



LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SAN FRANCISCO

The Paw Print Press

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, May 28

Graduation

10:00am

Our 5th graders celebrate their Lakeshore experience and mark their transition to Middle School.

Friday, May 29

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

It's hard to believe but it's almost here...the final day of school. Be sure to check the lost and found, collect all your supplies, take home your projects and schedule activities with your friends! Have a GREAT Summer!

Complete the School Survey by May 29th: Your Voice Counts

Please complete the SFUSD survey to rate school quality so you can help us understand how we can improve the school. It takes less than five minutes. Follow this link before May 29th <https://goo.gl/1YCTqS> or use the QR code below:



Big Lakeshore THANK YOU to...

Special volunteer recognition goes out to Mary Ann Mack for countless hours helping in the library and with various school functions.

Enormous gratitude to Susan Commins for her fantastic management of the Lost and Found – collecting and cleaning items, working to find owners, and donating unclaimed items to benefit the school.

Graduation thanks to Melanie Vose for heading the graduation celebration as well as Sawsan Shatara, Ms. Camou, Mr. Hartford, Mr. Rich, and volunteers and to the McMillian family for the annual BBQ picnics. The 5th grade dance was a delightful event – A Night Under the Stars – and wouldn't have been possible without the tireless efforts of Ms. Classy.

May 27, 2015

Lakeshore Spring Concert: An Inspiring Experience

A roving music critic attended the morning music concert at Lakeshore on May 22 and came away inspired by the talents of our students – and the dedication of music teacher Ms. Riley.

The event started with third graders performing one of my personal favorites “Hot Crossed Buns” (thank you, Wiggles!) with voice and the recorder, followed by a Christmas tune “Jolly Ol’ St. Nicholas.” These put the audience in a receptive frame of mind. The students all learned to play the recorder throughout the semester’s activities with Ms. Riley.

The second graders followed with a beautiful performance of a Chinese folk song “Crescent Moon.” The song’s lovely melody and cinematic feel evoked for me a slow river boat ride passing lovely natural scenes along the way.

The fourth graders performed some old favorites like “Mary Had a Little Lamb” and “This Land is Your Land.” Then the 29 children really rocked out, blasting the Chuck Berry tune “Johnny B. Good.” Great energy!

The ultimate performance was by the first graders, who stood tall and proud in their sea of yellow and green class t-shirts. “Walk in the Water” featured three great soloists and fun choreography. The finale, “This One’s for the Children” was impressive. Not only did the children use sign language to reinforce the lyrics but they navigated a key change with finesse and clear singing. Nicely done!

Their voices were some of the loudest, clearest and most passionate of the performers I witnessed. I was proud to be a Lakeshore parent who loves music – and who loves the music exposure and experiences our children are receiving at this great school. Bravo!

Lakeshore was profiled in a recent article on San Francisco’s public schools published by the San Francisco Chronicle (see reverse side). Thank you to our dedicated teachers, staff, parent volunteers, and everyone who helps ensure your children receive a top quality education in a safe environment of respect, diversity, and opportunity. Share your experiences with other families so they will choose Lakeshore. Go Leopards!

San Francisco Chronicle

Lakeshore Elementary is Among the City's Most Diverse Student Bodies

Story by Greta Kaul

Nineteen kindergartners wriggled as their teacher draped a handmade dragon costume over their heads. The eyes on its glittery cardboard head glowered.

"The dragon parade will be starting in just a few minutes," the teacher, Athena Lafferty, announced over the school's loudspeaker one February morning at San Francisco's Lakeshore Elementary.

"How do you say 'Happy New Year' in Chinese?"

"Gung hay fat choy," the children obliged.

Lakeshore Elementary, a lively school not far from Lake Merced, is among the San Francisco public elementary schools that best represent the school district's racial makeup. Last year, 36 percent of Lakeshore students were Asian, 17 percent were Latino, 15 percent were black and 13 percent were white. The same year, the district's population was 36 percent Asian, 27 percent Latino, 10 percent black and 13 percent white.

The Chinese New Year Parade is one of many activities Lafferty and her colleagues at Lakeshore use to teach their students about the different cultures that make up the fabric of their school — and their city. In one corner of the classroom sat a box of books by African American authors, to help them learn about Black History Month. The school's weekly newsletter is published in both English and Chinese.

Citywide draw

Race is only one way Lakeshore is diverse, said its principal, Matthew Hartford. With students from all over the city and from different socioeconomic backgrounds, "It's not just code for 'we have people from a lot of race groups,'" he said. Last year, 55 percent of Lakeshore's students qualified for free or reduced-price meals.

"On the tour, when I have prospective parents come, I speak to our diversity right away: Don't come here if you don't want to grapple with a diverse school," he said. Families from different backgrounds have different cultures, customs and communication styles. Some Lakeshore students enter kindergarten having gone to preschool, while others have to catch up.

For the most part, San Francisco schools with higher poverty levels and larger proportions of minority students scored lower on the Academic Performance Index, a measure that's fallen out of use with the state of California, but that parents still use as an indicator of school quality.

Lakeshore was no exception, scoring 771 out of 1,000 on that measure — below the 830 district average for elementary schools. But Hartford, who has taught overseas and worked at several schools across SFUSD, said the lessons students learn at diverse schools are invaluable.

"A child coming through our school will be able to relate to just about anybody," he said.

Integration falters

Scholars agree that diverse schools better prepare students to live in an increasingly multicultural society, but districts across the United States have lost the momentum to achieve them. In San Francisco, a district that has all but given up on integrating schools, no magic formula makes Lakeshore more diverse than most other elementary schools.

One reason is its legacy of drawing students from all over the city, Hartford said. In the 1980s, Lakeshore was one of the district's alternative schools, intended to attract students citywide. Such schools were once so coveted for their special programs and high test scores that parents camped out for nights at a time to secure a kindergarten spot.

Though it has a neighborhood attendance area, Lakeshore still pulls many of its students from across the city. To accommodate crosstown travel, three buses travel to Lakeshore each morning, one each from the Outer Mission, the Bayview and Visitacion Valley — more buses than most of the district's elementary schools receive.

Busing, now voluntary in San Francisco, is not as common as it once was. In 2012, the number of general education buses was reduced from 30 to 25 for the 2013-14 school year, down from 44 buses in 2010-11, largely because of budget cuts.

Under today's school assignment regime, Lakeshore is far from the district's most popular school. Last year, only 12 of 54 kindergartners who lived in its attendance area ranked Lakeshore as a school choice at all.

Meeting family's needs

Though Cleveland and Monroe elementary schools are closer to her family's home in Mission Terrace, Joanna Hasse is happy to have her daughter, Lizzie, at Lakeshore. She watched as the 6-year-old and her classmates paraded through hallways under the dragon costume.

But it wasn't a first choice when Hasse and her husband listed schools.

"I just listed kind of the top schools, the ones that I had seen that I'd liked, and then all the schools where I knew people who were happy," she said. She hadn't visited Lakeshore, but a friend recommended she put it on her list. She didn't know that Lakeshore was one of San Francisco's more diverse schools when she and her husband visited.

"We come from an interracial family. My husband is Lithuanian and I'm Caribbean and white, and so for us to find a school that represents our family is difficult," she said. "We needed a school where there were not only lots of different types of people, but also families that are interracially mixed."

Parent Loretta Chien said the school prepares her daughter, Naia, to live in a diverse city like San Francisco.

"She came home singing Hanukkah songs that we don't know about, and then she came home talking about Day of the Dead," she said. When Naia comes home talking about her classmates' backgrounds, "We have the chance to talk to her about different people, different ethnic groups, so I think it's great."

Originally published by the SF Chronicle:
<http://www.sfchronicle.com/schools-desegregation-snapshots>.