February 28, 2020 Edition

From Audee Gregor:

Welcome back from mid-winter break. I hope you each had time to unplug and unwind, returning recharged and refreshed. Again, there have been so many exciting things going on around campus this past week. Additionally, there are a variety of upcoming events that I’m equally excited to share. Some of these are:

- **Earthquake Drill**: We continue to prepare each month for emergencies. This month’s drill was an earthquake drill where we walk students through what to do if an earthquake were to hit our area. Additionally, we talk them through what we would do and where we would report in case there were any structural damage to the school. I’m continually impressed with the way our students listen and attend to all details of our emergency planning.

- **5th Grade Parent Night**: What an awesome night! We had a packed house filled with parents of our incoming 5th grade students. It’s always so exciting to meet our future Lion families.

- **WHS Football Visit During Pride**: Several WHS football player representatives met with interested 8th graders in the cafeteria during Pride on Thursday. They gave information and details to any student interested in the WHS football program.

- **Innovation Lab High School (ILHS) Presentation Coming Monday**: Peter Schurke, Principal of ILHS will present to all 8th graders during Pride on Monday. With high school registration in full swing, this gives all students the opportunity to see what ILHS has to offer.

- **Classified Employee Week March 2-6**: Next week is Classified Employee Week where we get to shower our amazing classified staff, which includes all our bus drivers, kitchen staff, custodial staff, and para educators.

- **Band Pathways Concert March 4th and Orchestra Pathways Concert on March 5th**: Next week will be busy with a variety of amazing musical performances. If you have a chance to attend one, or both, of these concerts, I encourage you to do so. We have so many talented musicians at Leota and it’s always such a treat to hear them perform. These concerts will both be at Woodinville High School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

I hope you each have a wonderful and restful weekend! It’s been so great seeing the sun! I hope it stays around for a while! ☺
Upcoming Events:

Mar 2-6  Classified School Employees Week

March 2  Innovation Lab HS Presentation to 8th Graders during Pride Spring Play Rehearsal 3:10-4:40pm Theater
6th Girls Basketball Leota@Timbercrest 4:00-5:15pm
7th Girls Basketball at Timbercrest@Leota 4:00-5:15pm
8th Girls Basketball at Timbercrest@Leota 5:15-6:30pm

March 3  Spring Play Rehearsal 3:10-4:40pm Theater
STAR Time 3:15-4:40 Library

March 4  Early Release
8th Grade HS Registration in Science Classes
Band Pathways Concert 7:00pm WHS

March 5  Spring Play Rehearsal 3:10-4:40pm Theater
STAR Time 3:15-4:40pm Library
Chess Club 3:15- 4:40pm Rm 615
6th Girls Basketball Canyon Park@Leota 4:00-5:15pm
8th Girls Basketball Leota@Canyon Park 4:00-5:15pm
7th Girls Basketball Leota@Canyon Park 5:15-6:30pm
Orchestra Pathways Concert 7:00pm WHS

March 6  Spring Play Rehearsal 3:10-4:40pm Theater
Yearbook Club 3:15-4:40pm Room 623

Message for families re: high school courses taken in middle school:

The Washington State legislature and State Board of Education have recently revised the rules regarding the awarding of credit for high school courses taken prior to a student’s 9th grade year. These rule changes now state that high school level courses taken prior to 9th grade with a passing grade shall automatically be added to the student’s high school transcript, including the credit and grade, unless the student/family submits a request for one of the following options:

· Option A: The course may be added to the high school transcript with a non-numerical grade ("pass"). The credit will apply to fulfilling high school graduation requirements, but the grade will not be included in the student’s high school grade point average.
· Option B: The student and parent/guardian may choose not to have the course included on the high school transcript. Credit will not be applied and the course will not fulfill high school graduation requirements.

In addition, students may inform the high school by the end of their junior (11th) grade year if they wish to make a change to an option selected initially. Please note that these options are only available for high school level courses taken prior to high school beginning in the 2019-20 school year.

**From The Nurse:**

We have had a high incidence of cold and flu viruses in both King and Snohomish County, and our Leota community lately. With both of these circulating it is more important than ever to check your child every morning for signs of illness, and if they are ill to keep them home.

Contagious illness is always with us and can be spread in a variety of ways. For example, the flu is spread when a person who has a virus coughs, sneezes or speaks and sends the virus into the air. The virus enters the nose, throat or lungs of another person and multiplies. It is important to teach everyone not to share personal items such as food, drink containers, water bottles, lipstick etc. as these items can harbor and transfer germs between people.

We are trying to ensure that all of our students and staff stay as healthy as possible. **Hand washing is the number one way to reduce spread of illness.** We are reminding students to be diligent in washing their hands while at school. Hand gel will be available to students in rooms that do not have access to sink and water. In order for hand gel to be effective, it must contain at least 60% alcohol. We are also reminding students to cover their coughs and sneezes. Getting enough sleep at night and good nutrition also play a role in staying healthy. **Flu shots are recommended for all children age 6mo to 19yrs and adults, especially those with chronic health conditions.**

When your child is ill, he/she is more likely to contract other illnesses. Your child also exposes other students and staff when he/she comes to school sick. If your child has any of these symptoms, please keep him/her at home until the symptoms subside. These are the same guidelines that the school nurse uses to evaluate students who may need to go home:

- **APPEARANCE/BEHAVIOR:** unusually tired, difficult to wake, pale, skin rash, lack of appetite; these are often signs of underlying illness.
- **FEVER:** temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Child may be sent home without a fever if other symptoms are present.
- **SORE THROAT:** especially with fever and/or swollen glands.
- **VOMITING/DIARRHEA:** within the past 24 hours.
- **NASAL DRAINAGE/COUGH:** yellow or green nasal drainage and/or chronic coughing may prevent your child or other students from being able to concentrate. They may expose
others to illness, especially if they cannot control their secretions. Severe coughs should be evaluated by a health care provider to rule out Pertussis or “whooping cough”.

**Students should be fever-free without fever reducing medication and no vomiting/diarrhea for 24 hours before returning to school.**

It is not unusual for students to feel better in the morning and then worse as the day goes along. The school is not equipped for prolonged care of your sick child. We require that you or an emergency contact will pick up your sick child within the hour that you are called. It is important for the school to have a list of local emergency contacts that are available to pick up your child in the event that we are not able to reach you. **Please notify the school if there are changes to your contacts.**

We need everyone’s cooperation, to be better able to provide a healthy learning environment for our students and staff members. Please contact me if you need any additional information.

Thank you for your cooperation, Nurse Deb. 😊

**Immunization Rule Changes for 2020**

2019 has seen several law changes for school related required immunizations, including 2019 MMR vaccine law changes regarding exemptions. Additionally, I would like to alert families to law changes that will be going into effect August 1, 2020. These changes will impact many students transitioning to 6th or 8th grades, transitioning to new schools in or out of district and new to the district enrolling students.

The update to Chapter 246-105 WAC has three major focuses:

- It now requires medically verified immunization records for school and child care entry.
- It clarifies conditional status in regards to school and child care immunization requirements and implementation.
- It changes the Tdap immunization requirement to 7th through 12th grades.

**Medically Verified Records:**
Starting on August 1, 2020, the revised rule requires medically verified immunization records for school and child care entry. A medically verified record includes one or more of the following:

- A Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) printed from the Immunization Information System (IIS)
- A physical copy of the 2020 CIS form with a healthcare provider signature
- A physical copy of the CIS with accompanying medical immunization records from a healthcare provider verified and signed by school staff
- A CIS printed from MyIR (state database for immunizations)
The focus will be to get incoming 2020 6th graders and 8th graders moving to the high schools in fall 2020 immunization records in order before the first day of school September 2020 to comply with the law.

I will be sending home notification letters this spring to alert current TMS families whose 8th grader is missing medically verified records for some or all vaccines so that there is ample time to find and provide health care provider documented vaccine records before the first day of school 2020.

**Conditional Status**

Starting on August 1, 2020, the revised rule grants children conditional status entry into school who are making progress towards completing their immunization requirements. Children may begin school or child care only if they received all of the required immunizations they are due to receive and submitted medically verified records on or before the first day of attendance.

If additional immunizations are needed after receiving all immunizations they are eligible to receive before starting school, children may start school or child care in conditional status and remain until the next dose becomes due (ie it is too soon to get the next dose of vaccine in a series). Children will then have 30 calendar days to turn in updated records showing they received the missing dose. If the 30 days expire without updated records, the child must be excluded from further attendance.

**Change to Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap) Vaccine Requirement**

Starting on August 1, 2020, the requirement for a Tdap dose changes from grade 6-12 to grade 7-12. All students entering 7th through 12th grades must have one booster dose of Tdap vaccine. In the 2020-2021 school year, all students in 7th grade must have received their Tdap dose on or after age 10 years. Students in 8th through 12th grades must have received their Tdap dose on or after age 7 years.

Incoming 2020 6th graders (current 5th graders at our feeder schools) will be seeing this information coming home soon in their registration packets.

More information can be found at:

[https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/SchoolandChildCare/RuleChanges](https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/SchoolandChildCare/RuleChanges)
i-Ready Information Night

This year Northshore School District launched i-Ready for students in grades K-8. This tool helps identify students’ strengths and areas of need, as well as guides personalized learning paths for students. As part of the implementation, i-Ready is offering an information session for parents and guardians to learn more about the platform.

March 5, 2020
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Take a tour of i-Ready today: i-Ready/Tour.com

Northshore School District
Administrative Center - Boardroom
3330 Monte Villa Parkway
Bothell, WA 98021

Northshore School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials including attorney’s fees and judgments or awards.
Weekly Update

February 28, 2020

Upcoming Events

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| 3/06 | 8th Grade Party  
*CHAIR NEEDED ASAP! Event will be cancelled if Chairs/Co-Chairs not identified by March 6.* |
| 3/18 | March Staff Appreciation: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! |
| 3/19 | Career Day 2020: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! |
| 4/3  | Officer Nominations Due: Vice-President & Treasurer  
[contact@leotaptsa.com](mailto:contact@leotaptsa.com) to nominate or get more information |
| 4/22 | PTSA General Meeting: 7pm @ Leota Middle School Library |

LEOTA PTSA Needs Your Leadership – Nominations Due April 3th

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

For the last two years we have had an amazing team that has provided outstanding leadership and continuity. However, many will be graduating to high school or have served their full 2-year term. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!

Involvement with PTSA at middle school is much different from elementary, making it a more reasonable time commitment. The students can be involved to a much greater extent which makes PTSA impactful in new and different ways.

Executive Board

Currently, we are seeking people who are interesting in filling any of our executive board roles, but specifically need people interested in being Vice-President or Treasurer. Please submit nominations by March 4th. *YES! Contact us if you are interested in one of these positions.*

Committee Chair Positions

Many of our committee chairs are also moving on after this school year. For the next school year, we need volunteers to lead:

- Communications Chair (weekly newsletter, social media management)
- Membership Chair (help organize our fundraising and membership drive)
- Advocacy Chair
- Career Day (one of our most popular PTSA events!)
• Reflections (National PTA Art Program: https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections)
• Watch D.O.G.S. (https://dadsofgreatstudents.com/)

Please step forward to take on a role with us! Contact Carrie McKenzie at contact@leotaptsa.com if you would like to learn more, volunteer, or nominate.

8th Grade Parents: WE NEED YOUR HELP!

**CHAIR or CO-CHAIRS ARE NEEDED ASAP!**

**Event will be cancelled if chairs are not identified by 3/06.**

Can you believe it’s almost time to send our 8th graders off to high school? It seems like it was only yesterday that they were the first class of 6th graders nervously wandering through the hallways of Leota. Their three years here have gone by fast!

Leota Middle School PTSA organizes an end-of-year 8th grade party to celebrate their years at Leota and give our 8th graders one last bash with their friends. Since our 8th graders are moving on to at least three different high schools next year (North Creek, Woodinville, and Innovation Lab) this will be their last party together as a class.

*Unfortunately, we do not have an 8th grade party chair this year to organize our 8th grade party.*

*We are in desperate need of an 8th grade parent, or group of parents, to step forward and volunteer to organize this party for our students. It is already getting late in the year to start planning.*

If you are willing to help as the 8th grade party chair, please contact Carrie McKenzie at contact@leotaptsa.com immediately to get the process started.

This is an event that can only happen with your help.

**Staff Appreciation, March 18, 2020: Hawaiian Haystack Lunch VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

For our March staff appreciation event, we are going to put together a Hawaiian themed lunch with all the tropical treats. Sign up to bring rice, chicken, and tropical goodies such as pineapple, almonds and olives. Or sign up to help our staff finish out their lunch by satisfying their sweet tooth with lemon bars, or berry pie/cobbler.

Thank you for all your help! It is fun to see so many people helping in all different ways--it comes together so beautifully. We couldn’t do it without you!
Sign up to participate: https://signup.com/go/ARwKQWV

**We Need YOU! 2020 Career Day at Leota Middle School**

**Thursday, March 19, 2020**

We are in the process of final planning for Leota PTSA’s Career Day 2020 – scheduled for Thursday, March 19th. **We need about 20 more panelists and 5-10 more event volunteers.** This amazing day can only happen with YOUR help. Please sign up today at careerdayleotaptsa@gmail.com.

Being a panelist is easy and fun, and YOU can be the one to help inspire a young person’s future. Event volunteers help with the day of mechanics, ensuring that the day goes smoothly.

Career Day offers our students insight into many different career paths. It gives our students an opportunity to learn what is needed to be successful in their career interests. But more importantly, we want our students to understand that no career path is ever a straight line and within any career there are lots of different avenues they can follow.

As a speaker, you will be a part of a 3-4 person panel that will meet 3-4 rounds of students. During each round each panelist will have approximately 5 minutes to share their career journey. Students will then be given an opportunity to ask questions of the panel. The Q&A tends to be the place where panelists have a chance to share real life experiences and advice based on questions from the students.

Career Day will be held on **March 19, 2020.** Are you able to give a few hours (**9:30 am – 12:30 pm**) to serve as a panelist? Event volunteers are needed from 7:30 am – 2:00 pm and there is flexibility in arrival and departure time! If you are able to help, please **send an email as soon as possible with your information:**

- Your Full Name
- Field of Work
- Current Position (Or the field and position you would like to present)
- Current Employer

If you want to participate in Career Day in a **non-panelist role,** please write EVENT VOLUNTEER in your reply.

If you can help, we would truly appreciate it. Don’t delay — sign up TODAY as a panelists or event volunteer by emailing careerdayleotaptsa@gmail.com

**HAVE YOUR PTSA MEMBERSHIP? Come join us!**
We invite you to become a member of the Leota PTSA.
In addition to being in the know about what happens in the school, your membership is a big show of support for all volunteers and activities that our PTSA hosts throughout the year.

No volunteering is required to be a member, but membership has its benefits. Sign up at www.leotaptsa.com.

**Make your volunteers hours count!**

**Did You Know Your Company May Donate When You Volunteer?**
Many companies will donate for hours volunteered in addition to matching financial donations. Please check with your company to see if you have a dollars for doers or similar volunteer hours matching program and take a few minutes to register your hours towards a Leota Middle School PTSA donation.

**Amazon Smile is Also A Great Way to Donate**
Visit https://smile.amazon.com/ all year long, every time you are making purchases with Amazon. Whenever a purchase is made with Leota PTSA as the beneficiary, Amazon will send us a donation. Be sure to select Leota PTSA as your beneficiary.

**Join the Leota PTSA Volunteer and Info Facebook Group**
Join our Leota PTSA Volunteers and Info closed Facebook group if you would like to hear more about volunteer opportunities:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/LeotaPTSAVolunteers/.

There is no requirement to volunteer. By joining, we hope you feel part of the Leota parent community and are better informed about what is happening at our school.