

Cheetah Tracks

September 4, 2022

Mr. Olechna's Twitter link is <https://twitter.com/CLSPincipal>

Ms. Albertson's Twitter link is <https://twitter.com/AlbertsonStacey>

CLS Instagram - Follow us @ clsadmin

Dear CLS Parents and Guardians:

Happy Labor Day Weekend!

This is our Cheetah Tracks newsletter in which we share upcoming short-term and long-term events and happenings at CLS.

Lexia for All Grades K – 5 at CLS This Year

Lexia® Core5® Reading supports educators in providing differentiated literacy instruction for students of all abilities in grades pre-K–5. Lexia's research-proven program provides explicit, systematic, personalized learning in the six areas of reading instruction, targeting skill gaps as they emerge, and providing teachers with the data and student-specific resources they need for individual or small-group instruction.

Three key features of Lexia are that it

- Engages and motivates students in a game-like environment

- Provides progress-monitoring student data without a test
- Is accessible via iPad, Chromebook, or browser, so students provided with access to Lexia can do so from home in addition to spending time with it at school

It is recommended that Lexia be used for 15 - 20 minutes per day.

All CLS K – 5 students had Lexia accounts created for them this past week, although students may not have yet signed into them with their classroom teacher.

When on Lexia, students work independently to develop critical reading and language skills through individualized, motivating learning paths. All students, regardless of their skill level, can each work at their own pace and the teacher is notified (on web-based reports and via email) when a child requires additional support.

There are no tests with Lexia – teachers receive report updates from Lexia that help focus the teacher’s time on your child’s greatest need by prescribing the instructional intensity necessary to help students reach end-of-year benchmarks, as well as by predicting performance before a learner fails. Lexia creates an action plan automatically for your child based on skill areas in which a student is currently working, deciding on the specific skills with which the student needs instruction, program usage based on the student’s recommended minutes in the program, and the student’s completed levels.

Your child’s teacher is able to monitor how often a student follows through in using the Lexia program at home as well as at school. Your children’s login information is as follows:

Username: Student's first initial of first name followed by last name

Password: lexia2022.

Please feel free to contact your teacher or me if you have any questions. You may read more about the program by visiting <https://www.lexialearning.com/products/core5>

Key CLS Morning Drop-Off Reminders

A few safety reminders for all parents who drop their children off in the morning:

1. Parents who are dropping off their children are not permitted to drop their children off on Skokorat Street. **THIS IS EXTREMELY DANGEROUS FOR YOUR CHILD. PLEASE – only drop your child off when you are in the drop-off zone alongside the CLS gymnasium.**
2. When dropping off alongside the school gymnasium, please pull your car all the way forward to the vehicle that is stopped in front of you so we can constantly be unloading as many cars as we can to minimize backing up on Skokorat Street.
3. When on Skokorat Street and turning left into the CLS parking lot, it is very important that you turn on your blinker to indicate that you are turning left to let the crossing guard know. On this past Friday it was shared with me that there were almost 2 collisions because cars did not have their blinkers on so it was not clear of the drivers' intentions.

Notifying the Office When You're Picking Up Your Child – Call Us Once, Please.

If your child is not going to go home on the school bus, please coordinate all of your arrangements before contacting CLS and place only **1** phone call to the office with who will be picking up your child. Please avoid making multiple changes after notifying CLS – please make your plans, **then** contact us. **Once we are notified, there are many others who are informed, so any change should be a rare, not DAILY occurrence.**

Grades 3, 4, and 5 – Memorizing their 5 Digit Meal Pin Numbers

This year we going to begin having our grade 3, 4, and 5 students use the pin pad to keyboard in their meal card identification numbers when getting breakfast and lunch. This will assist the students in getting through the lines more quickly.

Parents, we welcome your assistance in helping your children memorize their 5 digit numbers. This is the same number they will use throughout their Seymour careers when they go to the middle school and high school, where they are also required to enter their own code.

Free and Reduced-Price School Meals Forms

During the transition back to normal school operations for school year 2022-23, Seymour Public Schools has opted in to the School Meals Assistance Revenue for Transition (SMART) funds providing meals (breakfast and lunch) at no cost for all students at the **beginning** of the school year. Please note that meals at no cost to all students are unlikely to last all year and are subject to the availability of district funds. Since the availability of meals at no cost will expire when all funds have been expended, it is critical that households submit a free and reduced-priced meal application as soon as possible to determine a student's eligibility for this school year and avoid unpaid meal charges.

Completing and submitting an application will also help your child's school raise additional funds to help us make meals available to all students at no cost for as long as possible. The district will notify parents and guardians of the date when students who are not directly certified and have no approved application on file will be expected to pay for their meals. **Note: Households that do not submit a free or reduced-price application, or whose child is not directly certified, will automatically default to full pay when the SMART funds conclude.**

Forms for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals went home on the first day of school. You can use one Free and Reduced-Price School Meals application for all of the students in your household – you do not need to do an application for each child at each Seymour school. Everyone needs to do a new application this year, regardless if your family had qualified in the past. Please look to return the forms as soon as possible in order for them to be processed by Food Services, but ideally no later than **Wednesday, October 5, 2022.**

CLS PTA Meeting - Wednesday, September 7, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m. in CLS Library Media Center

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 7, for the first *CLS* PTA meeting of the year!

Typically the monthly *CLS* PTA meetings are held on the **first** Wednesday of each month. *CLS* PTA meetings begin at 6:30 p.m. and run approximately 45 minutes in length. The *CLS* PTA may be reached via e-mail: cls.pta.board@gmail.com They also encourage you to join their Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/CLS PTA>

CLS Swag Day – September 9, 2022

Our CLS PTA provides students and staff annually with a T-shirt. In addition to wearing the shirt whenever a child wishes, they are also encouraged to wear them on field trips and on CLS Swag Days, which we typically designate on the first Friday of every month. They will be announced in Cheetah Tracks; the first one will be Friday, September 9. **If a child does not have CLS apparel as of yet, we also encourage students and staff to wear Seymour's colors of blue and gold.**

PS, PK, K, and Grades 1&2 Meet the Teachers Night @ 6:00 p.m. on Tues., September 13, 2022

Grade 3, 4, & 5 Meet the Teachers Night @ 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2022

This year **CLS** Meet the Teachers Nights will be held **in-person at CLS**. There will be one evening for Preschool through Grade 2 and another for Grades 3 through 5, with 2 identical sessions each evening. The schedule for which evening teachers will be presenting will be sent next week via email. Please note that due to their own personal schedules, there will be a few instances of an upper grade teacher attending the lower grade night and vice-versa. Each CLS staff member attends 1 of the 2 nights.

Please watch for communications from your child's teacher and their service providers (where applicable) on which night they plan to attend.

We will begin in the gymnasium at 6:00 p.m. for opening remarks from **CLS** administration and the **CLS** PTA. The first session will then start at 6:25 p.m. and then a repeat of the same presentation will begin at 7:00 p.m. for parents of children in more than 1 grade/classroom.

CLS PTA Fall Book Fair - September 13, 14, and 15, 2022

The **CLS** PTA will be held in-person in the **CLS** gymnasium. Please join us in sharing a love of reading with our students at the Chatfield-LoPresti Elementary School PTA's Scholastic Book Fair September 13, 14, and 15, 2022.

Families may visit the book fair during the **EVENING** on Tuesday, September 13, and Thursday, September 15, from 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. **after** the principal's opening remarks on both Meet the Teachers Nights.

- Shop online at www.scholastic.com/bookfairs

Use the “Find a Fair” link to find the fair for Chatfield-LoPresti School. Here you will be able to find an expanded list of books for purchase that can be shipped to the school for free. This is a great way for out-of-town family and friends to purchase books for your child.

- Consider donating a book for your child's classroom by visiting the “Classroom Wish List” display while visiting the book fair. In addition to helping our teachers build their classroom libraries, the PTA also helps the school library purchase new titles.

- As a reminder, we have new scanners and all items that need to be returned need to be accompanied by a receipt or be exchanged for an item of equal value.

CLS PTA Book Fair Volunteers are Needed!

Volunteers are needed for set-up on Monday, September 12, at 3:45 P.M. in the CLS gymnasium.

Volunteers are also needed all three days of the fair (September 13, 14, and 15) to help the students with their shopping. If you are able to volunteer for a couple of hours or longer between 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., or during the evening hours, please call or text Cara Bordonaro at 203-231-5958 or email her at corazietti@gmail.com

D.E.A.R. – Friday, September 16, 2022

The **D**rop **E**verything **A**nd **R**ead day for September will be on Friday, September 16. Students and staff will stop and read for 15 minutes at a surprise time that will be announced during the day. **DEAR** will be occurring after the CLS PTA Book Fair, so children may enjoy reading their new book purchased at the fair!

CLS Student Handbook – Signatures Due Friday, September 16, 2022

The 2022-23 Chatfield-LoPresti Student Handbook is now posted online. You may access it by going to the *CLS* website.

Mad Math Minutes – Tuesday, September 20, 2022

The Mad Math Minutes day for September will be on Tuesday, September 20. Similar to DEAR time, at some point during the day students across the school will spend 10 minutes practicing their fact fluency.

CLS School Pictures – Wednesday, September 21, 2022

CLS Lifetouch Fall Picture Day will be Wednesday, September 21, 2022.

Early Dismissal Day – Thursday, September 22, 2022

CLS students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, due to teachers' professional learning.

The first early dismissal day typically catches some parents and guardians by surprise. Please be sure to mark your calendars, especially if you usually pick up your child so they are not left at CLS wondering where you are.

For families whose children ride the bus, you should expect them home approximately 2 hours earlier than on a normal school day afternoon.

CLS PTA Mum Sale – Begins This Week Though Thursday, September 22, 2022

The mums will be sold via pre-orders, so please watch for the flyer coming home this week. The mums are 9-inch and come in red, white, yellow, orange/bronze, and pink/purple. The price of the mums is \$8.00 each. The deadline for the orders will be Thursday, September 22, 2022.

Volunteers are needed to help out with the delivery on the day of the pick-ups, usually between 7 and 8 am. If you can assist, please email cls.pta.board@gmail.com to volunteer.

Please mark the pick-up date on your calendars! Saturday, October 1, 8:00 – 10:00 a.m. at CLS, underneath the overhang by the gymnasium.

If you have questions, please contact Megan Altomare at meganaltomare@gmail.com

Columbus Day – Monday, October 10, 2022 – No School

There will be no school on Monday, October 10, due to the observance of Columbus Day.

Early Dismissal Day - Teachers' Professional Learning – Wednesday, October 12, 2022

CLS students will be dismissed at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, due to professional learning for teachers that afternoon.

Seymour Pink Day – Wednesday, October 19, 2022

Everyone is encouraged to wear pink for Seymour Pink Day!

CLS Family Harvest BINGO – Tuesday, October 25 & Thursday, October 27, @ 6:30 p.m.

Save the date(s) for Harvest BINGO, which is an evening of BINGO presented by the CLS PTA. Kids have the option of coming in costume – **no parents in costume, please.**

In order to accommodate all students and their families, there will be two nights of BINGO. Tuesday, October 25, will be for students in grades Pre-S, Pre-K, K, 1, and 2 and their families. Thursday, October 27, will be for students in grades 3, 4, and 5 and their families. If you have children in grades Pre-S/K-2 **and** 3-5, please choose one night for your family to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and BINGO will begin promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are required for all attendees and all students must be accompanied by an adult.

Enjoy the long weekend! Remember CLS Swag Day and wear school colors on Friday!

- David S. 😊lechna Stacey Albertson

Stacey Albertson

Assistant Principal
Chatfield-LoPresti School
Seymour Public Schools