



FOR YOUR CALENDAR

December

- Dec 23-31: **No School**

January

- Jan 3: SCHOOL RESUMES
- Jan 11 at 7pm: PTO Meeting
- Jan 13 at 7pm: LILA Board Meeting
- Jan 15 at 6 pm: KINDERGARTEN LOTTERY for the 2011-2012 kinder class
- Jan 21: Talent Show (time TBD)
- Jan 17: **No School** MINNESOTA TWINS CARAVAN VISITS LILA!
- Jan 24 at 7pm: LILA Foundation Meeting
- Jan 24: **No School**



On December 15th, twelve student in 4-6 grade competed in the 2011 school -level National Geographic Bee. Elliott Krohnke, a fifth grader, won the school-level competition, at which students answered oral questions on geography. Elliott will now take a written test; up to 100 of the top scorers in Minnesota will be eligible to compete in the state Bee April 1, 2011.

Chili Cook-Off Winner!



It's official the winner is Chili #3!
Congratulations to Michelle
Leuthner!

Thanks to all who participated!
The competition was fierce!

Thank you!
Thank you!
Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to feeding our staff during conferences! We appreciate everyone who was a part of the effort, from setting up all those extension cords to cooking and cleaning up! We have fabulous families here at LILA!

In Forest Lake, a study in school collaboration

By: DAAREL BURNETTE II, Star Tribune

December 16, 2010

Rachel Pierce and Gail Wilkey-Diez compare notes over coffee on how to better teach Spanish.

That would be an unremarkable moment between two teachers, except that Pierce is a public school teacher for Forest Lake Area Schools and Wilkey-Diez is a charter school teacher at Lakes International Language Academy (LILA), also in Forest Lake.

Charter schools in Minnesota were originally intended as laboratories for public schools. New concepts and ideas would be tested in charter schools and successful ones would be shared with public school districts.

But it hasn't really turned out that way. Usually they operate in different orbits, with little collaboration and some tension and suspicion keeping them apart. But a Forest Lake initiative has changed that, and it's attracting national attention.

The charter school there helps the public school district interview and train teachers, share innovative ideas and even write the district's curriculum.

Forest Lake administrators took on the initiative in 2008 when they recognized that recruiting students from the immersion program might reverse their dwindling student population. Charter and public administrators have designed a transition program that allows graduates of the charter school to continue at the district's middle school with public funds. National researchers have visited the school in hopes of replicating the program elsewhere.

"Forest Lake captures the essence of what we want to see happen," said Marianne Lombardo, the vice president of Ohio Alliance for Public Charter Schools, which held a conference recently on public and charter collaborations. "The district is using the charter school as a basket of innovation to spur some interesting things. They're meeting the kids' needs by having adults put their differences aside and coming together."

As a result, the two schools will receive national recognition with 25 other partnerships for putting the charter school model to work.

So far, it's been an uneasy relationship in most districts nationwide. Public school officials often see charter schools as attempting to de-unionize and privatize education, and many charter school officials see public schools as bureaucracies infested with red tape.

Last year, the federal government set aside \$6.7 billion to encourage more collaborations between charter and public schools. Several city public schools, including Minneapolis, signed agreements with their local charter school organizations last week.

Parents founded the Lakes International Language Academy in 2004 after Forest Lake school board members rejected a proposal to start an immersion program in the district. The program swelled over the years. When students began to graduate from the school, parents and teachers feared the students would lose their Spanish skills.

About the same time, Forest Lake's public schools started losing hundreds of students and, like other districts, money became tight.

In the new collaboration, the charter school, which serves kindergartners through sixth-graders, would allow the district's junior high schools to heavily recruit from its student body. In exchange, the charter school would help Forest Lake's Southwest Junior High create a set of immersion classes exclusively for its graduates. LILA graduates now have their own advisory class at Southwest, a Spanish culture class, industrial technology immersion class and an immersion social studies course.

Educators hope to expand the offering next year.



Elizabeth Flores, Star Tribune
Rachel Pierce, an eighth-grade Spanish teacher at Forest Lake Southwest Junior High, sang Christmas songs in Spanish with her students. Usually public schools and charter schools operate with suspicion keeping them apart. But a Forest Lake initiative has changed that.

5th and 6th Grade Concert a Hit!



For more photos from the fabulous 5th and 6th grade concert, see www.lakesinternational.smugmug.com.

ENRICHMENT CORNER



Looking for some extra math practice or extensions, try these handy resources:

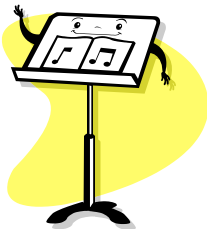
Figure This-Family Math Challenges
http://www.figurethis.org/challenges/challenge_index.htm

Math Moves U-Printable Practice Sheets
<http://www.mathmovesu.com/mmu-games/MathPractice.aspx>

National Library of Virtual Manipulatives-
<http://nlvm.usu.edu/>

Everyday Math-Family Resources
https://www.everydaymathonline.com/free_resources_main.html?frnlogin=1&PHPSESSID=b69f16ba2b08c98b92c6e0ea97a56624

SAVE THE DATE!



Save the date!

Music Programs will be on the following dates:

Grades 3 and 4: Tuesday, February 1 at 6 pm
 Grades 1 and 2: Thursday, April 7 at 6 pm.



LILA Reading Night
 February 17, 2010

Did your child's teacher suggest during conferences to spend extra time reading with your child? Come to LILA Reading Night for ideas on making reading fun and exciting, and ways to offer extra support for your child if he or she is struggling in school.



Chinese New Year Celebration

7pm
Saturday, January 29, 2010

Chinese New Year Performance at the
 O'Shaughnessy at St. Catherine University

Sally Du, Special Education Teacher, has 10 discounted tickets available. The price for the main floor tickets is \$15 for each, and the balcony tickets cost \$12 each. She can pass on the contact information of her source to get additional tickets to those who are interested. Please e-mail Sally at sdu@lakesinternational.org.

Do you know someone who would be great at leading a Special Class? Please pass this information on.

We are looking for individuals who would like to share their skills and talents during Clases Especiales (special classes) for students in grades 4, 5, and 6 from 9:05– 9:50 on B and E days.

Ideas for possible new courses:

Theater

Scrapbooking

Science

Art

Jewelry Making

Knitting

February 11

The goal is to offer February 16 courses as we can, February 22 thereby creating the most interactive groups possible. If you would be willing to offer or assist in a course or know someone whom we should contact, please contact Nancy Hawkinson: nhawkinson@lakesinternational.org.

March 7

Second Trimester Dates:

January 14

January 20

January 26

January 31

February 3

February 9

January 17, 8:30 a.m.

Minnesota Twins Winter Caravan is coming to Lakes International!

More details coming soon!

THIS IS TWINS TERRITORY

LILA Friday Chess Club



Want to amaze your friends and impress your opponents? Want to increase your IQ while having fun playing Chess and compete for various prizes? Learn from Twin Cities Chess Club instructors who have years of teaching experience. Competitive chess tournaments are scheduled once a year and students can play for real chess trophies! All chess levels are welcome.

Class Title: Twin Cities Chess Club

Instructor: William Wells

Date: Fridays, Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28, Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25, Mar. 4, 18 (10 sessions)

Time: 2:15-3:45pm

Fee: \$120



**After School Karate at
LILA
20 Week Program
January through May**

Sign Up Sheet and Information --

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1WXNR05vyG6rkmDbW01cnZ8yYzLu561uhxe270vMi6TU/edit?hl=en&pli=1&authkey=CIjmgKEF>