



Month at a Glance:

Mon Jan 2, 2017
WINTER BREAK
NO SCHOOL

Tues Jan 3, 2017
CLASSES RESUME

Wed Jan 04, 2017
PTO Dairy Queen
Fundraiser
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
E. Venice Avenue

Tues Jan 10, 2017
Terrific Tuesday
PJ Day
All day for students

PTO Meeting
3:30PM
Teacher's Lounge

Thur Jan 12, 2017
Basketball
Woodland @ LNS
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Gym

Mon Jan 16, 2017
MLK Day
NO SCHOOL

Tues Jan 17, 2017
Professional Day
NO SCHOOL

Wed Jan 18, 2017

JANUARY

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**Basketball McIntosh
@ LNS**

When: Wednesday,
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Where: Gym

**Fri Jan 20, 2017
Daddy Daughter
Dance**

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM
LNS Cafeteria

**Thur Jan 26, 2017
Chick-Fil-A Spirit
Night**

5:00PM - 8:00PM
Sarasota Square Mall

**Frid Jan 27, 2017
Deadline to request
gifted screening**

[Business Partners](#)

New Articles:



January Breakfast/Lunch Menus

The January monthly school breakfast and lunch menus for elementary school students and school lunch menu for middle school students are [available at this link](#).

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Important Dates to Remember

During the month of January, there are a number of dates when the school is closed or when there are no classes. Please remember to put the following dates on your calendar:

January 19 - No School, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

January 20 - No School, School Improvement Day

February 16- No School, President's Day

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Report Cards

The 2nd quarter will end on Friday, January 13th and grades will be available on the ESD Parent/Student Portal on January 20th. You can access the portal at:

<https://parentportal.sarasotacountyschools.net/>

To access report cards on the Parent Portal:

- * Sign-in to the Student + Parent Portal
- * If you have more than one student, select a student under "My Students"
- * Use the menu on the left side to select "Report Card"
- * Click on "Download Official Report Card"
- * View and / or print Report Card

The Sarasota School District Parent's ESD Parent/Student Portal can also email you a report of all your children's grades and attendance each week if you set your preferences in the settings section to register for weekly reports. If you encounter any problems, please contact the school.

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Gifted Process

Do you believe that your child is gifted? If so, you may want to have them screened. Information about the Gifted Screening Evaluation Process is available online via this link. All students are screened on a referral basis, either by parent or teacher. This means that your child's teacher or you as the parent may contact the LNS Gifted Program Coordinator to request that your child be tested to see if they qualify for the gifted program. The following is the calendar for gifted screenings, evaluations, and eligibility:

Friday, January 27, 2017.....

Deadline to request gifted screening - This can be done by speaking to the LNS Gifted Coordinator at (941)486-2171.

Monday, May 1, 2017.....

Deadline for submission of all required documents for gifted eligibility.

PTO NEWS

PTO Meeting



PTO Meeting Save the Date

Don't miss the **next PTO meeting on January 10, 2017 at 3:30PM** where the teachers and staff will be presenting their needs/requests for our next budget. The meeting will be held in the Teachers Lounge and parents are allowed to bring their children with them to the meetings. We look forward to seeing you.

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Grades K-8th Grade Daddy Daughter Dance

Don't forget that the Grades K-8 "Daddy" Daughter Dance is this Friday, January 20th, 7-9pm in LNS Cafeteria. You won't want to miss this special and magical evening in our "Winter Wonderland".

This dance is **ONLY** for LNS girls grades K-8 and their dad or father-figures. What little girl would not want the opportunity to "dance under the stars" with the most important man in her life. The cost is \$10 per dad & daughter "couple" / \$1 per additional daughter. Please pay at the door. The cost includes admission, punch, desserts, flower, face painting, picture frame craft, DJ & a party favor!!! Photos will be available for purchase.

There will be a silent auction provided by the LNS National Junior Honor Society. They have been building Fairy Houses to auction off for a very special cause. One of our LNS teachers' 7 year old was diagnosed with a rare form of brain cancer. The LNS NJHS want to help raise money for this special little girl and will have a "Fairy House" silent auction at the dance. What little girl wouldn't want to go home with a fairy house of their own! All donations from the Fairy House auction go directly to the Rann Family.

MOMS please volunteer to help out at the event!!!! Volunteering is the only way for Mom's to experience the magic and volunteers are still needed. If you are interested

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Successful Shop Season

The Holiday Gift Shop was a HUGE success! Each year the Laurel Nokomis School PTO sponsors a Holiday store for the students where they can shop with their own money for gifts for their friends and family and the students LOVE it! This fun and fabulous shopping experience takes many volunteers to make it a success, and we would like to thank EVERYONE who helped make it so fantastic! And a special thank you to Gina Jones for her many, many hours of organization and dedication to this wonderful event!

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Save the Date: Pajama Day is Right Around the Corner

Terrific Tuesday Pajama Day is scheduled on February 3rd. Each child is allowed to wear their PJ's for the day if they bring in \$1.00 to their homeroom teacher. And please tell them to look for the Box Top Lady (Gina Jones) in the courtyard before school for a treat if they participate.

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Partner News:



The Chill is On at Dairy Queen Night

"Dairy Queen Family Night" is coming up on Wednesday, January 4th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. When you visit the Dairy Queen at 1465 E. Venice Ave, Venice, FL on DQ Family Night you are helping LNS. 10% of all food sold at this time will be donated to LNS. This fundraiser will continue on the first Wednesday of each month



No More Turkey - Chick-Fil-A Please!!!!

The January Chick-fil-A at Westfield Mall Family Night Fundraiser is scheduled on Thursday, January 26th from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. When you purchase food on Chick-fil-A Family Night you are helping LNS because a percentage of all food sold during the event will be donated to LNS. This fundraiser will continue on the last Thursday of each month throughout the school year.

Repeat/Updated Articles:



Peachjar Flyers Contain Great Information

Please know that the Laurel Nokomis School newsletter may not always contain information about local opportunities and information for parents. A lot of those opportunities are announced in the electronic system the Sarasota County School District launched for delivering flyers electronically to families via email and school websites about services, activities and programs offered through the schools by community agencies or by school business partners. The service is provided by a company called Peachjar Eflyers. Rather than having students carry paper flyers home in backpacks, the service uses technology to reduce unnecessary consumption of paper and to save time and money, both for the district and for its community partners. Generally, parents are automatically registered by their school district and will receive an email with login instructions. If you do not currently receive the Peachjar Flyers or did not receive login instructions, please make sure your email address is on file with Laurel Nokomis and [you can register here to receive the Peachjar Flyers](#). You can also see the Laurel Nokomis School Eflyers by pressing



PTO Question and Answers

There are many reasons you should participate in the PTO - the most important is that by participating today, you make the school better and help your child have a brighter tomorrow! Do a little, do a lot...all of it helps!

We, as a PTO, get asked on a regular basis simple questions that even some of our PTO members do not know the answers. In this segment we will try to answer some questions that have come up this year in PTO meetings to help you as a PTO member or a member of the LNS family who want to join the PTO. Please, if you have additional questions, or questions about this Q & A, we are always here to answer them. Please email us at laurelnokomispto@gmail.com.

- **What is the difference between a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) and a PTO (Parent Teacher Organization)?** There is a big difference: A PTA pays a large amount of money to the National Parent Teacher Association. By being a part of the PTA, the dues and fees are used to forward agendas that may not be in alignment with the values of the parents and teachers at our school. We are not a PTA. We are a PTO. As a PTO we are self-governing, following bylaws established by our organization. All funds raised go towards items or services agreed upon by the PTO members.
- **What does my \$10 membership donation go towards?** Great question! The entire \$10 membership donation is applied to gifts, prizes and support of the students and teachers.
- **Do I have to volunteer if I join the PTO?** NO, you are under no obligation to volunteer. We are all working families and we do as much as we can, some more than others. Remember every little bit helps!
- **How can I become more involved?** Come to the meetings if possible, sign up for Shutterfly or the E-newsletter (which is a newsletter all about our awesome school, not just PTO activities), sign up to help out at events or bring a dish for Teacher Appreciation Luncheons. You can never volunteer too much!
- **Do I have to show up to meetings if I'm a member?** NO, you are under no

obligation to attend meetings but they can be a lot of fun and are always informative. All children are welcome so if you have little ones or big ones bring them along. The more the merrier!

- **Is there a minimum number of volunteer hours required?** NO, but we are on our way to becoming an A+ school again and logged in volunteer hours help our status. If you are Volunteer Approved (Pals Approved) you can log into the computer in the front office which then gets logged in with the school board and counts towards our A+ status.
- **What is Shutterfly?** When you signed up for a PTO membership you probably received an email saying the LNS PTO has created a shutterfly account and they want you to join. This is a site that has information about everything the PTO is doing, a way to keep up to date with the events and activities we have planned. It has even has volunteer signup sheets and event pictures. If you sign up for an event, it sends you reminders so you don't forget what you've volunteered for. It's a great way to keep in the loop of events and activities!
- **Who benefits from the funds raised?** Laurel Nokomis School does! All funds raised go back into the school in one way or another. We have raised money for the band and orchestra, the computer labs and specials classes, just to name a few. The list goes on!
- **Why do we have so many events?** This answer is easy: We love our school, love to see everyone have fun, and we have fun putting these events together! Yes, we do have a full calendar of events, but it works and keeps everyone busy all year long, not to mention we want to give back to the school as much as we possibly can!
- **Are my donations tax deductible?** YES, if you need more information about this please email laurelnokomispto@gmail.com

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Ongoing Fundraising Campaigns:

Are you supporting LNS through these NO additional cost fundraisers? PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL and Share this information with Family and Friends!



Box Tops

Collect everyday labels from groceries to earn



Amazon

Help support LNS by going to

**TAKE CHARGE
OF EDUCATION[®]**

Reward your school.[®]



The REDcard[®]

Target Take Charge of Education Program ENDED

points and funds for our school PTO. Labels should be submitted to your child's homeroom teacher.

Smile.Amazon.com and designating Laurel Nokomis PTO as your charitable organization. After that the Amazon Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to LNS on Amazon shopping done through the AmazonSmile portal. It costs you nothing and your Amazon shopping experience will be the same (wish lists and preferences carryover to the portal).

Target use to donate 1% of ALL purchases made with Target REDcard purchases. to Laurel Nokomis if you designated LNS as your school of choice. However, the **Take Charge of Education ended on 05/14/2016.** Thank you for all of your purchases for LNS in the past!!!

Business Partners:

We are in the process of securing business partners for the 2016-2017 school year. If you are interested or know a business or someone that would like to be a LNS Business Partner please contact Kim Sullivan at 941-441-7451 or via email at ksullivan821@comcast.net.

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(941) 486-2171

Visit our website at

<http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net/schools/laurelnokomis/>
for more information about what's happening at the school.



The Sarasota County School District Web contains a lot of important information. Please visit the Laurel Nokomis web site for a list of important links on the Sarasota School District web site.

Did you miss the last Laurel Nokomis e-Newsletter?

The newsletters are posted on the LNS web site in the third column on the bottom. If you or someone you know would like to receive the Newsletter, you may sign up for future newsletters by completing the attached form.


Forward to a Friend

All comments, suggestions or requests to submit information to this newsletter should be emailed to

laurelnokomisnews@gmail.com

Mr. Ray Wilson

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