



# Welcome to JLPA!

By Susan Johnson, President

The John Lyman Parent Association (JLPA) has been in full swing with many activities so far this school year. Thanks to our Hospitality co-chairs, Jerilyn Fleck and Evelyn Kearns, and their volunteers, for providing snacks and coffee with lots of smiles for our Kindergarten Bus Ride as well as the first day of school coffee hours. I enjoyed meeting many of you at these events and look forward to meeting more parents as the year moves on. JLPA meets the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. in the John Lyman Library. I hope you can join us for our next meeting on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m.

My first year as President has certainly been an interesting one so far, first the delay of the opening of school due to *Hurricane "Irene"*, then *storm "Alfred"* just packed a winter wallop and more school cancellations last week. Through it all we are off to a fine start with fundraising efforts. The **Corn Booth** at the Durham Fair, while a bit wet at times, proved to be a great success. Many thanks to our tireless co-chairs Nicole and Bill Roberts and Paula and Ray Pietruszka, and the countless volunteers who made it all happen.

Thanks to all who participated in our **Wrapping Paper** fundraiser which has just come to an end and to Tara Jay, who just joined as committee chair this year and has done a great job. As I type this update, our **Yankee Candle** fundraiser is coming to a close. Thanks to our Ways and Means chairs, Andrea Kupec and Donna Weronik, for putting together some fantastic new fundraising options for the coming year. JLPA fundraisers provide the majority of funding for our wonderful Cultural Arts programs, the play ground, field trips and school wide events as well as extras in the classrooms. A special thanks to all of you who have participated in these events.

Upon entering John Lyman School, you are told that "every parent is automatically a member of the John Lyman Parent Association (JLPA) by having your child attend school here." JLPA thrives due to the dedication and efforts of all our parents, whether you volunteer in the classroom, for field trips, extras for teachers or participating on a JLPA committee. Without you we cannot succeed. I encourage parents, especially new parents, to come to one of our meetings. Babysitting is provided, at school, for school age children if needed. Please do not hesitate to contact me at [s\\_c\\_johnson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:s_c_johnson@sbcglobal.net) or 860-349-9517. I hope to see you at our next meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>!



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## Keep Clipping those BOX TOPS!!

Clipping Box Tops is an easy way to earn money for John Lyman School without purchasing items you wouldn't already be buying. Each Box collected earns 10 cents for our school. Last year, we earned almost \$900! Here are ways you can help:

**Clip** —Clip Box Tops off of items you already buy, place them in a plastic bag or envelope, and have your child put it in the large pink Box Top box outside the office. Ask other family members and neighbors to save their Box Tops, too.

**Shop online** — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® ([boxtops4education.com/marketplace](http://boxtops4education.com/marketplace)). Up to 15 eBox-Tops™ per \$10 spent is automatically donated to our school, at no additional cost to you.

**Read** — Buy books online through the Reading Room, a partnership between Box Tops and Barnes and Noble. Our school receives up to 6 eBoxTops per \$10 spent.

Visit [www.btfe.com](http://www.btfe.com) for a list of participating product or to shop. You can also enter online promotions for chances to win Bonus Box Tops and other prizes.

*Please clip Box Tops to size and put them in bag or envelope before placing in the pink Box Top box. Thank you.*



the difference  
**1** can make.

# By Kerry Chernovetz and Kristen Blake

## Kindergarten Teachers



Phonological awareness is a core part of the kindergarten literacy program. Phonological Awareness is the ability to HEAR segments of sounds of spoken language and to manipulate those individual sounds.

The National Research Council and the National Reading Panel state that phonological awareness is a strong predictor of beginning reading achievement, and explicit teaching of phonological and phonemic awareness to children who lack these abilities improves both reading and spelling achievement.

Connecticut's Blueprint for Reading Achievement states that phonological and phonemic awareness are prerequisites for learning to read and write in an alphabetic system.

In Kindergarten, phonological awareness would include activities that develop:

- rhyme (identifying and producing rhymes)
- identifying beginning, middle and ending sounds
- segmenting sentences, syllables, and sounds
- blending syllables into words and blending sounds into words
- manipulating syllables and sounds

These skills are developed through different hands-on activities and through read alouds.

Here is a list of activities that can support your child at home or even in the car:

- read rhyming books and have your child fill in the missing rhyme
- give your child a word and see how many rhyming words your child can generate
- clap out the number of syllables in a word (food you are eating, things you drive by, select a category)
- give your child a consonant-vowel-consonant word and have your child segment it into the three sounds. Your child can use his body as the beginning-middle-ending (head, waist and toes) when segmenting.
- choose a sound and have your child go around the house and find objects that begin with that sound (this can be done for ending sounds also)

The website [www.phonologicalawareness.org](http://www.phonologicalawareness.org) is an excellent resource. These activities are geared for the classroom but many of them can be modified to be done at home.

## Quick Quips from the Principal's Office



### Weekly Assembly

Our weekly assemblies have been wonderful this year! Classes take turns hosting and sharing. Students are working on being good listeners and have discussed how to be good members of an audience. As a community, we believe that it is part of our responsibility to educate our children as to appropriate behavior for specific settings. We teach students that an appropriate response to a sporting event is NOT appropriate at an assembly or theatre event. Thus, we do not allow hooting or booing or loud verbal responses. (Ask your child to show you the three ways we do show appreciation for an assembly share!) Your support and review of these social skills at home will be helpful to your child. For those of you who only get to attend an occasional assembly, it would be helpful for you to know that **we ask audience members to TURN OFF cell phones and beepers.** In addition, **we ask those with preschoolers to sit behind the classes in order to help our schoolchildren pay attention during the assemblies.** You will also note that we reserve some seats at both sides of the student section for staff members so they may be near and supervise their students. Finally, we ask parents in attendance **not** to go up to talk to their child during the assembly, as it is disruptive to the entire group surrounding him or her. If you haven't attended one yet, we continue to have assembly every Friday, alternating each week between 10:00 A.M. and 2:20 P.M. to ensure equitable attendance by our kindergarten classes! Parents are encouraged to use the monthly calendar on the Lyman website to access the assembly schedule in an effort to limit the number of calls to the office on Fridays.

### Progress Reports and Conferences

Just a reminder, the first week of December is the week of parent conferences. Wednesday, November 30th and Thursday, December 1st will be early release days with students in Grades 1 through 4 being dismissed at 1:30 P.M. Some families may need to make alternate after school care plans. Kindergarten students have a separate schedule for the early release days. Kindergarten teachers will send a reminder of that schedule to kindergarten parents. Your conference reminder is included in today's Wednesday Envelope.

### Peaceful Bus Program

This fall we have introduced students to the Peaceful Bus Program which is designed to create safer, more pleasant (peaceful!) bus rides to and from school. Peaceful Bus is a school-wide program designed to "decrease inappropriate behavior on the school bus, create a climate of respect and cooperation on the bus and change the social dynamics on the bus by building strong rela-

## Quick Quips (continued)

tionships among students and the bus driver." Through it, we hope to develop a sense of community among the riders of each bus, with the intent of getting students supporting one another and their bus driver. Several weeks ago bus "communities" met with Lyman staff members in various locations throughout the building and discussed the following questions: What is good about riding the bus? What is not so good about it? Why do you think it is hard for the driver to keep everything under control? What could happen if the driver becomes too distracted by students acting inappropriately? How do you feel when you have a hard time on the bus? What would a peaceful school bus look and sound like? If you could change one thing on your school bus that would make it safer, more peaceful and better for everybody, what would it be? Why is it important to have a nice and "peaceful" school bus ride? Children were insightful in their responses. Clearly all agreed a "peaceful ride" is a good goal! During these meetings, which took place during an "alternate assembly time" (i.e., 10:00 on an afternoon assembly day,) Mrs. Pollitt took a group picture of each bus "community" and each group chose a name for their bus. If you are at school at the end of the day, you will hear the busses called by both name and number! At the Coffee Hour held at Lyman during Bus Drivers Appreciation Week, those in attendance were introduced to the program. While not all drivers were there, it is my hope to have them come in and meet with their students at a later date. Ask your student about the bus name chosen and how things are going on the bus.

### Morning Drop off

Recently I have noticed and have had reports of unsafe situations at drop off time in the morning. In order to have the safest possible situation for all of our children, I am reviewing procedures.

- No cars should come into the circle between 8:30 and 9:15 A.M. Cars should drive straight ahead to the stop sign.
- Parents who are just quickly dropping off their child should, when the yellow striped area is free, pull forward to the very front of that area, let the child out **ON THE PASSENGER SIDE**, and exit by driving slowly through the large parking lot. **ANY PARENT WHO NEEDS TO GET OUT WITH A CHILD FOR ANY REASON SHOULD NOT PARK IN THE YELLOW STRIPED AREA.**
- Those parents who need to get out with a child should pull past the striped area to the back of the parking lot where they will be able to turn around after the child has gone around toward the back of the building.
- Parents who are actually going into the building, either with their child or alone, should turn left at the stop sign when able to do so safely and enter the large parking lot on the left.
- Cars should never be double-parked at the drop-off area.
- **NO CHILD SHOULD EVER BE ALLOWED TO WALK IN ANY OF THE PARKING AREAS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT**

## Quick Quips (continued)

- **Regarding supervision**, there is no adult on duty before 8:30. Students should not be dropped off before that time. Similarly, after all of the busses have arrived, there is no adult out on duty. If you are delivering your child after Mrs. Pettit has gone inside, please accompany your child to the attendance desk inside the front door.

### Pick up at Dismissal Time

Similarly we have had some concerns about confusion that can occur when parents picking up their children are either arriving late or visiting in the classroom hallways, thus disrupting bus lines. In order to clarify the process, please observe the following practices.

- Please plan to **arrive no later than 3:15 P.M.** if you are picking up your child.
- Get your pass at the attendance desk and write the date, time and your initials. Then **wait in the widest area of the foyer between the office and the auditorium** for the announcement for parents to pick up their children.
- When the announcement is made, go to the room to meet your child. Since the teacher will still be working with children, **it is important that parents quickly hand the pass to the teacher and quietly exit**, ensuring that they and younger siblings do not disturb the class. This is not an opportunity to confer about your child.
- Parents who pick up their children are asked to **exit immediately through the doors between the cafeteria and the music room** so that the main hallway is not congested during the bus dismissal process. If you need to visit briefly with another parent, please meet in the hallway past the music room so that bus lines will not be impacted.

### Lost and Found

Our collection of lost items keeps growing, so I encourage parents to look for familiar items any time you are at school! The Lost and Found tub is located in the hallway next to the office. During conference week we will place "found" items on a table in the front foyer. Finally, once again, if you could label clothing, especially outerwear as we head into the cold weather season, it is more likely to return to your home!

### Field Trips

As field trip chaperoning opportunities come up, I would like to refer parents to the **Field Trip** information and policies in our student handbook. If anyone has any questions about any aspect, please contact me. We appreciate parents' willingness to come along with us as part of the instructional process and act both in a supervisory role for the students

## Quick Quips (continued)

assigned to them and as role models who demonstrate to children how to focus on the presenter and listen to information and directions.

### A Final Note...

If you have questions, call or drop a line to your child's teacher. We want to stay in close touch. Please know that I always want to be available to you. If you have questions, concerns or need to talk to me, don't ever hesitate to call!

*~Karen Brimecombe*