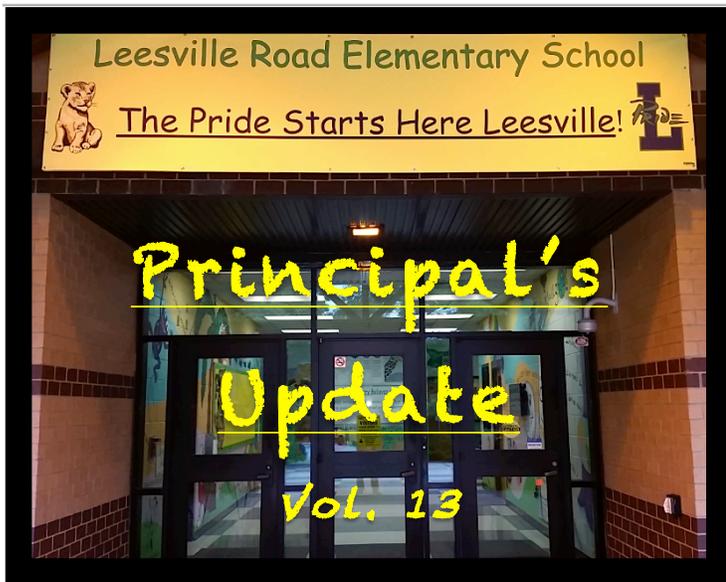


December 6, 2015



Dates to Remember... at a glance

- 12/7 to 12/11 * LES Spirit Week
- Friday, 12/11 Practice Spelling Bee
- Saturday, 12/12 * Girls on the Run Reindeer Romp 5K
- Friday, 12/18 Early Release Day, Students Dismiss @ 1:15
- Monday, 12/21 Teacher Workday
- 12/21/15 to 1/1/16 Winter Vacation

* Read on for details on some of the wonderful events listed above.

A Turn Technology Off Week Example



I was thrilled and excited to receive a daily message from one of our Leesville Elementary School families, who fully embraced the spirit of Turn Technology Off Week. Not only had they not engaged in screen time, but also found ways to enjoy the experience together, as a family.

See below how they chose to spend their time through this special week... from playing games, to art projects, to just going for daytime and evening walks, this family made the most of this excuse to Turn Off their Technology.



Leesville Elementary School Went Old School to Support Turn Technology Off Week

Turn Technology Off Week was a total success with many of the students walking around with colorful rainbow brain squeeze toys symbolizing their participation in the opportunity to reduce their screen time and expand their mind creatively. One Leesville Elementary family was even kind enough to forward pictures of their family time across the week, to show that life can move forward without the use of computers, video gaming systems, and televisions.



One highlight of the week included the PTA Sponsored, LES Staff supported, Bookworm Pajama Party and Story Time. This event hosted something for everyone with a PTA General Assembly Meeting and parent workshop about building resiliency within your children to handle and address peer conflict, an old fashioned game night for 3rd through 5th Grade Students, and a pajama story time for our Kindergarten through 2nd Grade Cubs.

A special Thank You goes out to our amazing PTA, our staff readers (Tisha Daughton, Kelly McNamara, Sharon Hupp, and Kim Grimes), our workshop presenters (Counselors Mallorie Butler and Annette Trammel), Technology Coordination (Coreen Levy), and our transportation organizers (Assistant Principal Jodi Lay and ESL Teacher Danielle Perry). We would also like to recognize the flexibility of Melissa Markus and our After School Care Crew, who restructured their afternoon to accommodate this wonderful and successful event.

Above: We had a great turn out for a very enjoyable and engaging event. Spirits were high and positive as the event sponsored something for everyone.

Below: The highlights of the event were our readers, who packed the Kinder hallway with K-2nd Grade students. Pajamas, stories, pizza... what could be better?



We Have Done It Again

As any member of the Leesville Elementary School Community will tell you, LES is so much more than just a great academic program. We offer many other experiences and opportunities for our students to grow and develop a broad scope of interests.

One such area is in the Theatrical Arts. For a number of years now, under the leadership of our Music Teacher, Penny Pate, our Cubs Choir has impressed the WCPSS community with their Pieces of Gold performances. Well, this year is no different as our Leesville Choir auditioned for the 2015-2016 Pieces of Gold. While almost all of the WCPSS schools audition for this opportunity to perform in front of a packed Memorial Auditorium, only a precious few earn such an honor.

We could not be more proud of our students who will impress this year's audience with their choreographed rendition of Everybody Wants to Be a Cat! from Disney's The Aristocats.

Our faculty and staff had the privilege of seeing the number mere hours before the formal audition... totally amazing!



Our Girls are Running Again

Every spring and every fall, Leesville Elementary School facilitates another group of Girls on the Run Participants. These committed young ladies meet twice per week for 12 weeks to engage in a combination of healthy life skills and running activities, all with the end goal of participating in a 5-kilometer run.

This year, under the leadership of Kayla Malcolm, Kara LaBella, and Allison Fox-Kennedy, the Leesville Elementary Girls on the Run group will participate the Annual Reindeer Romp 5K, held this year at Meredith College. Whether you are familiar with this amazing program or not, I encourage you to come out and cheer on our girls on as they complete a great season at this festive event.

Learn more about Girls on the Run and the Reindeer Romp 5K

<http://www.gotrtriangle.org>



Teaching the Holidays

Leesville Elementary School is a public school, and therefore, must remain secular in our recognitions and celebrations during this most festive of months. Many of you may have heard that we are not able to permit holiday party celebrations. This should not, however, stop the classes or teachers from enjoying this time with their students.

It has been shared with the teachers that this time of year is a wonderful one for exposing our young Cubs to the wonderful diversity that exists at the school. The teachers have been encouraged to teach about the holidays and to allow their students to hear and share about the traditions they all enjoy through the holiday season. I hope that you will all enjoy this opportunity to share about your own traditions too.

Furthermore, all teachers have been given permission to enjoy a Winter Break celebration with their class and families during the Early Release Day on Friday, December 18.

This week is Spirit Week!

**December 7th through December 11th,
join in the fun themes each day:**

Mix Up Monday

Crazy socks & hair day

Team Tuesday

Wear your favorite team jersey

Wild Wednesday

Dress as your favorite animal

Tropical Thursday

Floral shirts, grass skirts, leis, etc.

NO swimsuits please!

Leesville Pride Day Friday

Wear your Leesville colors