

**FROSTY
FELLS**

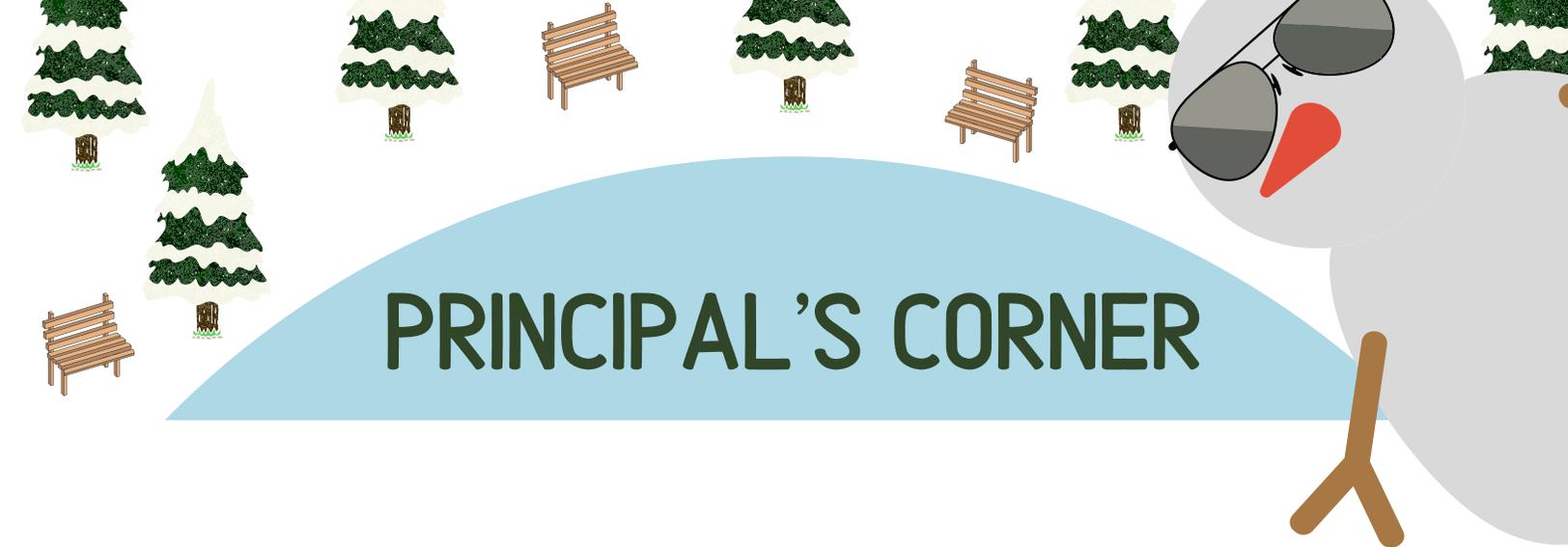


AGENT FROSTY

Scholars and parents,
you have been selected
for a top secret mission
if you choose to accept!

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Principal Belle provides
insight on our academic focus
for the month of December!



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Holiday Greeting to all La Cima Families,

Here we are in the month of December! Can you believe the school year is more than 1/3 of the way through and shortly after we return from the holiday break we will be preparing to celebrate the hundredth day of school! Holiday decorations are sprouting up everywhere as families begin thinking about holiday shopping and family gatherings. Many of our evenings and weekends will be spent getting ready for holiday celebrations. While visions of sugar plums, reindeer and peppermint hot chocolate may arise at times, La Cima scholars continue to have math facts, research, writing and favorite books dancing through their heads.

Please help us encourage our students to stay as focused as possible and include homework and study time in your holiday plans! The pandemic has changed how we live our lives and connect with each other. The most important things in life are family and friends, so this holiday season make an effort to spend quality time with both in safe ways. Virtual parties are a big hit these days and can be just as enjoyable as in-person get-togethers. As parents, you are extremely important to your children. This month make it a goal to spend an evening, day or weekend with them. Remember, bigger is not necessarily better. The time you spend with them does not have to be extravagant. It can be reading a book together, playing catch, decorating cookies, or telling stories together.



PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

This is the time to provide your child with the memories they will never forget. The holiday season is all about giving, and the quality time you spend together can be better than anything wrapped up in a bow under the tree!

Please remember that students should continue to read, write and practice their math facts over winter vacation! Reading and writing can be about topics they enjoy and shared with parents and siblings alike. Students can also write some resolutions to ring into 2021!

To all of our La Cima families, warmest holiday wishes and here's to a prosperous new year for all!

Your partner in teaching and learning,



Principal Belle



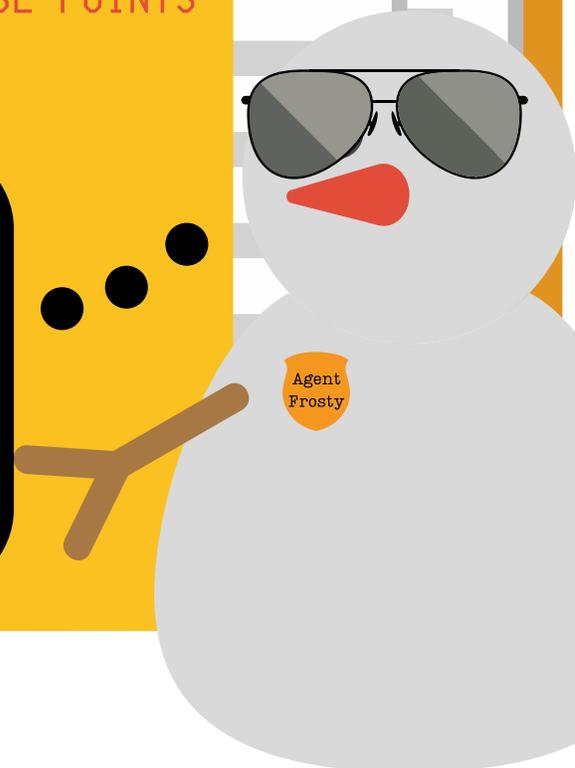
CLASSIFIED

ATTENTION ALL SECRET AGENTS OF LA CIMA:

You are needed for a special assignment of the highest secrecy. If you choose to accept this mission you will be required to read with your family over Winter Break for at least 30 minutes a day. The mission is to be carried out between December 21st and January 3rd. The special tools required for your assignment include: a book of your choice, a parent or guardian, and your favorite snack! YOU WILL RECEIVE 30 HOUSE POINTS FOR EVERY LOG SUBMISSION!!!

THIS MESSAGE WILL SELF
DESTRUCT IN 60 SECONDS.

Just kidding. Our technology
is not that advanced.



WORKSHOP REMINDERS



LAUNCH EXPEDITIONARY CHARTER SCHOOL: A MIDDLE SCHOOL INFO SESSION

at La Cima Charter School



Date: Tuesday, December 8th, 2020

Time: 6 PM

La Cima 5th grade scholars and families will learn about Launch Expeditionary Charter School and gain insight regarding the 6th grade application process from Launch students and staff.

Please RSVP by registering on our website at lacimacharterschool.org OR the link in our bio.



Q&A FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Hello La Cima Families!

We hope you had a marvelous and safe Thanksgiving Holiday! As you know, La Cima is undergoing its 3rd Charter Renewal. This is an exciting time for us to make updates to our charter to serve our families and scholars better. Below are some proposed changes to our current charter that we are sharing with our families. Some of these changes do not directly impact our families, but we are sharing them to give you an opportunity to provide feedback. You can do so in a few ways:

- Email us! You can send your feedback to info@lacimacharterschool.org
- Attend The Virtual Town Hall! The town hall will take place on Friday, December 11 at 6pm
- Attend a board meeting! The next board meeting is Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30pm. All board meetings are open to the public. The dates are available on our [website](#):
About Us -> Board of Trustees -> Board Resources





Authorized Enrollment Reduction:

What are we changing?

Over the past few years, La Cima's average enrollment has been between 300 and 350 students. As part of our renewal application, we will be requesting an adjustment to our enrollment to more accurately reflect the number of scholars we are currently serving. We have requested that the New York State of Education Department Charter School Office approve La Cima to serve 330 students. This adjustment will have no impact on our current families or staff. We are fully committed to serving up to 330 students and we still have seats available to make that happen! Please participate in our parent referral program by recommending La Cima to your friends, families and neighbors!

Does this impact current La Cima families?

Yes. The short term impact is that there are a few days that scholars were once required to be in school that will now be days off for your child, but professional learning days for staff—veteran's day is one example of such a day. The long term impact is that with more frequent full-day professional development, teachers will be better equipped to provide the high quality learning environment La Cima is committed to providing to all scholars.





Key Design Elements:

What are we changing?

In the October Family Newsletter, we detailed the new Key Design Elements. The new Key Design Elements are Scholar-Centered Inclusive Environment, Social Justice, and Constructivist Approach to Math and Balanced Literacy. We are adopting these Key Design Elements because we believe they more accurately reflect your scholar's experience at La Cima and align with the original intentions of the school's founders, mission and vision.

Does this impact current La Cima families?

Yes. Especially for families who have been with us for several years, you may have noticed that the classroom names have changed from geometric shapes (the circles, the ovals, for example) and are now named for social justice heroes. Remember picking up curricular materials for your scholars? That was to ensure scholars had the materials they needed for our new CKLA curriculum that offers a balanced literacy approach and is culturally responsive. Additionally, your scholars have Eureka workbooks because this math curriculum allows us to maintain our philosophy of constructivist approach to math while increasing the academic rigor that we name in our mission.





*Admissions Policy:

What are we changing?

Our original admissions policy stated that a NYS address was not required for applicants whose parent(s) were employees of La Cima. While we will continue to offer a preference for La Cima employees in the lottery, all applicants (including those who are the children of staff) must have a valid NYS home address.

The following are not changes, but clarifications. First, the current policy states that we keep records of the waitlist for 7 years per the Family Education and Privacy Law, however we will clarify that a new waitlist will be generated each year as this is consistent with our current practice. Second, we will add that the date, time and place of the lottery will be consistent with Public Officers Law section 104. All of our past lotteries were already consistent with this law, but we would like to make that explicit in the written policy.

Does this impact current La Cima families?

No. These are clarifications or minor corrections to our admissions policy. Only children of La Cima employees may be impacted given the policy change.





*Board By-Laws:

What are we changing?

Board members are permitted to take a leave of absence not to exceed 6 months and did not count toward quorum (the minimum number of trustees needed to be present for board business to take place). We are updating the board by-laws to state that board members on leave do count toward quorum unless they fully resign from the board.

Does this impact current La Cima families?

No. This does not impact families. This is a change that only impacts the board.

*Organizational Chart:

What are we changing?

Over the years, our school staffing has changed to accommodate our changing school. For example, we have added a Director of Operations to support stronger operational efficiencies across the school, but have removed the Dean of Students role as we make shifts in our behavior policies that better leverage the teacher, assistant principal and principal. All of the updates to our staffing have been made with the intention of having a stronger, more cohesive team that serves our families and scholars with a safe and elevated learning environment.





While we are not proposing any changes for the 20-21 school year in the new charter term, we are requesting that the NYS Education Department recognize changes made between the 2016-17 school year and the 20-21 school year.

Does this impact current La Cima families?

Yes. These staffing changes have created an atmosphere of focus that allow families and scholars to have an experience that we promise in our mission and vision.

Complaint Policy:

What are we changing?

We are providing a clarification to state that the steps for submitting a formal complaint are to submit the complaint in writing to La Cima's Board of Trustees. If the response from the board are not to the complainant's satisfaction, the next step is to submit a written complaint to the authorizer for La Cima, which is the NYS Board of Regents. The process for informal complaints have not been changed.

Does this impact current La Cima families?

No. This was an error in that it appeared that the authorizer was different from the Board of Regents. Families should continue to follow the process for formal and informal complaints.





DASA Policy (& Form):

What are we changing?

La Cima has revamped our Dignity for All Students Act Policy to better clarify prevention, procedures and intervention that guard our community against bullying. One thing that has not changed is who we have identified as the DASA Coordinator (Ms. Masse). If you have any questions or concerns about bullying at La Cima (even if the bullying occurs online), please speak directly to Ms. Masse who can be reached by email or phone at tanika@lacimacharterschool.org or (718) 443 - 2136 ext. 1022. Our complete DASA policy can be reviewed on the website (Family Resources Page) or by clicking on this link: [20-21 La Cima Code of Conduct.](#)

Does this impact current La Cima families?

Yes. Not only have we clarified and provided a more detailed policy, we are also making the DASA form available via the new Family Handbook (forthcoming). Currently, the form can be accessed via the website or by requesting it from Ms. Masse.

What's Next?:

We will be holding a Family Town Hall on Friday, December 11 at 6pm to take any of your questions and feedback about the above policy changes. You can also join the board meeting on Wednesday, December 16 at 6:30 pm to hear the board discuss and vote on the above policies* at 6:30 pm.





If you cannot attend either of these meetings, please email us your questions for feedback at info@lacimacharterschool.org.

*The board will be voting on the policies with an asterisks as the other policies were voted on in prior meetings. Please visit our website to view recordings, transcripts and/or minutes of past board meetings as well as the schedule for all upcoming board meetings.

With gratitude,

Guerschmide Saint-Ange

Guerschmide Saint-Ange

Executive Director, La Cima Charter School



DECEMBER 2020

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Create a poem about the holidays in your pajamas!

Read a book about a snowman!

Read for 30 minutes by candlelight or a flashlight!

Read for 30 minutes with your scarf and mittens!

Attendance/Remote Ready Scholar Awards! [8:30am - 9:00am]

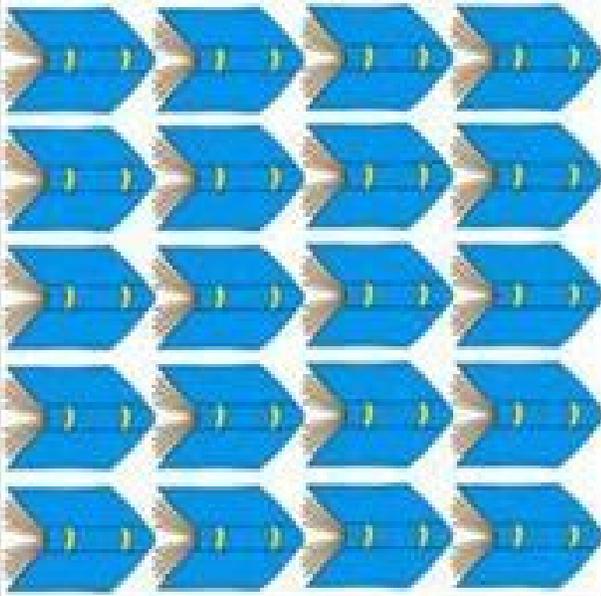
Gingerbread House Making Day!



NO SCHOOL: WINTER BREAK

CLASSES RESUMES: JANUARY 4TH

WHY READ 20 MINUTES AT HOME?

<i>Student A Reads</i>	<i>Student B Reads</i>	<i>Student C Reads</i>
20 minutes per day	5 minutes per day	1 minute per day
3,600 minutes per school year	900 minutes per school year	180 minutes per school year
1800,000 words per year	282,000 words per year	8,000 words per year
		
Scores in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.	Scores in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

If a student starts reading for 20 minutes per night in Kindergarten, by the end of 6th grade, Student A will have read for the equivalent of 60 school days, Student B will have read for 12 school days, and Student C will have read for 3.

WANT TO BE A BETTER READER? SIMPLY READ.