# **A green lion head with a white letter l Description automatically generatedLEOTA MIDDLE SCHOOL**

Family Newsletter

November 3, 2023

Hello Leota Middle School Families!

I hope your November is off to a great start. Remember to turn your clocks back one hour, enjoy the extra hour of rest.

As you may have seen, the counselors have been working hard to reduce class sizes in a number of areas. As I have mentioned before, we still have class sizes larger than one would hope. I realize these changes have caused some stress for families. I understand and hear your concerns. With that being said, we are doing the best we can to minimize the impact on students. We will not be able to return your student’s schedule back to what it was before. We have amazing teachers and they will continue to support your students. I am also excited to share that we have hired a part time Language Arts teacher. Please help me welcome Mr. Teo Ekstrom. He will be a great addition to the Leota team.

Congratulations to all of the Season 1 student-athletes. You represented Leota Middle School well. The wins and losses are just part of the overall experience. The time together with your teammates and coaches are the memories that will last forever. Next week we are starting Season 2, which is Boys Basketball. Good luck to all those that are trying out.

I also want to recognize our musicians. Both the choir and band performed at the Woodinville High School Football game on October 20th. They did an incredible job with their performance. Keep up the great work. This past evening, I was able to see our cast and crew perform the one act plays of Bad Auditions by Bad Actors and The Actor Games. What they were able to accomplish in such a short amount of time was spectacular.

I am amazed each day with the amazing work that takes place at Leota Middle School. Thank you for sending your student each day.

In partnership,

Scott Leick, Principal

Leota Middle School

## **Upcoming Events**

**11/6**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Game Club: 2:35 Library

Season Two Sports Practice begins for 7th/8th Graders

**11/7**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Yearbook Club during both lunches Room 711

ASB Meeting 2:35 P-5

**11/8**

Periods 1-6, Early Release

8th Grade Honors Band at IHS

PTSA Staff Appreciation Luncheon (Soups)

**11/9**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Latino Cultures Club 7:30am Room 604

East Asian Club during lunches P-2

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

Periods 1-6, Pride

**11/10**

Veteran’s Day Holiday - School Closed

**11/13**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Game Club: 2:35 Library

Season Two Sports Practice begins for 6th Graders

**11/14**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Principal Chat 8:00am Conference Room

Yearbook Club during both lunches Room 711

ASB Meeting 2:35 P-5

**11/15**

Periods 1-6, Early Release

South Asian Club during lunches Choir Rm

**11/16**

Periods 1-6, Pride

East Asian Club during lunches P-2

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

**11/17**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Bookworms Club:  2:35-4:05 Library

## **Call for Yearbook Photos**

Call for yearbook photos! Do you have pictures of your student that you would like to submit to the yearbook? We are looking for photos from summer break, sports/clubs, birthdays, vacations, and Halloween! Please send your photos, along with the name of your student, to leotamsyearbook@nsd.org.

[](https://leotaptsa.com/Home)

*E-newsletter originally published Nov. 1, 2023*

**In this issue:**

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**YOU can make awesome things happen at Leota!**

We have some wonderful parents who have stepped up to chair many of our committees, but **we still have vacancies that need to be filled.** You don’t need any prior experience, just a willingness to jump in! Please reach out to [president@leotaptsa.com](mailto:president@leotaptsa.com) if you would like more information regarding any of the open positions. Without volunteers we are unable to run these amazing programs for our kids and community.

**8th Grade Party: Open***(one event near end of year)*  
**Advocacy:** Rachel Fitzgerald*(temporary until new chair found)*  
**Awards:** **Open***(one event)*  
**Career Day:** **Open***(one event)*  
**Communications:** Carol Dillingham  
**Community Donation:** **Open***(few times a year)*  
**Dance/Social:** **Open***(one event)*  
**Emergency Preparedness:** **Open***(year-round)*  
**Fundraising: Open***(one event)*  
**Launch Day:** **Open***(one event in Aug. 2024)*  
**Lions Day:** **Open***(one event near end of year)*  
**Math Olympiad:** Valli Dorai *(temporary until new chair found)*  
**Membership:** Tracey Ward  
**Nominating Committee:** **Open***(start Jan.)*  
**Reflections:**Heather Jenks  
**Science Olympiad:** Surendra Mohan  
**Special Education Rep:** Liz Wong  
**Staff Appreciation:** Vicki Johnson, Karla Pak  
**Student Store:** Emily Cavanaugh



**Multiply your math skills with Math Olympiad**

The Math Olympiad Club is now enrolling participants for the new school year! This free school-wide math enrichment program is **open to any Leota student at any math level or grade.**

Students participate in weekly Zoom meetings (Wednesdays 3-4 pm) with the North Creek High School Math Honor Society Club to hone their math problem-solving skills. They also participate in many math competitions throughout the year.

To learn more about Math Olympiad, including how to access the online sessions and club/competition info, sign up here: <https://forms.gle/1N58DnR95ahgc9Ls6>.

Leota Math Olympiad begins Nov. 15. That meeting will also be an informational session for interested students and their parents.

We are also looking for 2 parent volunteers to help run the program. Having adult volunteers will allow the students to participate in additional competitions and the club to be able to run at its full potential. Please contact [scienceolympiad@leotaptsa.com](mailto:scienceolympiad@leotaptsa.com) to volunteer for the Math Olympiad Club.



**Heads up: fundraiser starts soon!**

Even though our PTSA activities got off to a late start this year, we feel it is important to keep the momentum of fundraising alive. **We will be kicking off the annual Paving the Way Together fundraiser soon**, so please earmark any dollar amount you can spare.



**Artists, it’s your time to shine**

Calling all student artists! It’s time to think about your PTA Reflections art project. **The theme for 2023-24 is “I am Hopeful Because...”**

Entries can be submitted in the following categories: Dance, Film, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, Visual Arts (sculptures, drawings, paintings, etc.), and Special Artist Division. For more information about categories and art requirements, visit the [National PTA Reflections webpage](https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections).

Entry forms are currently available in the Leota Main Office. **Entries are due Dec. 1.** Physical artwork can be turned into the Main Office. Electronic/digital works can be sent to the Leota Reflections Chair at [heatherjenks@hotmail.com](mailto:heatherjenks@hotmail.com). Please contact Heather Jenks if you have questions.

[](https://mcusercontent.com/52d5de69028ed2a72314b9f68/images/8d702a22-21f4-d965-db76-f66d046cb0b8.png)

**Want to spend Spring Break touring DC, NY, and more?**

**Does your 7th or 8th grader have plans during Spring Break?** We were going to only Washington, D.C., but we have now added New York, Amish Country, and Hershey, Pa., to the itinerary. It’s a trip of a lifetime! Recently we had an informational meeting over Zoom. For those of you who missed the meeting or didn’t know about it, don’t worry! There are still a few spots left, so reserve your child’s spot before they are gone. Remember, this opportunity is available only every 2 years, so this trip in April 2024 will be both the current 7th graders’ and 8th graders’ only chance to go. It will not be offered again until April 2026.

**Registration closes Friday, Nov. 17**, or when the final 7 spaces are filled.

If you would like to get the Zoom recording or see the trip itinerary, or if you have other questions, don’t hesitate to contact **Mrs. Van Avery** at [lookingforwardtodc@hotmail.com](mailto:lookingforwardtodc@hotmail.com) or **Mrs. Flowers** in Room 606.

**NOTE:** *This trip is independently sponsored by Apple Student Tours and Mrs. Van Avery and Mrs. Flowers. This trip is NOT affiliated with nor sponsored by Leota Middle School, Leota Middle School PTSA, or the Northshore School District.*



**Sign up for the next Staff Appreciation lunch**

In November let’s treat the amazing Leota staff to one of their favorite Staff Appreciation lunch themes: **hearty homemade soup**. If you are able to contribute a soup, please drop it off between 9-10:15 am, warm, in a Crock Pot (with a liner if possible, for easy cleanup), with a serving ladle. All Crock Pots and serve ware should be labeled with your name and can be picked up after school on Nov. 8. Nonperishable items (marked “for Staff Appreciation”) can be dropped off at the Leota Office on Nov. 6 or 7, or in the morning on Nov. 8. Thank you for your help!

**Nov. 8:** [Soup](https://signup.com/go/ZgoeXjb)

Last month’s Bagel Lunch was a huge success, thanks to your help! Check out the tasty spread in this photo.

[](https://mcusercontent.com/52d5de69028ed2a72314b9f68/_compresseds/8ae31395-9b26-cc41-ea15-8c2cdd507320.jpg)

**Help needed at the Student Store**

Sign up to volunteer in the Student Store! We are still looking to fill volunteer spots in the later part of the school year (February-June), and we occasionally need substitutes when someone can’t make it in. [Sign up here](https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090C4BA9A922A7F85-44205802-leota#/) or email the Student Store Chair at [mlecavanaugh@gmail.com](mailto:mlecavanaugh@gmail.com) if you’d like to be added to the email/sub list.



**Reminder: Volunteer background checks**

To volunteer on campus at Leota or any other facility in the Northshore School District, you’ll need to submit an online application for a Level 1 background check. Volunteers must update the application every year, and it must be completed before the first day of volunteering. To begin the process, visit the district’s [Become a Volunteer](https://www.nsd.org/get-involved/volunteer/become-a-volunteer) webpage.

**Let’s get social**

For the latest news and opportunities, follow us on social media:

* Join the Facebook page [Leota Middle School PTSA](https://www.facebook.com/LeotaPTSA)
* Join the Facebook private group [Leota PTSA Volunteers and Info](https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeotaPTSAVolunteers)

**About us**Leota PTSA is a parent, teacher, staff, and student membership organization that advocates for all students. We make a variety of educational and community programs possible at Leota. For more information, visit [www.leotaptsa.com](http://www.leotaptsa.com).

Thanks for reading our e-newsletter! We hope you find it a valuable resource to learn about the events, programs, and opportunities available to all Leota families. If you have feedback or suggestions, please reach out to us at [communications@leotaptsa.com](mailto:communications@leotaptsa.com).

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