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**February 2nd is the
start of the second
semester.**

**Important
Announcements:**
A hot breakfast is
served in the school
building every
morning. Encourage
your child to get to
school early and eat
breakfast to get a
good start to the
school day.

Help your child get to
school on time!
Good attendance is
directly connected
with good grades.

Lyons 6th graders are inspired by their city

Last week 6th graders wrapped up their first semester at Lyons with a celebration of some of the amazing work that they have been doing in their Field Studies class, *NYC as Muse*.

Students shared poetry and artwork that they created, all of which was inspired by the people and sites of New York City.

Throughout the Field Studies module, students saw artwork inspired by New York City and met artists that live and work here. Sixth grader, Nataina Mervelius explained, a lot of the artists we saw “used maps of New York” in their artwork. They must do it “because they love New York.”

Students also went to spots around the city – such as Central Park and Rockefeller Center and used them as sources for their own inspiration.

Students wrote poems about a variety of topics – from acorns and earthworms in Central Park, to the wind on top of skyscrapers, to the subways. They also imagined the streams of consciousness of the people around them on the train.

As one sixth grade student, Shawnay Crowder, explained, in this class, “we got to see New York as an art piece. We got to see the city from a different perspective.”



Enjoying the art at the 14th street subway station

Changing Family Habits and the Fresh Start

Dear Lyons Families,

February is often seen as the dreariest month, but it also offers an opportunity to have a fresh start in the middle of the school year. Second semester started February 2nd and we officially marked that the school year's halfway point.

What does it mean to be given a fresh start? People often idealize the fresh start, believing that everything will suddenly, and almost magically, be different. We want to believe that wishing something to be a particular way will automatically make it so. That isn't the case. Instead the fresh start can be a tremendous amount of work. It involves changing habits as well as attitudes.

Nevertheless, we want to encourage all of you to see 2nd semester as a chance to make some changes you've been wanting to make, and recommit to some good habits

that have gone by the wayside. What are some things you would like to change, or recommit to, in your family? Is it asking your child how school went every day? Is it getting your child out the door on time each morning? Is it spending more time reading something you love, so your child sees that everyone reads? Is it having dinner together as a family more often? Or playing a game or even watching TV together?

Sit down with your family sometime this week and talk about changes you would all like to see. You might start out by asking, what's working? What do we all like about the habits we have gotten into as a family? You can then move onto, what can I do to help you be more successful at school? What can we all do to bring more happiness and joy into our lives each day?

With love, taeko

Important Reminders: Attendance and

Being on time to school and coming to school every day is where your child's school education starts. On the other hand, when kids come late to school or miss multiple days of school, they miss more than just class time. Our school day starts at 8:00; if a student misses even 10 minutes of the school day, they have likely missed the lesson that directs student work for the next 50 or even 80 minutes. They miss the goal of a lesson; they miss teacher instructions; they miss the extra support they might need. What happens if your child comes early? LOTS of things! Every morning beginning at 7:30, Lyons students can work in an art studio, play basketball in the gym, play games in the cafeteria, and get homework help in classrooms.

You may receive frequent phone calls about your child's attendance or punctuality. If you do, call your child's advisor and schedule a conference! We should talk and make a plan for improving it. Want to know your child's attendance rate? Want to know if your child comes to school on time, or how often they are late? Call our Main Office and ask to speak to Minerva or Candy!

Upcoming Dates:

Mon., Feb.15th - Fri.19th	No School – Mid-Winter Recess
Tuesday, February 23rd	SLT meeting – 5:30 PTA meeting – 6:00 - Showcase of student work
Thursday, March 18th	Family-Teacher conferences – 5:30 to 8:00
Friday, March 19th	Family-Teachers conferences – 11:30 to 3:00 Students dismissed at 11:00
Tuesday, March 23rd	SLT meeting – 5:30 PTA meeting – 6:00
Mon., March 29th - Tues., April 6th	No School – Spring Recess

