



# THE LEPRECHAUN

A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence



FEBRUARY 1, 2025

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

February is always a fabulous month filled with love, laughter, and learning. I feel blessed to be a part of KLES and I am proud of our children, families, staff, and community. In fact, I am thoroughly convinced that Killearn Lakes is the best place to be. I love everything about our school! I love our sense of community and the constant focus on developing character so we can each be positive contributors. I love that we have a sensational teaching and support staff who keep children at the heart of all we do. Simply put, I love KLES!

The support you provide for our staff and our school is key to our success. We sincerely appreciate your kindness, smiles, and support with behaviors, homework, and reinforcing the importance of work ethic in creating a sound education. We thank you for taking seriously the responsibility of your child's education and partnering with us to maximize learning experiences in hopes of setting the tone for a positive, productive spring semester.

Jenny Blair and Champayne Ricciardi



## DATES TO REMEMBER

February 4	100th Day of School
February 6	Shamrock Shuffle Fundraiser begins
February 7	Daddy-Daughter Dance 6:00—8:00 pm
February 10	4th Grade Blended Lives Field Trip
February 14	Shamrock Shuffle Fun Run
February 17	Presidents Day— <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
February 18	All Pro Dad— 7:30 am
February 20	Strings "Round-up" Concert
February 21	Science Fair set up— 8:00 am
February 25	Science Fair Judging— 8:00 am
February 25	2nd Grade Field Trip— Florida Caverns (Group 1)
February 26	2nd Grade Field Trip— Florida Caverns (Group 2)
February 26	3rd Grade Field Trip— Joe Budd (Group 1)
February 27	3rd Grade Field Trip— Joe Budd (Group 2)
February 28	3rd Grade Field Trip— Joe Budd (Group 3)

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

## Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

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 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

## Pre-K Notes

PreK will be wrapping up our unit on "Clothes" in a few weeks. We've talked about how we sometimes dress for the freezing days and sometimes for the warmer days. We've discussed how watching the weather with our families is good information, so we will know what the appropriate outfit is for the next day. We have experienced the importance of coats, hats, and mittens when we have forgotten to wear them.

We will begin our study of "Signs" in February. We will talk about where we find signs and how they are necessary in many different places and for many different reasons. We will also be focusing on fun Valentine's Day activities including crafts, cooking, and sharing cards with each other.

Pre-K is looking forward to a new month at KLES!



## Physical Education

Students will continue working in our Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Bus Safety unit. We ask that students keep bringing their bike helmets on PE days. There are also helmets for students to borrow during PE as needed.



Looking ahead, Field Days are fast approaching so be on the lookout for more information about that in the coming weeks. Please continue to have your child wear appropriate clothes and athletic shoes on PE days and contact us with any questions that you might have.

The PE Department  
Mrs. Hickman  
Ms. Dennis

## Art Updates

Winter still has us in its icy grips, but spring will be here before you know it!

Sandro Botticelli is one of the foremost figures of the early Italian Renaissance and his works and painting style likely inspired countless masterful artists that would come after him. One of Botticelli's most famous paintings is titled *Primavera*, which means "Spring" in Italian. It is widely recognized as one of the most iconic works centering around the spring season.

**Kindergarten and First Grade** are busy learning about the Sahara Desert and the animals that live there. **Second and Third Grade** are creating gauges using trees to follow the seasons.

**Fourth and Fifth Grade** students are making their own stained glass. Look for some masterpieces to come home soon!



-Mr. Tavares J

# Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

I hope everyone enjoyed time with family and friends over the break.

In January, I was able to attend a music conference and learned some new, fun activities from other fabulous music teachers from around the country. Since we have been back, we have been studying the instruments of the orchestra and their families.



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

**Kindergarten-** We used finger puppets to act out the story of Peter and the Wolf. Ask them what happened to the duck!!

**1st and 2nd grades-** We listened to the instruments of the orchestra and practiced identifying their correct families. Then we played some percussion instruments.

**3rd and 4th grades-** We listened to each instrument of the orchestra and then reviewed the notes we have learned on our recorders.

**5th grade-** After listening to the instruments, we discussed seeing and hearing them on our recent trip to see the orchestra.

**3rd, 4th, and 5th grades-** We also started "Mallet Madness." Each time they come to music, for the next nine weeks, they will play a song or poem on a malleted instrument. Then we move to the next instrument, and the next one, until they have played them ALL.

Thanks for sharing your musical kiddos with me.

Holly Pursino  
Music Teacher

Killearn Lakes Elementary



## KICK-OFF ~ Thursday, Feb. 6

7:45—8:00 am ~ Teacher Breakfast

1:50—2:10 pm ~ PK/K/1st/ 2nd

2:20—2:40 pm ~ 3rd/4th/5th

## PEP RALLIES ~ Feb. 7— Feb. 13

9:15—9:25 am ~ 2nd

12:35—12:45 ~ 3rd

10:35—10:45 am ~ 1st

1:35—1:45 ~ 4th

11:25—11:35 am ~ K

2:25—2:35 ~ 5th

BRAG TAGS - Collect all Six!



## SHAMROCK SHUFFLE Friday, Feb. 14

8:45—9:45 am ~ PK

9:00—10:00 am ~ K/1st

10:10—11:10 am ~ 2nd/3rd

11:20—12:20 pm ~ 4th/5th

# School Reminders

## Nurse Notes for "Return to School"

Fever free 48 hours **after fever breaks** without use of fever reducing medication (Tylenol/Ibuprofen)

Vomiting/Diarrhea 24 hours symptom free from last incident

## Nurse Notes 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

## School Supervision Hours

7:45 am—3:20 pm

Tardy & Dismissal 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 until 2:30 pm.

## Lost & Found

Please check lost & found for any belongings. Everything will be donated **March 7th** (Friday before Spring Break)

## COUNSELOR'S

**O** Winding down from the holidays and trying to  
**R** get back into our daily routines can be  
**N** difficult. It is important that we pay attention to  
**E** our bodies and minds so we can be the best  
**R** version of ourselves! Practicing mindfulness  
 is a great way to do that! "Mindfulness" is the  
 practice of being aware of your body, mind and  
 feelings in the present moment, thought to cre-  
 ate a feeling of calm. Taking time throughout  
 your day to "pay attention" to yourself is critical  
 as we all can manifest stress, anxiety, fear, wor-  
 ry and other challenges differently. Mindfulness  
 is something anyone can practice, whether  
 young or old, so try to incorporate it into your  
 and your families lives and enjoy the benefits of  
 a happier, healthier YOU! We've shared a few of  
 our favorite resources here for you to try!

Mindfulness Exercises

**Deep Breathing:** Take a few minutes each day to focus on your breath. Helps reduce stress, lower blood pressure and promote relaxation

**Mindful Walking:** Pay attention to each step. Helps ground you in the present moment.

**Mindful Eating:** Slow down and pay attention to the flavors, textures, and smells of the food.

**Loving-Kindness Meditation:** Send thoughts of love, compassion, and goodwill to yourself and others by repeating positive affirmations

Mrs. Barrineau, Mrs. Harris & Mrs. DeValle

## February

	1 Make a list of goals	2 Practice positive self-talk	3 Take a break	4 Self-soothe	5 Move your body	6 Vent to a friend
7 Get inspired	8 Stop putting "it" off	9 Focus on mental health	10 Relax your muscles	11 Get arty & creative	12 Be present in your day	13 Engage your mind
14 Be extra kind to yourself	15 Meet your needs	16 Get your chores done	17 Set an important boundary	18 Connect with yourself	19 Manage your time	20 Focus on stress relief
21 Pamper your skin	22 Get good sleep	23 Start a healthy habit	24 Do a random act of kindness	25 Let that thing go	26 Spend time outside	27 Pajama day!
28 Celebrate who you are						

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## TEACHING CHILDREN MINDFULNESS



Why Mindfulness is Beneficial for Your Kids

1 CULTIVATES SELF-COMPASSION



2 IMPROVES ALERTNESS



3 HELPS WITH UNDERSTANDING THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS



4 BALANCES THEIR ENERGY

5 BUILDS CLEARER COMMUNICATION & STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS



6 REDUCES ANXIETY AND STRESS



7 ENCOURAGES CREATIVITY



8 CREATES HEALTHY SELF ESTEEM



### 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.