

Leesville Elementary Weekly Newsletter

August 28, 2009

Dear Leesville Parents, Guardians, and Partners,

These are exciting times on the Leesville Elementary School campus. Construction on our playground shade structure has begun! The trucks rolled in Thursday morning, and the crew has been hard at work ever since. We are quite excited about the new addition and want to again express our gratitude for the dedicated members of our LES PTA for their perseverance and dedication to this project.

Dismissal Notes: Thanks for remembering to move toward the parking lot quickly after picking up walkers in the afternoon under the breezeway. We need to alleviate the congestion in that area so that our younger students have a clear path out of the building and out to the carpool lane in the afternoon. This helps us keep all of our children safe. THANKS!

Please refer to last week's newsletter, located in the Newsletter folder on our school web site, for the procedures for early check out. Again, we are appreciative of your support in helping to keep our school a safe and secure place for learning.

PLC Updates:

Our PLCs continue to gather, sort, and analyze data collected in the classroom as they work with our students. Teachers discussed our new math adoption, Math Expressions, and worked with each other to examine and plan for differentiated instruction. Performance data was used to dig deeper into instruction and facilitate understanding, both for teachers and for students. Teachers planned ahead and worked together to develop objective-based assessments to measure levels of understanding both before and after instruction. In short, our teachers worked and thought hard during their PLC meetings this week! If you pass one of them in the hall, give them encouragement. They are making miracles in lean times and they really appreciate your support.

Our students continue to ROAR in fine fashion each day as they respect everyone and everything, own their actions, aim for success, and remember safety. When you visit us, check out the bulletin board in the main hall that celebrates how our classes ROAR! Please offer your encouragement to your own children and to all of our children for their hard work!

Noteworthy News:

1) Volunteers Needed for Helping Hands Mentoring Program

What is the Helping Hands Mentoring Program? It is a Wake County Public School program with a mission of the School/Community to provide academic and personal development support services to African-American male students, while enabling their parents to effectively utilize educational and community resources, to enhance positive outcomes.

We are looking for African-American males in our community who are willing to commit two hours of your time each week, working with a maximum of five students. This time would be used to serve as a positive role model for these young students either through social activities, helping with homework, or just positive reinforcement. Volunteers must have a Level 4 clearance and be willing to serve throughout the remainder of the school year. There is also a small stipend for volunteers. If you are interested and would like further information about the

program, please contact Gwen McLean, school counselor, at 870-4190, or Julie Bowyer, PTA Volunteer VP, lesptavolunteers@gmail.com. More information is available on the WCPSS website at <http://www.wcpss.net/isd/prevention-services/helping-hands/>.

2) Lunch Room volunteers needed

With budget cuts this year, the school staff has been stretched thin, and they really need our help! A survey of teachers and specialists showed that the top choice to have extra assistance is during lunchtime. This would be to supplement the staff on lunch duty by helping the students in the serving line or cleaning up.

With guidance from Mrs. Chapman, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Sauers, the PTA is setting up a **Lunch Duty Schedule** for volunteers, in particular helping with Kindergarten, First and Second Grades.

The shifts are as follows:

10:45 – 11:30 First Grade Serving Line

11:15 – 12:00 First Grade Clean Up

11:45 – 12:30 Second Grade Serving Line

12:15 – 1:00 Second Grade Clean Up

12:15 – 1:00 Kindergarten Serving Line

12:45 – 1:30 Kindergarten Clean Up

The duties are simple, but we'd like to have volunteers commit to covering a shift one day per week while you're tracked in. If you can help in this capacity, please contact Sonia Mehta at smehta002@nc.rr.com with your **name, track, shift preference, and day of week**. If you can't commit to every week but want to help, please contact Sonia, because we can use people every other week, or on a sub list, etc.

The school staff and the PTA appreciate your help!

3) Carpool Etiquette

Please remember carpool etiquette. If a person is turning left from Country Trail, please allow them into the carpool lane if it can be done safely. There are some students who come down Country Trail from Pinecrest Rd. **We request that you continue down Country Trail, make a U-Turn, and join the already formed carpool line.** This prevents the intersection from being blocked. Thanks for your help!

Here's to the Start of the Pride!

Lisa Brown, Assistant Principal