



THE LEPRECHAUN

A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence



SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

What a fast and fabulous month we had in August! The excitement of a new school year is something we look forward to at the end of every summer. To be honest, campus is just too quiet without all of you. The best part of our jobs is walking through the classrooms to see students and teachers working and learning. Check out our Instagram and FaceBook posts to see pictures of our hard-working students and staff.

Thank you to all who made it to our first PTO meeting. There were lots of familiar faces and quite a few newbies, too! Please know that you are always welcome to attend; you don't have to be a board member. PTO meetings are a great way to meet other KLES families and take part in planning many of the amazing activities we have at KLES. We LOVE our PTO!!!!

At our SAC meeting, we reviewed the School Improvement Plan and voted to approve it. Now I will finalize it for the state and will soon be able to upload it to our school website for all to view.

Jenny Blair and 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

September 2	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
September 5	Volunteer Orientation
September 23-30	Scholastic Book Fair
September 24	Picture 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.

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

Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!
My name is Katie Stemle and I am SUPER excited for my new role as Media Specialist! I am so excited to share my love of books and reading with all KLES students.

We are enjoying learning more about the library by completing a Library Scavenger Hunt that takes students to the shelves of the different areas of the library (biography, fiction, nonfiction, everybody books, and the Library Catalog).

Next month, we will have our Scholastic Book Fair. Please mark your calendars! The dates are **September 23-30**. More information to come if you are interested in volunteering.

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. I am looking forward to an exciting year!

Sincerely,
Katie Stemle



Art Updates

Welcome back to school everybody!

August begins with some warmups! Kindergarten and First Grade are learning about Paul Klee, who was an accomplished artist, and musician. He was also famous for his colorful quotes. "Art does not reflect what is seen, rather it makes the hidden visible." "Color is the place where our brain and the universe meet." "Art should be like a holiday: something to give a man the opportunity to see things differently and to change his point of view." "One eye sees, the other feels." Students will be working with warm and cool colors while reviewing shapes. Second and Third Grade are in the mist of the elements of design, while the Fourth and Fifth grade students are learning about Abstract art from Mondrian. Look for some master pieces to come home soon!

- Mr. Tavares J



Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

We have spent these first few days of school getting to know each other better. We have also started a unit on rhythms. If you hear your kid come home saying ta ta titi ta, that was because of music class.

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

Kindergarten-We have been learning about steady beat. We keep the beat with our bodies, with stuffed animals, and by playing instruments. We have also been learning about how we have four different ways to use our voice (whisper, talk, sing, and shout).

1st grade- We did one whole lesson with all doggie activities and another lesson with all train songs. We use these doggie and train songs to reinforce the rhythms we have learned. We have been saying, clapping, and writing the rhythms we know.

2nd grade-We learned a few new notes and reviewed the notes we already knew. We can make lots of fun rhythms with them. We did a whole lesson on outer space. We sang a song about Mission Control, read a book about aliens, and read rhythms on a rocket.

3rd, 4th, and 5th grade-We have been reading rhythms and playing them on our instruments. We also started our Music Olympic Games with rowing and speed skating. Ask your student what country they are representing in the games.

Holly Pursino

Music Teacher

Killearn Lakes Elementary



Physical Education



Hello from the PE department and welcome back to school! Mrs. Hickman and Ms. Dennis are excited to see everyone back on campus!

We want to thank all of our parents for their support with our student's shoe selection for PE days. Most of our students have worn appropriate shoes for being outside on our fields! It is also still very hot, so dressing for the weather is helpful.

Our plan is to spend the month of September in our Educational Gymnastics unit. This unit focuses on teaching introductory skills and concepts in a safe way related to traveling, balancing, rolling, and the transfer of weight.

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

Safety is very important for our learning community. Throughout the year we will discuss and practice protocols in case of emergencies (e.g., fire drills, lockdowns, etc.). We have been practicing fire and lockdown drills since the first week of school and will add a tornado drill next month.



Speaking of safety and FOCUS...You are now able to update your contact information yourself! Just log in and edit. PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT TO MAKE SURE ALL CONTACT INFORMATION IS CURRENT IN FOCUS. This is our only resource in times of emergency.

ATTENTION PARENTS:

Car Drop-Off

(in rear of school):

- Please pull all the way forward.
- Once inside the back gate and the vehicle has stopped, children can exit the vehicle. The older children should be able to exit independently.
- As a courtesy, staff will do our best to assist younger grades (PreK, Kindergarten, and 1st) to exit vehicles.

Gate Drop-Off

(in front of school):

- Parents should park in the parking lot and walk students up to the campus.
- Students may not be dropped off in the front bus lane, parking lot, or across the street at the church.



Guidance

Welcome Back Our KLES Leprechauns,

Guidance is super excited to see all of the New and returning students this 2024-2025 school year!! We will be working with our students on building developmental skills to succeed academically and personally here on and off-campus. On the first day of school our K-2 Guidance students were eager to share all of the fun summer activities and emotions about starting a new year. We have discussed classroom rules and how each day we will start with reviewing our 6 Pillars of Good Character and "Good Manners in the Classroom and Lunchroom." I am proud to see many of them already practicing and demonstrating what we have discussed in and out of their classes.

Always remember the KLES Motto:

**Respectful,
Responsible, &
Ready To Learn
Have a Great Day
on PURPOSE!!**



Kindly,
Yasheka Dugans

ATTENTION PARENTS:

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!



Lunch Bunch Reminders:

- *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.
 - *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.
 - *Please avoid bringing 'sweet treats' or sodas for the kids.
 - *Cell phones should be used for emergencies only— no photographs of other children allowed.
 - ***No lunch bunch on standardized testing or early release days.**
- If you have any questions please see the front desk.

We love having you for your child's lunch!

Jenny Blair,
Principal
Champayne Ricciardi,
Assistant Principal
8037 Deerlake
Drive, East
Tallahassee, FL
32312-5076
Ph. 850-921-1265

Looking to get ahead of us?

Try these extensions!

- 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.

COUNSELOR'S

O The Guidance Team has already been busy getting to know our KLES students and families!
R Our goal is to help the students build resiliency skills that will assist them in navigating the year successfully. We will work with the students, families, and faculty indirectly and directly to share ideas and provide support throughout the year. We look forward to partnering with all of you to foster healthy relationships as we all learn and grow together!

There are several types of resilience we will touch on this year, but this month we will focus on physical resiliency. Physical resiliency is the body's ability to adapt to challenges, recover from physical demands, and maintain strength and stamina. We can take steps to becoming physically resilient by getting enough sleep, eating healthy, and moving our bodies! When we feel good we function better! Here are a few links to help you with a starting point or to encourage you to continue working on these skills!

Sleep:

<https://www.sleepdr.com/the-sleep-blog/new-guidelines-how-much-sleep-do-you-need/>

<https://au.reachout.com/mental-wellbeing/sleep-issues/how-to-get-a-good-nights-sleep>

Healthy Eating:

<https://health.clevelandclinic.org/healthy-eating-for-kids>

More movement/exercise!

<https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/exercise-and-children>

<https://www.brighthorizons.com/resources/Article/the-value-of-movement>

<https://blog.education.com/2020/01/24/5-ideas-to-teach-children-creative-self-expression-through-dance/>

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.