



# The Leopard Link

**EVERY Friday is  
Lead Mine Spirit  
Day—wear a Lead  
Mine t-shirt or  
school colors!  
(blue and yellow)**

## Grounds Day THIS Saturday Sept. 8!

Come help make Lead Mine Elementary even more beautiful! Volunteers needed 9am-12pm.

please contact:

Matt O'Neill at eaglescout2112@live.com



## Calendar

**9/8**

Grounds Day 9 a.m.

**9/11**

Citipass book sales begin

**9/13**

Open House &

PTA meeting 6-8 p.m.

**9/14**

Summer Memories T-Shirt  
Spirit Day

**9/18**

Family Night Out (FNO)-  
Milton's Pizza

**9/19**

Class Parenting 101 8:30 a.m.

**9/21**

PTA Board Meeting 8:30 a.m.

ALL are welcome!

Early Release 12:30 p.m.

**9/21**

Citipass book sales end

**9/26**

NO SCHOOL -

Vacation

**10/3**

Fall Picture Day

**10/12**

Bookin' It Run/Walk-a-Thon  
- Volunteers Needed!

**10/12**

Lead Mine School T-shirt  
Spirit Day

**10/16**

FNO (to be determined)

## Principal's Corner



We are officially up and running. The first week is behind us now and a full week it was. I hope everyone appreciated how nice the rooms looked when you came to "Meet the Teacher" or dropped off your student the first week. The teachers spend hours working and use lots of their own money to create an attractive learning environment for their students. I think it is another indication of how much they care and how willing they are to go the extra mile for our students. I was impressed with how quickly our students settled into the routine of school. By Wednesday it looked like we'd been in session for a month. I did notice though by 2:30 the eyelids started to droop and I could tell it was about nap time...and that was just the teachers.

We've had our share of bus glitches the first week, but compared to some other schools in the district we are doing pretty well. It always takes a week or two for drivers to get their times down pat on the various routes, but this year may require some additional tweaking. Thanks for your patience and your understanding that buses are out of our control. We exert what pressure we can to correct problems, but ultimately everything gets handled by the WCPSS Transportation Department.

The big excitement this week is the arrival of the kindergartners for a full schedule. Last week we had a great time getting to know them at staggered entry. I believe this is the best prepared, most polite group of kindergartners we've had at staggered entry since I've been at Lead Mine. I know that doesn't happen by accident, so thank you moms and dads for all of your work in getting your child ready for school. We have five top notch kindergarten teachers this year so I know every kindergartner is going to have a wonderful rookie year at Lead Mine.

So now that we have our entire student body present, let me say "welcome" to all of our new families and "welcome back" to all our returning families. You are all part of the Lead Mine family now and together we can make this a great year for all of our students.

Gary Baird, Principal

**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](mailto:theleopardlink@gmail.com). Thank you!! Leopard Link Editors: Ashley Murr and Jessica Brueggeman

# Open House is Next Thursday!

**Thursday, September 13** is **Open House Night** at Lead Mine! This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teachers, learn about the curriculum for each grade level, and understand the teacher's expectations. We will also be holding the first PTA General membership meeting. At this short but very important meeting, we will vote to approve the 2012-2013 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<sup>nd</sup> grade Open House in classrooms
- 6:45-7:15 General Membership PTA meeting in the multi-purpose room
- 7:15-8:00 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade Open House in classrooms

## What is a "Rainbow Packet"?

Please 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 filled with lots of great information about our school directory, volunteer opportunities, sign-ups for our E-Link reminder service, how to receive the weekly *Leopard Link* via e-mail, and obtaining a PTA membership. Remember, if you **join the PTA by September 30<sup>th</sup>**, your name will be entered into a drawing to win dinner at Milton's Pizza and Pasta!

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](mailto:the4nguyens@gmail.com) or 845-8535.

Sarah Nguyen, PTA President

## Ms. Caswell Named as Finalist for WCPSS Assistant Principal of the Year



When we learned last week that Ms. Caswell was a finalist, all the teachers meeting in the media center gave a cheer.

Becoming a finalist is truly an honor. There are 169 schools in the district and they only select five finalists:

3 elementary, 1 middle school and 1 high school AP. That is pretty exciting considering Ms. Caswell has only been an AP for two years and the voting is done by the other AP's.

She is an incredible asset to Lead Mine. Ms. Caswell is a master scheduler, handles all of the bus issues, helps keep kids on the straight and narrow, and is a primary dispenser of hugs. Not only has she made a huge impact at Lead Mine, but also at the district level. She organized the first Northern Area Professional Learning Team for assistant principals and this summer hosted the first Assistant Principal Data Conference at Lead Mine. Over 90 assistant principals in the district attended.

I've known it for a couple of years, but now the district knows too - she clearly has "the right stuff." The winner will be announced on October 11<sup>th</sup>. No matter who they pick, I would not trade any of them for Ms. Caswell. Be sure to congratulate her when you see her.

- Gary Baird, Principal



...Lisa Freeman, Meredith Ellison, and Tracy Roy, our Kindergarten Connections team. They not only organized some fun events for our rising Kindergarteners this summer, but also provided a wonderful Coffee, Tissues, and Tears event to welcome Kindergarten parents on their children's first day of school.

...Mary Weaver, Candice Kish, and Sandy O'Neill for providing shuttle service for our staff members on the first day of Kindergarten.

...Six Forks Station Theater for letting our staff park in their parking lot for the First Day of Kindergarten. This freed up spaces in our school's parking lot for our Kindergarten families.

### Bookin' It Run-a-Thon Coming Soon

As part of our commitment to encouraging Healthy Habits, we will be conducting a new fundraiser this fall called Bookin' It! This Run/Walk-a-Thon will take place during the school day in October.

Students will be asked to get pledges from family and friends to support their run/walk. All proceeds will go directly to the upgrading of the media center. Look for more information to come soon. Interested in volunteering to help?

Contact Sandy O'Neill  
[sloneill41@gmail.com](mailto:sloneill41@gmail.com)



### LEAD MINE ELEMENTARY

### School Store News

The school store is open every Tuesday and Friday morning from 8-8:30AM in the lobby of the school. There are many reasonably priced school supplies as well as some other fun items available for purchase:

- Lead Mine Assignment Books - \$5
- Short sleeve Lead Mine t-shirts (white or grey) - \$12 for youth sizes, \$14 for adults (Join the PTA and use your \$2 off a school t-shirt coupon!)
- Lead Mine Leopards car magnets - \$5
  - Pawprint lunch bags - \$5
  - Lead Mine water bottles - \$3



### HELP WANTED!

#### Copy Center & Laminating

Have an hour or so to spare?



Volunteers in our Copy Center take care of day to day production of materials for teachers so they can spend more time with their students. Please consider giving an hour once or twice a month to our Copy Center.

Contact Catherine Foscatto at [cfoscatto@nc.rr.com](mailto:cfoscatto@nc.rr.com) or 848-3369

#### Lead Mine Media Center

Help promote good reading habits while spending time with the children of Lead Mine. Consider giving an hour or two a month to assist in the Media Center! Days & times are flexible. Training will be provided.

Contact Shannon Fields at [shannonbrian@mindspring.com](mailto:shannonbrian@mindspring.com) .

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**CITIPASS BOOKS** are on their way!  
**September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012**

Lead Mine Elementary will be selling Citipass Books as a fundraiser.

**There are Prizes!**

- *Ice Cream Party*  
*to the class that sells the most books*
- *A Great Wolf Lodge gift card*  
*to the family with the most books sold.*  
*And more...*

So spread the word!

Books and order forms will come home in your student's Tuesday folder.

Questions? contact Catherine Foscato [cfoscato@nc.rr.com](mailto:cfoscato@nc.rr.com)



**Lead Mine's First Family Day Out of the 2012-13 School Year!**

Join us for a delicious dinner at



8853 Six Forks Road, Raleigh, NC 27615

**Tuesday, September 18, 5-10 pm**

Please be sure to tell your server you are with Lead Mine -

Milton's will donate a percentage of the profits to our PTA!

**Remember to Register or Re-Register to Volunteer**



If you have never registered to volunteer, please consider it this year! You can register ANY DAY of the week at ANY WCPSS site from 8-4pm. After Oct. 31st, volunteer registration will only be offered on Mondays from 8-4pm. Volunteers must re-register EVERY YEAR in the WCPSS volunteer system. Volunteers who registered last year but have not registered this year (after July 1, 2012) will be DROPPED from the cleared volunteer list after October 31st!

Reminder: Volunteer clearance can take up to 3 weeks, so it often cannot happen last minute (i.e. before a field trip). The school has NO control over volunteer clearance, so we are unable to "rush" a clearance.

*Whitney Bennett, Counselor*

*twbennett1@wcpss.net or 919-676-5017*



**Tweet Tweet!**



Tired of wondering when the bus will arrive? We can't do anything about "when" it will arrive, but we have a plan for giving you up to date information about bus arrival and departure times. Go to [Twitter.com](http://Twitter.com) and search for "Lead Mine Elementary" for more details. Don't forget to follow us!

-Brandon Thomas

**Reminders**

1. No students will be allowed in the building before 8:00 a.m. Please don't drop them off before then because we have no supervision. If you need to drop them off before 8:00 you will need to sign them up for before-school care.
2. We do not dismiss students between 2:45 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. If they need to be picked up for a doctor appointment, please do it before 2:45 or after 3:00.
3. Transportation changes for your child need to be in writing to you child's teacher. No phone calls please.

*All of these requests are to insure your child's safety and the efficient running of the school.*

