

Arnold School Newsletter

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During the 2006-07 school year, the Lincoln Public Schools will implement a new school improvement model called Professional Learning Communities (PLCs). This is being implemented in all LPS schools because we believe it is so important in our efforts to help all students be more successful learners. The implementation of PLCs will result in three early release days during second semester; we want to let you know now about those days and why they are important.

Professional Learning Communities involve collaborative teams of teachers who focus on individual and overall student learning. The teams look at individual student performance and the development of timely intervention to support individual student achievement. This dialogue explores four questions: What do we want each student to learn? How will we know when each student has learned it? How we will respond when a student experiences difficulty in learning? How we will respond when a student has already learned essential knowledge and skills?

Professional Learning Communities require time dedicated for such dialogue to occur. Research clearly illustrates that effective collaboration must occur through structured processes that are separate from the traditional teacher planning time. These collaborative teams need an extended period of time in order to focus on individual student needs. Six dates have been selected in the current school year for educators to meet in Professional Learning Communities. To help parents plan ahead, here is the schedule:

- On the first three dates--September 26, October 24, and November 28-- Professional Learning Communities will meet after the school day. Practices for athletic teams and other extra curricular activities on these three days will either be scheduled later in the day or rescheduled. Sporting events will take place as scheduled.
- On the second set of three dates--**February 27, March 27, and April 24**-- Professional Learning Communities will meet in the second half of the regular school day. **This means on those dates school will be dismissed two hours early. ExCITE and ECSE will also be on a shortened schedule.** In order to ensure that there is not a loss of instructional time, a day has been added to the student calendar. School will be in session on Tuesday, January 23, 2007.

The schedule that Arnold School will be following on early dismissal days in February, March and April will have the same start time of 9:00 A.M. with students being

dismissed at 1:38. ExCITE and ECSE teachers will share the shortened day schedule with parents at a later date.

I recognize that an early release on these three days may be a disruption in your family's schedule. The CLC Cedars and Parks & Recreation after-school programs will start immediately following the early dismissal on those days. I want to assure you that I believe this time is very important for our teachers to work together to help each student be a better learner. I appreciate your support of our teachers in this work. Please call me if you have any questions about this information.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ARNOLD SCHOOL

October 3 from 6-7:30 P.M.	One Book One Family
October 9	NO SCHOOL for elementary students
October 10-13	Cognitive Abilities Testing (Grades 2&5)
October 10 at 5:30	PTO Meeting
October 12 & 17 from 4-7 P.M.	Parent/Teacher Conferences
October 20	Picture Day
October 27 at 10 A.M.	Recognition Assembly
	End of 1 st Quarter
October 30-November 3	NO SCHOOL Fall Break

BOOK FAIR AT ARNOLD SCHOOL

Come to the book fair October 2 through October 6 in the Media Center. The book fair will open from 3:45-5:00 Monday through Friday. It will also be open after One Book One Family on Tuesday and until 6:30 on Thursday during Dawes Parent/Teacher Conferences. Reading books together at home is a great way to help children become stronger readers!

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

Teachers are looking forward to meeting with parents and sharing information about students and their learning. Along with this letter you will find a pamphlet entitled "How to Conference Successfully with Your Child's Teacher." Take a few minutes to look it over before your visit. See you on the October 12 or 17.

PTO MEETING

The first PTO meeting was held on September 12. The new officers were introduced and Doug Schindler, Lincoln Public Schools Auditor, shared guidelines and safeguards to strengthen PTO's financial system. As of 9-12-06, PTO had a balance of \$5,205.00 with a number of outstanding bills. All interested parents are invited to attend the next PTO meeting on October 10 at 5:30.