



The Leopard Link

Principal's Corner



I am writing this on the eve of the statewide testing results from last year finally being released to the public. As I alluded to in the last article the scores are way down across the state since the new test was more rigorous and had more demanding guidelines for a passing score. This is all statistical manipulation and does not mean that all of the children in state suddenly became less intelligent last year. What it does mean is that the testing bar has been raised and we will be working hard to meet the bar of higher achievement. The first time a new test is given it is always the hardest because no one has seen or knows for sure how to prepare for it. Now we know and are blessed with a very professional staff that will make the necessary adjustments moving forward.

Our test results when compared to the rest of the district and state fall about where they normally do. Our composite score for proficiency fell from 86.5 last year to 57.3 this year – a drop of 29.2 points. To put that in perspective the Northern Area schools all dropped anywhere from a low of 16.3 to a high of 37.1 percentage points. One of the most important things we look at when we receive our data is student growth. We expect at least a year's growth from every student no matter what their starting level is. We have our growth scores for all fourth and fifth grade tests and we met the growth goals in all areas.

Another area where we have always taken pride is meeting our goals for each subgroup in the school. We have always met all of our goals for every subgroup during my tenure here. The state assigns a target goal for each subgroup, (Annual Measureable Objectives or AMO) and this year they adjusted those goals to reflect the new standards. As a school we were 11.2 points over our target score in reading and 21.1 points over in math. Our highest scores were; black students 17 points over their target score in reading and white students were 27.2 points above their target score in math. The group that was closest to their target was the economically disadvantaged students in reading who surpassed their target by 3.5 points. 100% of our academically gifted students met their reading goal which was 9.2 points over the target. At Lead Mine ALL students are learning.

So while the initial test scores look shocking, when compared to the rest of the state and district, Lead Mine is still performing well. Are we satisfied with our achievement on the new test? Absolutely not, but now we have a better idea of the new expectations and what it will take to get there.

I just heard that the City Council has approved the changes to the traffic patterns on Old Lead Mine Road to make it safer for us all to enter and exit the parking lot. Those changes should take place in the next week or two so keep an eye out during carpool times. In another traffic note, when I inquired about the missing crossing guard on Old Lead Mine Road I was informed by the police that she was moved to another school because our need was not as great. The city pays for that position so we have no say in how they handle such things. Stay safe!

Gary Baird, Principal

Calendar

November

11/12

1st Quarter report cards

11/19

PTA Meeting – 7-8PM
Everyone Welcome!

11/27-11/29

Thanksgiving Break –
No School

December

12/3

2nd Quarter Interim Reports

12/9

Cultural Arts assembly –
Bright Star Children's Theater
"Gift of the Magi"

12/13

Crazy Sock Spirit Day
Holiday Luncheon for Staff

12/23 – 1/1/2014

Winter Break – No School

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



... Lacy Drummond, Beth Dunn, Michelle Schwab, and Sharon Tiller who put together an awesome Book Fair last week! Thanks also to all of the parents who volunteered to help at the Book Fair!

...Deidri Ottesen, Victoria Bass, Lorri Heilig, April Walker, and Beth Sciaudone for organizing a yummy Family Night at the Book Fair last Thursday. We appreciate all of the parents who donated and packaged baked goods for Dessert Night!

...Bonnie Bendell for scheduling the Family Day Out at Six Forks Cinema yesterday. "Free Birds" was a hoot!

SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Shopping Childcare Night To benefit the ID Severe Playground Project at Lead Mine



Let us help you cross off some gifts on your holiday shopping list! The Lead Mine Elementary ID Severe Team, Mr. Baird & other staff members, and the PTA are hosting an evening of babysitting on Friday, December 6, from 6-9PM. The evening will include dinner & a movie, crafts, and fun activities, and Sanderson High School volunteers will be on hand to lend some extra hands. All proceeds raised through this event will go towards funding our school's ID Severe Playground Project. **Cost is \$15 per child (\$10 extra for each additional child), and includes pizza, fruit cup, drink and a cookie for dinner.** Children ages 3 and older are welcome. Please look for a registration flyer in your child's Tuesday folder this week. The registration deadline is December 4th.

Lost & Found

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 on Friday November 15th at 4pm. Thank you for all you do to make our school a happier place!

WANTED: Your Thoughts ...

The first issue of **Paw Prints** is almost done but we need the students' help! Write out your answer to one or all of the questions below and put it in the newspaper box sitting at the School Store. **BE SURE TO PUT YOUR NAME AND TEACHER ON IT!** Thanks for your support!

What do you think the President does all day?

What do teachers do on a Teacher Workday?

What is your definition of a hero?



Reading Bingo!

This month we are starting a new way for kids to become more involved with reading for pleasure. We are introducing Reading Bingo where kids will read books from different genres. When they finish reading a book, they can cross out the square from that genre on their Reading Bingo card and record information about the book on the back of their card. Every two weeks we will hold a drawing on Leopard Live in the morning and pull a genre card. If, for instance, I pull a card that says "biography," then every child in the school who has a biography checked off on their bingo card and the information filled out about their biography on the back, can come to the office and claim their Leopard Reader button to wear. Students who read a book from every genre on their card (a blackout) in one quarter will receive additional recognition at assemblies. The Reading Bingo cards are differentiated by grade level. The first graders are not expected to read as much as fifth graders.



Health and Wellness: Hand Washing

A delicious mud pie, a good-luck rock, or a friendly frog are the types of goodies kids love to bring home. But these adorable gifts can also bring millions of **germs** with them. Kids don't always listen when you tell them to wash their hands before eating, after using the bathroom, or when they come inside from playing. But it's a message worth repeating — hand washing is by far the best way to prevent germs from spreading and to keep your kids from getting sick.

First Line of Defense Against Germs

Germs can be transmitted many ways, including:

- touching dirty hands
- changing dirty diapers
- through contaminated water and food
- through droplets released during a cough or a sneeze
- via contaminated surfaces
- through contact with a sick person's body fluids

When kids come into contact with germs, they can unknowingly become infected simply by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. And once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before the whole family comes down with the same illness. Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses, from the common cold to more serious illnesses such as meningitis, bronchiolitis, influenza, hepatitis A, and most types of infectious diarrhea.



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 Dec 6th.

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 - _____

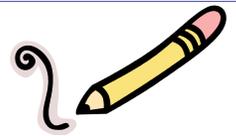
Message - _____

From Love With Love _____

(circle one or write your own closing)



Literacy Corner



Reading books is one of the most important literacy activities that parents and children should do every day. Read picture books to children starting at birth. As they begin developing pre-reading skills in school, help children read words and sentences themselves. Later, simply spending time reading your own materials together in the same room is a wonderful activity. Incorporate reading into daily activities with children. For example, cook a favorite meal or treat together and have children help read the recipe. Parents should read in front of their children often. Whether they are reading a book, magazine or newspaper, when children see their parents read, they learn that reading is part of everyday life.

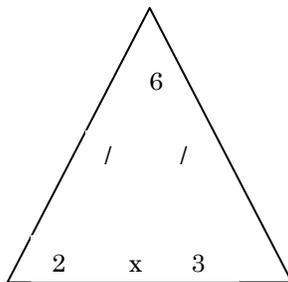
+ - % < x ÷ ≠

Math At Home

+ - % < x ÷ ≠

Math Mountains: Students use Math Mountains to show a total and two parts. The total is written at the top of the mountain, and the parts are written at the bottom. Students are then able to identify the relationship between operations. Students can also use Math Mountains to help them identify the correct operation when solving word problems.

- If the total is unknown, it can be found by adding or multiplying the parts.
- If one of the parts is unknown, it can be found by subtracting or dividing the known partner from the total.

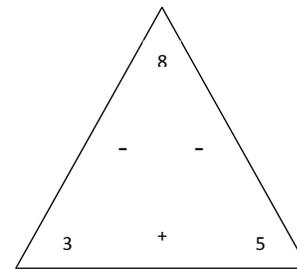


$$2 \times 3 = 6$$

$$3 \times 2 = 6$$

$$6 / 2 = 3$$

$$6 / 3 = 2$$



$$3 + 5 = 8$$

$$5 + 3 = 8$$

$$8 - 3 = 5$$

$$8 - 5 = 3$$

Video Source: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zcEB8pPAuYs>

Lead Mine Staff Holiday Luncheon

Friday, December 13

11:00-2:00 PM

Greystone Baptist Church Fellowship Hall

Plans are underway for the annual Staff Holiday Luncheon. Each year, it is tradition for our PTA to host a delicious and relaxing holiday luncheon for the wonderful Lead Mine Staff. This event is a real treat for them since they get to travel off-campus to enjoy an hour-long lunch with their colleagues! It also requires a lot of teamwork to pull off, so be on the lookout for communication from your class parents in regards to how you can help. Parent volunteers are needed to assist with classroom coverage, so if you have a flexible work schedule or can get away over your lunch hour, please consider helping out in this capacity. Most of the food for the luncheon is catered, but donations for paper products and desserts will be needed. Please be on the lookout for more information in the *Leopard Link* as well as from your class parents in the coming weeks.

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