



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

# LEWIS LEDGER

PARENT NEWSLETTER



## December 2015

# Teachers learn, too!

Did you know that every year teachers are required to create a plan for learning a new topic, skill, or strategy that will improve their effectiveness as a teacher so that student achievement in their classroom will increase? Yes, they really do! These personalized professional development plans have been in place since September and teachers recently showcased their progress to date. This year, we conducted a Share Fair on Wednesday, Dec. 2 during our teacher collaboration. Teachers shared with each other what they've been learning, new practices in the classroom, and the impact on student learning. Check Twitter feeds @LE\_ESSD40, #essd40pd, or #lewislearns to see pictures and comments about the process!



## Building Attendance Update

November totals show that we have dropped below the goal. Our school total shows that only 89.7% of students have at least a 90% attendance rate. We need to get students to school and NOT let them miss "just because". Students are pretty honest with their teachers about why they are absent... EVERY DAY COUNTS. We need to show Excelsior Springs that Lewis Elementary parents care the most about their children's education and are willing to get their child to school EVERY DAY. Can you do it? Can we have the best attendance in town? Let's DO IT!

# DECEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- DEC. 2 . . . 4th & 5th District Choir sings at Crown Center 5 p.m.
- DEC. 4 . . . 4th & 5th District Choir tours Royal Care and ECC
- DEC. 7 . . . . . PALS Meeting Lewis Cafeteria, 6 p.m.
- DEC. 9 . . . . . 3rd Grade Music Program PAC 6:30 p.m.
- DEC. 14 . . . . . Lewis Building Leadership Team Meeting
- DEC. 14 . . . . . ESSD School Board Meeting
- DEC. 17 . . . . . Winter Parties
- DEC. 18 . . . . . Early Release 11:53 a.m.
- DEC. 19 - JAN. 5 . . . . . Winter Break



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## December's Character Trait is Compassion



Join us in our annual commitment to compassion pop-top-tab collection! Send in any pull top from any can-soda, soup, juice, etc. Each classroom will have a bucket for collecting. The tabs are recycled for cash for the Ronald McDonald House in Kansas City. This foundation offers lodging to families with a child hospitalized at Children's Mercy for an extended stay to help reduce their costs in caring for their child. Let's see how many we can collect in December to help this worthy cause!



5th Graders are interested in showing compassion by creating a "Buddy Bench" for the playground. They are creating a sign to label a specific bench on our playground that can be used by children when they need a friend to play with them. Mission: No one gets left out of playtime at our school!



## iPad Tech Tips for Parents

Does your student use a school-issued iPad at home? Does your child have their own tablet or SmartPhone? Do you get tired of seeing just the top of a head as they have their eyes glued to a screen? As a parent and a principal, ME TOO!

Just about every week I speak to a parent who is feeling a tad (or more than a tad!) frustrated with the amount of time their child spends on the device... or is worried about appropriate use.

Whether your child uses a school device or a personal one, online safety, respect, and responsibility are paramount. We all care about the well-being of your children, and we must all work together to impress upon them the need to be safe, respectful, and responsible online.

All of our activities with iPads at school have an educational purpose. Sometimes students use apps that allow them to communicate with others via the device to complete learning tasks, or share their school projects with others who might learn from their work. We know that the students WANT to use the device for social activities, and at home that is OK as long as they are of age to use the website or app and they conduct themselves in an appropriate manner. Just like we would not allow our children to get on the phone and talk rudely, bully, or say inappropriate comments to one another, we do not want to allow them to do so with an iPad. All adults in their lives need to let them know it is NOT ok to do this.

### HELPFUL TIPS:

- If you wouldn't say it to your teacher or your grandma, you shouldn't "say it" online.
- Limit the total amount of "screen time" to 30 minutes per evening. Take the device into parent care for the remainder of the night. Don't be afraid. You tell them that Mrs. Rice does it at home with her daughter, too!
- Check your child's YouTube history and searches frequently. Seriously, you don't want them looking up or accidentally finding inappropriate videos. Yuck! We have firewalls at school that block content, most homes and other Wi-Fi sources do not.
- Periodically look through apps that your child has downloaded. Open them and check them for yourself.
- Keep the device away from food, drink, and dirty fingers.
- Read your child's classroom newsletter for information on what is considered mandatory homework. iPad use is NOT considered mandatory.

I think we would all agree that students having a mobile device creates the need for an added layer of supervision that is relatively new for us as teachers and parents. But honestly, it is the future. Let's stand together, united, and keep up our diligence in promoting POSITIVE use.



# INTEGRITY CHARACTER KIDS



The following students were recognized for their INTEGRITY at our last assembly. They are known for “doing the right thing, even when no one is looking!” Great job to Garry Stottlemeyre, Mari Lloyd, Kaidence Conrick, Kamryn Baker, Zoey Clevenger, Camryn Reberry, Lilli Bahlman, Hailey Diaz, Regan Bishop, Taylor Stewart, Mason Brayfield, Ryne Marcum, Miranda Senter, Audrey Ishmael, Addison Mathews, Gina Scroggins, Kyrie Downey, Hannah O’Dell, Aaliyah Fanning, Jade Carpenter, Cambria Wilson, Autumn Langley, and Lauren Mueller.

	Operation	Baseline	Current
1st Grade	+	0%	33%
	-	0%	6%
2nd Grade	+	19%	53.5%
	-	3%	21.4%
3rd Grade	+	16%	46%
	-	2%	25.3%
	x	n/a	n/a
	÷	n/a	n/a
4th Grade	+	34%	70.7%
	-	24%	45.1%
	x	2%	25.6%
	÷	4%	17.1%
5th Grade	+	70%	70.5%
	-	51%	60.2%
	x	25%	56.2%
	÷	30%	47.7%

## Students Show Great Math Fact Fluency Growth

Why should we master basic math facts? Can you imagine having to count on your fingers to add up the miles you ran/walked this week? Can you imagine having to write down and add up 8+8+8+8 to check to see if there would be enough birthday party treats for all the kids? Exactly! THAT’S why it is important to memorize math facts! We are making great strides so far this year. Watch us grow!

### Free events at the



MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY

Dec. 3, 2015, Thursday at 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
**KIDS LAB: CANDY CANE OOBLECK**

Ooey gooey, but it smells so good! Oobleck is made up of molecules arranged in long chains. When the chains are stretched the liquid will flow, but when you force them together they stick and become solid. Come play with some ooey gooey fun! (Ages 6 and up) Registration is required. Limit 25

Dec. 10, 2015, Thursday at 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
**NOW PLAYING FOR KIDS: THE POLAR EXPRESS (G)**

Escape to the library for an adventure on the big screen. (Ages 6 and up) Registration is required. Limit 50

Dec. 17, 2015, Thursday at 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
**‘Twas the Night Before Christmas**

‘Twas the Night Before Christmas narrated by Mrs. Claus herself! Stone Lion Puppet Theater presents this wacky hand-and-rod puppet show that retells everyone’s favorite Christmas poem. (All ages) Registration is required.

Dec. 19, 2015, Saturday at 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM  
**CHESS TIME**

Compete in your age division with other chess players! This special three-hour tournament will be divided into three rounds. Prizes will be awarded to the winner of each age group. (Ages 10 and up) Registration is required. Limit 24

Dec. 19, 2015, Saturday at 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM

**JIM “TWO CROWS” WALLEN PRESENTS: A VISIT WITH SANTA CLAUS**

Get in the Christmas spirit! Come visit with Santa, and listen as he tells an exciting holiday story. Bring Mom, Dad, Grandma and Grandpa, and a camera.

We will also make a simple craft to take home. An adult must accompany each child. (All ages) Registration is required. Limit 30

*Thank you!*

## McTEACHER'S NIGHT

Thanks to all that supported our PALS fundraiser at McDonald's on Nov. 16. Our profit for 4 hours was over \$500! That's not bad!



As a service to students, we will be having a Santa Shoppe this year as an option for students to purchase inexpensive gifts for their family and/or friends. The week of Dec. 7-11, students will have the chance to visit the store, make purchases, and wrap the gifts as surprises. Please notify the office if you can volunteer as a parent helper in the store.

# Important Reading Assessment Given Quarterly

## What is SRI?

SRI (Scholastic Reading Inventory) is a classroom-based assessment to evaluate students' reading ability that allows the school to monitor their progress and set goals for reading growth. This assessment takes about 20-30 minutes to take on a computer. The students read a passage that is appropriate for their reading level and answer a question about that passage. It automatically assigns the next questions and passage based on if the student was able to answer the previous question correctly. Upon the completion of the test, the students are then assigned a Lexile Level number. This number is used to guide the students in selecting "Just Right" books to read during class. We take this assessment at the end of each quarter to monitor each child's progress.

## How do we use the data?

Our mission as a school is learning for all. The students are encouraged to read books at their level and continue to grow in their understanding of higher level texts. The students that are falling below grade level are



identified by many measures and one of the major assessments is the SRI. The score from the SRI (along with other assessments) allows us to identify students to bring to our Problem Solving Team. This is a team put together to help teachers identify the best strategies for each individual student. If the student is reading more than one grade level behind then after school tutoring or summer school may be required, and even the possibility of retention if their reading level does not show adequate growth.

## What can you do to help your child?

Our goal is to partner with parents

to help the students reach their highest potential and continue to make progress in all areas. The biggest difference you can make with your child is reading with him/her every night for 20 minutes. Ask questions as you read with or listen to your child read. Do this before reading, during the story, and after finishing. Please look for the SRI Lexile scores report to come home around the end of each quarter. Talking with your child about their score and setting goals for next time is a great way to become involved and help your child grow as a reader. Please feel free to contact your child's classroom teacher with any questions you might have.

# Children's Literature Festival will be this March

4th and 5th graders who read and complete a project or quiz about at least 5 of the Mark Twain 2015-16 nominees are eligible to go on this field trip to the University of Central Missouri to listen to children's authors tell about their craft. Encourage your child to read and complete the quizzes or projects. This is a great opportunity for students! Here is the list of Mark Twain 2015-16 nominees to read:

## MARK TWAIN NOMINEES 2015-2016

The Water Castle  
by Megan Frazer Blakemore

Navigating Early  
by Clare Vanderpool

\*\*Counting by 7s  
by Holly Goldberg Sloan

The Great Trouble: A Mystery of London, the Blue Death, and a Boy Called Eel by Deborah Hopkinson

\*\*Dorko the Magnificent  
by Andrea Beaty

Rump: The True Story of Rumpelstiltskin  
by Liesl Shurtliff

Will in Scarlet  
by Matthew Cody

\*\*What We Found in the Sofa and How it Saved the World  
by Henry Clark

\*\*Al Capone Does My Homework  
by Gennifer Choldenko

\*\*Gaby, Lost and Found  
by Angela Cervantes

\*\*Escape From Mr. Lemoncello's Library  
by Chris Grabenstein

Jinx by Sage Blackwood