

# February

## News from Lyon and Pleasant Ridge

### IMPORTANT DATES

Fri, March 3	<b>NO SCHOOL</b> Parent/Teacher Conferences
Thurs, March 9	Parent/Principal Coffee @ PR 9:30AM
Fri, March 17	Report Cards go home
Mon, March 20	Board of Education Meeting 7:30PM
Tues, March 21	PTA Meeting @ PR 7-8PM
Mon, March 27-Mon, April 3	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>

### LYON SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY

Friday, March 10



### JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Friday, March 10

8:30-9:30AM	5th Grade
9:30-10:30AM	3rd Grade
10:30-11:30AM	4th Grade



### AFTER SCHOOL @ PR

Tues, Feb 28	Chorus (3rd) 2:30-3:15PM
Wed, March 1	Chorus (4/5th) 2:30-3:15PM Art 2:30-3:30PM
Mon, March 6	Gym 2:30-3:30PM
Tues, March 7	Chorus (3rd) 2:15-3:15PM
Wed, March 8	Art 2:30-3:30PM
Tues, March 14	<b>NO</b> Chorus Gym 2:30-3:30PM
Wed, March 15	<b>No</b> Chorus Gym 2:30-3:30PM



Is your child missing his/her gloves, backpack, lunchbox, water bottle, hat, scarf, coat, boots etc.? Lyon and PR school's lost and found are overflowing. If your child is missing an article of clothing please, stop by Lyon and Pleasant Ridge to look through the lost and found.

### CHANGE IN TRANSPORTATION NOTES

**Please** remember to send a note into your child's teacher if there is a change in transportation. If your child's transportation changes after the school day begins please remember to call the Lyon school office at (847) 998-5045 before 3:00 p.m. or the Pleasant Ridge school office at (847) 998-5050 before 1:30 p.m. Thank you.



### IMPORTANT DATES @ PR

Tues, March 7	5th grade Science Assessment Windows Opens
Mon, March 13	5th grade Robert Crown Presentation @ PR/MPR, 7-8:30PM
Tues, March 14	5th grade Robert Crown Presentation @ Hoffman, 7-8:30PM
Wed, March 15	5th grade Robert Crown Presentation @ PR/MPR, 7-8:30PM

Dear Lyon/Pleasant Ridge Families,

Prior to Trimester II parent/teacher conferences, we like to share information that we hope will help make your experience a more productive and positive one. We thank you in advance for making every attempt to schedule your conference during the designated conference times as shared by your child's teacher(s). We hope you find conferences at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge to be informative and enjoyable.

Conferences (and report cards, which will be sent home March 17<sup>th</sup>) are important milestones in our school year, but hopefully serve as a confirmation of information you have gathered thus far about your child's growth and progress (e.g., from ongoing conversations with your child, your child's teacher, classroom newsletters, student work samples, assessments, etc.). As you look ahead to these conversations with your child's teacher(s), we hope you find the following questions and answers helpful.

*What is the main purpose of the conference?*

These meetings are intended primarily to provide an overview of your child's academic growth and progress relative to where they were at the beginning of the school year. Information about your child's behavior and interactions with peers are also relevant topics during the conference. If there is specific information you would like to receive at the conference, please let your child's teacher know in advance.

*How long will the conference be?*

This will vary a little from teacher to teacher, but a typical conference will be scheduled for 20 minutes. This amount of time adequately allows for a focused discussion to occur and creates a manageable conference schedule for teachers.

*How can I make the most of my conference time?*

Arriving a few minutes early for your appointment helps ensure a smooth start. Coming with questions prepared in advance and taking notes to share later with your child are helpful strategies as well. Feel free to close the door for greater privacy during your conference.

*Should my child attend the conference with me?*

Please ask your child's teacher about this. Typically conferences are designed to be adult conversations, however, if thoughtfully considered in advance, a child can play a meaningful role in his/her own conference. It is also completely appropriate, if a child does attend a conference, to ask him/her to step into the hallway for a portion of the meeting so adults can speak more candidly.

*What should I do if I'm running late or can't make the conference?*

Please call or email your child's teacher. He or she will follow up to reschedule.

We value this time for reflection and celebration. Conferences, combined with ongoing communication between home and school, help us to strengthen our collective effort to meet the needs of every child at Lyon and Pleasant Ridge and to work in genuine partnership with you.

Dear Pleasant Ridge Family,

These days a trip to the grocery store can be an exhausting experience. Never mind having to navigate the crowded aisles with the one cart that always has a squeaky wheel or waiting in line as an employee runs to the very back of the store for a price check. What I find most challenging on any given shopping excursion is the overwhelming amount of options. If one is a somewhat indecisive person, a single errand to pick up a few necessities can quickly become an arduous task.

For example, when I made my way down the bread aisle last week, white or wheat was just the beginning of my choices. There was honey wheat or rye, gluten-free or sourdough, nine-grain, fifteen grain or whole grain, Wonder Bread, Pepperidge Farm, or Texas Toast.

And when I needed to pick up more peanut butter for any favorite lunch-time PB&J, the possibilities seemed endless there as well. I had options far beyond the simple creamy or crunchy, Skippy or Jif. I could choose all-natural or certified organic, almond or soy substitute, extra crunch or super creamy, reduced fat, no sugar added, or others with additions of honey or chocolate swirl. By the time you've taken into account the varying sizes and prices, there's barely any energy left to move on to picking out jelly.

Whether you enjoy the plethora of options or not, I'm certain you've noticed this trend, too. No matter what you might be shopping for, cheese or pasta, soup or cereal, there's no shortage of variety in any given store.

And if you're wondering who to thank for this fairly recent phenomenon of copious choices that would be a man named Howard Moskowitz. He's a psychophysicist (yes, that's a real occupation) who became famous for revolutionizing the food industry and how companies appeal to individual preferences. I'm taken by the analogous comparison to this with Pleasant Ridge School where our children come to us in multiple varieties – abilities, sizes, disabilities, ethnicities, genders, interests, social-economic backgrounds, and family structures and how our teachers work diligently day after day looking for ways to tap into these diverse children to maximize their learning!

You could read volumes on Moskowitz's decades of work. His ideas have been featured in a number of books and articles over the years. Or you could just take a trip to the supermarket and observe the literal fruits of his labor.

After years of research, surveys, and taste tests, what Moskowitz discovered was a simple yet significant conclusion: there is no one, perfect kind of food. For any given product, people actually prefer variety. There is no such thing as a perfect way to serve a dish, no universally correct form of a particular item. According to Howard Moskowitz, we humans are inclined to desire variability over homogeneity. Similarly, at Pleasant Ridge School we strive to deliver instruction to our cherubs in a wide variety of ways rather than having them sit passively listening to an adult all day.

Of course, this preference for variety doesn't need to be limited to our shopping lists. It's not just what's sitting on our plates that bring us happiness, but the people sitting around the table with us that matter just as much. We're simply at our best when we embrace the diversity of human beings.

As much as I may be dazed by the variety of olive oils in the baking aisle, I'm all the more amazed and grateful for the assortment of personalities, the range of interests, and the array of passions that surround me on any given day here at Pleasant Ridge School. What a gift to learn from and laugh with such an amazing assortment of students, teachers, parents, and community members!

Yes, there are a wide variety of gifts, talents, and interests within our Pleasant Ridge School family – all of which have an important place and purpose. One of our hallmarks as a Pleasant Ridge family has been to reach out and sincerely care for and serve one another. This caring service attitude can be shown in ways far more numerous than the variations of spaghetti sauce. Listen intently. Share a book together. Offer a compliment. Volunteer at a school event. Demonstrate patience in the morning drop-off line. Say thank you. Write a letter. Plant a flower at the entrance. Share a meal. I'm certain you could add your own ideas to this list.

The next time you're at a store, it might take you awhile to decide which flavor of toothpaste to purchase. Sometimes the options can seem overwhelming. But make no mistake: There's no small selection when it comes to serving others within and outside of our Pleasant Ridge School family. The possibilities are endless and satisfaction is guaranteed. There are countless ways to share your goodness, time, and talents, and the good news is – the choice is yours. Thank you for your special efforts, which contribute hugely to the warm, positive, and productive climate that we, all value and enjoy at Pleasant Ridge School.

Sincerely,  
Mark Walther  
Interim Principal

Patrick Hoefft  
Acting Building Administrator

## Planning for Success

We look forward to seeing you soon for Parent/Teacher Conferences. Please see the piece in this month's newsletter for what we hope will be helpful information about these informative, supportive conversations. We appreciate the ongoing opportunity to work together with you to foster our students' growth, and it is our sincere intent to continue to build on your child's successes thus far in the school year following these milestone conversations. Thank you in advance for participating in this face-to-face dialogue regarding your child's progress to this point.

Although next school year is still a ways off, our planning and preparations have begun! We recently hosted our main 2017-18 registration event for families with an incoming kindergartener, as well as any first and second graders who will be new to Lyon. We registered over 100 new students that evening, and we look forward to this process continuing over the next several weeks. If you know of any friends or neighbors who need to connect with us for registration of first-time Lyon students, please send them our way. And as current Lyon/Pleasant Ridge families, we certainly hope you aren't procrastinating registration for your incoming kindergartener ☺. Call us if you have any questions or if we can help in any way!

Later this spring, the Lyon staff and I will engage in our work to create the groups of children that will comprise our 2017-18 homeroom classes. The class placement process is one that takes considerable time and collaboration among teachers, and will not be truly finalized until August. In creating classes, we strive to take into account the social, emotional, academic and creative aspects of every child. Our goal is to form balanced, heterogeneous classes in which each child can succeed. If you have additional information that you feel is important for us to consider when placing your child in a class for next school year, please share it with me in writing (or email: [kdorken@glenview34.org](mailto:kdorken@glenview34.org)) **no later than April 28<sup>th</sup>**. Your thoughts about your child's preferred learning style, peer relationships, previous school experiences, etc. are certainly valued. Consistent with past practice at Lyon School, however, please know that we are unable to honor requests for specific teachers. If you have any questions about the class placement process, please give me a call.

We hope to see you at the Lyon/Pleasant Ridge PTA Benefit. Your enthusiastic support of our schools is never taken for granted!

Sincerely,  
Kevin Dorken  
Principal

## **PTA News and Notes by Tracy Reeder, PTA President**

I hope you and your family were able to enjoy the unseasonably warm weather!

We have exciting news! The PTA recently approved **funding for over \$18,000 in grants** for the Lyon and Pleasant Ridge Schools. Funding will be provided for: emergent texts for kindergarten classrooms, informational texts for the Lyon LRC, a wireless receiver and two handheld microphones for the PR gym, fantasy unit book set replacements for 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms, 30 hokki stools for the gifted ELA classroom and four 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classrooms at PR, picture book mentor texts for PR, and funding for the Lyon/PR all-school read. Thank you to all who took part in the grant application and evaluation process! Plus, a special thank you to Anne Burke for adeptly leading us through this process for a second year!

I look forward to seeing many of you **this Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at our annual PTA Benefit, Shake, Rattle & Roll at Valley Lo Club at 7pm!** The PTA Annual Benefit is our main fundraiser of the year, enabling us to fund grants along with many other activities and programs. This year's silent auction is full of exciting auction items including front row tickets to the Lyon Winter Show, activities with your child's favorite teachers, a Ten Ninety Brewing Co. tasting & tour, Cubs tickets, Blackhawks tickets, *and even Hamilton tickets.* Tickets and non-attendee bidder numbers are still available: [www.bidpal.net/shakerattleandroll](http://www.bidpal.net/shakerattleandroll).

The PTA is currently **looking for Board Members to serve next year.** A variety of roles including Fifth Grade Picnic, Literature Alive, Benefit, Staff Appreciation, PTA Grants, Parent Education and more are open. Our volunteers enable the enriching programming and activities our kids enjoy to happen. Please email Sharon at [sharonbux@yahoo.com](mailto:sharonbux@yahoo.com) to learn more.

Next month, the PTA will host an informal **principal's coffee on Thursday, March 9th at 9:30am at Pleasant Ridge.** Mr. Dorken, Mr. Hoeft and Mr. Walther will be on hand to answer any questions or discuss any topic you would like to learn more about regarding our schools. This is a great opportunity to get to know your school leaders, so we hope you will consider attending.

Lastly, I would like to extend a huge thank you to the following people who have been making it happen for the PTA:

- Kaylee Durow and Rachel Gilles along with the soup gurus, casserole bakers, and other volunteers who showered our wonderful staff with appreciation and good eats during our annual Lyon breakfast and PR lunch
- Sharon Bux and the many volunteers who welcomed families to Lyon during kindergarten and new 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade student registration at Lyon

As always, the Lyon/PR PTA welcomes all questions, comments and suggestions, email us at [lyprpta@gmail.com](mailto:lyprpta@gmail.com)

## P.E. @ PR

After our basketball unit, students learned the 4-step approach and how to keep accurate score during our bowling unit. We used an application called Bam Video Delay to help students master the approach. Over 120 students attended the After School Gym bowling tournaments!

For the past two weeks, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students focused on our tumbling/gymnastics unit that culminated with the creation of individual routines. The number of elements required was differentiated by grade and the final product was tremendous! Fourth graders had an abbreviated tumbling unit and worked cooperatively with their peers to practice their student created dances for the musical. In addition to creating routines and practicing class dances, students learned how to work out safely using medicine balls, free weights, resistance bands and BOSU balls (a GEF grant item).

In the middle of March, we will be shifting focus to our life skills curriculum. Students, depending on their grade level, will learn about a variety of topics related to health. Third graders will focus on the importance of sleep and exercise in addition to an introduction about tobacco and alcohol. Fourth grade will learn all about nutrition and making healthy food choices. They will take a closer look at Go, Slow and Whoa foods, food labels, and the difference between portions and servings. Fifth grade will study human growth & development and a more in depth look into the effects of tobacco.

Finally, thank you for your support of JRFH! We are so excited for the event on Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> during the school day.

## IMPORTANT CALENDAR DATES FOR THE 2017-2018 ACADEMIC YEAR

First Day of School  
Tuesday, August 23, 2017

Winter Break  
December 25, 2017 -  
January 5, 2018

\*Winter Break and Spring Break  
match the District 225  
(Glenbrook South) calendar.



## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade it's Middle- School Transition Time"

**Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

Attea and Springman will be having a parent orientation night -  
Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup> - 6:15 pm at  
the individual middle schools.  
Pleasant Ridge students will be  
visiting their assigned middle  
school.

## KINDERGARTEN AND 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> GRADERS NEW TO LYON SCHOOL REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

If you have a child who will be attending kindergarten or a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> grader new to Lyon School in the fall, please stop into the Lyon office to pick up a registration packet. An **original** certified birth certificate is required to start the registration process. Your child must be 5 years old by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Please pass this information on to your neighbors and friends. If you have any questions, please call the office at (847) 998-5045.

## VERY IMPORTANT SAFETY REMINDER

If you are picking up or dropping off your student in the Car Pick-Up Lane, **please remain in your vehicle until your child exits your car (on the curbside).**

**THIS IS FOR MAXIMUM SAFETY  
AND EFFICIENCY.**



## DENTAL FORM REMINDER

All kindergarten, second and sixth grade students must have a dental report on file in the health office by **May 15, 2017**. If your child has been to the dentist within the past year, please ask the dentist to fill out the state required dental form and return it to the Lyon health office. If your child has not been seen by a dentist within the past year, please make an appointment as soon as possible and return the state dental form to the health office. If you have any questions or need a copy of the state form please call Jan Gode, Lyon Health Coordinator at (847) 998-5046 or fax your completed form to (847) 998-9701 attn: Jan Gode.





**WHAT?** – A six-week running program open to all PR students. This training is in preparation for the Lew Blond Memorial 5K (3.1mi) Run on Saturday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 2017. Students must sign up for the race on their own. The site to register is: <http://lewblondrun.org/>. In order to be guaranteed a Lew Blond shirt on race day, registration must be received by April 26<sup>th</sup>.

**WHEN?** - Training sessions will take place Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays after school until 3:30p.m. The running club will begin on Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> and continue until Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>.

**WHERE?** – All practices will take place in the school building or on the field next to the gym. The race will take place at Maple School in Northbrook.

**WHY?** – This is a great way for students to work on their cardiovascular fitness, set personal goals, and most importantly, have FUN during this healthy learning opportunity. The sense of accomplishment after finishing a race can be incredible as well!

**COMMITMENT?** – Students are strongly encouraged to attend at least 2 training sessions a week. We are following a beginner's 5K schedule, which starts light at first, then progressively gets more difficult each week. Therefore, it is important to attend as many sessions as possible so that students can build up their endurance.

**PERMISSION?** – Every child needs a signed permission slip to stay for the training sessions. Permission slips will be available in the front office and in the gym. All students must be picked up or have made arrangements to walk home by 3:30p.m.

**WHAT TO BRING?** – Each student is encouraged to bring gym shoes and suitable clothing to change into right after school.

**COST?** – The race registration fee is \$22 for children 14 and under and \$30 for adults. If a child is unable to participate in the race due to the cost, please let us know and we will take care of the fee. Eagle Running Club shirts will be available to purchase in the beginning of May. Your child does not need a shirt to participate in the race.

Kate Grubba  
[kgrubba@glenview34.org](mailto:kgrubba@glenview34.org)

Zac Broad  
[zbroad@glenview34.org](mailto:zbroad@glenview34.org)

178 student days + 5 Institute Days (Summer Flex, Opening Institute, Nov 7, Nov 22, Feb 20) + 2 Conference Days = 185 total days

Glenview District #34						
2017-2018 School Calendar						
July 2017						
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30	31					
August 2017						
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September 2017						
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December 2017						
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January 2018						
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February 2018						
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March 2018						
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April 2018						
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May 2018						
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June 2018						
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	School Closed/ Holidays		First Day of School for Students
	Parent Teacher Conf		Institute Day *Summer Flex Day (Date determined by building)
	Last Day for Students & Staff		11/22/16 (Utilizing Survey Feedback) Rev2