

Greetings Lincoln Heights Family,

We had a great week of learning last week, it sure was nice to be back in session and seeing all the learning take place. I am looking forward to another great week.

This past week we dealt with the impact of the pandemic on staffing and do anticipate this will happen again this week. We do have to adjust schedules at times to maintain safety and supervision throughout the campus. This does have an impact at carpool at times and can slow things down, we thank you in advance for your patience. I also want to thank everyone who has been impacted by the bus driver shortage and had to make last minute transportation adjustments. We understand the challenge this poses and strive to get you information as soon as we know of any changes.

Announcements and updates for the week:

### **School Updates:**

**Updated COVID Protocols:** This past week the COVID Return to School protocols were updated. All families should have received communication from the district on the revisions. They are also available at this [link](#). If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to reach out to us, we will be happy to assist.

**Campus Beautification Day:** Want to help improve our school grounds? We are having a campus workday Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10-12. Click [here](#) to see what we plan to work on and to sign up. Thank you!

**Explorer Backpacks:** Winter is a great time to go on outside adventures. Put on your jacket and check out one of our Explorer Backpacks full of things to help your family explore and have a great time- binoculars, Bingo, Identification guides and more! Click [here](#) to learn more and sign up!

**Free and Reduced Lunches:** Parents, please consider applying for meal benefits as soon as possible. By submitting a qualifying application, families will also support the district in qualifying for additional funds to support students and learning! Also, the NC Department of Health & Human Services is collecting student free and reduced lunch and attendance data from WCPSS to determine any additional Pandemic Electronic Benefits (P-EBT) that will be issued in the coming months! By not applying for these meal benefits, you will miss the potential opportunity to receive direct P-EBT funds for your family.

Yes, meals will still be free for all students through June 2022, but we still need you to complete a meal benefits application so our school can be eligible for this extra education funding next school year. Also, this ensures your student is covered for the first few weeks of school next year. Information about applying for Meal Benefits can be found at [www.wcpss.net/meals](http://www.wcpss.net/meals). Help our school continue to receive this funding by completing an application online at [MySchoolApps.com](http://MySchoolApps.com). Paper applications can be requested by calling 919-588-3535.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATES (For any illness)**

**Stay Safe! Stay Home When Sick (Reminder):** As a reminder, please make sure you have reviewed the district's [Safe Return to School Plan](#) to ensure the health and safety of all our students, staff, and school community. Also, review the [When to Return](#) information in the event you experience **any illness, diagnosis, or exposure**. If your child is sick or experiencing any illness, please keep them home. We must follow the 3 pathways set by WCPSS for them to return to school.

You may send any documents to DMeadors@wcpss.net . Please do not hesitate to call the front office if you have any questions. We are happy to help!

**PTA Updates:**

**Join the LHECMES PTA!:** The LHECMES PTA is accepting new members. Please consider [joining](#).

**Skip the Carpool Line 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter is fast approaching. Do you want to skip the carpool line all quarter? Enter the Skip the Carpool Raffle! <http://app.memberhub.gives/lhescarpoolq3>

**Spirit Rock** – Did you know you can now celebrate a special occasion by renting out the Spirit Rock in front of the school. The PTA has organized a fundraising campaign for the Spirit Rock. Check it out on MemberHub. <https://app.memberhub.gives/lhesspiritrock>

Educationally,

Scott Gaitan, Principal