

Annual Lakeland Montessori / PAC Events – Basic Descriptions

Sometimes it is good to have an overall perspective on how events are planned and what to expect.

Special Events: Typically, these are scheduled the last day of school before a planned holiday break. The Special Events Committee focuses their energy on bringing life to these events. Since our indoor space is quite full, these events are held outdoors. Families are recommended to bring chairs, or blankets to sit on the ground. At the end of each of these events, families are welcome to check their child out of school, or allow them to remain for the rest of the school day. In advance of the event, families will be asked to Sign Up to work specific shifts to help with set up, clean up, and everything in between. ALL families are invited to participate, whether on the committee or not, and these scheduled work times counts toward school volunteer hours – for each participating adult.

Friendship Feast Friday before Thanksgiving Break

This is an informal opportunity, during school lunch time, for teachers, students and parents to get together, to share food, to make connections, and enjoy friendships. Parents sign up to bring food or beverages to share. Tableware is provided. There are no scheduled activities.

Multicultural Festival Friday before Winter Break

This is an opportunity for the students to show, through their projects and performances, much about what they have been learning about other continents and cultures. This year they are focusing on South America. Parents sign up to bring “tastes” of these cultures – but this is not expected to be a meal.

Tea & Art Show Friday before Spring Break

This is an opportunity for the students to display their works of art (and it is usually quite spectacular). In coordination with this fine experience, we traditionally serve tea and baked goods. Parents sign up to bring these types of things, and everyone brings their nice tea cups to enjoy the day.

End of Year Celebration Last day of school

This is an opportunity for the students to share what they have been learning, typically on an ecological topic. The older students enjoy setting up booths with activities and demonstrations for the younger students and parents. This is our final potluck. Families sign up to bring food or beverages to share.

Grounds Beautification Days ... Typically, these are scheduled the Saturday BEFORE each of the above (unless there is a calendar conflict). This is teamwork at its best, as families, along with their children, gather at the school to spread mulch, tend to the plants, make repairs, and even sometimes add new features to the grounds. The more people who participate, the more we can accomplish together. The Grounds Committee is responsible for planning and preparing for these events.

Other School Events

First Days Meet & Greet First two mornings of school

This is an opportunity for some of our families to greet the new incoming families after they drop off their children for the first time. This is great camaraderie for our school community. The Community Awareness Committee is responsible for setting this up, and inviting families to one of our favorite local breakfast spots. Traditionally, this has been at Mitchell's Coffee Shop.

Historical Timeline One night, typically in November

Students dress up in costume and deliver speeches they write from the perspective of a famous historical person, from any time in history. The Explorers class writes skits that combine these characters in some sort of situation together. It is amazing to watch these characters come to life. This event is typically held at a community location that has a stage, and snacks are served. This is now part of the Fundraising Committee, so that we can raise the funds to continue this event yearly.

Scholastic Book Fair Varies

Most people are familiar with these Book Fairs. Ours are short, due to space constraints, and scheduled along with one of our school special events. This year it will be part of our Friendship Feast. Instead of a fundraiser, the credits for purchases actually go to the teachers to buy new books for their classrooms. Logistically, this is included in the Fundraising Committee, but typically it is run by a Coordinator.

Martin Luther King Jr. Parade Second Saturday in January – in coordination with the city event

With full respect this great man, we honor his life and ideas by participating in the City of Lakeland Parade. This is also a great opportunity to help the community be aware of our wonderful school. The Community Awareness Committee is responsible for the planning and preparations for this event.

Walk-a-Thon Friday in Spring – after scheduled testing

Melissa Gatuaco has developed a fabulous high energy fundraising event, in which all of the proceeds go toward specific needs for our playground. Students talk to family and friends to get donations or pledges for their walk, then they get out there and have fun seeing how many laps they can make within the time schedule. There is a wonderful focus on keeping our bodies healthy and in good shape.

Staff Appreciation One full week in May

LMS families come together to show appreciation for our great staff and teachers. Each day of the week is scheduled with something special, and resources are gathered to provide them with some great gifts from all of us. The Special Events Committee is responsible for planning and preparation.

LMS Community Socials Varies

These Social events are a great informal way for our school family to get together, get to know each other, and let the children play freely with their friends outside of the school structure. Sometimes, it is as informal as a gathering at a local park. Other times, a full BBQ social was arranged at the school. The Community Awareness is responsible for the planning and invitations.