



# THE LEPRECHAUN

*A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence*



DECEMBER 2025

## Principals Corner

Hello KLES Parents,

Oh, how I love this time of year in elementary school! I love the excitement in the eyes of the children each and every day. I love hearing the laughter, the singing, and the wonderful stories. It truly is the most wonderful time of year! However, with this wonderful time of year comes the c-c-c-cold outside. Thank you for remembering to send your students with coats, gloves, hats, etc.; whatever it takes to keep them warm each day as we go outside. We will be outside most days. Please remember to put your child's name on each item so we can return it to them when lost.

As this time of year so often turns our routines upside down, I want to ask that you please make every effort to have your children arrive at school on time and avoid picking them up early. Most classes start their day with core instruction (typically reading or math) so a child who is even a few minutes late has missed valuable instruction.

Jenny Blair & Champayne Ricciardi



Did you know that Chronic absenteeism—or missing at least **10 percent** of school days in a school year for any reason, excused or unexcused—is a primary cause of low academic achievement and a powerful predictor of those students who may eventually drop out of school? Ten percent is a total of 18 throughout the course of the school year. Likewise, students who are chronically tardy and/or leave school early miss out on key learning opportunities which in turn hinders their academic achievement.

## DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov 14—Dec 15	PTO Holiday Giving
Dec 2	All Pro Dad—7:30 am
Dec 2	PM2 Testing—3rd & 4th ELA
Dec 3	PM2 Testing—1st & 5th ELA
Dec 4	PM2 Testing—K & 2nd ELA
Dec 5	K—Community Helper Day
Dec 5	Pre K Field Trip—Jr. Museum
Dec 8	PM2 Testing—K Math
Dec 9	PM2 Testing—3rd & 4th Math
Dec 10	PM2 Testing—1st & 5th Math
Dec 11	PM2 Testing—2nd Math
Dec 11	Chorus Concert—6:30 pm
Dec 18	5th Field Trip—Orchestra
Dec 22—Jan 6	Winter Holiday— NO SCHOOL



Visit us on the web: [www.leonschools.net/killearnlakes](http://www.leonschools.net/killearnlakes)

## Physical Education

Hello from the PE department!

Our PE classes are working on their hurdling, locomotor movements, and jump rope skills between now and the winter break. If you get a chance, have them show you some of their skills at home!

Please make sure that you are labeling all sweatshirts, jackets, and water bottles so they can be returned when left around campus.

We hope you all are looking forward to spending time together during your time off, and we want you to know how thankful we are to have the opportunity to teach all of your children! Make sure you get out and get active during your winter break.



**Thank you!**

**Kelly Dennis:** [kelly.dennis@leonschools.net](mailto:kelly.dennis@leonschools.net)

**Angie Hickman:**

[angie.hickman@leonschools.net](mailto:angie.hickman@leonschools.net)

## Guidance

Hello from Guidance!

In December, we will continue with our focus on kindness and gratitude while adding in activities addressing coping skills and social skills.

Students will work both independently and collaboratively to support their exploration of these ideas. I look forward to seeing all of the students sharing their KLES holiday spirit on our school-wide dress up days.

I am thankful for each student and love watching them grow in Guidance.

All my best,  
Mrs. Harris

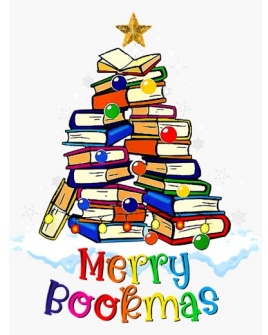


## Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

Students are working hard, learning about book genres and how the library is organized. I am so proud of the independence I am seeing in the library. The students are really beginning to understand how the library is organized so they can find the books they want to read.

In the library, we talk about proper book care a lot; however, sometimes when library books are taken home, they still get lost or damaged beyond repair. If this happens, I am excited to share a new to way to pay for the book(s).



In addition to paying with cash or check, the KLES Media Center now offers online payment through eFunds for Schools. To access eFunds, click on the "Online Fee Payment" icon under "Handy Links" on the KLES webpage. Please reach out to me for the exact amount of the lost or damaged book(s).

Please encourage your child to read and return their library books each week. This ensures that they get to check-out new books each time they visit the library.



I absolutely LOVE teaching your children and I love their excitement for reading! If you ever need to reach me, my email is [stemlek@leonschools.net](mailto:stemlek@leonschools.net).

Sincerely,  
Katie Stemle



## Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

Hello KLES Families!! The second 9 weeks is almost over and I can't believe how quickly the holiday break will be here. We have had a lot of musical fun this school year already!

### Here are some happenings in music that you can ask your student about:

**Kindergarten**-The students have been listening to loud, soft, fast, and slow music. We played instruments to loud and soft and also pretended to be soft, sleeping bunnies, until it was loud and we had to wake up! We also rode around on our pretend horses to fast and slow music.

**1st grade**-We learned about fast and slow music. We used bean bags to tap, throw, and pass to music that was slow, medium, and fast.

**2nd grade**-We finished up our lessons on melody and started learning about patterns in music. We listened to Chopin's "Little Dog" Waltz and used scarves to pretend to chase our tails during the A sections, and then we rested during the B section.

**3rd grade**-We finally learned Hot Cross Buns and the students are really improving each week on their recorders. Each week we practice learning the names of the lines and spaces on the treble clef staff. We played a game where we tried to figure out the note names of the treble clef staff, before the fidget spinner stopped spinning.

**4th grade**-We listened to In the Hall of the Mountain King and bounced a ball to the beat. As the song goes on, it gets louder and faster. We also played our recorders to slow, medium, and fast tempos.

**5th grade**-We played our big drums in a drum circle. We used different dynamics and tempo to play rhythms on our drums. We had some brave student conductors come to the middle to be the leaders.

Thanks for sharing your musical kiddos with me.

*Holly Pursino*

*Music Teacher*

*Killearn Lakes Elementary*



## Art Updates

New year, a fresh canvas, shape your art with creativity! Paul Cézanne, Paul Gauguin, Vincent van Gogh and Georges Seurat were Post-Impressionist artists who liked to paint from life, but were more inclined to emphasize geometric forms, distort form for expressive effect, and use unnatural or modified color. The Post-Impressionists rejected Impressionism's concern with the spontaneous and naturalistic rendering of light and color. Instead, they favored an emphasis on more symbolic content, formal order and structure. Similar to the Impressionists, however, they stressed the artificiality of the picture.

**Kindergarten and First Grade** are busy learning about Color, Shape, and Composition, painting like Van Gogh and Paul Cézanne.

**Second and third grade** are learning about Folk Art celebrating the trees in Tallahassee.

**Fourth and Fifth grade** students will be exploring Still-Life Mixed Media Study with Van Gogh (Post-Impressionism) and Cezanne (Expressionism).

Look for some master pieces to come home soon!



-Mr. Tavares J





## School Reminders

### School Supervision Hours

7:45 am—3:20 pm

Bells ~ 8:30 am & 2:50 pm

### Dismissal Changes

**ALL dismissal changes must be entered in PikMyKid by 2:00 pm.**

Emergency changes will only be accepted through the office by phone or in person until 2:30 pm.

### New Visitor Check-in System

Please bring your ID to be scanned into the system.

### Lost & Found

PLEASE label all clothing (jackets; hats; etc.) that come to school so we can return it to your child.

## Drop off/Pick-up

Please do NOT park next door at the church each day for drop-off and pick-up. The side road is full with busy cars using the designated drop-off area in the rear of the school. It is NOT SAFE for children to cross this busy roadway!

KLES offers 5 drop-off options:

1. Ride the bus
2. Curbside car drop off in rear of school
3. Before school EDEP
4. Park in parking lot on campus and walk child to entry gate by the office
5. Walk to school using the neighborhood sidewalks and crossing guard in front of the school.

Deer Lake UMC and LCS have an agreement to allow parent parking in the church lot for overflow parking when there is a school event; not for daily use.

Please help us keep the children safe by following school drop-off and pick-up procedures.

## Accidents Happen...

Our extra clothes in the office are already running low. Please consider donating any **clean** clothing - boys and girls articles of all sizes are welcome!



# SAFETY FIRST



## EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Please be sure to have (at minimum) BOTH parents or one parent AND an alternate person to contact that can pick up the student in case of emergency!

How to add others for emergency contacts:

Log into FOCUS app

Click "**More Info**" (light blue box)

Click "**Student Info**" (light blue box)

Open the toggle arrow on the left side of the screen

Select "Addresses & Contacts"

Verify who is already on the list

Click "**New Contact**" (blue box)

Complete ALL information –

-First, Last Names

-If a parent – select "Mother/Father" from drop down (include address if prompted)

-Select contact level: Custody/  
Emergency/Pick up/Restraining  
Order

-Select the contacts priority level

**SAVE** (green button at bottom)

## Lunch Bunch Reminders:

\* **ALL visitors MUST check in at the Front Office**

\* **Once checked in at front desk you may head to the cafeteria. Please do not meet your child before they enter the cafeteria, or escort your child back to the classroom.**

\* **Due to food allergies, there is no sharing of, or bringing in food for other children.**

\* **Your student may have ONE friend join them at the table on stage.**

\* **Please avoid bringing 'sweet treats' or sodas for the kids.**

\* **Cell phones should be used for emergencies only– no photographs of other children allowed.**

## Nurse notes for "Return to School"

Fever free **24 hours after fever breaks** without use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol/ Ibuprofen)

Vomiting/Diarrhea 24 hours symptom free from last incident



### for PREVENTION

Lice ~ Do NOT share hair brushes, hats, jackets; If you notice your child scratching their heads—GET CHECKED, it is much easier to treat the earlier you catch it.

Proper hand washing  
Cover your cough (and sneeze)  
Dress for the weather

## Attendance

Attendance at school is very important. When students arrive late or are picked up before dismissal, teaching and learning are disrupted. It's quite eye opening, when you do the math, that missing just ten minutes a day adds up to nearly 1 ½ weeks of missed instruction in one school year (nearly half a year over the 13 years of schooling).

*Please make every effort to have your child in school from 8:30-2:50 each day.*

### Every Minute Counts!

Just a little bit doesn't seem like much but...

When your child misses just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly half a year
20 minutes per day	1 hour & 40 minutes per week	Over 2.5 weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 and a half years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 and a half years

Please be on time every day and avoid picking your child up early.

## KLES PTO

'Tis the season to show care and support for our KLES community!

You can still spread holiday cheer to KLES families in need before our annual Holiday Giving program ends on Friday, December 5th. You can send joy by selecting an item from our Amazon wish list or making a monetary donation, as linked below.



We will also celebrate our dedicated teachers and staff this month with a cookie party on Monday, December 15th and a holiday luncheon on Friday, December 19th. We will need your help to make both events as special as possible. Please be on the lookout for sign-up links to bring in treats and supplies.



Thank you for all the ways you invest in our school, especially during such a busy season. On behalf of the KLES PTO, happy holidays! We are excited to make this time of year extra cheerful with you!

Emily Catena

PTO Communications Director

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KillearnLakesElementarySchoolPTO

@klespto

## COUNSELOR'S

**O** We've made it to the halfway point! December is here! As we wrap up the first semester of school and **R** prepare for Winter Break, the Guidance Team wants to share some tidbits to keep in mind to help make **N** your break as relaxing, fun and restful as possible. We all need to return in January feeling recharged and **E** ready to take on semester two!

**R** It is important to take time to manage the stress the holidays can bring. Remember to practice self-care, mindfulness, kindness, movement and breathing! Whether it's in the morning, at night, or just 20 minutes of time you can grab at some point each day, find the time to just stop, close your eyes, do some mindful breathing and be grateful for those moments in time.

While enjoying all the school activities this month and the exciting holiday festivities you and your family may have planned, remember that others may not be experiencing the same joy you are. We encourage you to be observant of those who may be struggling or just needing a smile or hug. Do what you can to make others feel loved, connected, important, and joyful. Spread cheer.

For those feeling lonely, anxious, or overwhelmed during the holidays, there is always someone ready to lend an ear to help you through a difficult time. Don't be hesitant or afraid to reach out to someone you trust, or to one of the services listed below.

### **Your mental health matters and so do YOU!**

Emergencies: 9-1-1, Community Resources Hotline: 2-1-1, Suicide Prevention Hotline: 9-8-8

Students, you can still use your three "R's" while you are on break too! You can be **RESPECTFUL** by having a good attitude, being kind and caring about the feelings of others. You can be **RESPONSIBLE** by making good choices and getting things done that need doing. You can be **READY TO LEARN** by paying attention to those around you who are different from you and learning something about them and how they celebrate the holiday season!

We hope December and the winter break are wonderful for you! Be safe and we will see you all in the New Year!

~Your Guidance Team: Mrs. Barrineau,



## Pre-K Notes

We would like to wish everyone a happy winter break! Please take time to enjoy your family over the holiday!

Prek will be going to the **Tallahassee Museum** on **Friday, December 5th**.

This is always a fun field trip. The trip is a culminating activity celebrating our Study of Trees.



Jenny Blair,  
Principal

Champayne Ricciardi,  
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### **Looking to get ahold of us?**

- 1 - Front Office
- 2 - Bookkeeper
- 3 - Registrar
- 4 - Clinic
- 5 - Guidance
- 6 - Cafeteria
- 7 - EDEP

### **KLES Mission Statement**

Killearn Lakes Elementary School provides students with an equitable learning environment to create and develop lifelong learners.

### **LCS**

"No person shall on the basis of sex (including transgender, gender nonconforming and gender identity), marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, ethnicity, national origin, age, color, pregnancy, disability, military status or genetic information be denied employment, receipt of services, access to or participation in school activities or programs if qualified to receive such services, or otherwise be discriminated against or placed in a hostile environment in any educational program or activity. including those receiving federal financial assistance, except as provided by law." No person shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or any other youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.