

The Leopard Link



President's Perspective

It's hard to believe, but it's nearly time to flip the calendar to February! We are halfway through the school year and there are a couple of terrific events coming up that I would like to tell you about.

Provided we don't have any snow days or two-hour delays, next **Tuesday, February 4th**, our students will celebrate the 100th Day of School. As we are fortunate to do each year, the staff and PTA are collaborating on a **100th Day Service Project**. We will be collecting items needed by kids, adults, and families at the Tammy Lynn Center. The generosity of our school and our families really shines through with projects like this, and this is a perfect opportunity for parents to model the importance of giving back to the community. Please consider participating in any way you can. Any items you wish to contribute may be sent to school with your child on or before February 7th. A description of a few of the items needed is included on page 2 of the *Leopard Link*.

Also on the calendar for next week is our annual **Science Fair & Dinner on Thursday, February 6th**. We have a record number of kids registered this year who are working on what promise to be some fantastic projects. Even if your child is not planning an entry, come join us for dinner (Chick-Fil-A sandwiches, side items, and drinks) and take a look at some of the really cool projects our little scientists have worked on. Dinner precedes the Science Fair and begins at 6:00. Don't forget to stop by the Media Center that evening to check out science exhibitors such as the amazing David Freeman from Carolina Classic Dragons, who will be here to teach us all about reptiles, and wildlife biologist Marti Kane from the Annie Wilkerson Nature Preserve, who will be showcasing lots of "touchables" for little hands to learn about. It's sure to be a fun and educational evening!

Can you believe your PTA is already beginning to look forward to a new school year? In the coming weeks, our **Nominating Committee** will begin working to fill the slots on the Executive Committee for the 2014-2015 school year. Many of our current volunteers have served in leadership roles or as committee chairs on the PTA for several years and are ready to help other parents transition into those roles. Supporting our school through involvement in the PTA also enables people to volunteer small amounts of time as members of a committee. Many of the positions are completely conducive to working parents because they require very little time and can be done mostly from home. Also, supporting our school is not limited to one group of people. We are all parents and our interests are the same: our kids and our school. *Anyone* interested is encouraged to get involved. It is a great way to give time, lend support, and meet other parents. Interested or just curious? Let me know, and I am happy to talk with you. You can also look for more information in the coming weeks from our Nominating Committee.

Have fantastic week!

Sarah Nguyen, PTA President the4nguyens@gmail.com or 845-8535

Coming Soon
ORIGINAL WORKS OF ART!
Be on the lookout in the coming weeks for some creative artwork by your "little artist" as well as information about the Original Works of Art Program!

Calendar

January

1/28

2nd Quarter report cards

1/31

Pawsitive Assemblies

February

2/3-2/7

4th Grade Writer in Residence

2/6

Science Fair & Dinner

2/7

Wacky Tacky Spirit Day

Last day to send items for 100th

Day Service Project

2/14

PTA Meeting—8:30AM

Early Release- 12:30PM

2/17

Teacher Workday – No School

2/18

FNO @ Milton's

3rd Quarter Interim reports

Original Works of Art begins

2/27

5th Grade Dance – 7-8:30PM

March

3/7

March Madness/Favorite

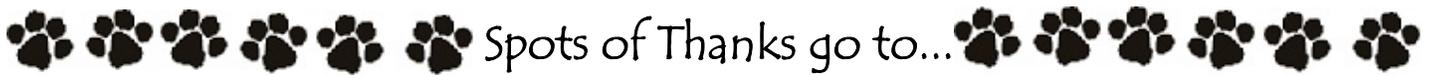
College Team Spirit Day

Early Release – 12:30PM

Original Works of Art

orders due

Editor's Note: *The Leopard Link* is published weekly by the Lead Mine PTA. The purpose of this newsletter is to communicate pertinent school, PTA, and education-related information to the Lead Mine community. Advertisements and solicitations from local and corporate businesses will not be accepted. The deadline for each issue is Thursday at 3:30 p.m. If you'd like to place an article, please email your submission to theleopardlink@gmail.com. Thank you!! Leopard Link Editors: Ashley Murr and Jessica Brueggeman



...Beth Sciaudone for organizing a fun skate party at United Skates last Thursday! Thanks to all of the families who were able to come out and participate.



Literacy Corner



Fluency

Fluency is defined as the ability to read with speed, accuracy, and proper expression. In order to understand what they read, children must be able to *read fluently* whether they are reading aloud or silently. When reading aloud, fluent readers read in phrases and add intonation appropriately. Their reading is smooth and has expression.

Children who do not read with fluency sound choppy and awkward. Those students may have difficulty with decoding skills or they may just need more practice with speed and smoothness in reading. Fluency is also important for motivation; children who find reading laborious tend not to want read! As readers head into upper elementary grades, fluency becomes increasingly important. The volume of reading required in the upper elementary years escalates dramatically. Students whose reading is slow or labored will have trouble meeting the reading demands of their grade level.

What parents can do to help at home

- Support and encourage your child. Realize that he or she is likely frustrated by reading.
- Check with your child's teachers to find out their assessment of your child's word decoding skills.
- If your child can decode words well, help him or her build speed and accuracy by:
 - Reading aloud and having your child match his voice to yours
 - Having your child practice reading the same list of words, phrase, or short passages several times
 - Reminding your child to pause between sentences and phrases
- Read aloud to your child to provide an example of how fluent reading sounds.
- Give your child books with predictable vocabulary and clear rhythmic patterns so the child can "hear" the sound of fluent reading as he or she reads the book aloud.
- Use books on tapes; have the child follow along in the print copy.

Source: www.readingrockets.org/helping/target/fluency

+ - % < x ÷ ≠

Math At Home

+ - % < x ÷ ≠

Card Games

What You Will Need: Number Cards 1-9

1. **How many numbers can we make?** Give each player a piece of paper and a pencil. Using the cards from 1 to 9, deal four cards out with the numbers showing. Using all four cards, have each player see how many different numbers a person can get in 5 minutes. Players get one point for each answer. For example, suppose the cards drawn are 4, 8, 9, and 2. What numbers can be made?
2. **Make the most of it.** Each player alternates drawing one card at a time, trying to create the largest 5-digit number possible. As the cards are drawn, each player puts the cards down in their "place" (ten thousands, thousands, hundreds, tens, and ones) with the numbers showing. Once placed, a card cannot be moved. The first player with the largest 5-digit number wins. For example, if a 2 was drawn first, the player might place it in the ones' place, but if the number had been an 8, it might have been put in the ten thousands' place.

Website Source: <http://www2.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math/mathhome.html>

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Missing Anything?



Parents, please check the lost and found for items you may be missing. We will be taking all unclaimed items to the local Goodwill Foundation. Thank you for all you do to make our school a happier place!

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD LEAD MINE PHOTOS??

Lifetouch Yearbooks – Community Image Upload Site www.community.lifetouch.com

Submit your candid school photos (*especially fieldtrip photos*) and you may see them again in the 2013-2014 yearbook!

To submit photos to the yearbook staff, go to www.community.lifetouch.com and register with the access code **IAOICW**.

Once registered, you will receive an email from Lifetouch with an activation link. You must click the activation link before you can log into the Lifetouch Community Image Upload site. Please be sure to enter a description for each image so the yearbook staff can easily identify what is happening in the photo.



Lead Mine's 100th Day of School Project

On Feb. 4th, Lead Mine will be celebrating the 100th Day of School. Back again this year is our **100th Day Service Project**, and the staff and PTA will be working together to collect items to support the Tammy Lynn Center.

If you would like to participate in the service project, here are a few ideas for items in need:

ID1/ID2, Kindergarten, 1st & K/1st combination class – personal items such as washcloths, towels, socks of all sizes, nail polish, hair accessories, bracelets, women's body spray, flavored lip balm, body wash for men/women.

2nd & 3rd grades – storybooks, novels, pictures books, board & card games, wooden blocks, musical instruments & toys, coloring books, balls, large LEGOs, puzzles, dry erase makers, erasers, colored pencils, markers, etc.

4th & 5th grades – arts & crafts items, fabric, string, yarn, colored paper, glue & glue sticks, washable finger paint, large paint brushes, Play-Do, small pompoms, crayons, paper bags, stickers, craft sticks, etc.

Staff & Everyone – gift cards to Wal-Mart, Dollar Tree, Golden Corral, Target, Starbucks, pizza places, Toys "R" Us, Barnes & Noble, etc.

Box Tops Drive Underway!

During the first collection period for BoxTops earlier this school year, YOU helped raise \$1011 in BoxTops cash for our school!

THANK YOU Lead Mine families!

The next collection period ends on Feb. 21st, so keep saving and sending them in. Let's see if we can "top" our earnings!



Your baby is a 5th grader... How did that happen?!

Tell your child how proud you are of them and their accomplishments in the **Yearbook Sentiments!**

Complete the form below and send it in to your child's teacher. You are welcome to include separate sentiments from grandparents, siblings and other loved ones. Please make the check payable to Lead Mine PTA (there is a \$25 returned check fee). Deadline to turn these in is **Feb 7th**.

There are several options for your sentiments -

25 words or less - \$5

25-50 words OR 25 words or less with a small photo - \$10

50-100 words, with or without a picture - \$20

Please write very clearly or email your message to camillehstephens@yahoo.com

Student's First & Last Name - _____

Message - _____

From Love With Love _____
(circle one or write your own closing)

Health and Wellness Article *Cold Weather Sports and Your Family*

Looking forward to the snowy season and all it has to offer? Winter can be a great time to get outside and keep fit — for you and your family. But what if everyone in your house believes that winter is a time for hibernating in front of the TV? Don't despair: the whole family can do lots of fun things once the weather turns frosty.

Beating the Cold-Weather Blahs

Once a chill is in the air, our bodies begin to want to conserve energy to use as heat. We tend to eat a little more and become less active. Being cooped up inside and being more sedentary can lead to the "cold-weather blahs." Kids might feel more tired, lethargic, or even a little bored.

A good way to kick this feeling is to get them out into the snow to play! Winter can be a great time for family activities that allow you to spend time with your kids while being active.

Types of Cold-Weather Sports

Skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, and snowshoeing are just a few sports that everyone in your family can try.

Staying Safe

As with all sports, it's important to take the proper precautions to stay safe. Helmets are a must when kids are skiing, snowboarding, and snowmobiling, and should be considered when sledding and ice skating. Knee pads, wrist guards, and shin guards also should be worn during winter sports. Even a low-speed spill can be damaging to delicate bones and joints.

To avoid hypothermia and frostbite, be sure that your family is well protected against the cold. Layers work best: begin with an undergarment made of a synthetic fiber that will wick away perspiration. A light shirt or turtleneck can go over that, followed by a sweater or fleece for warmth. Kids can always remove or add layers if needed. Don't forget a hat, gloves, and sunglasses.

And apply use sunscreen — snow functions as a reflecting agent and can intensify the sun's rays on skin, so kids can get a sunburn even during winter.