



Month at a Glance:

Wed., Feb. 01, 2017
**PTO Dairy Queen
Fundraiser**
5:00 PM - 8:00 PM
E. Venice Avenue

Fri. Feb. 10, 2017
**Relay for Life
Fundraiser: Hat Day**
Bring \$1.00 to
Participate and wear
your favorite hat to
school all day

**Middle School
Dance**
6:30PM - 8:00PM
LNS Cafeteria

Mon., Feb. 13, 2017
**LNS School Choice
Tour**
9:00AM
Front Office

Tues., Feb. 14, 2017
**LNS School Choice
Tour**
9:00AM
Front Office

Fri. Feb. 17, 2017
Run A Thon
All grades
participate
LNS Track field

Mon. Feb. 20, 2017
President's Day



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Month at a Glance

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Partner News:

Articles in this section are listed at the request of the partner

NO SCHOOL

Wed., Feb. 22, 2017
LNS School Choice
Tour
9:00AM
Front Office

Thurs. Feb. 23, 2017
Spring Class
Pictures
All Day
Gym

Chick-Fil-A Spirit
Night
5:00PM - 8:00PM
Sarasota Square Mall

Tues., Feb. 28 2017
LNS School Choice
Tour
9:00AM
Front Office

PTO Meeting
8:30AM
Cafeteria

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[February Breakfast/Lunch Menus](#)

The February 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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[Dressing Warm on Cold Days](#)

Recently the weather has been chilly enough for students to wear jackets to school. Please be sure to dress your children in warm clothing. LNS students go outside everyday and walk outside when they are going from class to class. We want to ensure that each student stays warm.

Please label the inside of your student's belongings in the event that something goes missing. In addition, please be sure to check the school's lost and found desk in the

cafeteria when you visit the school. If you are in need of these items, please notify the front office that you would like to get a few things from the school's Clothes Closet.

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SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWS: New School Calendar

An 11-member district committee of school and district administrators, teachers, support staff and parents developed the proposed school year calendars for the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years. The School Board approved the draft calendars to be advertised to the public at its meeting on Oct. 18 and the public was invited to comment on the proposed calendars until Friday, Nov. 11, 2016.

After the comment period the committee considered any suggested changes and submitted the final proposed calendar to the School Board of Sarasota County for approval. During the regular School Board meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016, the School Board voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the proposed calendars for school years 2017-18 and 2018-19. The link below goes to the draft calendars as recommended by the committee; those calendars are now official.

See the proposed calendars for 2017-18 and 2018-19 at this [link](#).

The committee recommended that school in Sarasota County start Monday, Aug. 14, 2017, and end Thursday, May 24, 2018. The following school year, the start day would be Monday, Aug. 13, 2018, and the last day of school would be Friday, May 24, 2019. In both years, the earlier start date would mean that first semesters and related exams at high schools will be completed before the winter break. The schedule for both years also would end the school year before the Memorial Day weekend.

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School Choice Application Period Open and Tours Scheduled

Florida's school choice program ensures that no child will be left behind by allowing parents to choose the best educational setting-public or private-for their child. School

choice application forms are available at all public schools and at selected daycare facilities, or by contacting the Office of School Choice at, {991} 417-9000, ext. 32255.

Beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, parents/guardians residing in Florida can apply to have their grade K-12 students attend a public school in any school district within the state through Controlled Open Enrollment (COE), also called "Regular School Choice." Parents/guardians interested in COE for other Florida districts are responsible for directly contacting the districts of interest to learn more about their policies, timelines and application procedures. Transportation is not provided for students receiving a school choice assignment through COE. Parents/guardians are responsible for transporting their child to and from school.

Parents who would like their children to attend a Sarasota County public school in 2016-17 other than their districted school are invited to submit a school choice application from Monday, Feb. 13th, through Monday, March. 20, 2017. [More information about the application process will be available after February 7, 2017 at this link.](#) A list of Open/Closed Schools will also be made available at that same link.

Laurel Nokomis School will host School Choice tours on at 9:00 AM on February 13th, 14th, 22nd, 28th and on March 6th. In addition, LNS will also host a tour at noon on March 7th. Due to the high demand for school tours, tours will only be scheduled during these days and times to minimize disruption during instructional hours. Please contact the front office if you have any questions.

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Report Cards

Have you seen your child's grades yet? The 2nd quarter grades are currently available on the ESD Parent/Student Portal. 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

[This is a description of how you can access report cards on the Parent Portal.](#) 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 Screening/Evaluation Timeline for 2016-2017

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.

For general information regarding gifted eligibility and programs, please call (941)927-4177.

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Relay for Life Fundraiser: Hat Day!

On Friday, Feb. 10th, LNS will host a Relay for Life Fundraiser. Please give \$1.00 to your child or children's teacher to participate. If they donate, they will be able to wear their favorite hat to school on Friday, Feb. 10th. All proceeds go to the American Cancer Society.

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School Closed for Presidents Day

Presidents' Day is an American holiday celebrated on the third Monday in February. Originally established in 1885 in recognition of President George Washington, Presidents Day is still officially called "Washington's Birthday" by the federal government. While several states still have individual holidays honoring the birthdays of Washington, Abraham Lincoln and other figures, Presidents' Day is now popularly viewed as a day to celebrate all U.S. presidents past and present.

This year Presidents day is scheduled on Monday, February 20th. There will be no school on that day in celebration of Presidents Day.

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Fab-Feb: Make History Contest

February has it all: President's Day, Black History Month, National Freedom Day and Chinese New Year! Your child can celebrate this Fabulous February by participating in the LNS Make History Contest. Any LNS student can enter the contest by writing an

original essay or an original poem or by drawing an original interpretation celebrating their favorite February History Topic. For example, they can write an original essay about any past US President or they can write a poem about National Freedom Day or they can draw an original interpretation about one of their favorite February history topics. The choices are, well fabulous!

All entries are must be submitted to your child's homeroom teacher by Friday, February 24th. One entry per student. Winners will be announced before Spring Break. Shhhh, but we have heard that this contest will be judged by some really important people and fabulous prizes will be awarded too:

- Beats headphones will be awarded to all 1st place winners in middle school.
- An Amazon Fire Tablet will be awarded to 1st place elementary school winners.

- 2nd place winners will win a silver 1 oz. patriotic medallion.
- 3rd place winners will receive a Presidential Fandex book.

The prizes are donated by La Casa of Mason Creek. [Please press this link for additional requirements and information about the contest.](#) So have your child go get creative about the past and make history come alive!!

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[You're Invited to the February 28th PTO Meeting](#)

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, February 28th at 8:30 AM in the LNS Teachers Lounge. During this meeting we will review the nominations for the upcoming PTO Board and vote on the 2017-2018 PTO Budget and Calendar. If you are interested in being on the board or on one of the LNS PTO committees, contact PTO President Christie McKinney at {941}323-8592.

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DON'T MISS OUT!

You may not be able to attend every PTO meeting. However, when you don't attend them you may miss out! Every month our Principal has tried to attend to give us updates about things happening around the school. Thank you Principal Wilson!!! If you missed the January meeting, you also missed our guest speaker, the Sarasota County Schools District Security Director, Michael Andreas. He told us about some of the major changes around the school like new policies to keep the students and staff safe. They include a 365 degree, 24 hour/7 day effort to monitor security at the school, the upgraded security cameras all around the campus, dismissal procedures, use of tags in cars during pickup, tracking of visitors on campus via camera while after school programs are occurring and visitor access control efforts. Don't Miss Out! Come to the PTO Meetings when you can - they are the best way to



REMIND FOR PTO

Sign up to Receive Remind Text Messages from the LNS PTO by texting @LnsPTO to 81010 to get Text Reminders Direct. These reliable messages about PTO sponsored events and important information can be received by text, app, email, or web - no smartphones are necessary. Remind is free to use for teachers, students, and parents. Standard text messaging rates may apply to text notifications, but there are no additional costs. If you can't get text you can sign up for emails by emailing LNSPTO@mail.remind.com or at this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/lnspto>



Two Pupil Support Services Parent Workshops Scheduled in February

All parents are invited to attend the Sarasota County Schools Pupil Support Services Parent Workshop to learn more about IEP's (The Individualized Education Program, is a written document that's developed for each public school child who is eligible for special education) and 504s (used for students with disabilities). A second workshop has also been scheduled this month to provide parents strategies for getting ready for Kindergarten and for dealing with behavior issues. The workshops are scheduled at these locations:

All You Need to Know About IEPs and 504s

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

9:00- 11:00 a.m.

1960 Landings Blvd.

Blue Awning 221

Sarasota, FL 34231

Register for Workshop

Tuesday, February 21, 2017

6:00- 8:00 p.m.
Laurel Nokomis Middle
1900 East Laurel Road
Nokomis, FL 34275
Register for Workshop

Proactive Behavior Strategies for Preschoolers & Getting Ready for Kindergarten

Thursday, February 23, 2017
9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon
1960 Landings Blvd.
Blue Awning 221
Sarasota, FL 34231
Register for Workshop

Thursday, February 23, 2017
5:00- 8:00 p.m.
Laurel Nokomis Middle
1900 East Laurel Road
Nokomis, FL 34275
Register for Workshop

For registration, questions, or information on this or future events, go to www.sarasotacountysschools.net/parentworkshops or call 941-927-9000. ext. 34226.

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It's Standardized Testing Season

It's that time of year again. According to the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) Testing Schedule students are scheduled to take the following standardized tests:

March 28, March 29 FSA English Language Arts Assessment Grade 3

May 9, May 10 FSA Mathematics Assessment Grade 3
(As a reminder, third grade students who do not pass the FSA English Language Arts Assessment will automatically be retained as directed by the Florida Department of Education.)

February 28 FSA Writing Assessment Grade 4

April 19, April 20 FSA Mathematics Assessment Grade 4

May 3, May 4 FSA English Language Arts Assessment Grade 4

February 28

FSA Writing Assessment Grade 5

April 10, April 13

FSA Mathematics Assessment Grade 5

April 25, April 26

FSA English Language Arts Assessment Grade 5

May 1, May 2

FSA Science Assessment Grade 5

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LNS 33rd Annual Run-a-thon

LNS's 33rd Annual Run-A-Thon will be held Friday, February 17, 2017. This year our theme is "Run With The Force"! It is an all-day event and each Elementary student will be running the track during their specials hour. It is such a fun day as all the students get a Laurel League T-shirt and a give a-way prize. There will be a DJ on the track and we encourage parents, family and friends to come out and support your child as they run.

This is one of LNS's largest fundraisers. This year we will be raising money for learning resources. **Please remember to submit your pledge envelopes** (that come home with your students) **by Friday, February 3rd**. They outline all of the exciting prizes they have the chance to win. In addition, you can click these links for a copy of the [sponsorship form](#) and the [form to make a donation](#) to create an individual sign to represent your family or to cheer on your son or daughter. All checks should be made payable to LNS PTO. Please staple the form and return it to your child's homeroom teacher.

Please come and support your children! Classes are scheduled to participate as follows:

| | |
|--------------|-------------------|
| 8:30 - 9:35 | 3rd Grade |
| 9:35 - 10:30 | 4th Grade |
| 10:30 -11:35 | 5th Grade |
| 12:35 - 1:20 | 2nd Grade |
| 1:20 - 2:15 | PK & Kindergarten |
| 2:15 - 3:10 | 1st Grade |

Please join us the day of the event to cheer for your child! If you come to cheer your student, you must first visit the front office to receive a visitor pass. In addition, please make sure to sign in at the table by the track so that you child can receive credit for your participation.

As mentioned, this is a big event and volunteers are needed. If you are interested in helping with this event or have any questions about the event, please contact the Laurel League Run-a-thon Chair, Amanda, at {941} 330-4984. They need help prior to the event to put all the sponsorship and parent signs together. They also need help the day of the event for set up which starts around 7:30AM and throughout the day with the fruit table, smoothie table, water table on the track, helping students with their tally sheet after they run, etc.

Thanks so much and we will see you on the TRACK!

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWS



The Venice Symphony to Visit School

Did you know that throughout the school year, musicians from The Venice Symphony...strings, brass, woodwinds, and percussion...visit schools to give music demonstrations and interact with students with discussions of how music makes you feel, concert etiquette, and the physics of sounds. On Feb. 10, the Venice Symphony will visit Laurel Nokomis School to do a workshop with the 3rd grade students!!

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MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS



Art at LNS

The LNS students are busy in Art Class. They are currently working on pieces for the South County Venice Art show. 6th, 7th and 8th graders will have art on display for this show.

NJHS/ art students also created fairy houses to auction at the daddy daughter dance to raise money to donate to the Rann family. Over \$800 was raised! They are also collecting materials, building more fairy houses and outdoor art installations to create a fairy garden dedicated to The Rann family. The garden will be an ongoing yearly

service project for National Junior Honor Society and art students to create outdoor art and maintain a beautiful outdoor gallery.

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LNS Sports: Weight Training and Track Team

Intramural sports, weight training began Jan. 25. Sports are on **Mondays and Wednesdays, 3:15-4:30** and is open for all 6-8 graders. **Mr. Shamus Lapean is the instructor and can be contacted for additional information.**

Track Team tryouts are scheduled on Monday, February 6, 3:30-5:00. Mrs. Jewell DeMarco is the head coach and can answer any specific questions regarding the Track Team.

A completed Athletic Packet must be turned into Coach Theros before participation. **The packet may be downloaded from the LNS Athletic web page.**

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LNS Jazz Band MPA

The LNS Jazz Band will be performing their Music Performance Assessment Jazz band music at Lemon Bay High School on Wednesday, February 8th at 6:15PM. MPA is considered to be the FCAT or Assessment of music for band.

The students have done an excellent job in preparation for this event. The MPA performance will count as a grade for each student. Please come out to support our students at this event! Good luck LNS Jazz Band Students!!

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Let's Dance!!!

The LNS Student Council is sponsoring the 2017 Middle School Valentine's Dance on Friday, February 10th from 6:30PM - 8:00PM in the LNS cafeteria. The dance is open to all LNS 6th, 7th and 8th grade students only. Join us for a fun night of friends, games, music, and dancing to your favorite hit songs! Light refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$5.00 and will be sold during Middle School lunches from Tuesday, February 7 - Friday, February 10. Proceeds to benefit future LNS Student Council Middle School events.

Any parent of 6th, 7th and 8th grade students are welcome to chaperone. Please contact Yvonne at islazoma@hotmail.com or Kim at kimforsch@yahoo.com to volunteer.

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Partner News:



February 1st Dairy Queen Family Night

"Dairy Queen Family Night" is coming up on Wednesday, February 1st 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 throughout the school year. See you at DQ!!!!

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Chick-Fil-A Fundraiser

Chick-fil-A at Westfield Mall is hosting a Family Night for LNS on Thursday, February 23rd 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.

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Repeat/Updated Articles:



Yearbook Snap

Did you know that LNS has a yearbook app that allows everyone to upload photos to our yearbook site. The yearbook staff will be able to select and approve all photos. So if you want to see more pictures of your child doing things at the school in the yearbook, now you can upload pictures for us to add. [Attached is a document explaining how to use the very user friendly and free application.](#)

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New Way to Earn Box Tops

Did you know that there is a way to earn Box Tops online. Just download the app, scroll through bonus offers from your favorite products or retailers, select, scan and earn! With just your smartphone and your receipt, you can start earning even more cash for the school.

1. FIND OFFERS ON THE LIST
2. BUY PRODUCTS AT ANY STORE Pick the offers you like, and purchase them at any store. Just make sure the receipt clearly says what you purchased.
3. SCAN YOUR RECEIPT Use the app to take a clear, readable photo of your receipt. To validate your purchase, you must scan in a clear photos of the entire

receipt from top to bottom.

4. EARN BONUS BOX TOPS FOR YOUR SCHOOL! When your receipt is processed, the information on the My Activity page of the App will reflect the amount earned for the school.

SO... WHAT NOW? GET THE APP! Go to the app store now and search for Box Tops App.



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



Amazon

Help support LNS by going to [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.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).

**TAKE CHARGE
OF EDUCATION***

Reward your school.™



The REDcard™

Target Take Charge of Education Program ENDED

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

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Laurel Nokomis School
1900 Laurel Road E
Nokomis, FL 34275
(941) 486-2171

Visit our website at
<http://www.sarasotacountychools.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
LNS Principal

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