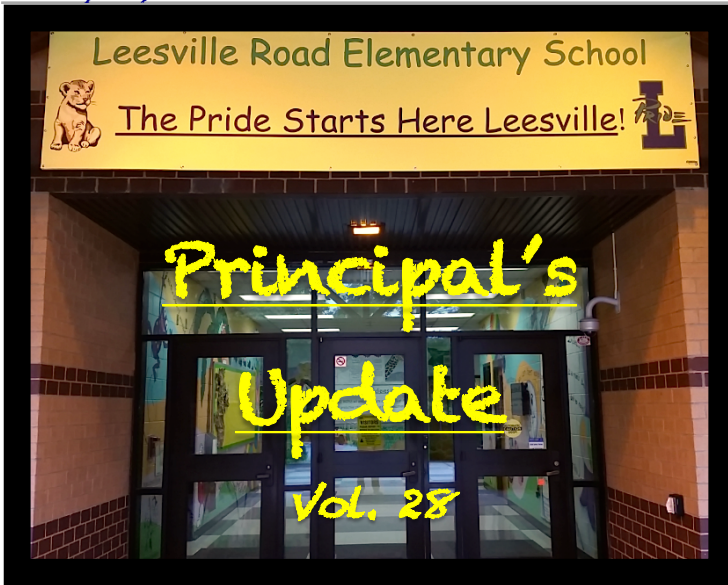


May 8, 2016



Appreciation Runs Wild at the Start of the Pride!

The Faculty and Staff at Leesville Elementary School felt the love and then some this past week as the unparalleled LES PTA transformed our lounge and halls from the warm and welcoming academic alleys into a creative 1950's theme park. Whether it was the old photos with the superimposed faces of the Leesville faculty, the decorated classroom doors with the messaged LP's, or the LES Faculty Lounge, which became renamed for the week as Ari's Diner. The diner even featured an old movie marquee promoting timeless movie classics such as Dial M for MClass, Rebel Without a Common Core, and that charming favorite, Singing in the Lounge.

For Ms. Lay and me, there is nothing more wonderful than to see our outstanding, dedicated, amazing faculty and staff being treated like the rock stars that they are. We also wanted to send a giant shout out thank you to the following parents, who went above and beyond in their time and artistic renderings: Becca Simmons, Jenn Hare, Casey Slock, Rebecca Shreve, Kelly Sheftic, Holly Cruikshank, Allison Nani, Elizabeth Murrey, Deanna Winick, Heather West, Liz McIntroy, and Naseem Garcia. We also want to add a HUGE THANK YOU to the owners and operators of Raleigh's Relish, for the incredibly generous lunch donation to the LES Faculty and Staff. My personal favorite was the Alfredo Mac n' Cheese.

Finally, words cannot convey how grateful we are to the selfless contribution of Leadership, time, and energy from Meg Dalton, who really oversaw the entire week's display of gratitude and appreciation.

Dates to Remember... at a glance

Sunday, May 8	HAPPY MOTHERS DAY ☺
Tuesday, May 10	Spotlight on Students Board Meeting Event
Thursday, May 12	Rising Kindergarten Orientation Event
Friday, May 13	Leesville Elementary School Field Day
Saturday, May 14	Leesville Library Reveal Celebration and End of the Year Community Picnic
May 19 – May 20	Leesville Elementary Presentation, <u>Aristocats</u>

Letting Pictures Tell the Tale...



LES Takes Washington DC by Storm... Literally.

One of the most eagerly anticipated opportunities we provide to our LES Cubs is the 5th Grade trip to Washington DC. This year was one of our largest groups yet as the 4 full Holiday Tour buses were packed with almost 200 members of our school community, and while the nasty weather and cool temps did its best to dampen our spirits, not even the precipitation and showers could rain on our parade.

Within the 3-day, 2-night odyssey, we took a deep look at 10 monuments and memorials, including the very respectfully somber 9/11 Memorial at the Pentagon, the Arlington National Cemetery, the Capitol, the White House, and four of the nine museums at the Smithsonian. We could not have been more proud of our Cubs, who were not only well behaved, but showed a knowledge and insight about the many monuments, memorials, and tourist attractions. In fact, one of the lead tour guides expressed that we were the most well informed group that they have enjoyed all year.

We want to thank all of the parent and family chaperones, who joined us for our adventure and helped our students to appreciate this amazing opportunity. **HUGE THANK YOU** also to the 5th grade Leesville Teachers, who continue to organize and plan an incredible trip for our students. I encourage you all to visit the school website under the parent drop down to read more about this year's 5th Grade Washington DC trip.



Coming Soon...

Library Furniture Unveiling / LES End-of-Year Picnic Celebration

If your child spent any time in the Leesville Elementary School Library this past Friday afternoon, you may have heard about some very exciting news. We are happy to announce that the new Library furniture has arrived, and it looks even better than we anticipated.

In fact, we are so excited about it that we the Leesville PTA has planned a special event right before our end of the year celebration community picnic. Beginning at 5:00 pm, this Saturday evening, May 14th, we will have a special unveiling and story time in what will soon be a school Library like none other. Then, to rejoice in what has been a great year... a challenging one in many respects, but a great one nonetheless... we plan to party at the school with an 80's/90's band, food trucks, face painting, bouncy houses, and most of all, great company like only Leesville can provide.

I sincerely hope that you will all come out and enjoy the completion of this first phase of our Library renovation this Saturday night at 5:00 pm.

Also Coming Soon...

The Leesville Elementary School Players Present... Aristocats

From my first year at Leesville Elementary School, one thing that has never failed to impress me and to really leave me speechless is the talented display of our annual school musical.

Two years ago, our students entranced us as we toured Wonka's Factory with Charlie and the rest of the characters from Roald Dahl's classic, **Charlie and the Chocolate Factory**. Last year we were charmed by that lovable orphan, **Annie**. This year, I hope that you will join us as we catch a glimpse of what really happens in the Parisian back alleys with the **Aristocats**.

All of the students will get their early peak of the final dress rehearsals during the school day. However, we invite you, the parents and families, to come out and see what I anticipate to be the most creative and wonderful production yet on Thursday or Friday night (or both ☺) at 6 pm.

If you have seen our past performances, you know what I mean. If you have not, come on out for a real family treat.