

Mrs. Chapman's Weekly Newsletter
November 6, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Principal Pals are planning a Grandparents' Tea. We want to set the date now to allow those grandparents who live out of state an opportunity to join their grandchildren. For Tracks 1 and 3, the date is Friday, May 21st and for Tracks 2 and 4, the date is Friday, May 14th. Please let your parents know as soon as possible, even though as we near these dates, they will receive formal invitations.

Thank you for not parking in the handicapped area. Students, who are handicapped, can now access their rides to and from school in a safe manner. We are now facing a new problem. Our students are walking to the middle school to meet their parents who park there. We cannot have them congregate there because there is no one on duty. A few days ago, a little boy was the only one left there. As our staff members who are on bus duty looked over, he stood crying. They went to him and had him wait for his parents on our front porch. This is a major safety issue! Anyone could have driven up and taken this child. Please know that I only encourage you to follow the rules for the safety of our children. We want to make sure they are safe and secure at LES.

At our PLT's this Wednesday, we met in vertical PLT's with kindergarten and first as one team, second and third as another team, and fourth and fifth as a third team. Specialists and special education staff members joined their assigned team. The focus was standard based grading practices. Teams were given a task card to arrange the instructional process in its most effective manner. Our staff was successful in realizing that they must know the essential objectives and then design an assessment to determine what they want the students to learn and how will they know they have mastered it. All of this needs to take place prior to teaching. There should be a special emphasis on endurance (retain the knowledge and skills over time), leverage (proficiency will help the student in other areas of the curriculum and other academic disciplines) and student readiness (success for the next unit, course or grade level). Only then will essential learning occur. Standards Based Grading resources were shared by all. Our staff has mastered most of the above; however, a review was needed for effective implementation of how we grade our students and where do we record these grades. Talking to various staff members reaffirmed that this was well – received and highly relevant to the collaborative practices of each team.

Kudos to Leesville Elementary! We have been awarded \$1,000.00 from Walmart. Our staff nominated two staff members to win the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award from Walmart. They are Tracey Spruill and Ellen Benfield. Both will receive an additional \$200.00 from Walmart to be spent on school supplies. Congratulations, ladies.

PTA NEWS:

Writer in Residence at LRES

This week fifth graders on two tracks started a one-week residency with writer and long-time journalist Eileen Hayes. The theme of the five-day residency is *Quick Course For Student Journalists*. Ms. Hayes worked with the fifth grade teachers to tailor the program for each class. She will be returning in two weeks to work with the remaining fifth grade classes. This program is funded by the PTA and a grant from the United Arts Council. For more information, go to the PTA website:

<http://www.lrespridepta.org/blog1/what-we-do/cultural-arts-at-lres/>.

Book Fair Update

The Book Fair has arrived and will be at LRES **through Fri., Nov. 13**. If you missed the first Family Night on Thurs., Nov. 5, please plan to attend on **Tues., Nov. 10**, from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. LRES's own Kelly Starling Lyons, author of *One Million Men and Me*, will be reading and signing books at 6:00 p.m. We will also have Bingo for Books in the cafeteria from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The YMCA afterschool staff will be providing fun activities for the kids from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Family Night -- free of charge. Kids can play while parents shop!

Further information about the Book Fair may be found on the PTA website:

<http://www.lrespridepta.org/blog1/2009/10/20/book-fair/>.

Out to Eat Night, Thurs., Nov. 19

LRES would like to invite you to Out To Eat Night on **Thurs., Nov. 19**, at Jason's Deli at Brier Creek, from 5-9 pm. The class with the highest percentage of participation will win either a cookie tray or half sandwich tray. Second place will win a popsicle party. One lucky student from a non-winning class will be drawn and will be able to eat lunch with a staff member of their choice.

ALL PRO DAD: Sat., Nov. 21

It's an afternoon you'll never forget! It starts when you and your children experience the thrill of stepping onto the field at the Panthers' Practice Fields and seeing Kevin Donnalley in person. You'll spend the next few hours connecting with your kids – with high-energy football drills, plenty of fun and games, plus some practical fatherhood tips you can take home and put into practice. You won't want to miss this memorable experience, created just for you and your kids!

Further information about the All Pro Dad may be found on the PTA website:

<http://www.lrespridepta.org/blog1/2009/11/05/all-pro-dad-sat-nov-21/>

The weather continues to allow for many outside activities. Enjoy these activities with your children.

Have a lovely weekend!

Cecelia Chapman, Principal