. Look for more details later in the month.

Lexington Lacrosse

There will be a meeting for interested parents and players on February 14th at 2:00 PM at Lylburn Downing Middle School. All boys under the age of 15 as of January 1st, 2010 are eligible to play. At the information session, we will distribute applications (due by February 28th), discuss the changes in the teams for this year and answer any questions you might have.

The equipment is ready to go, the coaches are excited to see the boys again, and the rest of the board and I are eager to get them out on the field. I hope to see you on the 14th, and most importantly, hope to see your sons at practice the week of March 1st.

Boys' Tennis Team

There will be an organizational meeting for the Boys' Tennis Team on Monday, February 22, at 3:05 and again at 6:00 that evening at Lylburn Downing Middle School. This meeting is to determine interest in a Boys' Tennis Team and to develop a team of volunteers to manage it. If your son is interested but you cannot make the

meeting, please contact Michelle Treger at michelle@financegatekeeper.com or 464-1418.

Girls Lacrosse Team

On Thursday, February 11, a meeting will be held for parents to learn more about Girls' Lexington Lacrosse. Please pass the word to parents at other schools and join us at the Rockbridge Regional Library in downtown Lexington at 7:00 p.m. Girls in grades 4 to 8 are welcome to participate on the elementary (Silver) or middle school (Gold) team. Practices will begin on March 1st.

Medical and Pharmaceutical Information

A reminder to parents! If any information regarding your child's medical needs has changed, please contact Nurse Jewell directly or stop by the office and update the information on his/her emergency card. We gladly give over the counter medications to students if the parent has completed a Medication Permission Form and provided the school with the requested medication.

Dates to Remember

February	
2	BB VS Parry McCluer 4:30
3	BB VS Maury River 4:30
3-4	8 th grades tour RCHS
4	BB at Ro. Middle 4:30
5-6	District V Honors Band Weekend, Harrisonburg HS
8	BB at Parry McCluer 4:30 School Board Meeting 5:00 PM Waddell Elementary
10	Curriculum Information Night At RCHS 6:30
11	Girls' LAX Meeting 7:00 PM

- 14 Rockbridge Regional Library
Boys LAX Meeting 2:00 PM
LDMS
- 15 No School – Teacher Work Day
- 19 Interims Sent Home
School Social 7-9 PM
- 22 Boy’s Tennis Team 3:05 and
6:00 PM LDMS
- 25 RCHS Rising 9th Grade
Registration Night RCHS 4-8
PM