



# The Leopard Link

## Principal's Corner

Today is the first day of EOG testing and I'm sure our third, fourth and fifth graders were a little anxious coming through the doors this morning. No one really knows for sure what to expect this year since it is our first experience with an EOG test reflecting the new common core standards. There are a couple of things we do know. The new test has to be normed after it is given and new cut lines will be established to determine where the cutoff line is for 1's, 2's, 3's and 4's. With that taking place at the state level over the summer, we will not be getting our results back until next fall. That means there will be no retakes this year for students who do not pass the test. In the past we have factored in EOG scores for third, fourth and fifth grade students when looking at promotion and retention decisions. This year those decisions will be based on classroom performance, report cards, and other assessments just like we always have. This year we just won't have the EOG test to add to the equation. All of our kids have been well prepared this year, kindergarten through fifth.

I'd like to commend those people preparing your children this year. This has been a very challenging year for our teachers. Some states phased in the common core curriculum, but in North Carolina we started it with all grades in both reading and math. This was a big adjustment for teachers, students and parents. There have been other changes you will be hearing more about next year. Teachers will be trained to use Discovery Learning more effectively which has thousands of instructional videos, lessons, and inquiry based activities. They will also be trained to use mCLASS, a universal screening assessment for reading (including running records) using iPads for inputting the data. Homebase is another program coming that will cover everything from attendance to gradebooks. In addition teachers are currently entering class rosters to EVAAS, another new system developed by SAS with the intent of figuring student growth scores as a component of each teacher's final evaluation. While this is going on we have teachers working on master's degrees, National Board certification, and professional development workshops in their "spare" time and summers. These teachers do not live in a vacuum. They read in the papers that North Carolina is 46<sup>th</sup> in the nation in teacher pay and that they have not received a significant raise in seven years. They see that the state legislature has proposed further cuts to teacher assistants and are looking at taking the cap off of class sizes in kindergarten through third grade (there isn't a state cap in fourth and fifth). Despite all of these challenges, when we conducted a mid-year teacher satisfaction survey with 12 different categories, we received 90% positive responses from our teachers, which is pretty extraordinary and a number you won't see at most other schools. My advice to teachers when things become overwhelming is to simply focus on the kids. We can't control all of those peripheral things, but we can control how we approach each day with our children. Thank you all for your support of our teachers this year. They appreciate your understanding and all of the little reminders from the PTA to show their appreciation. It is really more of a calling than a job and I feel lucky to be in a building with so many truly dedicated, hard working teachers.

And speaking of dedicated hard working staff members, two of our best have announced their retirement this year. Ms. Eileen Gunther, a second grade teacher, is hanging it up after 38 years as a teacher, the last 16 of those at Lead Mine. You hear about retiring teachers putting it on autopilot at the end of their careers, but that was certainly not the case for Ms. Gunther. Her dedication is shown every evening when her car is still in the parking lot after 6:00 PM as she prepares for the next day. It takes a special person to spend their entire adult life working to help educate children. Our other retiree is teacher assistant Ms. Diane White. Ms. White started her career as a teacher for nine years in Craven County. She took time off to raise her children, who attended Lead Mine. She went from volunteer to teacher assistant and has been here for the last 17 years. Lead Mine has the reputation of a family friendly school and these two extraordinary women helped to forge that reputation. They love their students, have a tremendous work ethic, and have certainly left their mark on Lead Mine. We wish them many happy years of retirement.

*Principal Baird*

## Calendar

**5/21-23**  
EOG Testing for  
3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>

**5/27**  
NO SCHOOL

**5/29**  
ALL Library books DUE

**5/30**  
AR Breakfast of Champions

**5/31**  
\*DATE CHANGE\* Volunteer  
Breakfast (8:30AM) & Gen-  
eral PTA meeting (9AM)

**6/2**  
Retirement Reception for Mrs.  
Gunther 2-4PM at Lead Mine

**6/3**  
Super Kids Day

**6/4**  
Super Kids Day (Rain Date)

**6/6**  
Pawsitive Assemblies

**6/7**  
5th Grade DARE Graduation-  
9AM

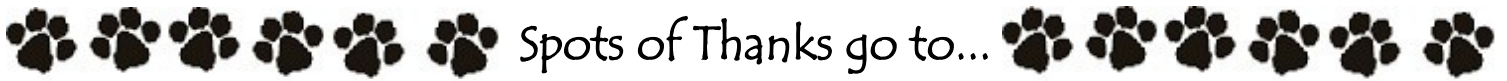
**6/10**  
5th Grade Graduation - 10am  
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

**\*DATE  
CHANGE\***

The Volunteer  
Breakfast & PTA  
Meeting, original-  
ly scheduled for  
May 24, has been  
moved to **Friday,**  
**May 31** at  
8:30AM.

**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  
Principal: Gary Baird      8301 Old Lead Mine Road Raleigh, North Carolina 27615      Asst. Principal: Teresa Caswell

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## Spots of Thanks go to...

.....**Lisa Freeman** for her awesome job as both the Yearbook Club sponsor and the Health & Wellness Committee Chair. She has been a fantastic "teacher" for our 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> Graders in the Yearbook Club and a valuable leader to our newly formed Health & Wellness Committee.

...**Tracy Roy** for organizing rewards and tracking student progress for the school wide Accelerated Reader program this year!

### Top 6 Healthy Snack Recipes Contest Finalists:

Thank you to the 20 students that submitted their healthy snack recipes for the contest! The Health and Wellness Student Committee selected these six recipes to be voted on by the student body. These students will be video taped making their snack, and a school wide vote will take place towards the end of May. The winning entry from grades K-2 and from grades 3-5 will win the snack for their class!

#### Congrats to the Top 6 Healthy Recipes students:

- Berry Kabobs by Caroline Williams (Ausley)
- Yogurt with a Twist by Kristin Nagy (Norment)
- Healthy Strawberry Shortcake by Nadira Skinner (Queen)
- Zucchini Bread by Emma Carpenter (Arbuckle)
- Multi Fruit Smoothie by Millie Kembe (Arbuckle)
- Fruit Explosion by Jennifer Le (Uehlin)



### Save the Date: Retirement Reception Honoring Eileen Gunther

*Sunday, June 2nd from 2-4PM*

Please join the Lead Mine Staff and PTA in honoring Mrs. Gunther! In her 38 years as an educator, she has spent 16 of them teaching at Lead Mine, and she has touched so many lives in that time. Please RSVP at:

<http://www.evite.com/event/00DCAARBSZI3CI3YCEPCWJOBMKCL5Y/?gid=00DCAASZBIY47ICHKEPCXGSJKPR34A>



### Super Kids Day

June 3 is set for Lead Mine's Super Kids Day event. Your child should have brought home a volunteer form in their Tuesday folder. Please consider volunteering for this fun event! We need lots of help for the day to run smoothly and for the children to have a great time!

We are also asking for donations of ice for the snow cone machine. We usually go through close to two hundred pounds of ice for all the children to have a snow cone each. Coach C. would like the donations (no larger than 10-20 lb. bags) to be in the cafeteria freezer by Wednesday, May 29th.

If you are able to donate a bag or two of ice, please email Coach C. and wait for an email back to confirm. Thanks so much!  
[scruickshanks1@wcpss.net](mailto:scruickshanks1@wcpss.net)



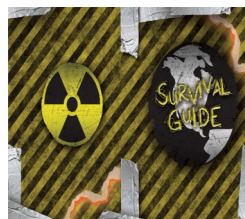
### Yearbooks Have Arrived!

Limited Quantities Available

In School Store for \$18

Starting May 24th

Yearbooks will be sent home with students who pre-ordered.



### 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Yearbook Signing Party is

**Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> at 2:00pm**

Be sure to purchase your yearbook in the School Store on Friday May 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00-8:25am

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