



# Lester Life

September 2010



## Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year!

Welcome to new and returning members of the Lester family!



### New faces gracing our halls

We would like to welcome the following new staff members to Lester:

**Mr. Matt Leiser** is our new 2nd Grade teacher.

**Ms. Dana Percich** is our new 3rd Grade teacher.

**Ms. Ashley Brinkman** is our new 4th Grade teacher.

**Ms. Kathy Meilecki** is our new LRC Director.

**Mr. Kevin Kmak** is our new Inclusion Aide.

**Ms. Michele Heimerdinger** is our new Inclusion Aide.

**Ms. Samantha Johnson** is our new Inclusion Aide.

**Ms. Jessica Green** will be working as a Social Work Intern with Mrs. Leonard.

Please welcome them. They are excited to be working with your children.

### Familiar face, new name

We would like to congratulate Ms. Brown, our 3rd grade teacher who became Mrs. Freitag over the summer. Congratulations, Mrs. Freitag!



## Dear Lester Families: Principal's Message

Welcome to the 2010-2011 school year at Lester! For those who I have not had the pleasure of meeting yet, my name is Carin Novak and I am the principal here at Lester. I am thrilled to be with you for another exciting year with you and your children.

Lester is a wonderful place filled with enthusiasm, a passion for education, creativity, and commitment. The key to the success of our school community is built upon the joint efforts of our fantastic Lester staff, supportive Lester parents, and hard working Lester students. When we work collaboratively together, we can maximize the learning experiences of each and every student. I am honored to work with all of you as we continue on our journey in this amazing learning environment.

As we begin the school year, we have some exciting changes that have taken place. We have hired some quality educators over the summer to fill the vacancies left by our retirees. We are thrilled to have them join our Lester School family! In addition, our front lobby has had a beautiful face-lift! We have been the recipient of a new ceiling mural painted by local artist MaryBeth Beatty courtesy of our Lester families through the PTA. What a

wonderful tribute to our students and staff—past and present.

This goes to show you that magic can happen when home and school work together! I encourage everyone to pop over and take a look at this fabulous work of art.

As the year unfolds, please feel free to contact me should you have any questions, concerns, or ideas.

I wish everyone an amazing 2010- 2011!

Sincerely,

*Mrs. Carin Novak*



### Stay connected!

- **Lester School**  
[www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)
- **Lester PTA**  
[www.lesterpta.com](http://www.lesterpta.com)
- **District 58**  
[www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org)
- **District 58 Twitter**



[www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58](http://www.twitter.com/DGDistrict58)

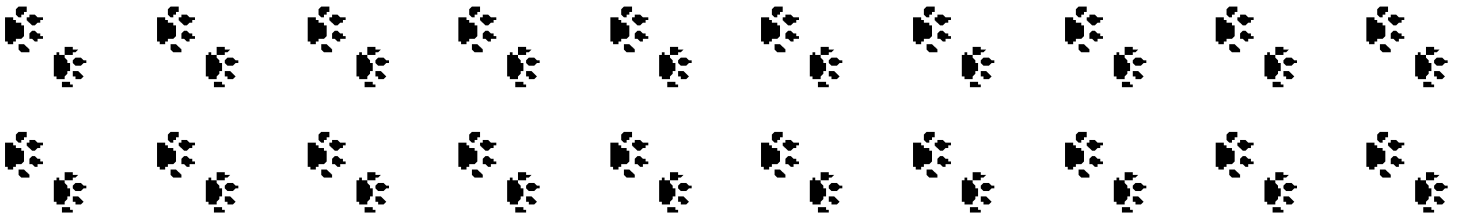
*(choose Lester from the list on the left-hand side of the District 58 site)*

### Lester is a NON-Food birthday school

Reminder that Lester has become a non-food birthday school in an effort to continue to promote health and wellness with our students. We will be celebrating our student's birthdays in a variety of ways both in and out of the classrooms. Please understand that participation in providing any birthday treat is optional and not required at Lester School

Should you send in a food treat in error—it will be returned home for your family to enjoy.

## Join the pack and get involved



We need your **HELP!** Lester School PTA Clothing Resale is looking for **VOLUNTEERS!**



Our Volunteer Form is also online, [www.lesterpta.com](http://www.lesterpta.com). *Volunteers are able to shop the sale early on Friday evening!*

This year's clothing resale will be: **Friday, September 24, from 6 to 9 p.m. & Saturday, September 25, from 8 to 11 a.m.**

**If you are interested in volunteering to work at the sale, please call Kim at (630) 241-2550.**

For those interested in selling Fall and Winter clothing, costumes, coats, shoes and boots should register for the sale at Lester School in Downers Grove on one of the following dates: Monday, September 13, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; Saturday, September 18, 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.; or Tuesday, September 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The registration fee is \$3 per seller on those dates, or \$6 per seller after September 21st. Sizes accepted include infants and toddlers, girls to size 16, boys to size 20, and junior's sizes. Sellers receive 70 percent of the price of their items, and the Lester PTA receives 30 percent!

- Clothing drop-off will take place on Wednesday, September 22, from 7 to 9 p.m. and Thursday, September 23, from 7 to 9 p.m.
- If anyone has metal hangers that they would like to donate for the upcoming PTA Clothing Resale, we have a collection box in the entryway. Thank you for your help!
- **If you have any questions about this year's sale, please contact Denise at (630) 541-8056 or Eileen at (630) 725-9198 or [clothingresale@lesterpta.com](mailto:clothingresale@lesterpta.com)**

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## The first Running of the Leopards—Lester Fun Run

Mark your calendars for fall fundraiser, the inaugural Lester 5K Fun Run/Walk at 8 a.m., **Sunday, October 24** around Lester school. In addition to the 5k, there is a 1k Kids Dash!

There will be T-shirts, prizes, and healthy post-race snacks and giveaways too! Race sign-up will be available the week of September 13. Look for more information to come regarding details.

**For sponsorship or volunteer opportunities, contact Tammy Crosson at [funrun@lesterpta.com](mailto:funrun@lesterpta.com)**

## Going GREEN

Lester Leopards doing their part for the planet!

In an effort to “go green,” Pat Brown, Physical Education Teacher, will be trying something new this year with permission slips. Her permission slips will be on her webpage, which you can access using the district website: [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org): Find Lester on the left side of the home page, then click on curriculum from the Lester page and finally, you will see the PE page. Thank you for help save some trees.

### Download the following permission slips:

- **6th grade volleyball intramurals**—meets each Wednesday

- **1st grade Motor Club**—meets each Wednesday
- **Jump rope club (3rd - 6th grades only)**—meets each Tuesday

### Upcoming permission slips:

- **Jump Rope for Heart permission slip**—available the beginning of November.
- **Roller Skating permission slip**—available the beginning of March.



**Lester PTA is following District 58’s initiative to GO GREEN!** In an effort to make communications conveniently available online and to “go green” by using less paper, Lester PTA is continuing to change the way it distributes information to students and families.

Previously, community organizations whose flyer met the district’s criteria provided paper copies for distribution via backpack. District 58 distributed more than 425,000 pieces of paper on behalf of community groups annually. With their new e-flyer system, in effect beginning this school year, they are introducing an eco-friendly distribution system that saves resources, and also the time required for parents and staff to sort and handle materials. District flyers that were sent home via backpack last year will only be available for viewing online:

[www.dg58.com/community\\_relations/flyer.htm](http://www.dg58.com/community_relations/flyer.htm). You can also find that link on the homepage of the PTA website: ([www.lesterpta.com](http://www.lesterpta.com))!

Lester PTA is also helping to reduce paper by launching a “Virtual Backpack”—using our website and electronic newsletter as our primary modes of communication. You can view our PTA Calendar, sign up to volunteer, fill out forms, and register for events online! PTA flyers and Lester Life will continue to arrive via backpack mail, but you can expect to see a reduced level! Most PTA reminders will only be seen in the electronic newsletter or on our website. If you are not already receiving the Lester PTA Notifications via email, please send and email to: [registration@lesterpta.com](mailto:registration@lesterpta.com) and tell us which email addresses you would like us to add!



We understand that not everyone has access to the internet. If you would like a hard copy of PTA communications, please cut this out, fill out the below information and return to the school office.

I do not have access to the internet. Please provide a printed copy of PTA communications

\_\_\_\_\_ Youngest child’s last name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade and teacher

## Safety Reminders

As we begin the school year, we offer a few reminders regarding procedures in and around the school.

### Traffic:

- Have your children exit on the passenger side of the vehicle. This ensures their safety as they arrive in our drop-off zones.
- Obey all posted traffic signs—these include the “no turn” signs at specific times, as well as the posted “no parking” signs. Please note that from 8:00-9:00 a.m. and 2:00-3:00 p.m., driving east on Indianapolis to Fairview leads to a RIGHT TURN ONLY sign—turning left or going straight are not allowed during these times.
- Please realize that double-parking along the streets after school can create a terribly dangerous situation for our students. We do not want students to run between cars to approach their vehicle.

### Supervision:

- Please remember that there is no adult supervision on either playground until 8:15 a.m.
- Also, parents who are bringing younger siblings in the morning when dropping off your older children, please keep them close to you until the bell rings and our students enter the building.
- Our staff can not be responsible for supervising children who are not students at Lester, and given the large number of children on the playgrounds in the morning, we count on you to watch your pre-school-age children.
- Finally, please realize that our students come out for recess at various points during the day.
- From 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., the playgrounds need to be clear of guests and visitors so that our students have an open and safe environment for recess times.
- If you have dropped off or picked up your students around this time and wish to socialize

with other Lester families, we ask you to consider the parking lot...or Panera!

### Pets:

- Some children may be afraid of or allergic to dogs.
- Please keep your dog on a leash and under adult care at all times.
- Staying out close to the sidewalk area is best due to our large crowds at arrival and dismissal.
- Please demonstrate courtesy by cleaning up after your dog.
- While dogs are permitted before and after school hours, they are not allowed on school property during the school day.
- Thank you for your assistance in making all children feel safe and comfortable on the Lester School grounds.

**Thank you for working with us to ensure the safety of each of the 510 children that attend Lester School each day!**

## Parent Reminder: 2010 Health Requirements

- **Kindergarten**—school physical/immunizations, vision and dental exam
- **Second grade**—dental exam
- **Sixth grade**—school physical, dental exam
- **School physicals and vision exams** are due on or before the first day of school.
- **Dental exams** are due on or before May 15, 2011.

All exam forms are available on the district website at [www.dg58.org](http://www.dg58.org). Go to “Parent Information” and click on “Health Information and Forms.”

Lester School will be participating in the Smile Program again this year. The Mobile Dentists will visit the school on January 25, 2011. Mark your calendar!

Participation is open to all and permission forms will be sent home in October.

**If you have any questions, please contact School Nurse Kathie Kelly at 630.719.5855.**

## Lester PTA Announcements

### Letter from the Presidents

#### **Hello Lester Families:**

Welcome to the new school year!! Speaking on behalf of the PTA Board, we hope you all had a safe, happy summer. If you are a new family at Lester School, we hope you enjoyed the New Family Open House. It was great to see so many of you there. It can be overwhelming when you start at a new school, so please don't hesitate to contact myself or any PTA Board member with any questions you have about the PTA and our role at Lester School.

The PTA Board has made some changes this year that we hope will improve our communication and efforts with our members.

One of our most exciting changes is the new Lester School PTA website at [lesterpta.com](http://lesterpta.com). In an effort to "go green," we have discontinued backpack mail, while some items will still be sent home by paper, most of our notices and announcements will be through the PTA e-blasts and website, [www.lesterpta.com](http://www.lesterpta.com)

Information on how to sign up came out the second week of school and is included in this newsletter on page 4.

As you all may know, a huge number of papers used to come home weekly. We hope that this will help all of us be able to manage the information better. Also, Market Day has been discontinued, and Money that Matters will no longer be a weekly event. Cards will be available for pre-order twice this year, at Christmas and the end of the school year.

The annual Clothing Resale is coming September 24th and 25th. This event requires almost 100 volunteers in various roles. (Volunteers receive special pre-sale shopping!) Also, this October will be a new event for Lester School, a 5K fun run, called the "Running of the Leopards." This will be a great family event, and information on this will also be coming out soon.

While school districts all over the country are cutting budgets, the Lester PTA wants to continue to provide our teachers resources, technology upgrades and unique field trips that make our school great! If you have not yet joined the PTA, please consider becoming a member (and sign up your significant other too!).

Also, consider volunteering as a way to become a part of the Lester School community; you will meet new people, make new friends, and have a good time, all while setting a great example to your own children in the process. Plus the kids really enjoy knowing you are helping out at their school.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 21st in the LRC (library) at 7 p.m. Free babysitting is provided, so feel free to bring your children.

Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

**Dawn Sirianni** ([president@lesterpta.com](mailto:president@lesterpta.com))

**Tricia Pautsch** ([presidentelect@lesterpta.com](mailto:presidentelect@lesterpta.com))

## Lester PTA Meeting Highlights

Meeting: Tuesday, May 25, 2010 in the LRC

Note: The last PTA meeting happened way, way, way back in May. So here's a view of the last meeting and our way of keeping you in the loop. Each month we publish the highlights. Full minutes are published later on the PTA website, [www.lesterpta.com](http://www.lesterpta.com).

### Business Briefs:



- Website development continues; parent section with sign up activation will be coming. Please check your email over the summer months.
- Ending balance of \$43,928.75 on 4/30/2010.
- Village will not approve proposed Fall Fun Run route because of sewage work. Working on alternate routes and dates.
- **Amy Mills** is collecting committee chair folders for all chairs that are not continuing next year.
- New Committee Chair list was handed out. Thank you to ALL the volunteers!
- **Mrs. Pat Brown** was voted to be the 'Teacher of the Year' for District 58.
- The **Garden Committee** has been busy and had the **Therese Creamer** dedication ceremony.
- **New sound system** was appreciated at the School musical held last week.
- **Next Year:** RTI initiative, block reading schedule with limited classroom interruption. Tie-in with social/emotional learning. No primary PM recess—replaced with afternoon indoor brain break. We will also get onboard with the "Healthy: Let's Move Wellness Plan" with Michelle Obama—beginning non-food birthday treats. Announcements have been very successful and we will announce all birthdays and children will receive a book from the office. We are having a special grand-parent / friend day next year in the fall. A 2nd- and 3rd-grade split is planned for next year.

### Committee Reports and Ongoing PTA Fundraisers:

- **Lester Life - Brian Sutton** introduced himself—he is taking over Lester Life next year; he has three children at Lester.
- **6th Grade Farewell** – Party was a great success, thank you. We are having a clap-out on the last day of school as the 6th grade students exit out the South-East door.

### Next PTA meeting: September 21st

As the school year begins, please consider becoming a member of the Lester PTA and help make a difference in the education and quality of life for all of our children. PTA meetings are held one evening per month—on the Third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in the LRC (no meeting in December). Babysitting is provided. The first meeting is September 21st—we hope to see you! We will be sending home more information about membership soon!

## Important dates

Date / Time	Day	Item
September 13 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)	Monday	Clothing Registration
September 18 (9 - 11 a.m.)	Saturday	Clothing Registration
September 21 (all day)	Tuesday	Picture Day
September 21 (6:30 - 8:30 p.m.)	Tuesday	Clothing Registration
September 22 (6 - 9 p.m.)	Wednesday	Clothing Receiving
September 23 (6 - 9 p.m.)	Thursday	Clothing Receiving
September 24 (6 - 9 p.m.)	Friday	Clothing Resale
September 25 (8 - 11 a.m.)	Saturday	Clothing Resale
September 28 (8:25 - 11:25 a.m.)	Tuesday	HALF-DAY / School Improvement ( <b>AM K attends</b> )
September 28 (7 - 8 p.m.)	Tuesday	PTA Meeting (Learning Resource Center)
September 30	Thursday	Hot food day
October 5 (2:45 - 7:45 p.m.)	Tuesday	Fall Book Fair
October 11	Monday	NO SCHOOL / Columbus Day
October 19 (7 - 8 p.m.)	Tuesday	PTA Meeting (Learning Resource Center)
October 24 (8 a.m.)	Sunday	Running of the Leopards
October 26 (all day)	Tuesday	Picture re-take day
October 29 (all day)	Friday	End of First Reporting Period (K-8)
October 29 (1:15 - 2:40 p.m.)	Friday	Halloween Parade and Party

Of note: September 27th

### Kelly Miller Circus coming to Downers Grove

Save the date! The Kelly Miller Circus will bring its animal menagerie and performing troupe to Downers Grove on Monday, Sept. 27 on the Fairmount/O'Neill grounds at 59th Street and Blodgett Avenue for the **District 58 Education Foundation's annual fundraiser (from which all schools include Lester benefit.)**

The traditional old-fashioned circus will present two performances, one at 4:30 p.m. and one at

7:30 p.m. Tickets will be on sale soon at the District 58 Administrative Service Center, 1860 63rd Street; at Community Bank of Downers Grove, 1111 Warren Avenue; and online at [www.dg58ef.com](http://www.dg58ef.com).

