



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

# LEWIS LEDGER

PARENT NEWSLETTER



## January 2016



The Lewis staff hopes that each of our students' families had a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year celebration. Whether you had large noisy gatherings or quiet moments with your loved ones, we hope the winter break provided rest and an opportunity for parents and children to reconnect. Our lives seem so crazy busy these days, it's nice to have some "down time".

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- JAN. 6 ..... Students return to school
- JAN. 8 ..... Pop tab collection
- JAN. 11 ... Jan. Students of the Month, Pizza with Principal
- JAN. 11 ..... PALS meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- JAN. 12 .. 2nd Grade Music Program at the PAC, 6:30 p.m.
- JAN. 13 ..... 2nd Quarter grade cards sent home
- JAN. 18 ..... No School
- JAN. 29 ..... Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off



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## Keep Christmas treasures safe, keep them home.

Here's a big reminder as we start back to school: Toys and games should **NOT** be brought to school unless the teacher requests. This goes for all year, but this time after Christmas is especially a temptation for children.

We know they are excited about new toys, etc. but it can really be a distraction to learning and can create issues when multiple children are vying for turns or don't understand the share rules of someone's personal toy.

We cannot be responsible for lost or broken items, so it is best to keep all toys and games at home. If your child does happen to sneak one out of the house in the morning, they will be required to put it away for the school day to prevent loss, damage, or distraction.



Please help by explaining to your child why we have this rule.

A teacher will always communicate with a note or through the classroom weekly newsletter if there is a special PBS incentive "game day" planned. Even on those days, you should only send items if you are willing to take the damage risk.

We try to be very careful at school, but accidents do happen sometimes. We have plenty of games for these incentive days.

## SEND IN POP TABS FRIDAY

It's time to send in the pop tabs! Mrs. Mason will collect and weigh each classroom container this Friday, January 8, to determine the top class! We collect these to donate as part of our December character trait focus of COMPASSION: showing care for others.



## Free events at the



There are several great opportunities for kids at the library! FREE entertainment on cold snowy days-away from the iPads, tablets, and gaming devices!

Jan. 7, 2016, Thursday at  
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
**KIDS LAB: TO MELT, OR NOT TO MELT**

Everyone knows that ice melts, but does it melt faster with salt? Will ice melt if mixed with sugar? Join us as we observe, hypothesize, and experiment like scientists! (Ages 6 and up)  
Registration is required.

Jan. 14, 2016, Thursday at  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
**KID GAMERS**

Put your game face on and bring on the fun. From board games to live action, join us as we play a variety of games, old and new. Want to know what we are playing? Contact your branch to find out! (Ages 6 and up)  
Registration is required.

Jan. 21, 2016, Thursday at  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
**NOW PLAYING FOR KIDS: SNOW BUDDIES (G)**

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

Jan. 28, 2016, Thursday at  
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM  
**KIDS CREATE: LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW, LET IT SNOW**

Did you know no two snowflakes are exactly alike? Join us at the Library as we see how many different snowflakes we can make! (Ages 6 and up)  
Registration is required.

## Cold weather recess requires appropriate clothing, be prepared

As winter has finally arrived here in Missouri, this often becomes the season of many indoor recess days. Whenever the actual or wind chill temperature falls below 20 degrees, we stay inside. We also have to stay inside if our playground has too much snow and/or ice.

However, as parents, we know children **NEED** to have the opportunity to run and be loud, work their large muscles, and get fresh air! It's what keeps them healthy and able to learn throughout the rest of the school day. So, we try to get them outside as often as we can, but we try to make sure they are dressed appropriately.

**PLEASE** make sure your child brings a coat, gloves/mittens, and a hat/hood every day. Some will begin to not bring the items if they aren't used every day and then won't have them when the temperature goes up and we have



the chance to go out.

We care very much for your child's well-being, and will err on the side of caution in making sure they are weather protected. We don't want to exclude children from playing outside with their friends, nor can we monitor an indoor **AND** an

outdoor recess each day.

**PLEASE** explain to your child the benefits of outdoor play/recess and work with them to help them remember and take care of their winter clothing. No one wants to keep replacing "lost" mittens or hats!

## Reinforcing respect is focus for Jan.

Our character trait focus for January is **RESPECT**. We review the school wide expectations for showing respect in all settings daily. We give examples of what respect looks like and sounds like and how to show it to all

living things and property.

You can follow up at home with conversations! Model and describe for your child how you show respect in your daily life. Make a habit of saying "please" and "thank you". Talk about making eye contact with others and appropriate responses when an adult or another child addresses your child. Point out ways we show respect for property — our own, or other people's — by taking care not to damage or lose things.

Do you have a great example of your child learning respect? Are you especially proud of growth they've made in this area? E-mail me at [crice@estigers.k12.mo.us](mailto:crice@estigers.k12.mo.us) or comment on our Lewis Facebook weekly post about respect. I love to share the way students are applying their learning in real life! Include a picture if you can, but share the little stories. Lots of little stories add up to a big positive one!

