



Dates to Remember

- Friday Assemblies
- Oct. 30 - modified scheduled from 8:30-11:30am (teacher will email)

OCTOBER 2020

Dear Families,

October is here and we are moving into some schedule consistency as the teachers are understanding you and your children's needs. **THANK YOU** for the feedback many of you shared with me through this [survey](#). You can still share feedback with me this week if you haven't yet.

I am pouring through your responses to see what your needs are and what will make our school more engaging and helpful to your children. Most of you are reporting the level of rigor is "just right" or "challenging but manageable". But In some cases feedback so far shows us that we need to look at how to best create groups or assignments that will either challenge advanced learners or support kids who need some extra time or help. Other feedback I've also received includes comments for improved, clear communication. We will all be striving to improve communication to you all year so you should see improvements and fresh ideas for this from all of us!

Your input is greatly appreciated and very helpful!

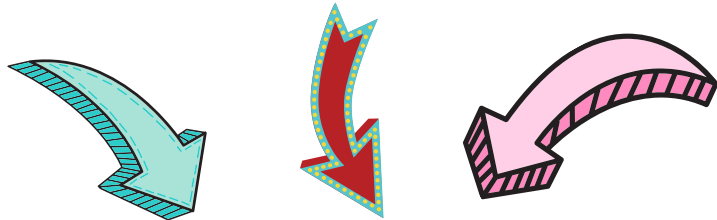


Thank you for modifying last week's schedule for Oct. 1 and 2 as all teachers in the district gathered to learn more about relevant topics to improve teaching and learning. LOA had virtual time as a staff to learn more about distance learning and digital tools to keep your children engaged and learning to their potential. We have another Professional Learning Opportunity for LOA staff the morning of Oct. 30 so your schedules will be modified for the 8:30-11:30 time.

October also brings an opportunity for us to include a Fall Party into our schedules this month. If your family would like to allow your child to enjoy wearing a costume to be shared during a Friday assembly through a "picture parade", we will be doing this on the afternoon of October 30 allowing some harvest time fun like some of their home schools. Costumes cannot be vulgar, gory, bloody, or include toy weapons.

We are working on our dates for our first quarter conferences and will relay that information home to you soon. First quarter ends in November and is a great time for all parents to meet with teachers and talk about progress, ask questions and relay concerns. In the meantime, if you have any needs that you feel shouldn't wait, please reach out to your child's teacher who is willing to clarify and support at any time during the school week.

*Sincerely,
Patty*



Additional Staff Hired This Week

I will be interviewing for an additional teacher this week who will teach our kindergartners for the rest of the year. I am so pleased that we are adding this person. More information coming home to those families and students who are affected.

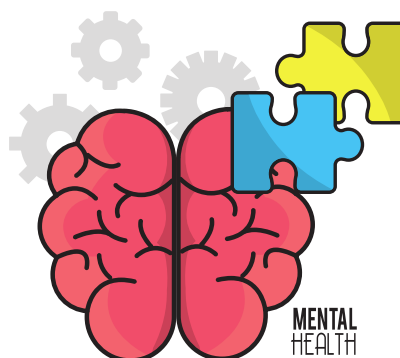
SAFETY TOPICS in OCTOBER

Safety and your children's physical, mental and emotional health are our #1 priority at LOA. We have created two committees that will help us design procedures and activities to increase our ability to work together with you to make sure the children are safe and well.

The **Safety Committee** is creating a student handbook for LOA including researching all we can to make sure all of us as the adults working with our children are informed about online safety including safe spaces during live interactions in Google Classroom and chats. This student handbook for LOA will refine what is in place for elementary and middle school students in our district to include all things unique to LOA.

The **Wellness Committee** will help our program develop positive culture and schoolwide support for students to learn all the things that assist in being a competent person socially and emotionally. Additionally, Trisha Clausen, counselor from John Brown Elementary, will be offering lessons for your children to access all year to learn about social emotional skills. We are lucky to have her teaching for us and I think your children will enjoy those times with her.

If you are finding that your child could benefit from more intensive help from a mental health specialist, I am proud of a program we offer at Lakeland which includes a team of **school based therapists** from Heritage Health that counsel with kids IN OUR SCHOOLS. For us at LOA, that can be done virtually through Telehealth, or we have offices you can bring your child to, if you prefer. *Please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or me if this is a need for your child at this time. We would fit this therapy time into their weekly school schedule.*



LOA School Pictures



School	Date	Best time to come
Athol	Oct. 29; RT/Nov.19	8am
Betty Kiefer	Nov. 18, Dec. 16	8am - 8:45am
Garwood	Nov. 17, Dec. 15	11-12 pm
John Brown	Nov. 2, Dec. 2	8:30-9:30 a.m.
Spirit Lake	Nov. 12, Dec. 12	8: A.M start time
Twin Lakes	Nov. 19 retake 12/15	TBA
Lakeland Junior	Oct. 19th - retakes	Start time - 7:30 a.m.
Timberlake Junior	October 9th - retakes	8:00 am

Dragon Lore

When we come together for Friday assemblies we have a name for it:

Dragon Meet

Also, what do you call a whole bunch of dragons? **A THUNDER of DRAGONS**...so on Fridays you may hear some hooping and pounding as I ask our **THUNDER** to make some noise!

Voting for a Dragon Mascot name is coming soon!!

Tech Problems?

If you have a district Chromebook and are experiencing problems you need assistance with, please contact our technology department at helpdesk@lakeland272.org

