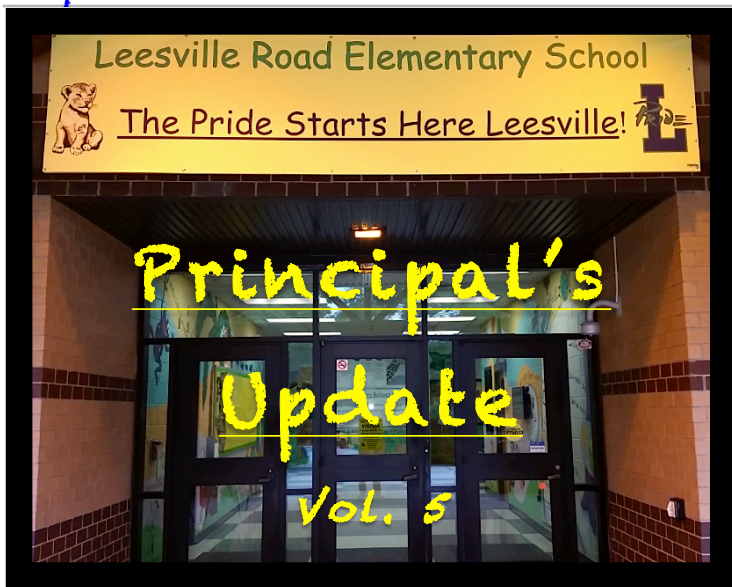


September 28, 2015



Dates to Remember... at a glance

- Thurs., October 1: ESL Parent Academy @ 6:00 pm
- Sat., October 3: City Serve Beautification Day from 9 am to 12:30
- Thurs., October 9: PTA Giving Campaign Kickoff Assembly
- Fri., October 16: Early Release Day, Students dismiss @ 1:15 pm
- Thurs., October 22: 3rd Annual LES Literacy Celebration Event
- Fri., October 23: Leesville Elementary, Middle, & High Schools Tailgate
- Fri., October 23: End of the 1st Quarters
- Mon., October 26: Teacher Workday, No school for Students
- Sat., October 31: Daylight Savings - Turn clocks back an hour

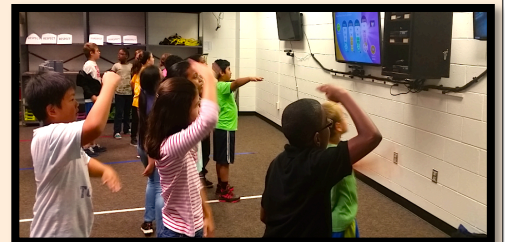
Innovative Education from Leesville

While certainly it is a huge thrill to see your students progress and to see that figurative light bulb turn on as they have learned a challenging concept, for educators, there are few experiences that are more invigorating than to feel innovative. At Leesville Elementary School, we recently rolled out the newest component of our Health and Fitness Program.

Last year, we introduced the Health and Fitness class to provide a second physical education program into the Specials rotation. The idea would create a combination of nutrition education, cardio-aerobics, and technology... yes, technology. Our prediction was that through hands-free gaming systems, we could encourage greater participation in the exercise activities, and, well, trick the students into getting fit.

This past Friday, Leesville Elementary School set a new bar for fitness education when Ms. Perricone grouped the students to Just Dance. By the end of the class, EVERY student had worked up a sweat as they actively and happily engaged in digital exercise. This first day of the technology based exercise program was a huge success and will set a new precedent in fitness education.

Ms. Merrick's 4th grade students were really getting the hang of it as they busted a move this past Friday.



Ms. Holland's 2nd graders prepped for their opportunity to be the first class in the whole school to exercise using the gaming systems

Who Says Picnics Are Supposed to Be Outside?



When the PTA approached me this past Thursday to let me know that regardless of the weather, they would like to NOT cancel or postpone the PTA Family Fun Picnic event, I really thought they were kidding. As they further explained their plan, I became a believer... We'll place the biggest crowds in the Middle School Gym (which they had already secured), the Food Trucks just outside the Middle School cafeteria (which they had also secured) and



then use our own Multi-Purpose Room and Cafeteria for the Face Painting, Balloon Animals and for the DJ Dance Party.

Regardless of what went where, the verdict was in quick with this one, with all Accounts reporting a great time by everyone there, which also happened to be an amazing turnout. When asked about what prompted the action to plan the entire event to transfer inside, the response from the PTA was that this was really for our children, and in the same way that adults can



socialize and have time together inside or outside, children are able to make their fun wherever it may be provided.

Kudos to the PTA for keeping their sights on the priority and not letting a little (or maybe even a lot) of rain dampen a great time for the Leesville Elementary Community.



Never Missing the Opportunity to Spoil Us

Just one of the amazing qualities of our PTA (emphasis on the Just one of) is their willingness and ability to consistently show their appreciation to our faculty and staff for all of the efforts and dedication they assign to the Leesville Elementary School children.

This past Tuesday, just to say Thank You and We Appreciate You, the PTA Hospitality Community set up a little Sweet and Savory Bar in the Faculty Lounge. One of the things that I have learned is that educators gain their satisfaction intrinsically from the success of their students, but it always gives that needed boost of energy and motivation when the efforts are recognized, acknowledged, and thanked. Thank you to the PTA for personifying this concept so frequently and kindly.

What a treat for our faculty and staff to come into the lounge during one of their few breaks in the day, only to be greeted by yet another show of PTA appreciation.



A Great Way to Spend a Teacher Workday Afternoon

We are making a concerted effort to reach out to our school community to see if there is anything that we may do, as a school community, to better serve the students and families that are bused into our school from downtown. The goal is to hear and respond to the voices of our families that have, due to distance from the school, have a greater challenge getting themselves to the school.



The faculty, staff and parents had a great time in this casual setting, just brainstorming what we can do together to be an even more successful community.

On this past Teacher Workday Wednesday, a team of faculty, staff, and PTA parents borrowed space from Powell Elementary School to host a meeting with the families from this neighborhood. While the event was hoping for a larger showing of parents, all of those in attendance could not have enjoyed themselves more and or felt anything short of success about the visit.