



The Leopard Link



President's Perspective

I know I say this a lot, but our school is the absolute best. It's the *crème de la crème*. Lead Mine is filled with people who love nothing more than to teach. While some of them teach our children the basics of reading, math, and writing, others teach the life lessons that are important for all little people to learn: treat others kindly, character is important, pick up after yourself, give your best effort, there are consequences for your actions, find beauty in what you see and hear, eat well, don't throw your food. Some lessons are fun to teach; some, not so much. But every person who works with our children here at Lead Mine has something important to pass on to our kids, and I am thankful for all of them.

This week, we are celebrating an amazingly dedicated, wonderfully talented, and truly passionate staff. It's **Staff Appreciation Week!**

The entrance to Lead Mine was all decked out in its Game Day best yesterday morning, and we are working to make our staff feel like the winning team all week long. Our halls are adorned with some really sporty pennants handmade by the students, and it really adds to the festive atmosphere! Each day this week, we have a little something special planned for Team Lead Mine, and it will be capped off on Friday with our All-Star Chili Cook-Off. We encourage you to do what you can to show your own appreciation for the teachers, assistants, specialists, administrators, office staff, and service staff. Words of gratitude from the heart mean more than any gift or trinket could, so talk to them or write it down. It's the best way to let our teachers and staff know how much they touch your child's life.

We had a great turnout at last Thursday's Art & Media by Moonlight! There was a lot going on at our rescheduled event, but we made it work. Last Friday, you should have received a packet and order form with your child's artwork from **Original Works of Art**. I order a little something for myself every year so I can remember the precious pieces the little hands in our house created, and you are welcome to do the same. Any orders you wish to place for the products offered are **due Friday, March 8**. These products make great Mother's Day gifts and grandparents have been known to love them, too!

It is tradition at Lead Mine for the 5th Grade to purchase a "parting gift" when they graduate. This year, the **5th Grade Celebration Committee** is working hard to raise funds for permanent signage for the brick front of our school. The **St. Baldrick's Fundraiser** information you received in last week's Tuesday folder is a win-win thing: 50% of the proceeds go directly to the St. Baldrick's Foundation to help fund research to find a cure for childhood cancers, while the other 50% will go to our 5th Grade Celebration Committee for their signage project. If you wish to participate, please return any donations by **Friday, March 8**. Need another donation form? You can find one in the PTA portion of the school website under FORMS.

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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

Calendar

February

2/28

5th Grade Dance

March

3/1

Family Fun Night @ United Skates - 6-8:30PM

Staff Appreciation Week Chili Cook-off Luncheon

3/8

College Team Spirit Day

St.Baldrick's donations & Original Works of Art orders due

3/10

Daylight Savings Time Begins – Spring Forward!

3/11

Lead Mine Helping Hands canned food drive begins

3/12

FNO @ McDonald's

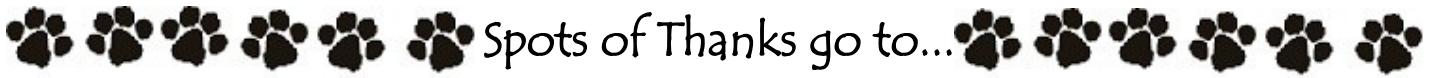
McTeacher Night @Celebration at Six Forks location

3/13

Spring Picture Day & First in Fitness

3/15

Early Release –12:30PM
PTA Meeting –8:30AM
All Welcome!



...Vicky Crosson and Victoria Bass for organizing a fantastic storytelling event at Art & Media by Moonlight. We appreciate all of the staff storytellers who took time out of their evening to come out and read to us!

Darlene Bowling for showcasing the awesome artistic talents of our Lead Mine students at Art & Media by Moonlight!

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Mr. Baird has really gotten on board with this project, and he has volunteered to help "encourage" fundraising efforts by offering his hair up for sacrifice. Don't you think his tresses are the perfect length for some St. Patty's Day green dye?! As an incentive for reaching the \$500 fundraising mark for St. Baldrick's, he will dye his locks clover green! AND as an incentive for reaching the \$1000 goal,

he will shave his head and beard on Friday, March 15, while the students watch via the TV's in their classrooms! If you see Mr. Baird sporting a five o'clock shadow in the coming weeks as well, well that's because he's throwing in a the growing of his beard as an added bonus! Those are really some locks o'love he has! Or is it a heart of gold? Either way, bring on the donations!

Remember to thank your child's teachers this week. Give 'em your best linebacker hug and tell 'em how you feel! Or, well, to avoid unnecessary injury and possible physical rehabilitation, maybe just write a heartfelt note!

Thanks for all you do!

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



Staff Appreciation Week is THIS WEEK!



It's not too late to give Three Cheers for our All-Star Staff.

WEDNESDAY The PTA will be making the rounds in the "stadium" with a food and snack cart stocked with treats for the staff.

THURSDAY The PTA will be delivering a sweet sentiment today to all staff. If you would like, have your child bring a small treat for his or her teachers!

FRIDAY It's the Super Bowl of feasts: our All-Star Chili Cook-Off! Staff will be treated to hot chili with all the fixin's, mini hoagies, cold beverages (no, not THOSE kind!), and yummy desserts for lunch! It's going to be a tailgate treat for our MVP's from their #1 fans!



St. Baldrick's Fundraiser

The 5th grade St. Baldrick's fundraiser started last week. Mr. Baird has agreed to dye his hair green when we reach the \$500 mark and shave it when we reach \$1,000. We can't wait to see that, so keep those donations coming in! Funds raised will be split between the St. Baldricks Foundation and a Lead Mine sign for the front of the school. Shamrocks are available for \$2. Order forms are available in the office, on the PTA website, or email candikish@gmail.com.

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All-Star Staff Luncheon Chili Cook-Off!

Every year, our PTA sponsors an annual luncheon to wrap up Staff Appreciation Week. This year, we will be honoring our All-Star Staff with a chili cook-off on **Friday, March 1!** We will be offering a variety of yummy kinds of chili with all the fixins', and our staff will be casting their votes to choose the winner!

If you would like to participate in our All-Star Chili Cook-Off by whipping up a batch of your best chili, please complete the form below and return to school with your child.

Or, simply send an e-mail to the address below to let us know you would like to participate.

All items should be delivered to the staff lounge behind the front office by **9:00AM on Friday, March 1.**

If possible, please deliver your chili in a crock pot so we can keep it warm until it can be devoured!



Questions? Please contact Sarah Nguyen at the4nguyens@gmail.com

Name _____ E-mail _____

Circle the category in which you choose to enter.

Traditional Beef Chili

Chicken Chili

Vegetarian Chili

5-Alarm Chili

Middle School Open House Dates

Apex Middle	Feb. 19 th 6:00pm
Carroll Middle	April 16 6:30pm Rising 6 th graders
Durant Road Middle	April 12 Tracks 1 & 3 @ 9:30-11:00am
	April 26 Tracks 2 & 4 @9:30-11:00am
East Cary Middle	May 28 5:30-7:30pm
East Millbrook Middle	May 16 8:00pm
East Wake Middle	March 14 6:30-8:00pm
Heritage Middle	March 14 for tracks 3 and 4 @6:30 pm
	March 21 for tracks 1 and 2 @6:30 pm
Holly Ridge Middle	Thursday, April 11 7:00pm
North Garner Middle	Tuesday, March 19 6:30pm
Salem Middle	April 9 for tracks 1 and 2 @6:00pm
	April 16 for tracks 3 and 4 @6:00pm
Wakefield Middle	April 25 6:30 - 8:00pm
Wake-Forest/Rolesville Middle	April 23 6-7:30pm
Wendell Middle	March 21 5:45pm
West Cary Middle	April 18 6:00pm

Please note those that are not posted have already had their open houses.

5th Grade Dance

Just a reminder to all 5th grade students and parents. The annual 5th grade dance will be held on Thursday, Feb. 28th from 7 to 8:30 pm. This year's dance theme is "A Country Sunset".

Suggested attire for the dance is "nicely dressed". In the past, girls have worn nice dresses, boys have worn collared shirts and nice pants.

We will be dancing for the first hour and then refreshments for the last half hour.

We look forward to seeing as many 5th grade students with their mom/dad or other dance partner.

Please contact coach C. if you have any questions or concerns.

scruckshanks1@wcpss.net



Rising 6th Grade Orientation - April 18, 2013

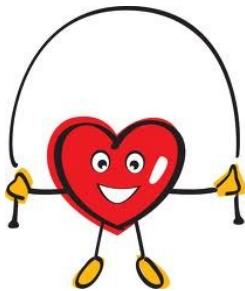
If your student will be attending West Millbrook next year, or if you are considering WMMS, we hope you will attend a school orientation.

We offer a **morning program** (9:45 am – 11:15 am) designed to provide **rising 6th graders** with a peek into the life of middle school. Students will tour the school campus and receive a brief orientation of the different academic and social program offering at WMMS. They will hear from current sixth grade students to a live performance by the Step Team and other extra-curricular groups. Some schools with a significant number of students attending WMMS bring their students in buses. In other cases, parents are free to bring their child.

Our **evening program** (6:00 pm – 7:15 pm) is structured for **parents** to obtain some vital information regarding the different academic and extracurricular program at WMMS. This night will also provide a general overview of the school expectations where parents will hear from the administrator, counselors, AIG teacher, and others. Parents will receive a tour of the campus and there will be a live performance by one of the school organization.

We will post the itinerary and other information at a later date.

Whitney Bennett, School Counselor



Jump Rope for Heart

All PE classes have started their Jump Rope for Heart unit. The students will be jumping in their PE classes for the next two weeks. Please feel free to come and join us, when your child has PE class. We would love to have you!

All students who have decided to collect donations for the American Heart Association, either online or using the collection envelopes, please have them turn in their envelopes to Coach C. by the first week of March. Remember online donations need to have the summary sheet printed and included in the envelope.

Please contact Coach C. if you have any questions or concerns scruckshanks1@wcpss.net

Plate = New Symbol for Healthy Eating

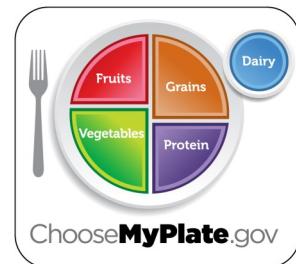
Goodbye, pyramid. Hello, plate.

The Food Guide Pyramid was the model for healthy eating in the United States. Maybe you had to memorize its rainbow stripes in school.

But the USDA, the agency in charge of nutrition, has switched to a new symbol: a colorful plate —called MyPlate — with some of the same messages:

- Eat a variety of foods.
- Eat less of some foods and more of others.

The pyramid had six vertical stripes to represent the five food groups plus oils. The plate features four sections (vegetables, fruits, grains, and protein) plus a side order of dairy in blue.



The big message is that fruits and vegetables take up half the plate, with the vegetable portion being a little bigger than the fruit section.

And just like the pyramid where stripes were different widths, the plate has been divided so that the grain section is bigger than the protein section. Why? Because nutrition experts recommend you eat more vegetables than fruit and more grains than protein foods.

The divided plate also aims to discourage super-big portions, which can cause weight gain.

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