



Going Back to School

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Upcoming Learning Opportunities

Longmont's Reading - Craig Childs
Longmont Public Library,
August 18, 2011
303-359-1295

Live Raptors at the Museum
Longmont Museum,
August 27, 2011
303-651-8374

His Life and His Art: Audubon Up Close
Longmont Museum,
August 27, 2011
303-651-8374

Plein Air Art Exhibit
Old Firehouse Art Center
August 19, 2011
303-678-6268

It's school time again! You're probably feeling excited and maybe a little sad that summer is over. Some kids feel nervous or a little scared on the first day of school because of all the new things: new teachers, new friends, and maybe even a new school. Luckily, these "new" worries only stick around for a little while. Let's find out more about going back to school.

The First Day

Most teachers kick off the school year by introducing themselves and talking about all the stuff you'll be doing that year. Some teachers give students a chance to tell something about themselves to the rest of the class.

When teachers do the talking on the first day, they often go over classroom rules so you'll know what's allowed and what's not. Pay close attention so you'll know if you need to raise your hand to ask a question and what the rules are about visiting the restroom.

You might already know a lot of kids in your classes on the first day. But it's a great day to make a new friend, so try to say hello to kids you know and new ones that you don't. Make the first move and you'll be glad you did and so will your new friend!

Moving to Middle School?

Sixth grade often signals a move to middle school or junior high, where you'll find lockers and maybe a homeroom. This is just what it sounds like — a classroom you'll go to each morning, kind of like your home in the school. In middle school, you might move from classroom to classroom for each subject. Your teachers know that this is a big change from elementary school and will help you adjust.

We're Interested in Hearing From You

Let us know how you're able to spread positive lifelong learning information in your community. As a way to inspire your fellow Learning Ambassadors, we'll include results and your good ideas in upcoming issues! Send your experience and results to Karen Roney at karen.roney@ci.longmont.co.us, or call 303-651-8633.

Most teachers let you pick your own seat on the first day, but by the second or third morning, they'll have mapped out a seating plan. At first, it's a good idea to write down where your seat is in your notebook so you don't forget.



Feeling Good on Day One

Seeing friends you haven't seen in a while can make the first day a good one. You also can make the day feel special by wearing an outfit you like. Maybe you got a great T-shirt on vacation, or your new sneakers put a spring in your step. If you wear a uniform, you might wear a favorite watch, a new hair band, or a piece of jewelry to show your personal style.

It can make you feel good to be prepared and have all the supplies you need. Some schools distribute supply lists before the year begins, so you can come stocked up on pencils, folders, and whatever else you'll be needing. Once you've covered the basics, you might tuck an extra few dollars in your backpack for an emergency (like forgetting your lunch money). Or maybe you'd like to bring along a book or magazine to read while you're on the bus.

Whatever you put in your backpack, make sure you pack it the night before. This prevents the morning panic when you can't find your homework or lunch box. Speaking of lunch, that's something else that can help you feel good at school — whether it's the first day or the 100th day. Help your parents pack it the night before if you don't like what's on the menu at the cafeteria. Try to include a variety of foods in your packed

lunch, especially fruits and vegetables.

Get Oriented

The first day of school is your first chance to find your way around a new school, or learn the pathways to new classes in your old school. It's a lot to learn in one day, so don't be surprised if you need a reminder or two.

It might help to write a few notes to yourself, so you'll remember the important stuff, like your locker combination and that lunch starts at 11:43, not 12:10. Before you know it, your fingers will fly as you open your locker and you won't have to check your notes to know what time lunch starts!

A Bad Start?

What if you hate school by the end of day one? Teachers recommend giving things some time to sort themselves out — once you know your way around the building and get adjusted to the new routine, you'll probably feel better. If those feelings don't fade, talk to your mom, dad, teacher, or school counselor.

Here are a few final tips for a fantastic school year:

- Get enough sleep.
- Eat a healthy breakfast.
- Try your best.
- Use good work habits, like writing down your assignments and turning in your homework on time.
- Take your time with school work. If you don't understand something, ask the teacher.
- Keep a sense of humor. One teacher we know shows his new students a picture of himself graduating high school — a grinning ape in a red graduation cap and gown. This usually makes the kids laugh, and it's a good way to remind them that school is fun!





They Say You Learn Something New Every Day...

Now your library can help you make that happen. Longmont Public Library has just subscribed to a dynamic new product called UniversalClass.

UniversalClass offers over 500 online non-credit classes that you can take from the comfort of your own computer. Want to become a better photographer? UniversalClass will help you to do that. Perhaps you need help in starting your own business; you can take a class to do that too. Cooking, psychology, history, and religion are just a few of the subject areas you can explore using this service.

UniversalClass allows you to enroll in up to five classes and each one has a real instructor who you may communicate with using email. You can work through the selected course at your own pace though the coursework needs to be completed in six months.

Best of all, these personal enrichment classes are free to our library members, all you need is a current library card. Go to our library homepage, select the Library 24/7 bar and then select the Learn Something New icon. You will need to register and after that, begin having fun as you pore through over 500 continuing education options. Select your area of interest and then take the class.



Or register here at

<http://longmontco.universalclass.com/register.htm>

One of the 500+ classes available to you for FREE from UniversalClass:

Learn the Fundamentals of Drawing!

Course Description

This course is designed for beginner artists who have an interest in learning how to draw or sketch -- or simply want to improve their skills. It covers the tools you'll need to draw and also provide plenty of exercises to practice drawing using different techniques and styles. It will cover drawing people, places, things, and even abstract concepts. For best results, we highly recommended that you take your time going through this course.

It's easy to get excited and flip through the pages, just to see what we'll teach you to draw next. However, you'll miss out on the overall purpose of this course if you do. Learning to draw is a process, even if it is a fun one. In this course, you're going to learn the processes and techniques that gave rise to some of the most talented artists in the world. What you're going to learn over the fifteen lessons will be in-depth, professional information. It can be comparable to signing up for an art class at a large university.

You're going to learn about:

- The tools artists use to draw
- Values
- Shading
- Textures and how to create them
- Drawing flowers and trees
- Drawing a still life
- Drawing animals
- Drawing people
- And much, much more!



That said, don't expect to be a master artist after you finish this course. Instead, expect to have the knowledge and training you need to continue to draw and learn to bring the scenes you see in your daily life to paper. You'll be able to draw whatever you see, and you'll have the knowledge to perfect the image. So, sit back and relax. You're not going to be judged or graded on your skill. The only grade you'll receive will be based upon your comprehension of the techniques and information we present. Your skill is something that will improve over time, and you'll be able to refer to this course whenever you want in the future.

About LifeLongmontLearning

LifeLongmontLearning is a community-based, City-sponsored movement to increase access to learning opportunities available in our area. It is the vision of this effort's leadership—which represents government, education, community and business—to ensure that all children enter school ready to learn; for all students to acquire the education and skills to be successful in the 21st century; for all working adults to improve their employability in a changing world; and for retired adults to continually enrich their lives. For more information, visit www.LifeLongmontLearning.com.