

Principal's Weekly Letter
July 24, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It was so nice to see you at Open House on Tuesday. Your positive comments about the staff are well received and serve as additional motivation for all. A big kudos goes to the staff and students for achieving high growth and making all 21 goals of their Adequate Yearly Progress. That is **two years in a row** for **high academic growth**. We are on a roll and will continue to ensure that our focus is on your child and his/her academic achievement.

This has been a busy and productive week for us. During our Early Release, we had staff development using the book, Classroom Instructions that Works by Robert Marzano. At first, we met as a large group under the guidance of Suzanne Averett, our IRT. She modeled the way all of our subsequent book talks would follow. From there, she moved on to the first research – based strategy for increasing student achievement which is *Identifying Similarities and Differences*. After her presentation, we divided into smaller groups by grade level/ PLT's. One group worked on comparing, led by Suzanne Averett; another group learned about the use of analogies in making comparisons led by our assistant principal, Lisa Brown; and, the third group extended their knowledge in the area of metaphors led by me. We learned many uses of well – known concepts that can be utilized in all subject areas. It is so refreshing to be part of staff development when you know what you learned can be used with your students. On our next early release day, **August 12th**, for Tracks 1,2, and 4 we will be led by Mr. Jeff Maynard on another of Marzano's research – based strategies for increasing student achievement. We will also be engaged in a guided reading session led by Minda Batten and PBS led by Lorrie Sardiello.

In my first letter I described what we did during our first week of PLT. The second week the PLT's were busy refining their SMART goal. First grade decided that math would be their SMART goal for the year. They agreed on their first common pre-assessment in math and developed a rubric across the grade level so the children would be graded using the same expectations. Next week, all of our SMART goals will be written in proper format and I will share that with you. Since our data just arrived, we will know what areas on which to focus.

Thank you for walking your child in to the school in the mornings. You have helped your child by making this a smooth transition and we appreciate you! We are asking at this time to have your child enter the building by themselves. The confidence that you show them will transfer into their ability to get acclimated to this process quickly. Thank you for allowing us even more instructional time with your child!

The Leesville Road Elementary School PTA is looking for business owners to advertise in the student directory. By advertising in our directory you can reach more than 750 families. This is an excellent way to grow your customer base through exposure to a large group of parents and

families. In addition, you will be supporting a worthy cause through the funding of a free directory that is provided to each student, courtesy of the LRES PTA. Contact: Tricia Seymour at: triciaseymour@nc.rr.com

Details:

Cost: \$25 per business card ad / \$50 per half page ad

Make checks payable to "LES PTA " and include payment with your submission.

Ads must be in bold black and white. Your ad can be typed, handwritten or we can use your business card as long as it is in black and white. Deadline: August 14 '2009

We welcome Track 4 and say adieu to Track 3. Our Wednesday Early Dismissal begins at 2:45, so set your clocks. We will be hosting a Blood Drive for Rex Hospital on Wednesday as well from 11:00AM – 2:00PM.

Don't forget about the PTA Back to School Picnic this Saturday in our backyard from 5:00 – 7:30PM. It promises to be a fun evening for all.

Have an exciting weekend doing something special like attending the picnic!

Sincerely,

Cecelia Chapman, Principal