



# THE LEPRECHAUN

A Nationally Recognized School of Excellence



OCTOBER 1, 2024

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Hello leprechaun families! As we wrap the first quarter, I hope you'll take a minute with your children to reflect on just how much teaching and learning has already taken place.

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.

Jenny Blair and Champayne Ricciardi

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS.  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

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.*

## DATES TO REMEMBER

October 3	Fall Holiday - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
October 15	All Pro Dad
October 18	4th Grade Field Trip
October 19	Fall Festival
October 21	Teacher Planning Day - <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
October 22	PTO Meeting
October 30	Report Cards
October 31	Book Character Parade

**Parent Teacher Conferences**  
Behavior Teamwork Grades Communication Homework  
Progress Goals Achieve

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

## Media Center

Hello from the Media Center!

Our fall Book Fair was an *amazing* success despite the weather! There were so many wonderful books, and it was a joy to see the students excited about the variety of titles. A HUGE thank you to all the wonderful volunteers that helped during the Book Fair; I absolutely could not have done it without you!

The Florida Association for Media in Education (FAME) publishes a list each year of Sunshine State Young Reader Award-winning books. The list of books can be found on the KLES Media Center webpage. SSYRA Junior-winning books are appropriate for students in grades K-2 and SSYRA-winning books are appropriate for students in grades 3-5.

Sunshine State Challenge: Each time a student reads one of the SSYRA or SSYRA Junior books, takes an AR test and passes, the student will earn a Brag Tag! Students that read at least 10 SSYRA or SSYRA Junior books will attend a special celebration in May. Students that read ALL 15 SSYRA or SSYRA Junior books will attend the special celebration in May, receive a reading medal and certificate, and will have their picture taken and featured on the WKLES News!

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

Just like Vincent Van Gogh's *Starry Night*, these first nine weeks have been a swirl of creativity and wonder.

Kindergarten and First Grade are learning about stripes and patterns. Second and Third Grade are exploring architecture with the Pueblo Native Americans in Taos, New Mexico, while the Fourth and Fifth grade students are learning about Red-figure and Black-figure painting techniques on Greek pottery. Look for some master pieces to come home soon!



- Mr. Tavares J



## Musical Notes

Hello KLES Families!!

I can't believe it is October! This year is off to a great start! We have finished our unit studying rhythms and have moved on to melody. Melodies can go up, down, and stay the same.

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

**Kindergarten-**We have started learning about quarter notes, eighth notes, and quarter rests. We read them in rhythms and have even practiced writing them (you may have seen some snakes come home with music notes on them).

**1st grade-** We have been learning that melodies can go up, down, and stay the same. We read two books, *In the Tall, Tall Grass* and *Barnyard Hullabaloo*. We sang melodies after each page of the book and then transferred those songs to the xylophones. We also played a fun game where we were all bluebirds.

**2nd grade-**We learned melodies using do-re-mi-fa-sol-la-ti do. (These may sound familiar to you.) We sang along while we watched the song in the scene of the movie, *The Sound of Music*.

**3rd, 4th, and 5th grade-**We have been practicing writing, playing, and saying rhythms. We also finished up our Music Olympic games with curling (a game where we had to remember the lines and spaces on the staff) and a contest to see who could sing the highest, lowest, and longest notes. It was so fun!

Thanks for sharing your musical kiddos with me.

*Holly Pursino*

*Music Teacher*

*Killearn Lakes Elementary*



## Physical Education



We have had a great time watching your students grow into fabulous educational gymnasts this month! They practiced making fancy balances, performing all kinds of rolling actions, taking their weight on their hands and combining their skills to make gymnastics sequences.

Moving into October, we will be working on hurdles, jump rope and relay skills, and brushing up on our soccer skills in November.

Please remember that students need to wear athletic shoes and clothes on their PE days.

Thank you!

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



Happy Fall!

I am excited to share that our little Leprechaun's have had a great start for our first nine weeks!!! We begin each day reviewing our 6 Pillars of Good Character. I'm happy to see they are learning and eager to share examples of each. Parents, please encourage them to practice using their pillars at home and in the community, as we may share a time outside of school when they have used each one.

We have had fun role playing activities on "How to Get Along with Others", making smart choices, and how to "fill our kindness buckets".

This week we will discuss "What does it mean to be a good citizen at school, home, and the community."

Have a Great Day  
On Purpose!!!



Kindly,  
Mrs. Dugans



## COUNSELOR'S

O The Guidance Team has enjoyed getting  
R to know the students and families since the  
N beginning of the year. We cannot believe it's  
E already week seven! As we move into  
R October, we will continue to work on resiliency skills, but the focus will be on emotional resilience. Emotional resilience is one's ability to adapt to stressful situations and/or crises. We know life can be full of challenges and sometimes it may become difficult for us to manage the emotions that come into play during these times. We want to keep adding the tools in our toolboxes that can be used when our emotions get the best of us. Becoming more self-aware, learning how to self-regulate, identifying our strengths and weakness, building healthy relationships, developing protective factors (self-confidence, positive affirmations, etc.) and practicing self-care are just a few places to start!

Here are some links to some great articles and activities to help your students (and yourself!) start building their emotional resilience! Hoping you can find the time to check these resources out!

### Why Emotional Resilience Is a Trait You Can Develop

<https://www.verywellmind.com/emotional-resilience-is-a-trait-you-can-develop-3145235>

### The 24 Strengths and 6 Virtues

<https://www.viacharacter.org/character-strengths-strengths-exploration>

<https://www.therapistaid.com/therapy-worksheet/strengths-exploration>

### Positive Self-Talk/Coping Thoughts Worksheet

<https://www.getselfhelp.co.uk/docs/PositiveStatements.pdf>

## Lunch Reminders:

Please be cautious about what comes to school in your child's lunch box—**scissors are for the classroom**. We have helping hands in the cafeteria during lunch to assist in opening items.

Please remind your children to not share or accept food from others, *someone could have an allergy!*



## Wellbeing Support Services

### Emotional Resilience

WARWICK  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

*Emotional resilience is the ability to adapt to stressful situations, and cope with life's ups and downs.*

*Resilience does not eliminate stress or erase life's difficulties, but allows you to tackle or accept problems, live through adversity and move on with life.*

#### Steps that can help to develop your emotional resilience:



**Set boundaries, practice being more assertive.** If those around you are placing unrealistic demands or asking too much of you, practice being able to say no.



**Practice acceptance.** Stress, pain and changes are a part of living. Acknowledge pain, knowing that it comes and goes, and that you can survive by looking after yourself.



**Connect with others.** Spending time with those we love, accepting their support, and speaking to them about things we find difficult can all help to feel more positive, and keep things in perspective.



**Find balance in your life.** We all need to have a balance between routine, necessary and pleasurable tasks.

Allow Imperfections

Practice Mindfulness

Try to look at situations in a positive light

Wellbeing Support Services remain open and running as usual. You can access a brief consultation Monday to Friday by submitting an enquiry on the [Wellbeing Portal](#)

### 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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