

HAPPENING AT THE HILL – SEPTEMBER 13, 2019

LOVE: 热爱 LEAD: 引领 LEARN: 学习

Our Mission:

To develop compassionate lifelong learners in a leadership-focused school community.

Dear Linden Hill Families,

I am thrilled to announce that we have made it through our first FULL week of school. The students are getting used to their new routines and procedures. This past week, I visited all our classrooms and saw so many wonderful learning experiences happening every day! Thank you for your support of our Leader In Me program. Did your child tell you about the upcoming Obstacle Course event on October 3rd?!? Our Linden Hill Lions earned over 500 Leadership Leaves in the past two weeks! This event is going to be amazing!

Today we held our first practice safety drill. Please see the Safety & Security section below for additional information on this and upcoming drills.

We look forward to seeing everyone at our Open House on Thursday, September 26th. Classroom presentations will begin at 6:00pm. If you have more than one student, please be prepared to split your time during the event. This evening is intended for adults only, so please plan accordingly. Teachers will have individual parent conference sign-up sheets available for the November conference dates for anyone who would like to sign up early! Additional parking will be available at the Abundant Life Church on Three Little Bakers Blvd. A Police Officer will be present to direct traffic and assist with crossing Skyline Drive.

Here are some updates and reminders of things that are *Happening at The Hill!*

Have a great weekend!



Missy Brady



UPDATES & REMINDERS

SAFETY & SECURITY

As part of our comprehensive safety and security program, we want all families to know about protocols for visitors and safety drills. All Red Clay schools require visitors to have photo identification, which will be held in the Main Office while the visitor remains in the school. If you are interested in volunteering in your child's classroom or on a field trip, please complete the required Volunteer Clearance form (attached). **A new form must be filled out every year.**

All Red Clay schools will hold 9 fire drills and 3 lockdown drills per school year. Teachers have already started reviewing how to safely exit the building during fire drills. Each classroom has an exit plan and a designated "safe" area on the playground. We follow strict protocols to ensure all students are accounted for. During our lockdown drills, students will remain in their classrooms in a designated area and all hallways, bathrooms and offices are checked to ensure student safety.

Today, we held our first lockdown safety drill. An announcement was made that this was a "practice safety drill" and students remained in their classrooms with their teachers. Classroom doors were checked to ensure they were in the locked position with door windows covered while students remained quiet to listen for directions from their teachers. Our drill lasted approximately 3 minutes, at which time another announcement was made that the drill was over and regular routines resumed. I want to thank our amazing staff for preparing our students for all of the safety drills we are required to have as a public school.

LEADER IN ME

Our first week of Habit Heroes was a HUGE SUCCESS!!! These students will be recognized at Habit Hero Assemblies throughout the school year. Parents will be notified when their child is a Habit Hero! Congratulations to our BE PROACTIVE Habit Heroes!!

ARRIVAL/DISMISSAL

Friendly reminders: Our instructional day begins at 9:05am. Students purchasing breakfast have the opportunity to "Grab and Go" from the café beginning at 8:50 in order to arrive in their classrooms at 9:00am. All remaining students will be permitted into the building at 8:55am. Our instructional day ends at 3:45pm. Early dismissals will only be permitted **before 3:15pm**. Our walker and car rider dismissal will begin at 3:50pm. Our buses will depart at 4:05pm. All students are to be picked up by 4:05pm. We do not have staff available to supervise children after that time.

*No cars are permitted to park in the neighborhood OR on Skyline Drive during arrival/dismissal times. Students should either walk with guidance from the crossing guards, dropped off by the bus in front of the school or dropped off by a car following the car line protocol.

CAR LINE

Morning– Cars should enter the Linden Hill parking lot off of Skyline Drive at the direction of the Crossing Guard. Cars will be directed to loop around by the recess lot and pull to the available slots, 1-12. Students should exit their vehicle and immediately go to the sidewalk to be watched carefully by staff members. In an effort for a safer transition, students should exit vehicles on the passenger side/sidewalk side. *All cars should remain in a line/order and stay in that order as they exit, which will allow students to safely exit their cars to the sidewalk. No passing should occur. Remember, we are dealing with children – safety first! (These procedures are the same as last school year, with the small change of staff not opening car doors during arrival.)

Afternoon – Cars should only enter the Linden Hill parking lot off of Skyline Drive at the direction of the Crossing Guard. Cars will form lines from the front cone to the last cone (12 cars per line). Once the closest line of cars is filled, we will fill the subsequent rows. **Staff members will load cars in groups of 12 (cones 1-12).** Students will be waiting for their vehicle as their car pulls up.

- All vehicles **MUST REMAIN IN THE ORDER OF THEIR ARRIVAL** in order to navigate this process.
- All vehicles **MUST HAVE THEIR CAR TAG # DISPLAYED ON THEIR REAR VIEW MIRROR** in order for staff to correctly identify which students are assigned to which car.
- Once students are safely placed in their vehicle, all cars **MUST FOLLOW IN ORDER AS THEY EXIT TO SKYLINE DRIVE**. No vehicles are permitted to pass on the left, as this would put our children in unnecessary danger.
- Drivers should remain in their cars at all times. Staff will escort students to their cars.
- Drivers are encouraged to put their cars in “Park” to avoid rolling back/forward.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

In order to ensure the safety of our students during unstructured play time, there are some guidelines that all Linden Hill students must comply with. Additionally, LHE is not responsible for any lost/stolen/damaged items that are brought from home.

Items that are NOT permitted at school:

- Leather footballs
- Hard bats (including baseball, cricket)
- Pokémon cards
- Electronic equipment (tablets, iPod, phones)

BEFORE/AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Abrakadoodle STILL HAS ROOM!!! (flyer attached)

If you signed your child up for an after school program, it is your responsibility to communicate with their teacher about any changes in their dismissal.

*All after school program coordinators will bring the children out to the main entrance (outside) when their program ends. No one is permitted to enter the building. This is a safety/security issue, as no one will be in the office to monitor who enters/exits and NO doors should ever be propped open.

RED CLAY CAFÉ – FREE/REDUCED LUNCH

Families who may be eligible for free or reduced priced meals can apply by completing the **Meal Benefit Form** as soon as possible and returning it to your child's school. **Only complete one application per family must be completed EACH school year.** The information provided on the MBF will be used to determine or prove your child's eligibility for free or reduced-priced meals. This information may also be used for other state or federally funded school benefits. Children from households that meet Federal Income Guidelines who are eligible for reduced priced meals will not be charged the reduced price meal fee as a new department policy.

<https://redclaycafe.com/index.php?page=lunchapps&sid=0112081723421745%20>

NOTE FROM OUR COUNSELOR

FOOD BANK OF DE – BACK PACK PROGRAM

Linden Hill has partnered with the Food Bank of Delaware to implement their Children's Nutrition Program for families in need of support. Participants in the "Back-Pack" program are given a package of food to take home for the weekend. Participation in this program does not require income verification or disclosure of private information.

The Food Bank will deliver a package to school each week. The bag provides 2 days' worth of shelf-stable, nutritious, child-friendly meals and a snack. Packages will be discretely distributed to students before they leave for the school day. Bags need not be returned.

If your family would benefit from this program, or if you have any questions, please contact Carol Dougherty, Linden Hill School Counselor via email at carol.dougherty@redclay.k12.de.us. All referrals will be handled confidentially.

SANDY HOOK PROMISE – START WITH HELLO (FAMILY LETTER ATTACHED)

Linden Hill is proud to join the rest of Red Clay and participate in activities supporting The Sandy Hook Promise. This is a national non-profit organization founded and led by several family members who lost loved ones during the Sandy Hook School tragedy on December 14, 2012. The organization is focused on preventing violence BEFORE it happens by educating parents, schools and communities on mental health and wellness.

The elementary program has 3 simple steps. September 23rd begins National “Start With Hello” week. At Linden Hill, we are committed to building an inclusive community. This is reinforced every day during our morning meetings. This year, we will participate in “Hey Day” where students will be challenged to find 5 peers they don’t know during recess so they can introduce themselves and say “Hello”! We will sign a pledge to include everyone and prevent social isolation!

PTA UPDATES:

- Our first PTA Meeting will be held in the library on September 17th at 7:00 PM. We look forward to seeing you there! (Let us know if you plan to use free childcare while attending lhepta2@gmail.com.)
- Calendar of PTA events
 - Attached flyer
- This year we have many exciting activities planned (come to the meeting to learn more). Help to support the PTA and our goal of building an outdoor classroom with our **Discount Card Fundraiser** this month!
 - Attached flyer/list of participating retailers & restaurants
- Each year you do need to resubmit your dues for your LHE PTA Membership. We will be collecting dues at the meeting next Tuesday and also will be sending home a reminder Membership Letter this week. You can submit online at <https://lindenhill.memberhub.store/>
- Spirit Wear: <https://lindenhillfall2019.itemorder.com/sale>
- Before & After School Enrichment Programs
 - Your PTA has helped to make possible the before and after school activities for our students to ensure we have plenty of wonderful opportunities right in our own back yard. Classes are starting soon! <http://lindenhillpta.org/2019/08/22/before-and-after-school-enrichment-programs/>
 - Mad Science: Tues (Before) or Thurs (After) classes for ten weeks starting soon. We transform laboratory science into fun, interactive learning experiences for kids from K-6. Register by 9/15 for a discount. (flyer attached)

SOCIAL MEDIA

Do your part and stay connected to us by following us on Social Media. You can easily find us by searching LindenHillLions and #LHEpride on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

CALENDAR ITEMS

List of events updated regularly on the shared Google sheet:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1pjhvH92CODmjXHb0gFn-WY7jKDMGHRLJJuHKPOiXMJA/edit?usp=sharing>