

## 2010 Kindergartener Applications DUE!!

Parents of current LILA students, if you will have a kindergartener next fall, it's not too early to put in your child's registration form. While your child gets enrollment preference, as a sibling, that only applies if we know about your kindergartener before the lottery on January 15, 2010. Please download an enrollment form as soon as possible and turn it in to Kim Paugel in the front office.

### School Board Elections

The Lakes International community is currently seeking interested candidates for positions on the School Board. The term of office will be for two years, from July 2010– July 2012.

To find more information about qualifications and the election timeline, as well as an application, go to the LILA front office or look online, under the About Us/Board of Directors section of the LILA website. Applications are due January 4.



### BYLAW CHANGE

During conferences, please vote on a LILA Bylaw change, proposing that we add a non-parent, non-teaching community member to the board, as required by 2009 Minnesota Statute. Voting will take place in the front office. Thank you in advance for your participation!

### Yearbooks!

Planning for the 2009- 2010 yearbook is well underway! There are two steps all parents can take right now!

--If you've got great photos of school/community events or you and your friends just having fun, we'd like to see them. The more photos we get, the better the yearbook will be for everyone! From now through March 15, you can **upload photos** from field trips, performances, or other school events for possible use in the yearbook.

--Order your childrens' yearbooks online today to reserve a copy and save \$5 off the end-of-year pricing. Online, reserved yearbooks are \$15 each, with \$1.80 convenience fee added to the entire order. Go to myYear.com to **order your yearbooks today!**

#### To upload your photos:

Point your web browser to: [www.myyear.com](http://www.myyear.com)

2. Click the 'Photo Upload' link at the bottom of right corner of the page

  - 1 Review and accept the upload Terms and Conditions
  - 2 Enter our password: 025461
  - 3 Browse and select one or more images from your computer to upload (see reminders below)
  - 4 Enter the photo caption (include your contact information in case the staff needs additional information)
  - 5 Click Begin Upload to upload your images

#### Image Reminders:

- Images should be in JPEG format, RGB (this is the most common setting on most digital cameras and are the necessary formats for photos to upload)
- Maximum file size is 5MB per image
- Cell phone photos and photos for the web are usually too small to reproduce in the yearbook
- Include in each caption: Contributed by [be sure to include your name], the names of each subject in the photo, and the event/occasion.



# El Noticiero

December 1, 2009  
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## A Time To Give Thanks

A response to the recent front-page article in the Star Tribune on charter schools, building companies and lease aid, by Cam Hedlund

A Star Tribune reporter wrote a lengthy article in last Sunday's paper about charter schools and an "out of control" financing system fueled by junk bonds. He is referring to building companies and the bonds they sell to finance school buildings.

First, **I am thankful**, that though I talked to this reporter for over ½ hour, he did not find us noteworthy enough to include in his article. It is not my intent to defend the schools mentioned in the article, but the presentation of facts and omission of other facts are so misleading and one-sided for sensationalism that I feel it important, especially for our new parents, to review a little bit of our history and why we have a building company.

**I am thankful** for a PTO and parent group who believed enough in our mission and leadership to take out a loan for \$137,000 to remodel the east end of this building prior to opening in 2004. Fairview was willing to rent us space in this building but was not in a position to spend money to remodel it. The PTO took out the loan necessary to transform the small clinic exam rooms into 8 acceptable classrooms.

**I am thankful** for Patriot Bank MN and a banker who believed enough in us to loan the PTO the money.

**I am thankful** to Fairview's leadership, who with only one year's experience renting to us, agreed to carve out the hospital building from the rest of the property and act on their option to remove it from the sale to Duffy Development so that they could instead sell it to the school's building company.

**I am thankful** to Dick Ward of Dougherty and Co. and John Cairns of Briggs and Morgan for seeing the strength in our school community that allowed them to proceed with us in developing a building company prior to their usual requirement of three years of successful school operation. The initial 1991 charter legislation and the addition of lease aid in 1998 were both written on the assumption that most charter schools would be in the urban setting with lots of rental properties available and that school districts would be more than interested in renting school buildings that were sitting empty. Both assumptions proved wrong. Suburban and rural communities also saw the value in charter schools and had very little suitable rental property available. Many school districts, rather than rent to charter schools, actually developed policies against it. Dick Ward and John Cairns did not come to us, we sought them out as the only viable way to have a suitable building that allowed for the growth we expected, and have achieved. Also important to note, the LILA Building Company's purchase of the hospital became embroiled in community efforts to stop the housing development that now currently sits behind the school. John Cairns helped us navigate the legal waters for nearly a year as we waited for the situation to resolve itself, including the resolution of at least two lawsuits (neither included us). John Cairns reduced his fees considerably during that time as well as postponed payment until we knew we could go forward.

**I am thankful** for the integrity of our School board and school leadership. No fees were paid to school personnel or School Board members in association with the construction of facility or the selling of the bonds. When we remodeled the three fifth grade classrooms last year we did pay school employees hourly wages to track expenses and oversee construction because we did all the work in house with volunteer help. We completed the project for about \$35,000 when estimates that we received were over \$100,000.

LILA would not be where it is today without a building company and the unwavering support of many people.

**Thank you for that continued support.**

SNEAK PEEK! The next Noticiero will contain an article with more about the fiscal responsibility of LILA and other charter schools with building companies. If you would like to see it sooner, check the LILA website for an article called "Charter Schools Good Option."



### DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!

The cold weather is fast approaching and it's important that our students be prepared for outdoor recess. Students should have the following: Boots, Warm Coats, Hats or a hood on their coat, snow pants, mittens or gloves. We will have a "boot box," with used boots for kids who forget theirs. If you'd like to make a donation to the boot box, that would be appreciated.

We will be going out every day unless the temperature drops to 0 degrees or 5 below wind chill, at which point recess will be inside.

Thank you, on behalf of the lunchroom staff!


### GiveMN's Fund Drive RESULTS!

LILA participated in GiveMN's recent Give to the Max Day, an online, one-day fundraiser supporting Minnesota nonprofits. LILA families and friends contributed significantly, for which we are deeply grateful. In the space of 14 hours, from 6 p.m. Nov 17<sup>th</sup> to 8 a.m. Nov. 18<sup>th</sup>, LILA received a total of \$4400 in donations and matching gifts! LILA PTO got in on the action, too, receiving \$130 total. Thank you for your ongoing generous support, provided in so many ways. You make LILA an exciting, positive place to work, learn, and grow!

### HOST FAMILIES NEEDED!

After waiting weeks for a visa interview, our last potential language ambassador will find out Monday if he will be allowed to travel to the United States later this month! To prepare, we are in looking for a host family. If you have an extra room with a door and an interest in hosting, that's all you need! Please contact Sue Hervig at shervig@lakesinternational.org.

**Dance Club!**



Dumar Parrales and Tatiana Coronel are offering Club de Baile a la Colombiana! (Dance Club of Colombia) They will teach your children about typical dances from different regions in Colombia. Students will have fun discovering unique rhythms and dance movements from the Colombian culture! Styles introduced will include salsa, cumbia, merengue, vallenato, and joropo. Classes will be Wednesdays, 2:15 – 3:15, for 10 sessions from December 9 to February 24. No class Dec 23 or 30. Cost: \$100 (Minimum 6 participants). If there is interest, these dancers are considering offering an adult class in the evenings as well! Email: [dumar7@gmail.com](mailto:dumar7@gmail.com) or [nana\\_164@hotmail.com](mailto:nana_164@hotmail.com) for more information!

*Language Ambassadors and Dance Instructors Tatiana Coronel and Dumar Parrales strike a pose!*

### LILA's AUDIT REPORTS ARE IN!

Each year public schools in Minnesota undergo an audit to demonstrate fiscal responsibility. Larson Allen LLC, an independent audit firm, issued to LILA a clean audit for fiscal year ending June 30, 2009. This is the best opinion an auditor can give. Other highlights include a 5% growth in fund balance, especially key to weathering the difficult economic times, including the 27% holdback of state aid in the current fiscal year. The auditors reported that LILA had no findings or material weaknesses, again a very rare occurrence for any public school district, particularly a charter school, as charters have comparatively less dollars than traditional districts to fund the administrative staffing necessary to "cover all the bases". LILA's financial accountability and wise use of funding strengthens its ability to deliver a quality education to its students. We invite you to read the complete audit reports on the Lakes International Language Academy website!

### HEADPHONES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

The computer lab has good quality community headphones available for student use, with donated anti-bacterial wipes to clean them between users. However, if you would like to purchase a set of headphones for your child's personal use, you may do so by sending in the order form on page two of today's Noticiero with a check, payable to LILA, for \$7 per pair. We will organize all purchased headphones by grade and class, so that teachers can have the room ready when classes arrive. For efficiency reasons, it is necessary for you to buy a separate set of headphones for each of your children.

- Minimizes the spread of communicable disease from the use of common items
- Moisture-resistant storage bag helps kill head lice within 24-48 hours and includes a labeling area to personalize with student's name.
- On-ear ambient noise-reducing earcups help diminish exterior sounds. This reduces the need to increase the volume (protecting the ears) and helps keep students on task.

### HEADPHONE ORDER FORM

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed a check, payable to LILA, for \$7 per pair of headphones ordered.

NOTE: Headphones will be available for purchase during conferences (Dec. 10-11).