

The Leopard Link

Goodbye!

Principal's Corner

When I was teaching outside of Boston I had a colleague who was famous for his first day of school "miracle speech." He would ask his students where they were from and we usually had students from all over the US as well as several countries. His contention was that it was a miracle that his particular group students, all taking diverse paths, wound up in his classroom against all odds, and therefore must be there for some great purpose. I was always taken by his speech and keenly aware of how the big moments in our lives are a result of the many choices and events that lead us to those moments. I'd like to share with you some of the steps in the circuitous path that led me to this amazing school. I grew up in Southern California with two sisters, my mom and dad. Being raised in a predominantly female environment comes in pretty handy for a male working in elementary schools. My father was an educator who retired as a principal. He was a huge influence in my life. We lived in Germany for four years when I was middle school aged and one of those years I attended a German school. It gave me a fresh insight and empathy for ESL students. I started working with children as a baby sitter, recreation director, coach and reading clinic instructor during high school through my graduation from the real UNC (University of Northern Colorado) with a double major in psychology and elementary education. I taught upper elementary students for 20 years and middle school students for 3 during a career that took me from the ranch country of Western Colorado, to a trailer park school outside of Seattle, to an affluent suburb of Boston, to a private school in Winston-Salem, to Washington GT magnet in Raleigh. Along the way I picked up a masters degree at the University of Washington and an administration credential from UNC Greensboro. From Washington GT I was hired by principal, Candy Slay to be the assistant principal of North Ridge Elementary. I could not have had a better mentor. Ms. Slay had retired as a principal from South Carolina and still wanted to work when her husband got a job in Cary. I soaked up as much as I could from her years of experience and incredible wisdom. After five years as an assistant principal, area assistant superintendent Ann Hooker selected me to succeed Dr. Decker as the third principal of Lead Mine Elementary. It is indeed a miracle that a boy from So Cal ended up at Lead Mine Elementary.

Once I got here I immediately felt like Lead Mine was the place I belonged. I have such gratitude for so many people. I'm grateful for the parents and teachers who allowed me to grow into the principal-ship those first two years when I was finding my way. I'm grateful to all of the PTA presidents I've worked with who agreed that both of our jobs were all about serving the best interests of the children of Lead Mine. I'm grateful for all of the teachers whose hard work and quest for excellence in their students has resulted in student achievement that is superior to comparable schools around the district. I'm grateful for our office staff that works as a team to support each other, and who do such a great job serving as your point of contact for the school. I'm grateful to all of our parents who have supported our school over the years and who have been so kind to me as my career winds down. I am especially grateful for our students. They are the motivation for everything I do. Though I am responsible for their success as students, they are responsible in large part for my happiness. They are a constant source of amusement and pride. I love watching them race to the front door because they are excited to come to school. I love walking down the primary hall receiving hugs, waves and smiles as if I were some sort of celebrity. I love watching those primary students grow into the young men and women of the intermediate hall preparing to leave us for middle school. I am always excited when their teachers tell me tales of their academic growth or the meeting of some behavioral goal. I've given the better part of my last ten years to Lead Mine Elementary, but I have received so much in return. Thank you for the privilege of being your principal for the last ten years. It was an honor to serve. *Principal, Gary Baird*

Library Reminders:

Summer reading is so important for helping your child retain reading skills and not lose those skills over the summer! Check out the **Summer Reading List** on the main LME webpage! Soon, there will be a link to the Wake County Public Library's summer programs as well--they are free!

Accelerated Reader is coming to an end and students who met their goals for this quarter and all 4 quarters will be asked to stand and take a bow at the Pawsitive Assemblies on June 9. Students who make the 100 points club will have their pictures taken earlier in May and their posters will be given to them individually before June 9. 100 Point members will stand and take an extra bow at the assembly.



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 & Jessica Brueggeman

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Calendar

June

5/30-6/9

EOG Week for 3rd-5th Grade

6/9

Pawsitive Assembly

K-1 12:45pm

2-3 & I.D. classes 1:45 pm

4-5 11:45 am

6/10

Super Kids Day

6/11

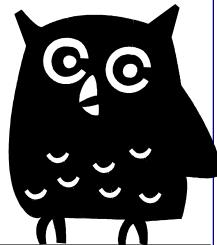
Rain Date for Super Kids Day

6/12

5th Grade Graduation

Last Day of School!

Don't forget to turn in your
Library Books before you leave
school for the summer!!





Spots of Thanks go to...



.....Cami Stephens for planning and organizing the awesome writing contest and Lead Mine Showcase at Barnes & Noble this past Saturday. Thanks also to all of the students who participated in the writing contest. It was a great display of talent and there were so many creative stories!

EOG Spirit Week at Lead Mine

May 30-June 6th, 2014

Wednesday, June 4th

NO TESTING

Thursday, June 5th: GREEN

Wear **Green** for good luck, although we know you won't need it.

Friday, June 6th: BLUE

Wear **BLUE**, because "We will not be **BLUE**, the End of Grade tests will be over before you know it!"



LITERACY CORNER



Monopoly: This is a great game to help teach word family patterns and spelling patterns. This should be used with children who write fairly comfortably, usually second grade or older.

To make: Create a game board with four or five squares on each side. Prepare word cards with families of words that emerge from the child's reading: night, light, tight; went, bent, sent; hat, cat, bat. (For beginning readers or younger children, make sure the patterns are not too similar: mat, sat, rat; man, can, ran; met, set, bet.) Color code each word family and each side of the game board. Place the words face up around the board in sets. To add to the element of chance, have other game directions on the board, such as "take another turn", "go back 2 spaces", etc. Prepare score sheets for each player with color-coded headings for each word family.

To play: Role dice or use a spinner to move around the board. Wherever a player lands he reads the word, then writes it in the appropriate "word family" category on the score sheet. Extra points can be earned by dictating or writing sentences with the rhyming words.

Score Sheet		(red)			
Red	Blue	night			
(black)					
Green	Black				
sent bent					

START	coat	boat	goat	Go back 2 spaces!
mail				night
pail				light
sail				right
Lose a turn!	bent	sent	went	Take another turn!

(blue)

(green)

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/79>

+ - % < x ÷ ≠

MATH AT HOME

+ - % < x ÷ ≠

Over-Under (Grades 3 - 6)

Players: Groups of two

Materials: Deck of cards with face cards removed, Aces worth one

Skill: Multiplication

How to Play: Players split a deck of cards. One player is the Under 30 player and the other is the Over 30 player.



Player 1: Under 30

Player 2: Over 30

The product is under 30. Player 1 keeps the cards.

Each player turns over a card at the same time and the two numbers are multiplied together. If the product is less than 30, the Under 30 player keeps the cards. If the product is greater than 30, the Over 30 player keeps the cards. If the answer is exactly 30 each player takes back their card and places it back in their deck. When all the cards have been used the person with the most cards is the winner. Website Source: <http://www.pedagonet.com/quickies/acingmaths.pdf>

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