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moundsvIEWSchools.org ● December 2, 2011 ● Debbie Zamow, Editor

**GIFTS FOR OTHERS
FOOD, TOY AND GIFT DRIVE
November 28 – December 9**

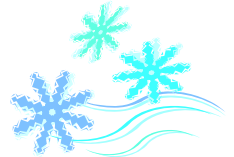


The Island Lake Gifts for Others program runs through Friday, December 9. Students can drop off toys, gifts, gift cards and food at the designated area near the doors and the items will be delivered to Ralph Reeder Food Shelf's Operation Joy program. Island Lake School is proud to partner with our PTA to support families in need within our community during this holiday season.

If you are in need this holiday season, please contact Jenny Odden, School Social Worker at 651-621-7015 or the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf at 651-621-7451.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS AT ISLAND LAKE

There are many ways to get into the holiday spirit at Island Lake!



Thursday, December 1 - 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm

Friday, December 2 - 4th and 5th Grade Orchestra Concert for staff and students, 9:00 am

Monday, December 19 - 5th Grade Band Concerts, 2:30 pm and 7:00 pm

Wednesday, December 21 - Holiday Sing Along, 2:30 pm **EVERYONE'S INVITED!**

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MR. LUNDBERG'S SCIENCE LAB?

The Island Lake Science Fair will be held February 21st & 22nd for all 3rd – 5th graders.

We will be featuring an online sign up option for both students and parent volunteers this year. Please click on the sign up links at www.moundsvIEWSchools.org/islandlake to participate in the 2012 Island Lake Science Fair. In science class, students will be spending the next couple of weeks talking about the science fair and will be coming home with more information in the form of a tri-fold brochure in early December. They will get help in gathering resources to help them plan and carry out their experiment. Remember, it is never too early to get the gears turning!



LEGO LEAGUE TEAMS COMPETE

We would like to wish all of our Island Lake Lego League team competitors the best of luck in their upcoming tournaments.



Snack Attack – December 3, St. Louis Park Junior High School, St. Louis Park
The Corkscrews – December 4, Crosswinds East, Woodbury
Food Fights 5000 – December 4
Germ Busters – December 10, Benjamin Mays Magnet School, St. Paul
Insert Cool Name Here: ____ - December 10, Benjamin Mays Magnet School, St. Paul
Imaginative Orange Pi Guys – December 17, Sanford Middle School, Minneapolis

Every September, FirstLegoLeague (www.firstlegoleague.org) releases a Challenge, which is based on a real-world scientific topic. This season the challenge, *Food Factor*, is to investigate food and find one way to improve its safe delivery. Teams of up to ten children, with one adult coach, participate in the Challenge by programming an autonomous robot to score points on a themed playing field (Robot Game) and by developing a solution to a problem they have identified (Project), all guided by the FLL Core Values.

Island Lake Lego League is coordinated and partially funded through the PTA and is open to students from 4th and 5th grade. Teams form over the summer and at the beginning of the school year. Volunteers are needed to co-coach teams and assist with team meetings. The season runs from summer to December.

ISLAND LAKE WRESTLING RESULTS FROM COACH UTLEY



Greetings to all! Another wrestling season is upon us and we have a lot to look forward to and kids to recognize for their efforts already this season. Our K-5 program began in September with practices at Island Lake, Turtle Lake and Valentine Hills elementary schools. We had great success with this program as nearly 50 kids were enrolled. Each elementary site had a practice after school with an optional group practice each Thursday at MVHS in the wrestling room. To cap the elementary fall season we have a tournament at MVHS that was held on 11/5. We want to say thanks to the many parent volunteers who helped make the 2011 tournament a success! Island Lake tournament results are below.

2011 K-5 Futures Tournament Results

<u>Weight Group B</u>	<u>Weight Group C</u>	<u>Weight Group D</u>	<u>Weight Group E</u>	<u>Weight Group G</u>
2 nd Place: DJ Koch	1 st Place: Ethan Ryberg	1 st Place: Sawyer Anderson	4 th Place: Sam Lemay	1 st Place: Max Provolt
4 th Place: Liam Kelley		4 th Place: Ryan Moore		2 nd Place: Andrew Molenaar
				3 rd Place: Ben Parsons

Friday, December 2 is “Little Grappler Night” at Mounds View High School. Beginning at 5:30 pm, Mounds View’s JV team and middle school teams will take on Roseville. At 7:00 pm, the high school team will compete. We would like to recognize all elementary and middle school wrestlers at the meet. So please bring your wrestlers and families to watch some great wrestling!

Parents of K-5 wrestlers, we have a winter/spring wrestling program run through the Iron Mustang Wrestling Club. If your child is interested in continuing their wrestling experience this winter, we encourage you to sign-up. Go to www.ironwrestling.com for more details!

VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

Thanks to the efficient vision and hearing screening volunteers, over 500 students were screened! We truly appreciate the time you give and the care you take with each student. We could not have done it without YOU!



Amy Bjorklund
Dana Foy
Esther Tatley
Jeannine Guenther
Juli Denny
Kay Christopherson
Liz Guthrie
Mollie Kelley
Pat Evans
Skylar Kittleson
Victoria Ware

Andy Li
David Bratland
Heather Awad
Jennifer O'Quinn
Natalie Jedlenski
Kelly Cerny
Lori Eveland
Nancy Gregory
Paul Parsons
Stacy Neary
Vrushali Deshpande

Cathy Pulis
Deb Barthel
Jane Anderson
Jim Zappia
Kathy Johnson
Kim Gillespie
Lynn Schmidt
Noelle Nelson
Priscilla Campbell
Tina Piechowski
Wendy Stockey

Cathy Springhorn
Doran Dolton
Janele Breeden
Joy Dolton
Katie Solfest
Kris Shields
Michelle Nagel
Pam Bazille
Ruth Rolfs
Vaishali Narkhede

1st GRADERS USING HANDHELD TECHNOLOGY

Mrs. Nelson's 1st graders have had the unique opportunity to use iPads in the classroom this year. The Mounds View Schools Education Foundation provided a few classrooms district-wide a \$54,000 grant to purchase iPads or iPods. One teacher at each elementary, middle and high school was selected to work with students to pilot this project. In 1st grade, the ten iPads are mostly used during small-group time to practice math facts, work on telling time, work with word families, and listen to online story books. As one can imagine, getting to use the iPads is also a great motivational tool!



No School for Students

Thursday, December 22 - Monday, January 2

Winter Break

See everyone back on Tuesday, January 3!



PTA INK

DECEMBER 2011

PUBLISHED BY THE PTA OF ISLAND LAKE ELEMENTARY



GIFTS FOR OTHERS

Island Lake School and the PTA will come together to support families in need within our community. Our school will be holding a holiday food, toy and gift drive to benefit Ralph Reeder Food Shelf's Operation Joy program. Unwrapped toys and gifts, gift cards of any denomination, food items and monetary contributions will be accepted.

Operation Joy is dependent upon the generosity of our community. The PTA donates \$500.00 in gift cards to Operation Joy. Gifts are also needed for children ages birth - 18. Sometimes gift cards from stores like Kohls, Target, Cub Foods, and Rainbow Foods or from restaurants and gas stations are the perfect fit! Students are welcome to bring in items from November 28 - December 9. Morning collection locations will be at the front office and at the Vivian Street entrance where the students get off the bus.

If you are in need this holiday season, please contact Jenny Odden, School Social Worker, at 651-621-7015 or the Ralph Reeder Food Shelf at 651-621-7451. All requests are kept confidential.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 28 - December 9

Gifts for Others

December 12 - 16

Treats for the Staff

January 9

Parenting Speaker at PTA Meeting
6:30, Library

January 11 -12

Talent Show Tryouts

January 24

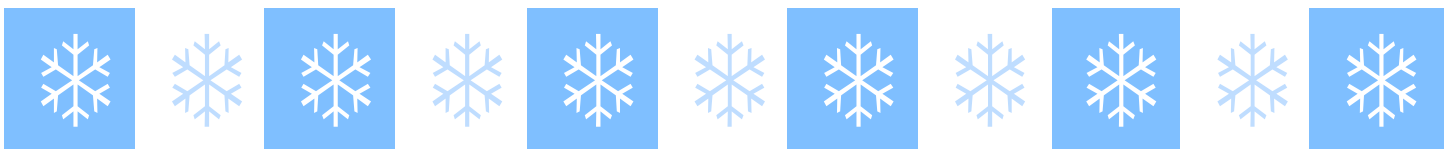
K-2 Playground Event, Shoreview
Community Center

February 2

Talent Show

February 21- 22

Science Fair



PARENTING SPEAKER TO JOIN US ON JANUARY 9!

Join us on Monday, January 9 during the PTA meeting as Tiger McLuen, President of Youth Leadership, provides ideas, tools and encouragement to help parents navigate the often difficult years of parenting. Come and catch a glimpse into the world our kids are living in and what that world means to us as parents. With over 30 years of working with kids and parents, and speaking nationally as well as locally, Tiger will help affirm the vital role we play in raising the next generation. Through humor and personal stories, Tiger brings a message that will inspire, entertain, teach and motivate. You don't want to miss this great night.





VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we are going to highlight a volunteer that gives of their time and talent to the PTA to make Island Lake a better school. We are looking for nominations and would love to hear stories of those behind the scenes that make everything possible. This person could be a parent, grandparent, someone from the community, or a friend. If you would like to nominate a great volunteer, email Jeanne Osgood at ejosgood@msn.com.

If you are looking for opportunities to volunteer, but you just aren't sure where to get plugged in, visit the PTA website for more information.

[CLICK HERE TO GET TO THE PTA WEBSITE](#)



PTA UPDATES

As space in the school has gotten tighter with our growing student population, more spaces are being needed for instructional space. Our PTA room was one of those spaces that had to be converted, so we have reallocated all of our stuff between a closet at the school and a rented storage unit offsite. If you are looking for something that used to be in the PTA room, please ask Kari.

At the October and November PTA Meetings, members voted to reallocate budget dollars that had previously been slated for Volunteer Services. Because we don't have a volunteer coordinator anymore, we were able to reallocate those dollars to other purposes:

- Dad's Night Out: \$500
- PTA Storage Expense: \$1500
- Increased budget for folders and planners: \$400
- Increased budget for IMC Collection: \$2000
- Increased budget for Creativity Fund: \$1600

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Kari LeMay at momofdjl@qwest.net or 651-783-1527.

PTA WEBSITE

We have updated the PTA website and have filled it with important dates and details about what is going on at school. This is a great resource that will keep you up to date on events, opportunities and contacts with the PTA. You can access it from the school website, but click here to get a direct link:

<http://www2.moundviewschools.org/islandlake/index.asp?ID=1978>



DID YOU KNOW THAT THE PTA...

Pays for the all 4th Graders to participate in the Kindness Retreat? Check out one mom's account of this great day that appeared in the Shoreview Press

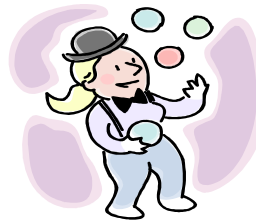
http://www.presspubs.com/shoreview/news/article_34b1f320-f9b1-11e0-ba14-001cc4c03286.html

Provides all the folders and planners all the kids use every day

Partners with the school social worker to make sure they have funds to help kids that need it

Spearheads over 50 programs at Island Lake, such as Chess Club, the Birthday Bulletin Board, Kindergarten Round up and the Science Fair in order to create a community that values the partnership between parents, teachers and students

If you have questions on how you can be involved, contact Kari LeMay, momofdjl@qwest.net



TALENT SHOW COMING ON FEBRUARY 2ND

If you would like to perform in the 2012 Talent Show, now is the time to plan and practice your two minute act!

Acts may include:

- Piano
- Vocal Solos, Duets
- Juggling
- Magic Acts
- Instrumentals
- Dance
- Karate
- Comedy Acts

Talent Show Previews will be held after school on January 11th & 12th. The sign-up sheet for previews will be outside the music room beginning on December 10th. We are also looking for fifth graders to be announcers and stage crew. If you are interested in these roles, you can sign up as well.

Practice your act so you are well prepared for the previews.

Dress Rehearsals will be on Tuesday, January 31st. Performance on Thursday, February 2nd. Email Lizanne Cooper at ambc@usfamily.net or Renee Gimm at gimmra@aol.com if you have any questions.

PROGRAM UPDATES

CHESS CLUB



Chess Club is going well. We are so glad to have the volunteers we need! Thanks to all the parents and community members who have volunteered and who will be volunteering this year. The sessions with Chess Master, Doug Hare, are going very well and the kids involved seem to enjoy the extra challenge.

-Jennifer Hakes
Island Lake Chess Club Co-coordinator

LEGO LEAGUE

Lego League is in full swing. This year we have about 40 4th and 5th graders forming 5 teams. The teams have been working hard with their coaches and will be competing in December. For those of you interested in Lego League next year, we would encourage you to stop in at one of the regional tournaments to see what it's all about and cheer on an Island Lake team. The tournament goes on all day, but you only need to stop in for an hour or so to get a feel for the atmosphere. Check out the PTA website for a list of teams and their tournament dates or contact the coach, Nortan Lam at norton@nortonlam.com for more information about their schedule and who is on each team.

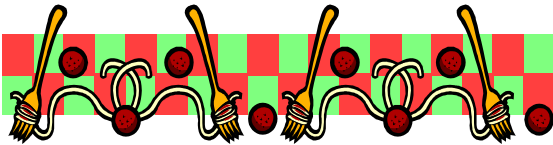


FALL BOOK FAIR WAS A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

There was a lot of enthusiasm from students and parents and we increased the amount we sold from last year. The Island Lake PTA made a profit of over \$2,600 from the sales at the book fair. Having the fair open for several evenings seemed to be popular and we will plan on that again in the spring. Thank you so much to all the volunteers listed below who helped out before, during, and after to make the event go so smoothly. We can't do it without you.

Sarah Orman & Stacey Lane, Bookfair Co-Chairs

Gina Akins	Heather Awad	Kristin Bakeman	Erika Batiz	Susan Cathey
Lizanne Cooper	Vrushali Deshpande	Nicole Ford	Liz Froehle	Renee Gimm
Kara Griffith	Jeannine Guenther	Gretchen Hanson	Jennifer Hanson	Kelly Jacobs Cerny
Lisa Johnson	Kari LeMay	Lisa Manrodt	Beth Martin	Jan Moyer
Lisa Murray	Michelle Nagel	Lisa Parsons	Martee Pederson	Chelly Pieper



YUM! SPAGHETTI!!!

Hundreds of families enjoyed delicious spaghetti from Mansetti's at our 8th annual Spaghetti Dinner in October. "This is GREAT food!" said Allie LeMay, 5th grader. "And I liked talking with the parents and kids who sat at our table" said Kari LeMay. "It was great to get to know some new families."

Tickets were presold ahead of time and organizers planned to serve about 100 at the door, just like they'd had in past years. But this year, being newly combined with Dad's Night Out, demand exceed supply and many were unable to get a last minute ticket.

"For next year, families will want to be sure to preorder their tickets ahead of time to ensure they are able to eat" said organizer Kim Gillespie.

Thanks to all the volunteers to helped cook and serve the dinner. We couldn't hold events like this without all of your help!

Kim Gillespie and Stacy Neary, Co-Chairs

Volunteers:

Jenny Heyer	Lynn Gondorcin
Stacey Jo Volna	Jessica Todd
Kathy Johnson	John Hakes
Carla Gatto	Jess Rask
Jessica Durand	Anna Bofinger
Michelle Bellow	Valerie Kath
April Schnell	Melissa Rivera
Nancy Gregory	Krista Sullivan

DAD'S NIGHT OUT WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

Hundreds of Dads and their kids enjoyed a variety of activities at Dad's Night Out back in October. They raced through the inflatable obstacle course, made crafts, played mini-golf and ate Spaghetti. Thanks to all the volunteers listed below who donated or volunteered to make Dad's Night Out a memorable event for our Island Lake families.

Shannon Schubert and Kris Elgaard, Co-Chairs

Mendards of Maplewood	Shari Strane
Angel Bulera	Jasmine Alfonzo Vasquez
Michelle Nagel	Michelle Emberley
Jan Hermes	Heather Ebben
Natalie Jedlenski	Marita Buerge
Maddie Shaw	Jane Anderson
Linda Kocon	Laura Marx
Cheryl Carter	Stacy Swanson
Gretchen Benike	Brenda Manke
Michelle Gardner	Megan Gardner
Tina Pierchowski	Candy Praml
Beth Martin	Ginnie Erickson
Kelly Jacobs Cerny	Jay Elgaard
Greg Schubert	Chris Koepl

DO YOU LOVE BOOKS?

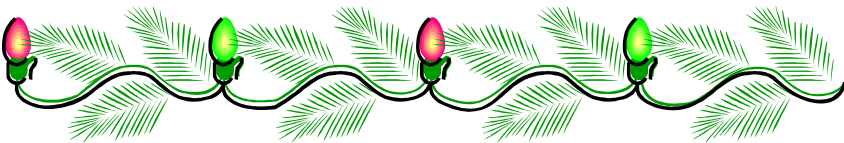
Do you love helping kids find new reading material? We're still looking for one more Bookfair Co-Chair to join the team with Sarah and Stacey, especially one who is somewhat available during the day during the Bookfair week.

If you'd like to learn more about this role, contact Katie Solfest at kmsolfest@comcast.net for "no obligation details". It's a super fun program to work on and if you love books, this might be perfect for you!



K-2 PLAYGROUND EVENT IS A BIG HIT!

The play time on November 8 at Shoreview Community Center was a huge success. We had over 120 people attend and everyone had a great time meeting new friends and spending time with folks they already knew. If you missed this one, mark your calendars for the next event on January 24



K-2 CLASSES

We would like to give a special thank you to Elizabeth Persico for volunteering her time to lead our K-2 children through a wonderful after school yoga experience. Upcoming classes include Little Lego League in January, Sew What? in February and Act Up in the spring. Watch your children's folders and the PTA website for information.

Please contact Nancy Gregory, 651-481-3964, if you would like to lead an after school experience in April or May!



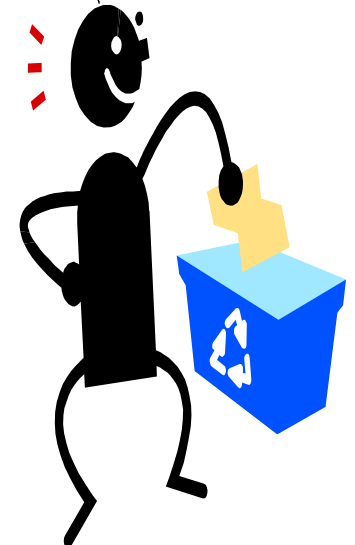
GREEN TEAM UPDATE

"Reduce, reuse, recycle – in that order! Waste reduction is the best method of waste management because it actually prevents the generation of waste, saving natural and financial resources." (source: St. Paul - Ramsey County Public Health website)

Reduce: Instead of buying new items for holiday gifts, consider giving "events" (tickets to plays, movies, sporting events, etc) or making something homemade (food, snacks, ornaments, candles, etc).

Reuse: Check out some of the many local consignment stores - bring in your gently used clothes or household items or shop for "new" items.

Recycle: Whole Foods grocery stores have containers for recycling #1 plastics.



75 THINGS TO DO WITH CHILDREN OVER THE HOLIDAY BREAK

Taken from theboldlife.com

Children often get restless while on winter break. Parents often find themselves at wits end trying to keep them entertained. The following tips are mostly fun - it is called a "break" after all. Inviting friends and neighbors to join you will double the fun!

Editors Note: Not all of these things can be done over a Minnesota Holiday Break, but we thought it was worth including this list since it was packed full of good ideas.

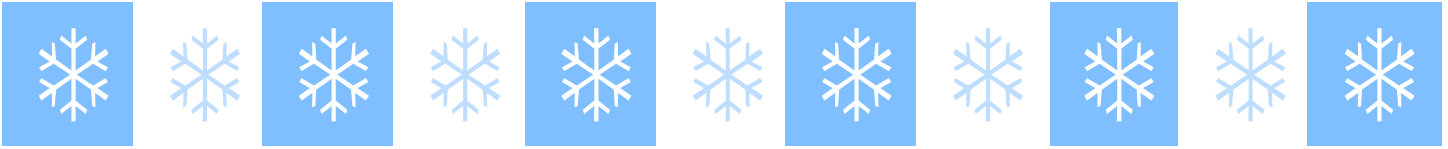
1. Make popcorn and watch a movie.
2. Make play dough.
3. Sign up for a walk or run for a cause.
4. Write letters to soldiers.
5. Go to the library and take out books, rent books on tape and movies.

Continued, Page 7-8



75 THINGS TO DO, CONTINUED

6. Take a trip to the museum.
7. Have coloring contests.
8. Plan a picnic indoors.
9. Have breakfast food for dinner.
10. Hold cooking classes in your own kitchen, invite friends.
11. Go biking or sledding.
12. Share favorite birthday and vacation stories.
13. Walk the beach or hike in the evening.
14. Paint bedrooms.
15. Learn magic tricks together and put on a show.
16. Rent dance videos and hold a dance contest.
17. Have a photo taking contest. Share cameras.
18. Create books using pictures from magazines.
19. Visit nursing homes, bring musical instruments and put on a show.
20. Volunteer at a soup kitchen.
21. Make cupcakes and have a decorating party.
22. Make your own banana splits with all kinds of toppings and sprinkles.
23. Make smoothies.
24. Create awards at awardwinner.com
25. Download free e-books.
26. Play online games together.
27. Make bubbles.
28. Hold a family game night.
29. Visit the zoo.
30. Design a family website.
31. Fill with family pictures and essays.
32. Ride bikes in another city.
33. Go rollerblading.
34. Attend free festivals.
35. Attend free concerts.
36. Press flowers and make cards.
37. Decorate thank-you notes, write messages inside, put stamps on envelopes they will be ready to go as needed.
38. Decorate placemats on construction paper and cover with contact paper.
39. Play charades.



40. Decorate small notebooks and begin daily journal.
41. Organize dresser drawers.
42. Clean bedrooms.
43. Draw pictures and mail to other family members.
44. Finger paint with pudding.
45. Collect rocks and paint them.
46. Tie dye T-shirts and matching socks
47. Share daydreams.
48. Rent a yoga video for kids.
49. Rent dance videos and have a contest after practicing.
50. Make a bird feeder.
51. Wash the family cars together.
52. Make macaroni jewelry and art.
53. Visit playgrounds and local parks.
54. Visit a working farm.
55. Take nature walks.
56. Go fishing.
57. Arrange photo albums.
58. Play flashlight tag.
59. Practice musical instruments.
60. Do brain teasers.
61. Make gift cards.
62. Make birthday cards.
63. Trace cookie cutters, decorate and cut out.
64. Write stories about past family events you have in photo albums.
65. Play card games.
66. Decorate clay pots.
67. Plant flowers in the decorated pots.
68. Do jigsaw puzzles.
69. Sleep outside under the stars.
70. Research a new hobby at the library.
71. Play a family memory game. ie What are the name of your great-grandparents?
72. Make a collage of what you are thankful for.
73. Make paper bag puppets.
74. Write love and appreciation letters to each other.
75. Cut out coupons together.

BEST REGARDS FOR A HAPPY AND SAFE HOLIDAY SEASON!