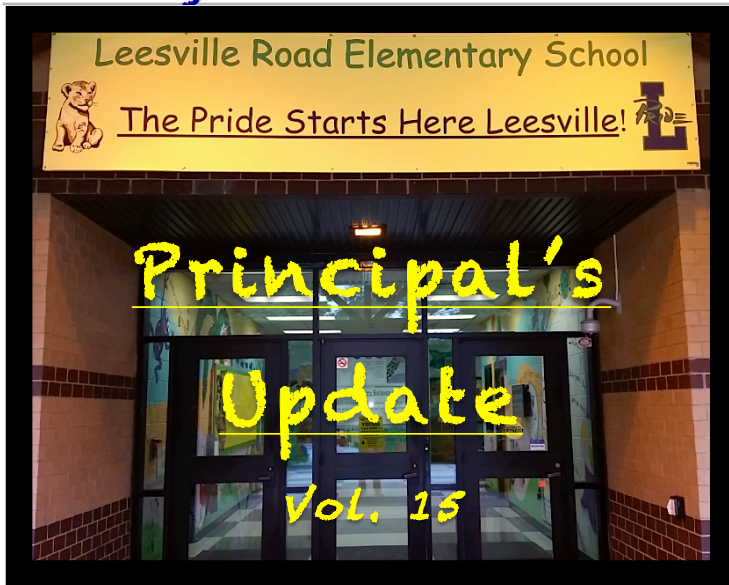


January 1, 2016



Dates to Remember... at a glance

Friday, 01/01/2016	HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!
Monday, 1/4	Students/Staff return to Leesville
Tuesday, 1/7	2016-17 Kindergarten Registration Opens, 9am – 3 pm
Tuesday, 1/12	Parent Academy @ 6 pm
Tuesday, 1/12	Rising Kindergarten Tour @ 9:30 am
Wednesday, 1/13	Rising Kindergarten Tour @ 6:00 pm
Thursday, 1/14	Rising Kindergarten Tour @ 1:00 pm
Friday, 1/15	Early Release Day
Monday, 1/18	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – No School
Tuesday, 1/19	Teacher Workday – No School for Students
Tuesday, 1/22	LES Spelling Bee Final
1/25 to 1/29	4th Grade Wax Museum Presentations
Wednesday, 2/3	Board Advisory Council Meeting @ 6 pm @ Lead Mine Elementary School

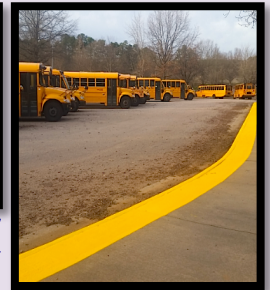
A Facelift for Leesville Elementary School

For quite some time, the parking lot, the bus lot, and the front drop-off/pick-up circle have been in desperate need of a facelift... or at least a makeover. So needless to say, I was so excited when I drove up to the school on Monday, December 21 and saw that our requests have been met.

Our hope is that the *POPI* of the yellow serves as a reminder for our students about safety on the bus-lot walkway and also that we must keep the front car circle clear along all fire lanes... all of which are very clearly marked.



The POPI of the newly painted yellow will certainly allow us to maintain greater safety for our students.



The Changing of the Guard is Official

On Friday, December 18, 2015, the faculty and staff took some time during the Early Release Day to enjoy one another prior to starting our vacation and to say farewell to Angela Davis-Williams, thanking her for the many years of service and friendship.

Now that we are almost returning for a strong start to 2016, I am very pleased to announce our replacement in the office. Ms. Sweetie Kluge has accepted the opportunity to change her role from classroom Instructional Assistant to join Ms. Gwen Peebles as the first impression to the Leesville Elementary School community.

Ms. Kluge is not the only one accepting a new role or joining as a new addition to our school community. We are excited to also welcome Ms. Sara Cranford back to Leesville. Sara just completed her student teaching under the expert guidance of Ms. Amanda Simpson and will stay at Leesville to serve as a long-term substitute Instructional Assistant for the AU 1 classroom with Ms. Beth Childress.

Finally, we are also excited to welcome Ms. Patricia Maggio, who comes to us from Knightdale Elementary School to fill the role as our 50% Cross-Categorical Resource Teacher. Her experience and enthusiasm will certainly be a welcome addition to the LES community.

2016-2017 Kindergarten...

Thinking Ahead for the Graduating Class of 2029

It is that time again everyone... we are excited to welcome our new and returning families to Leesville Elementary School for the kick-off to our 2016-17 Kindergarten Registration. Registration opens to our future LES Cubs on Thursday, January 7 from 9:00 am to 3 pm.

As we all prepare for this tremendous milestone for our children, it is important to really do our research to find the best and most well suited Kindergarten environment. To assist you in making this determination, all Wake County Public Schools will host Kindergarten Tours through the month of January. At Leesville, our tours will be Tuesday, January 12 at 9:30 am, Wednesday, January 13 at 6:00 pm, and a third tour on Thursday, January 14 at 1:00 pm. To help us prepare for your visit, please call us at 919-870-4200 to sign-up for one of the tours. Also, Please be informed that the tours are very comprehensive and may last as long as an hour and a half. Certainly you are allowed to bring your rising Kindergartener, but the length of the tour may be difficult for young children.

Leesville Elementary School looks forward to your visit and we could not be more excited to welcome you and your family into our wonderful and collaborative community.



A Recognition of Excellence

Just prior to the Winter Vacation, Wake County Schools accepted the opportunity to recognize excellence within the school system.

Our school system was proud to point out that Wake County has earned the honor of employing Mental Health Care Professionals that are so gifted in their service to schools and children that they have been recognized as North Carolina's best. While it is exciting to note that Wake County Schools is home to the NC Middle School Counselor of the Year, the NC High School Counselor of the Year, and the NC Social Worker of the Year, Leesville Elementary School is thrilled to have the North Carolina School Psychologist of the Year, Sarah Hamel, recognized at this same WCPSS Board Meeting.

Ms. Hamel's commitment to the LES community is absolutely worthy of this terrific honor.



An Important Reminder

As we return from the Winter Vacation and begin 2016, we want everyone to look at this time as a fresh opportunity to start anew. Here are a few reminders about how you may support your child through the rest of the school year (and really beyond as well).

The first, and I would say the easiest practice, is to make sure that your child is at school on time everyday. When students are late to school, it starts their day off in a stressed fashion, as they will struggle to catch up to the rest of the class for the day. It also creates an unfair situation for the other students in the class, who managed to arrive to school on time, and now have to have their day and learning interrupted as the tardy student is caught up. Likewise, please remember that the students' day ends at 3:45 pm. When students are picked up prior to the end of the day, they miss valuable class time and instruction and cause an unfair interruption to the rest of the class' learning. For this reason, without prior notice, we will no longer call students from their class after 2:45 pm.

Finally, please make sure that you are speaking with your child about their day and checking their homework thoroughly. Very little shows that you care about their learning and education more than demonstrating an active interest in their day and what they are being taught.