

Our mission is to maximize learning for all students

# MAXEY Messenger



Patrick Decker, Principal  
pdecker@lps.org

Suzanne Reimers, Assistant Principal  
sreimers@lps.org

Maxey Elementary School \* 5200 S. 75<sup>th</sup> Street \* Lincoln, NE 68516  
(402) 436-1153\* (Fax) 458-3253\* <http://maxey.lps.org>

---

Volume 13

August 22, 2007

Number 1

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

August 22: Reading Recovery Parent Information Night	5:30-6:30 pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade Parent Information Night	6:30-7:30 pm
August 23: 4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Information Night	6:30-7:15 pm
August 28: Early Release for PLC's (Professional Learning Communities)	
Grades 1-5 dismiss at 2:18 p.m.	
A.M. Kindergarten dismiss at 11:14 a.m.	
P.M. Kindergarten starts at 12:04 and dismiss at 2:18 p.m.	
ECSE – No School (Parent Contact Day)	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade Parent Information Night	6:30-7:15 pm
Sept. 6: Kindergarten Parent Information Night	6:30-7:30 pm

## **Welcome Back!**

We have begun the 2007-08 school year in good form. Our preliminary student enrollment is as follows:

Kindergarten:	104 with 3 teachers, morning and afternoon sessions
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade:	129 with 6 teachers
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade:	126 with 6 teachers
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade:	113 with 5 teachers
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	99 with 5 teachers
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade:	118 with 5 teachers
ECSE:	9 with 1 teacher, morning and afternoon sessions
Total:	698

### **Car Pool Lane Procedures**

Let's take a moment to review. We ask you to not use the north car pool lane unless you have a special pass. These are given out for one or two of our special needs students. This drive is for commercial day care vans and the LPS Special Education bus.

The west drive is reserved for vehicles dropping off students and picking them up. As a reminder, we ask students to enter and exit their vehicles on the passenger side of the vehicle. Please remember that traffic into the drives is one way. It is a good idea to tell your students the general vicinity of where you are going to pick them up at dismissal time. Please be aware of the crossing guards and crosswalks. These are safe places for students to cross streets. We have "traffic directors" leading into each of the drives. Please follow their directions. We do this to keep students safe.

Students are not allowed to walk in the parking lot unless accompanied by an adult. Please do not ask your children to walk in the parking lot unaccompanied by an adult. If you are going to enter the parking lot with your vehicle, please park it in a parking stall. It is not safe for those walking in the parking lot if you are "standing" in your vehicle. We do not recommend you use the parking lot to pick up your children. However, if you must, we ask you to park your car in a parking stall and go meet your children at the cross walk leading to the parking lot and escort your children to your car. Please keep in mind these rules are for the safety of ALL children.

### **Review of Procedures for Visiting Maxey School**

LPS has standardized procedures for parents, patrons, and guests visiting Maxey Elementary School. As you are aware all schools now have paid "Security Entrance Monitors" (Greeters) located near the main entrance of every building. Simply stated, anyone who wishes to travel into the building beyond the "Greeter" will be asked to go through the "sign in" procedures and be issued a "Visitor's Name Badge". However, if you just wish to drop off a personal belonging of your child's or you wish to pick your child up for an appointment, you may sit in our waiting area located in front of the "Greeter" and she will radio the office to call your child's classroom and indicate that you wish for her/him to meet you at the "Greeter's" area. We also ask that you "sign out" when you have finished your visit. Please note you are ALWAYS welcome at our school. You may visit us and our classrooms any day and in most cases just about any time. "Greeters" now placed in all of LPS schools, are there to help provide safety to our students and staff. We hope you understand this and support our efforts. I believe we are very fortunate to have a Board of Education who saw the necessity of this and made a decision to implement it. In addition, our Board of Education has purchased a new radio system for every school. They are of much better quality than the previous "walkie talkie" models we have used. These new radios provide us with direct connection to our District Office, LPS Transportation, Lincoln Police Department, Nebraska State Patrol, and the 911 Emergency Center.

### **New Connect Ed Messaging System**

This past week you received two messages from the new LPS Connect Ed Communication Program. Susan Gourley, LPS Superintendent, provided each family with a "Welcome Back to School" telephone and email message. I followed up on Wednesday with a telephone message inviting parents and students to attend our Maxey Open House on Thursday. You have or will receive telephone messages from your appropriate grade level team leader reminding you of the upcoming "Parent Information Night". This new

system has an "emergency button" that allows schools to notify parents of an unsafe situation that is presently in progress at their child's school.

Do keep in mind that this new system sends out its messages to the telephone numbers and email addresses you place on your child's census information that you update at the beginning of each school year. Most of you did this in your child's classroom during the Maxey Open House this past Thursday.

There is one thing to keep in mind about providing us telephone numbers. When the new Connect Ed system calls a telephone number, it leaves the message at the phone that is "picked up" or is connected to an answering machine. If you give us a telephone number with an extension number, most likely the message will NOT get to your extension, but only to whomever answers the "main number". Therefore, it is best to have telephone numbers go to your home phone or cell phones only. In all cases regarding emergencies, you will receive messages via phone and email. THEREFORE, IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU PROVIDE US WITH UPDATES OF NEW PHONE NUMBERS AND EMAIL ADDRESSES.

Please keep in mind the use of Connect Ed is for school business only. I will attempt to not overuse this new system. Our goal is to average no more than two messages per month, unless there is an emergency. August and September may be more than two times, as we are introducing the system and organizing for the new school year.

### **Report Cards/Curriculum Objectives, Etc.**

For our new to Maxey parents and for those who want a review, you can obtain report card information and curriculum objectives from the LPS webpage ([www.lps.org](http://www.lps.org)). Click "Instruction" and you will have plenty of information about how we "grade" students, including copies of our elementary report card, curriculum content learning objectives and grade level learning objectives. Your child's scheduled Parent Information Night will also provide you with teacher expectations, guidelines, etc.

### **Gifted Education**

Much information is provided about the LPS Gifted Education program by once again going to the LPS website, clicking "Instruction" and clicking "Gifted". This information notes qualifications for a child to be identified, talks about resources, and the Board of Education Policy that drives this program. If you have further questions, please call our Maxey Gifted Facilitator, Tracey Peterson (436-1153). She is available during the afternoons to answer questions you may have for her about the Maxey Gifted Program.

### **Important P.E. Information**

Please have your child come prepared for PE. We ask that they wear appropriate clothes to run in. Flip flops are not allowed in PE. Almost any shoe that has a back and that does not just fall off when walking/running would work. Cowboy boots tend to mark up the floors. Students can always change their shoes when they come to PE.

Thank you

### **Maxey Chess Club Begins September 10**

The Maxey Chess Club makes its first move Monday September 10th. The club is open to all students regardless of experience in grades 1-5. The first semester club meets the following 14 Mondays from 3:38-5:00 in the Maxey gym: September 10, 17; October 1, 8, 15, 29; November 5, 12, 19, 26; December 3, 10, 17; and January 7. Maxey Chess Club is taught for the eighth year by Ken Kiewra, a UNL educational psychology professor. The club has won several state chess titles and is the defending champion in both the primary and elementary sections. The registration fee is \$100 and should be paid at the club's first meeting.