



The Leopard Link

Principal's Corner

REMINDER! There is NO SCHOOL this Friday,

Welcome back everyone! School got off to a smooth start and we are excited to be adding our kindergartners to the Lead Mine family full time this week. From what we saw of them at staggered entry, it is another great group of students. This is the letter where I usually gloat about our test scores, but this year we will not get that data until sometime in October. So, I will gloat instead about a couple of honors staff members have recently received. Teresa Caswell is a finalist for Assistant Principal of the Year for the second year in a row. With about 200 AP's in the district, that is an impressive tribute. Also, the YMCA has bestowed upon Shawna Sullivan, their Academic Achievement Award. This award normally goes to a YMCA employee, but Ms. Sullivan has done so much to help them with their after school program at Lead Mine and throughout the district that they made an exception to honor her.

We have added some staff members to the Lead Mine family this summer. In fourth grade we have added **Ms. Beth Muller**. She has over 20 years experience in a suburban Houston school district and has fit right in at Lead Mine. In third grade we added **Ms. Brooks Ard** who transferred from Green Elementary just down the road. She is off to a great start. In kindergarten we have two fresh faces. **Ms. Gabi Norment** filled in for Ms. Stober the second half of last school year. She garnered so many compliments from parents and other staff members that we just had to find a spot for her this year. Our newest addition to the kindergarten team is **Ms. Katie Watson**. She comes to us from Winston-Salem with some impressive recommendations from her old school. We are also entering the first year of what I hope will be a long relationship with Meredith College. This semester we have three of their master's level interns completing their field experience with us. **Ms. Kate Talbert** is working with Ms. Ausley. **Mr. Joel Guerrero** is working with Ms. Perkinson, and **Ms. Brittany Rodriguez** is working with Ms. Campbell. It is great to get extra classroom help from an institution that does such a great job preparing their students for the classroom.

Outside of the regular classroom we have added some additional new people. I am absolutely thrilled to be ending the three year merry-go-round of part time music teachers. We now have **Ms. Amy Byers** as our one and only full time music teacher. She comes to us from Northwoods Elementary. I'm a little biased about **Ms. Robin Phillips**, our new counselor. I have known Ms. Phillips for years, dating back to my assistant principal days at North Ridge, and have the utmost respect for her work. With the retirement of Ms. DiMonda we have a new cafeteria manager, **Ms. Walidah Abdus-Salaam**. The opening of school went very smoothly in the cafeteria so it looks like we are in good hands. Ms. Teller left her speech position to take a job at the private school her children are attending. She has been replaced by **Ms. Tiara Huff**. Ms. Huff trained in the district last year and has jumped right in helping with staggered entry and is off to a great start as well.

Our numbers continue to grow. Right now we have approximately 70 more kids than last year. We will definitely be adding new TA's especially in our ID Severe special ed classes. Hopefully we will not have to restructure classes but that is always a possibility through the 10th day of school. I'll keep you posted.

I'm glad all of you are a part of the Lead Mine family this year. There is always some way, big or small you can be a part of your child's education. One of those ways is by joining the PTA. They are outstanding supporters of the school. We value that school/parent partnership and look forward to making this a tremendous school year for all. Have a great year! *Principal, Gary Baird*

Calendar

9/3

Kindergarten 1st full day

Coffee, Tissues & Tears

8:30 AM

9/6

NO SCHOOL

Teacher Workday

9/10

Family Night Out (FNO) @ Milton's Pizza

Go-Play-Save Book Sales

Begin

9/12

Open House &

PTA Meeting 6:45-7:15 PM

9/13

Summer Memories T-Shirt Spirit Day

9/18

Fall Pictures

9/20

Skate Party 6-8:30 PM

9/25

Class Parenting 101@

8:30 AM

9/27

EARLY RELEASE

Go-Play-Save Book Sales
End

October

10/5

Lead Mine Creative Cardboard Challenge

6:00-7:30PM &

"Screen on the Green"

Family

Movie Night @ Lead Mine

7:30PM

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



...our Kindergarten Connections committee of **Sandy O'Neill, Kimberly Blaes, and Laura McSoley**. They planned several fun events for our littlest leopards this summer to help ease the transition into Kindergarten, and they provided a wonderful Coffee, Tissues, and Tears breakfast to welcome Kindergarten parents on their child's first day of school.

...**Mary Weaver and Rachel Bass** for providing shuttle service for our staff members on the first day of Kindergarten.

...**Six Forks Cinema** for allowing our staff park in their parking lot for the first day of kindergarten. This freed up spaces in Lead Mine's parking lot for our Kindergarten families.

Mark Your Calendars for :

Next Tuesday!

Lead Mine's First Family Night Out of the 2013-14 School Year!

Join us for a delicious dinner at Milton's.
8853 Six Forks Rd.



Tuesday, Sept. 10 5-10pm

A portion of the sales will be donated to the Lead Mine PTA!

Open House is Next Thursday!

Thursday, September 12 is Open House Night at Lead Mine! This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn about each grade level's curriculum, and understand your child's teacher's expectations. We will also be holding the first PTA General Membership meeting that evening. At this short but very important gathering, we will vote to approve the 2013-2014 PTA budget as well as share some pertinent information about our school and our PTA. **EVERYONE** is invited and we encourage you to attend. The schedule of events for Open House Night is as follows:

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| 6-6:45PM | K-2 nd grade Open House in individual classrooms |
| 6:45-7:15 | General Membership PTA meeting in the multi-purpose room (gym) |
| 7:15-8:00 | 3 rd -5 th grade Open House in individual classrooms |

What is a "Rainbow Packet"?

We encourage you to set aside a few minutes this week to review your child's "Rainbow Packet". This colorful collection of information is aptly named and is included in this week's Tuesday folder. It is chock full of helpful information regarding the school calendar and volunteer opportunities, as well as details on how to make your life simpler by signing up for our E-Link reminder service, how to get the weekly *Leopard Link* via e-mail, and obtaining a PTA membership. "Remember, if you **join by** Friday, September 20th, your name will be entered into a drawing to win 4 lower-level tickets to the pre-season Hurricanes vs. Sabres hockey game on September 27th!" Please return any completed forms from the Rainbow Packet to your child's teacher. If you have any questions about our PTA or would like more information about volunteer opportunities, please contact Sarah Nguyen at the4nguyens@gmail.com or 845-8535.

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER!



GET TO KNOW US:

<http://leadminepta.weebly.com/>

"LIKE" US:

facebook

www.facebook.com/LeadMineElementaryPTA

GO-PLAY-SAVE (formerly Citipass) books are on their way!



Lead Mine Elementary will again be selling Go-Play-Save books this year, so please help spread the word! Books and order forms will be coming home in your student's Tuesday folder on September 10. Prizes this year include:

- A "cool" treat for the class that sells the most books (frozen yogurt and a variety of yummy toppings)
- One free coupon to Monkey Joe's for sales of 2 or more books
- Two free tickets to the Barnum & Bailey Circus for sales of 15 or more books
- AND....a gift card to Great Wolf Lodge for the family selling the greatest number of books!

Questions? Contact Lacy Drummond at ldrummond8@yahoo.com .



COPY CENTER & LAMINATING

Have an hour or so to spare? Consider volunteering an hour of your time, once or twice a month, in the Lead Mine Copy Center! Contact Catherine Foscatto at cfoscatto@nc.rr.com or 848-3369.

HELP WANTED!

LEAD MINE MEDIA CENTER



Help promote good reading habits while spending time with the children of Lead Mine. Consider giving an hour or two per month to assist in the Media Center! Days and times are flexible. Training will be provided. Contact Shannon Fields at shannonbrian@mindspring.com .

Reflections Art Program is coming soon! The 2013-2014 Theme will be "Believe, Dream, Inspire"

Reflections is a cultural arts program designed to encourage the artistic expression of students in pre-school through grade 12. It is a national program sponsored annually by the National PTA. Last year, thousands of students throughout North Carolina participated, including many students from Lead Mine. Students may submit one or more pieces of art in any of the 6 areas: Literature, Film Production, Musical Composition, Dance Choreography, Photography, and Visual Arts. The theme this year is, "Believe, Dream, Inspire". All work must be new original art inspired by and reflecting the current theme. Submissions will be due in early November. All participants will be invited to a reception at Lead Mine, where winners will also be announced. Some art pieces may also be selected for competitions at the county, district, state, and national levels. Look for more information in your child's Tuesday folder in a few weeks. Questions? Contact Amie Lennox at amiel@me.com

Buildings and Grounds cleanup is scheduled for October 12th

Do you have a green thumb? Whether you're a lawn care professional or just have a love for gardening we need your help! This volunteer activity does not require a great deal of time. There are two days each year set aside to spiff up the school grounds.

If you can help with this important work please contact B.J. Cady [919-571-9116](tel:919-571-9116) or lilbit@nc.rr.com.

Remember to Register or Re-Register to Volunteer



Any adult who volunteers in a Wake County School must be registered to help. This means, if you are planning to help in your child's classroom or attend a field trip, you must complete the registration process. This can only take place from a school computer. Stations will be set up in the Media Center at Lead Mine just for this purpose. If this is the first time you are registering, you will need your Driver's License and Social Security number. Everyone must re-register each school year. If you are re-registering, it only takes a few minutes, and you will only need your Social Security number. Register early to make sure you are approved before it's too late! Stop by the Media Center before or after school, or even during your lunch hour, to complete your registration!

Questions? Contact Renee Phillips, School Counselor

rphillips@wcpss.net or [919-870-4120](tel:919-870-4120)

PREFER PAPERLESS?

Would you like to receive an electronic version of the Leopard Link each week? If so, please send a request to the Leopard Link Editors:

theleopardlink@gmail.com

Ashley Murr & Jessica Brueggeman



Can You Lend a Hand?

PTA Involvement Opportunities



If you can commit a little extra time and would like to become more involved at Lead Mine, consider lending a hand on one of the following PTA committees. We REALLY need your help!

SPRING CARNIVAL The Lead Mine PTA holds a carnival each spring, complete with games, prizes, food, and much more. A Carnival chairperson is needed and committee members are needed to help plan and execute the event. Planning begins in the early winter, and the carnival is scheduled for April 26.

ORIGINAL WORKS OF ART In the winter, our students create some priceless works of art! These pieces can be transferred to magnets, clothing, garden flags, mugs, notepads, etc. A chairperson is needed to coordinate these efforts, process orders, and place orders with the OWA company.

Interested in more information about either of these committees? Please contact Lacy Drummond, VP of Fundraising, at ldrummond8@yahoo.com or 919-744-4229.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS Our school needs some sprucing up from time to time. Two Grounds Days are planned each year (fall and spring) for a Saturday morning from 9-noon. A chairperson (consider co-chairing with a friend!) are needed to determine needs and direct volunteers who come to help on those two mornings.

Interested in more information about Buildings & Grounds?

Contact B.J. Cady, VP of Services, at lilbit@nc.rr.com or 919-614-4542.

Carpool Safety

Our primary focus during carpool is the safety of our students. In order to keep every child safe, we ask you to abide by the following procedures.

Morning Carpool

Please drive your child along the sidewalk directly in front of the school. Safety patrol students and adult staff members are on hand to help children out of cars. Parents are also welcome to park in the parking lot and walk their children in school. However, please DO NOT drop your child off in the parking lot to avoid the carpool line and walk into school alone. Carpool begins at 8:00AM.

Afternoon Carpool

After 2:45PM, you may not make a left turn into the school parking lot from Lead Mine Road.

Parents should line their cars up in two lines beginning at the head of the 1st parking row.

Please do not try to avoid the carpool line by parking in the parking lot and taking your child to your car. This creates danger for you, your child, and other drivers who are trying to negotiate the carpool pick-up lines.

Cell phone usage is NOT permitted while the carpool line is moving.

Please display your bright yellow Lead Mine carpool tag. With it, Lead Mine staff can easily identify you and the other children you will be picking up. If you do not have a carpool tag, please stop by the front office for one.

Daycare vehicles are allowed to cut through the carpool line because they have multiple schools to serve.

Parking in the lot near the end of the school day may result in your vehicle becoming blocked by cars lining up for carpool. If you need to park during this time, please do so in a space in the last row or on the curve just past the "No Parking" signs.

Residents of Allyson's Landing townhouse development across from the school have asked that parents refrain from making U-turns in the entrance to their street.

Please refrain from parking on Old Lead Mine Road and walking to get your child. Drivers leaving the parking lot cannot see around cars parked there and it is extremely hazardous for traffic in both lanes.