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

# **December 1, 2023 Family Newsletter**

Hello Leota Middle School Families!

Happy December, just two short weeks until Winter Break. This time of year takes great focus and commitment by all of us to find success and meet the expectations we are so capable of. I am looking forward to seeing the Leota Middle School learning community wrap up the 2023 calendar with excitement and joy.

**Medical Assistance**

On Tuesday of this week, we did have an ambulance on site. They joined us for a little bit to attend to the needs of a student. It was my intention to send a message sooner, but unfortunately time ran out in the day. In times of emergencies, we will contact families of the student immediately, as we did with this family. With regard to the incident on Tuesday, medics were able to provide initial care, until the student’s family arrived. The family was then able to get checked out by their physician. In the future, I will send earlier communication out, just so you can be better informed if your child comes home asking questions.

**Nurse Message**

Hydration is important even in the winter. When the weather is cold our bodies lose heat in different ways such as heating and humidifying the air that you breathe before it reaches your lungs, and creating more urine during heat conservation. We have had a number of kids coming to the Health Room with signs of moderate to severe dehydration this year. Signs of dehydration can include dry lips, tiredness, mood swings, headache, dizziness, nausea, and fainting. Please encourage your students to stay hydrated by drinking water or other fluids every day while avoiding caffeine, which pulls more fluid from your body. Fruits and vegetables are also great sources of hydration.

**Winter Sports**

If your student is planning to participate in a Winter Sport, either Co-Ed Wrestling or Girls Basketball, please make sure to have your student registered and current Sport Physical in Final forms or in the office. The season will start Monday, January 22. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Spencer mspencer@nsd.org

**Upcoming Events**

We are excited to share the opportunity for all students to Square Dance. Next week, those students in a PE class first semester will be able to practice their dancing skills. Those not in PE first semester will have to wait a couple of months for their opportunity to demonstrate their skills.

Grade notification is coming soon. You will receive a message if your students has an A, D, or F on Friday, December 8th. Please know you can always track your student’s progress using Parentvue.

Come watch our Leota musicians perform during the holiday season. Wednesday, December 13th is our annual Winter Concert. This will be an amazing evening, led by Mr. Darren Meucci.

The next Principal Chat is on Thursday, December 14th. This month's session is at 5pm. You can join me in person or on Zoom. If you want to attend in person, please come to the main office. Here is the zoom link for those planning to attend online: <https://nsd.zoom.us/j/2375529365?omn=87331176950>

**Student Work**

As we wrap up the month of November, which was Diabetes Awareness Month, I want to recognize a Northshore School District Senior from Woodinville High School. Madison provided Leota students with information about diabetes. Below is a sample of the messaging she provided. A great example of a student leader in action!

A close-up of a diabetes awareness month

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Our **Lost & Found** in the cafeteria is overflowing with hundreds of jackets, sweatshirts, water bottles, lunchboxes, and shoes!  Please remind your student to check for lost items during lunchtime.  Everything will be donated to Threads & Treads over Winter Break!

A group of water bottles and hats on a shelf

Description automatically generatedA rack of clothes on a floor

Description automatically generatedA shelf with shoes and bags

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May your December bring you and your family great joy.

In partnership,

Scott Leick, Principal

Leota Middle School

**Upcoming Events:**

Week of 12/4 Square Dancing in Fitness Classes

**12/4**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Game Club: 2:35 Library

6th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Canyon Park

7th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Canyon Park@Leota

8th Boys Basketball: 4:30 Canyon Park@Leota

**12/5**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Yearbook Club during both lunches Room 711

ASB Meeting: 2:35 P-5

NJHS Meeting: 2:35 Library

**12/6**

Periods 1-6, Early Release

Black Student Union: 7:30 Room 604

South Asian Club during lunches Choir Room

**12/7**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Latino Cultures Club: 7:30am Library

East Asian Club during lunches P-2

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

6th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Kenmore@Leota

7th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Kenmore

8th Boys Basketball: 4:30 Leota@Kenmore

**12/8**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Bookworms Book Club: 2:35 Library

Season 2 Team Sports photos 2:35 Gym

DF&A Notifications to be emailed home

**12/11**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Game Club: 2:35 Library

6th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Timbercrest

7th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Timbercrest@Leota

8th Boys Basketball: 4:30 Timbercrest@Leota

**12/12**

Periods 1-6, Pride

ASB Meeting: 2:35 P-5

**12/13**

Periods 1-6, Early Release

PTSA Staff Appreciation Treats Cookies and Cocoa

LMS Winter Concert 7:00pm Gym

**12/14**

Periods 1-6, Pride

East Asian Club during lunches P-2

Star Time: 2:35-4:05 Library

Geography Club 2:35pm Room 720

6th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Leota@Skyview

8th Boys Basketball: 3:30 Skyview@Leota

7th Boys Basketball: 4:30 Skyview@Leota

**12/15**

Periods 1-6, Pride

Assembly All Grades during Pride



*E-newsletter originally published Nov. 29, 2023*

**In this issue:**

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* Save the date: PTSA meeting
* Reflections entries due Friday
* Math club registration
* Open PTSA roles
* Staff Appreciation signup
* Gift card donations
* Volunteer at lunchtime

**Last call for Paving the Way donations**

*Check out all the prizes!*

We are in the final days of Paving the Way Together, the annual fundraiser benefiting Leota PTSA and ASB. Thank you for the donations that have been made so far. We still need a big push to make our goal of $50 raised by each student, or $40,000 total. Donations over $250, $350, and $500 receive sponsorship-level status as well as corresponding benefits, including public recognition on our website (name and/or logo) and in local and district-wide newsletters.

**Please donate here by Dec. 1:** <https://app.99pledges.com/fund/pavetheway>

Check out the amazing prizes students can receive for achieving fundraising milestones:

* **Raffle drawing for grand prize: Seattle Kraken tickets** ($800 value)! The drawing will be held Dec. 6. Each student participant will receive one entry, plus additional entries for every $50 they raise.
* **Pizza party for top 10 Prides** by amount raised, or for any Pride that has 100% participation.
* **Gift cards and other fun prizes** for students who reach these fundraising goals:
  + $1,000: Red Robin gift card ($100 value)
  + $500: Custom Stanley tumbler
  + $250: Target gift card ($25 value)
  + $100: Jamba Juice gift card ($10 value)
  + $50: Starbucks gift card ($5 value)
  + $25: Bag of candy and goodies

[](https://mcusercontent.com/52d5de69028ed2a72314b9f68/images/c633c6c8-cba4-8bc3-ce35-4d56a1d56855.jpeg)

**Save the date: Jan. General Meeting**

Please join us at the next PTSA General Meeting on Jan. 17. The agenda will include:

* Report from student members of Leota ASB
* Card making or another activity that students can earn volunteer hours for
* Guest speaker **Shelby Reynolds**, NSD’s assistant director of Instructional Technology and Library Services, who will share information about artificial intelligence (AI).

Additional meeting details, including location, will be shared closer to the date. In the meantime, please add this event to your calendar!



**All Reflections entries due Dec. 1**

Student artists, it’s time to put your finishing touches on your PTA Reflections art project! Entries are **due no later than Friday, Dec. 1.**

**The theme for 2023-24 is “I am Hopeful Because...”** Submit entries 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 available in the Leota office. Physical artwork can be turned into the main office. Electronic/digital works can be sent to Leota Reflections Chair Heather Jenks at [reflections@leotaptsa.com](mailto:reflections@leotaptsa.com).

[](https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections)

**Math club welcomes all students**

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>. You’ll need to sign up to receive registration info for the first competition, which will be held Jan. 31 at Leota Middle School.

The club kicked off meetings in November, but it’s not too late to join. If you have questions about Math Olympiad, please email [matholympiad@leotaptsa.com](mailto:matholympiad@leotaptsa.com).



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

Several wonderful parents have stepped up to lead 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



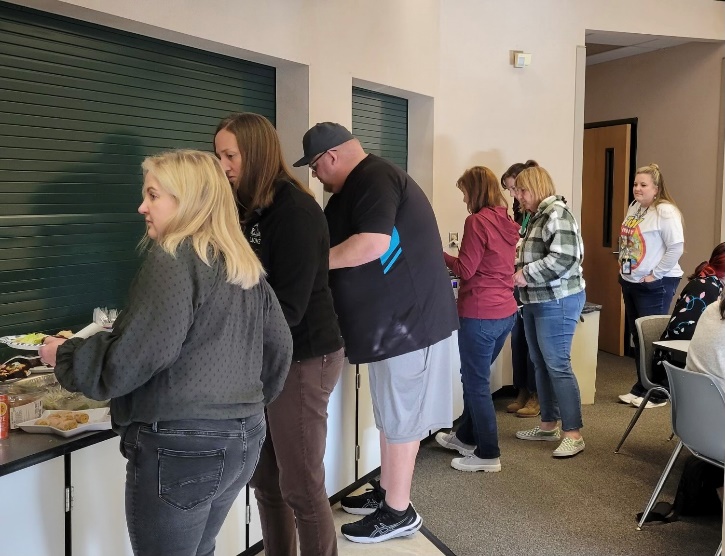
**Sweet treats at the next Staff Appreciation**

Let’s spread some holiday cheer before winter break! On Dec. 13, we’ll be setting up a table of **hot cocoa, cookies, baked goods, and candy bars** for Leota staff to put together their own little bag of goodies to take home for the holidays.

Please specify what kind of treat you plan to contribute so that we can avoid too much of one thing. Nonperishable items can be dropped off at the Leota office on Dec. 11, Dec. 12, or Dec. 13 before 9:30 am. Perishable items should be dropped off before 9:30 am on Wednesday, Dec. 13, please.

**Dec. 13:** [Cocoa and Treats](https://signup.com/go/vUCsTjJ)

Thank you to the volunteers who made the soup feast possible last month *(pictured here)*!

[](https://mcusercontent.com/52d5de69028ed2a72314b9f68/images/866fe9fe-b1cd-d110-3c05-5f611c160a6f.jpg)

**Collecting gift cards for local families**

Leota PTSA is assisting our school counselors in supporting families who could use some extra help this holiday season. **They are collecting donations of gift cards to Fred Meyer and Target.** If you are able to contribute a gift card to this holiday effort, please drop it off in the Leota office or place it in Ms. Bakkane’s box in the office by Dec. 8.



**Lunchtime volunteer opportunity**

Parents, are you interested in volunteering at Leota during lunchtime? **The school could use help with general supervision in the cafeteria.** It’s always nice to have an extra set of eyes on things. Plus, you’ll get to see your student(s), meet teachers and staff, and gain an understanding of the rhythm of the school day. Check out the signup to view upcoming dates: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A45ADA729A20-44609900-lunchtime>

**Snack donations for Health Room**

The Health Room is running low on snacks! The Health Room provides snacks to students for a variety of reasons and it is currently running low. If you are interested in donating snacks to the Health Room, the Nurse would love snack-size packages or bars. Please send any donations to school or order off of the [Leota School Nurse's Amazon wishlist](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3S81GR3YRMJ64?ref_=wl_share" \o "https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3S81GR3YRMJ64?ref_=wl_share" \t "_blank) to have it delivered directly to Nurse Vicki. Thank you!

**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 webpage](https://www.nsd.org/get-involved/volunteer/become-a-volunteer).

**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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