



THE LEPRECHAUN

A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence



JANUARY 1, 2025

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

December has been a fast and festive month for us! The students did a great job completing their mid-year progress monitoring (PM2). Results will be in FOCUS under Testing once the window closes in mid-January. These results will show the progress your child has made already this year.

We have truly enjoyed learning about and recognizing the many different winter holidays celebrated around the world. I loved seeing the various crafts, books, and projects across the school. A special thank you goes out to those of you who visited classrooms to share about a winter holiday you celebrate in your home. Students love having access to someone with firsthand knowledge who can share their personal experiences and answer their questions.

IMPORTANT: Is your child's emergency contact information current and correct? Simply log in to FOCUS to check! You can now update that information yourself, right there online. If you have lost your log in information or forgotten how to log in, just email Mrs. Payne at paynes2@leonschools.net and she'll be happy to send that information home with your student.

Have a safe and memorable winter break!

Jenny Blair and Champayne Ricciardi



DATES TO REMEMBER

January 8	Students return
January 14	Skate World Share Night
January 15	Report Cards
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day— NO SCHOOL
January 21	All Pro Dad— 7:30 am
January 21	PTO Meeting— 6:00 pm

Winter Break—**NO SCHOOL**
December 23—January 7
Students return January 8



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

Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

Monitored, self-checkout has been amazing! The students are loving the added independence that comes with scanning their own library cards and books.

Our author of the month for December was Jan Brett. The Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade students enjoyed reading her books; one of the favorites was Gingerbread Baby. I know the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are excited to see who will be featured in January when they return to Media for Special Area.

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.

Sincerely,
Katie Stemle



Pre-K Notes

On Friday, December 6th PreK visited the Tallahassee Museum. It was a fabulous trip! The students enjoyed seeing the many animals and although it was quite a cool day, everyone had an outstanding time. The playground is always a favorite. Our Unit of Study for the next 4 weeks of school is CLOTHES. During this unit of study, we are talking about all the kinds of clothes we use daily and discussing weather appropriate clothing. We hope that everyone has a wonderful and safe Winter Break!



Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

In music, first through fifth grade classes played some fun games in class last week. We played Music Twister, Composer Go Fish, Musical Candyland, Note-Zi (like Yahtzee), and we even played some holiday songs on the autoharps and ukuleles.

To prepare for our break, we sang holiday/winter songs and had our school wide sing-along.

Holly Pursino

Music Teacher

Killearn Lakes Elementary

Have a wonderful holiday break with your families and thanks for sharing your musical kiddos with me.



Art Updates

New year, a fresh canvas, shape your art with creativity! Frank Stella is an American artist best known for his use of geometric patterns and shapes in creating both paintings and sculptures. Arguably one of the most influential living American artists, Stella's works utilize the formal properties of shape, color, and composition to explore non-literary narratives, as seen in his work, Tahkt-I-Sulayman Variation II, 1969 from the Protractor series.



Kindergarten and First Grade are busy learning about the plains in Africa. Ask them about "What brings the rain on Kapiti Plain". Second and third grade are learning about abstract art using shapes. Fourth and Fifth grade students will be exploring stained glass in gothic architecture.

Look for some master pieces to come home soon!

- Mr. Tavares J

Physical Education

We are so excited for Winter Break and we hope you spend it doing all of the things you love! Here is a game that would be fun to do with family and friends to get everyone up and active:

ELF ON THE SHELF TAG

1. In some homes during the holidays, families play a fun game called Elf on the Shelf. Every night when people are sleeping, the elf moves all around the house and tries not to get caught.
2. On the start signal, toss the ball back and forth with your partner. When you hear the music begin, the partner with the ball becomes the elf. They will move at a speed-walking pace through the activity area, trying not to get tagged by their partner without the ball. If tagged, hand the ball off and switch roles. The new tagger will do 3 snowman jacks before trying to tag the new elf.
3. When the music stops, find a new partner to play catch with. This will be your new tag partner when the music starts again.

We can't wait to see everyone in The New Year!

Thank you!
The PE Department
Mrs. Hickman & Ms. Dennis

What do Snowmen call their kids?



“chill”-dren

Guidance

Greetings All!!!

I have enjoyed having our 3-5th grade students during our special area time. It has been a great learning experience for everyone. Our time in Guidance allows for each of your children to connect and discuss social skills, learning behaviors, and “role-playing” to better understand others; such as, Friendship, Responsibility vs. Accountability, Empathy, and Perseverance.

The students enjoyed our lesson on Perseverance, as we created spin wheels with strategies to practice “instead of giving up, we keep trying”, hopefully they have shared them with you. I am proud to say that they are very excited about our last lesson before the Holiday Break on “Citizenship”.

They have given great ideas on how we can practice good citizenship during the holiday break. We will be creating Christmas cards to give to a charity of their choice and others have asked to make cards for teachers and students who may need extra love during this time of year.



Parents, please continue to encourage them to practice using their 6 Pillars at home.

Always remember to “BE KIND, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, TRUSTWORTHY, FAIR, AND A GOOD CITIZEN”!!!

Have a safe and fun Holiday Break; looking forward to seeing everyone when we return!

Kindly,
Mrs. Dugans

COUNSELOR'S

O The new year provides us with opportunities to reflect on the past, set new goals, and embrace the possibilities that lie before us. KLES school counseling/guidance team is here to provide support to the students and their families in navigating challenges, achieving academic aspirations, and fostering positive well-being throughout the year. We want this year to be filled with growth, resilience, and positive connections/relationships for everyone. Nurturing your mental and emotional health and taking time to prioritize self-care is crucial so that healthy, positive energy can trickle into all aspects of your life! Please feel free to reach out if we can help in any way! We encourage/challenge each of you (parents and students) to take time to truly self-reflect and think about how you can, or will, make this the best year ever. If need be, look back at the messages and information shared in the last several newsletters to remind yourself that you are AWESOME and capable of doing anything you set your mind to! Show yourself some grace and keep pushing forward! You've got this!

Food for Thought

- *Always do your best
- *Be proud of your best efforts
- *Learn from your mistakes
- *Be true to yourself
- *Make good choices
- *Practice being kind by doing random acts of kindness
- *Be thoughtful and respectful
- *Believe in yourself
- *Acknowledge the small wins and praise them
- *Remember simple, sincere gestures can make the greatest impact in the lives of others

"Learn from yesterday. Live for today. Hope for tomorrow." – Albert Einstein



Here's wishing everyone a happy, healthy and successful year!

Mrs. Barrineau, Mrs. Harris & Mrs. DeValle

New Year 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 until 2:30 pm.

New Visitor Check-in System

Please bring your ID if we have not scanned it into the new system.

Lost & Found

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

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.

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