



# THE LEPRECHAUN

*A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence*



**MARCH 1, 2025**

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Thank you very much for your continued support in helping maintain a high standard of care for our children. At every turn in the road, we notice the many wonderful attributes that make us a strong learning community. Together children, families, bus drivers, cooks, custodians, teachers, and support staff work to bring out the very best in our children and each other. KLES prioritizes meeting the needs of our children and families and is 100% committed to helping students grow socially and academically. Way to go, families and staff! Together we make a difference and grow a stronger community!

### PM 3 Test Dates for 3rd - 5th

March 31st - 5th grade Writing  
 April 1st - 4th grade Writing  
 May 1st - 3rd and 5th grade ELA  
 May 5th - 4th grade ELA  
 May 6th - 3rd and 5th grade Math  
 May 7th - 4th grade Math  
 May 8th - 5th grade Science

Jenny Blair and Champayne Ricciardi

## DATES TO REMEMBER

March 3	<b>1st Grade Field Trip— Gulf Specimen Aquarium</b>
March 4	<b>2nd Grade— Wax Museum visit</b>
March 5	<b>Field Day— PK, KG, 1st &amp; 2nd</b>
March 6	<b>Field Day— 3rd, 4th &amp; 5th</b>
March 7	<b>End of 3rd 9 weeks</b>
March 10-14	<b>SPRING BREAK— NO SCHOOL</b>
March 17	<b>Teacher Planning Day— NO SCHOOL</b>
March 18	<b>All Pro Dads— 7:30 am</b>
March 20	<b>"Round-up" Concert— 7:00 pm</b>
March 25	<b>PTO Meeting— 6:00 pm</b>
March 31	<b>5th Grade Writing</b>



## Spring Break

March 10–14th

## Teacher Planning Day

March 17th  
 (St. Patrick's Day)



## Lost & Found

There are LOTS of lost treasures (jackets & water bottles) in the office. EVERYTHING will be donated or given away over spring break.



March 7th will be the last day to claim!

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

## Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

Please mark your calendars! Next month, we will have our spring Scholastic Book Fair. The dates are April 7-14. More information to come if you are interested in volunteering at this exciting event. This Book Fair will once again be cashless. Only eWallets and credit cards will be accepted. Families can begin setting up eWallets for the Book Fair on March 17. If you have previously set up an eWallet, you can load more funds to the same account.

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

## Art Updates

The flowers are blooming and spring is in the air!

Well-known painter Mary Cassatt is considered to be one of the originators of Impressionism in the USA. Most of Cassatt's work studies the human form predominantly, but she also had a passion for creating paintings of flowers and garden scenes. "Lilacs in a Window" became one of her most celebrated paintings in the early 1880s when floral painting rose to prominence within Impressionism.

**Kindergarten** and **First grade** are busy exploring impressionism with the works of Mary Cassatt.

**Second** and **Third grade** are in the depths of Undersea Water Seascapes.

**Fourth grade** students are putting things in single point perspective and **Fifth grade** students are exploring Gargoyles on Gothic buildings.

Look for some master pieces to come home soon!



-Mr. Tavares J

## Physical Education

We are wrapping up our Bicycle and Traffic Safety units this week. We hope that your pedestrians and cyclists learned a lot. Please continue to work with your kids on looking left, right, and left again when crossing the street. Our 5th graders had a great time putting their skills on display during their 5th grade neighborhood rides. Have them strap on their helmets and show you what they know when you get a chance. Thank you to all of our ride volunteers and the TPD bike squad for helping us be safe.



Moving into March, we are looking forward to having fun at Field Days! PreK-2nd grade will participate on Wednesday, March 5th and 3rd-5th grade will play on Thursday March 6th. We will need lots of volunteers on both days so please look on Focus communication to sign up. Thank you for all you do to make school fun for our students!!

The PE Department  
Mrs. Hickman  
Ms. Dennis

## Pre-K Notes

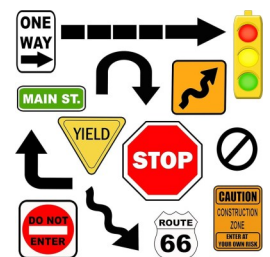
February was a fun and exciting month for PREK!

We enjoyed talking about Valentine's Day and the colors and concepts associated with the day.

February 14th was a great day because we celebrated Valentine's Day with a class party and the Shamrock Shuffle. Thanks to the many parents, grandparents and other special family members who donated to our school wide fundraiser. It was a great success, and the school raised over 75,000 dollars.

We will start our next unit of study, SIGNS, this week. When you are out and about in the community, take a moment to talk with your child about the various signs you see around.

Have a great month!



## Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

February is Black History Month and we have learned about some famous African American composers, singers, and instrumentalists. Here are some happenings in music that you can ask your student about:

**Kindergarten**-We listened to Ella Fitzgerald sing "A Tisket, A Tasket," and played a game while singing the song.

**1st grade**-We learned about improvisation and listened to Ella Fitzgerald scat sing. Then we practiced scat singing with animal sounds.

**2nd grade**-We listened to Etta James sing "Something's Got a Hold on Me." Then we listened to how Flo Rida sampled her song in one of his. We added scarf movements to it.

**3rd grade**-We learned about blues music and sang "I've Got the Homework Blues." We also learned about Trombone Shorty who just performed at the Super Bowl!

**4th grade**-We learned about improvisation and got to improvise melodies on our xylophones.

**5th grade**-We read a book called The Sound That Jazz Makes. It goes through the history of music in America (including ragtime, jazz, blues, gospel, and hip hop).

*Thanks for sharing your musical  
kiddos with me.*

*Holly Pursino  
Music Teacher*

*Killearn Lakes Elementary*



## 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

**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)

## Guidance

Greetings from Guidance

Wow!! This 3rd 9weeks has almost come to an end!! It is my hope that the students have come home and shared all the character building lessons we have completed, thus far. Just to share a small portion of what we do, we have "open" group discussions and "role-playing" (the kids enjoy this very much) it allows them to be active and learn with understanding, building on friendship, self-control, & Bullying ( what does it mean & how to prevent such behaviors). Please ask them what are the 4 types of bullying and encourage positive behaviors in school, home, and in the community. Being kind and treating others the way you would want to be treated is our GOLDEN RULE.

We will end this 9 weeks Guidance lesson this month with introducing our students to XELLO. This is a career exploration platform that the District rolled out to help our students K-12 become future ready! XELLO is an engaging online program that helps students in K-12 build the knowledge, skills, and plans for future success. Through self-knowledge, exploration and planning, students better understand who they are, their academic and career options, and the steps they'll need to take to achieve their goals. Though XELLO is not required for elementary, we felt it would be beneficial to our students to expose them to the platform and let them get familiar with it so they will be prepared for the XELLO introduction in middle school. Students K-5 will learn how to log in and get comfortable with the platform through Guidance special area. When you can, have your child(ren) log into Classlink, choose the XELLO tile and get started exploring this interactive platform/tool! Have fun! It's never too early to start thinking about the future!



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

Kindly,  
Mrs. Dugans  
GUIDANCE INSTRUCTOR  
Have a Great Day On Purpose!!!



## COUNSELOR'S

**O** Our focus for the month of March is on “paying attention to our words and actions” and “practicing kindness.” Our words and actions are powerful. They can affect people emotionally, intellectually and physically and can have a lasting impact on a person's self-esteem, confidence, and overall well-being. Our thoughts, beliefs, and perception of the world can also be influenced by words and actions. They can significantly impact others by either uplifting and supporting them or causing harm and negativity. They have the power to build strong relationships or create conflict depending on how they are used. We all need to “stop and think” before we “speak and act.”

**Food for thought:** Imagine a world where you can succeed by being nice. Where we all pay it forward. Where people look out for each other. It all starts with kind words and actions. Young or old, let's all practice being kind by being aware of how we choose to use our words and actions. Kindness matters!



Mrs. Barrineau, Mrs. Harris & Mrs. DeValle

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## Key points about how words and actions impact others:

**Emotional influence:** Positive words and actions can evoke feelings of happiness, confidence, and motivation, while negative ones can trigger sadness, anger, anxiety, or feelings of inadequacy.

**Social impact:** Our words and actions set the tone for interactions, influencing the dynamics within a group or community, fostering cooperation or tension.

**Psychological effects:** Repeated exposure to positive or negative language can impact self-perception and self-worth.

**Non-verbal communication:** Body language, facial expressions, and tone of voice also play a crucial role in conveying emotions and influencing how others interpret our words.

### Some examples:

**A kind compliment:** Can boost someone's self-esteem and make them feel valued.

**Constructive criticism:** Can help someone improve if delivered respectfully, but harsh criticism can be damaging.

**A supportive gesture:** Like offering help or a listening ear can create a sense of connection and comfort.

**Ignoring someone:** Can make them feel excluded and unimportant.

**Publicly criticizing someone:** Can lead to social isolation and damage their reputation.

## Why it's important to be mindful of your words and actions:

**Building strong relationships:** Choosing positive and considerate communication fosters trust and positive interactions.

**Promoting positive environments:** By being mindful of your impact, you can contribute to a supportive and healthy atmosphere.

**Personal responsibility:** Recognizing that your words and actions have consequences for others encourages accountability.

## 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.