



THE LEPRECHAUN

A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence



OCTOBER 2025

Principals Corner

Hello leprechaun families! As we settle into October, teaching and learning are in full swing.

Our teachers have been inviting families to attend conferences and share their child's progress. If that feels overwhelming, you're not alone. Lots of families feel unsure about how to have a productive and meaningful conversation regarding such an important topic. Here are a few things you can do beforehand to make the most of your time with the teacher: Keep track of what seems to be difficult for your child and put together a list of specific questions you'd like to ask. We value this opportunity to meet face to face with you to talk about your child, but please know that this does not have to be the only time we talk. You are always welcome to text, email or call to speak with your child's teacher.

Attendance at school is very important. When students arrive late or are picked up before dismissal, teaching and learning are disrupted. Please make every effort to have your child in school from 8:30-2:50 each day.

Jenny Blair & Champayne Ricciardi

DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 2	FALL HOLIDAY—NO SCHOOL
Oct 10	4th Grade Field Trip
Oct 10	End of 1st Nine Weeks
Oct 13	TEACHER PLANNING DAY—NO SCHOOL
Oct 18	Fall Festival 12:00—3:00 pm
Oct 21	PTO Meeting 6:00 pm
Oct 24—Nov 7	PTO Coca-Cola Fundraiser
Oct 31	Storybook Character Parade



PM1 TESTING DATES

Oct 7	5th Writing
Oct 9	4th Writing

Parent Teacher Conferences
 Behavior Teamwork Grades Communication Homework
 Progress Goals Achieve



Visit us on the web: www.leonschools.net/killearnlakes

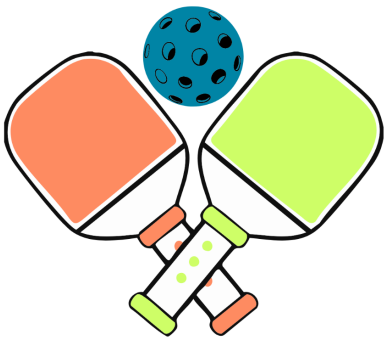


Physical Education

Hello from the PE department!

We have just wrapped up our Educational Gymnastics Unit and really enjoyed watching your children learn to balance on a variety of body parts, demonstrate different kinds of rolls and take their weight on their hands, even for the slightest amount of time. They all learned to combine their skills to create sequences that they could perform for their teachers and classmates. We are so proud of each of them!

We plan to spend the next few weeks having some fun exploring Pickleball!



It is still very warm outside so continue to encourage your students to wear weather appropriate clothing and athletic shoes on PE days.

Thank you!

Kelly Dennis: kelly.dennis@leonschools.net

Angie Hickman:
angie.hickman@leonschools.net

Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

Our fall Book Fair was an amazing success! There were so many wonderful books and it was a joy to see the students excited about the variety of titles. The Fair was packed for both Grandparent's Days with so many special guests sharing the gift of literacy with their KLES students. A HUGE thank you to all of the wonderful volunteers that helped during the Book Fair; I absolutely could not have done it without you!

I have really enjoyed having grades 3-5 this first nine weeks. We have explored different parts of the library, learned some new features of the online Destiny catalog, learned to sort books after self-checking in, and learned about the many different genres of books we have in the library. Last month, the poetry section was the most popular!



I look forward to working with Kindergarten – 2nd grades in the second nine weeks! Students in K-2nd grades may checkout two books at a time. Students in 3rd – 5th grades may checkout three books at a time.

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.

Sincerely,
Katie Stemle

Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!
This year is off to a great start in music!

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

Kindergarten-The students have been practicing quarter notes, quarter rests, and eighth notes. If you hear them walking around saying "ta-ta-ti-ti-ta," that is why. We have been practicing all combinations of our new notes.

We also read a book called Baby Rattlesnake and we used a parachute to get "swallowed up" by a boa constrictor. It was so much fun!

1st grade-We finished up our unit on rhythms and have moved on to melody. We learned that melodies can go up, down, and stay the same.

We read the books, In the Tall, Tall Grass and Barnyard Hullabaloo. We sang melodies with each book and then transferred those melodies to the xylophones.

2nd grade-We have been practicing for our upcoming show in October. We will perform all songs from the 80s!

3rd grade-This week we started playing the recorders. It is such an exciting lesson! Not only do we get to learn how to make a nice sound on the recorder, we also start reading music on the treble clef staff. I try to explain to them that this is a very big deal!

4th grade-We are reviewing what we learned last year on the recorder and the lines and spaces of the treble clef. We also used our drumkits to perform some rhythms along with the song Sing by Pentatonix. If you haven't ever heard this song, find it and add it your playlist. It will make you feel good.

5th grade-We started playing our ukuleles this week. It's so exciting to see the students transfer what they know about note reading and recorders, to a whole new instrument!!

Thanks for sharing your musical kiddos with me.

Holly Pursino
Music Teacher

Killearn Lakes Elementary



Art Updates

It's beginning to look a lot more like fall in Tallahassee with echoes of Wassily Kandinsky expressionism painting "Autumn in Bavaria".

This painting is one of Kandinsky's most recognizable paintings as it captures some of the most iconic features of Bavaria such as its natural beauty and its progressive spirit. It's harvest time and there is plenty to be thankful for.

Kindergarten is creating scarecrows.
First Grade is learning about bat habitats. **Second and Third Grade** is busy learning about currency (making money), while the **Fourth and Fifth Grade** students are finalizing their kaleidoscopes.



Look for some master pieces to come home soon!

-Mr. Tavares J

Guidance

Hello from Guidance!

There are lots of exciting things happening in Guidance. **Kindergarten and 1st Grade** are wrapping up the quarter learning positive affirmations, how to identify feelings, and strategies to improve the way we feel. Our **2nd graders** have finished exploring all of the careers in Career Town in their Xello application and have become career experts!

I'm excited to start working with 3rd-5th grade in mid-October. Remember friends, "Today's going to be an amazing day!"

All my best,
Mrs. Harris



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.

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

Fall is here! With it comes our beloved Fall Festival!

We hope you join us **Saturday, October 18th from 12:00-3:00 p.m.** for an autumn afternoon of family fun including carnival games like pumpkin bowling and painting, food trucks and treats, farm animal and fire truck visits, bounce houses, and more! Tickets can be purchased for \$20 on our PTO website or by sending cash or a check in an envelope to your child's homeroom teacher. Tickets will cost \$25 at the festival.

Shortly after these fall festivities, our second PTO meeting of the year will be on **Tuesday, October 21st from 6:00-7:00 p.m.** in the Media Center. All are welcome and encouraged to attend for updates from the PTO board about upcoming activities and volunteer opportunities and grade-level teacher reports. Free childcare will be provided.

Our Coca-Cola FUNdraiser also kicks off **Tuesday, October 21st.** Stock up on sports drinks while supporting KLES!

On behalf of the KLES PTO, we are excited to get to know and work with you. We truly consider ourselves lucky to be at KLES!

Emily Catena

PTO Communications Director

killearnlakespto@gmail.com

www.killearnlakespto.org

https://www.facebook.com/

KillearnLakesElementarySchoolPTO
@klespto

Pre- K Notes

The PreK students are mastering their daily routine and getting the knack of school! We are enjoying the beautiful hints of fall weather and are looking forward to the Character Parade scheduled on October 31st.

Please remember to talk to your student about his/her day at school and read daily!



COUNSELOR'S

Our focus for the month of October will be on "kindness," "uniqueness," and "awareness." October represents awareness for Down Syndrome, Child Cancer, Breast Cancer, Drug Prevention, and Bullying Prevention (among some others). Our goal at KLES is to help students, families and staff become more aware of ways we can put kindness into action! There will be several activities going on around the school and lots of opportunities for everyone to spread some kindness and promote acceptance/inclusion! Having students recognize their own uniqueness will make them more understanding of others' differences. Recognizing how they may be different will lead to treating others with kindness as they see each individual's unique characteristics. As students grow, recognizing and respecting the differences of others is a key to kindness. Everyone can be kind; we just have to make the effort and choice to do it each day! And....a little kindness goes such a long way! As we progress further into the school year, we want to squash the unkind behaviors and language we have already started to see. Learning how to interact with peers appropriately and how to manage ourselves can be difficult sometimes, but we are all capable of making changes and improvements.

Here is a little information specific to bullying prevention that will help us all gain a better understanding of conflict vs. bullying.....both of which can create an unkind exchange between two (or more) people. Let's all do our part to be the best we can be, treating others with kindness!

CHOOSE
Kindness



Your Guidance Team – Mrs. Barrineau,
Mrs. DeValle, Mrs. Harris, and Ms. Parsons

Conflict vs. Bullying - What's the difference?

Conflict

- Disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views
- Equal power between those involved
- Generally stop and change behavior when they realize it is hurting someone

Bullying

- Goal is to hurt, harm, or humiliate
- Person bullying has more power*
- Continue behavior when they realize it is hurting someone.

* "Power" can mean the person bullying is older, bigger, stronger, or more popular.



PACER's
National Bullying Prevention Center
Create a World Without Bullying | PACER.org/Bullying

KLES Mission Statement

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

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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

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.