

Contact Information:

Lecanto Primary School
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**From the Principal's Desk**

Dear LPS Families,

Welcome February! Please begin to look for information about our annual Jump Rope for Heart. Historically, the LPS Community has been very generous in donations to this worthy cause. This February will also bring a field trip for our 5th graders as they experience swimming with Manatees and our 2nd graders will be attending the SWIM program at the Y; look for specific information from your child's teacher. Also, please mark your calendars that President's Day is observed February 19th and there is no school. I know I have mentioned a time or two that this cold weather is not for me! So, I am anxiously hoping our friend the Ground Hog will NOT see its shadow and finally end this unusual cold winter!

Please share in our exciting news of Lecanto Primary School's Teacher of the Year, Lainie Keeran and School Related Employee of the Year, Rebekah Lloyd. Our school is filled with dedicated staff and these employees are so deserving of this recognition!

Staff and students are busy preparing for upcoming state testing and our children are working super hard. Our fourth and fifth grade students will kick off the testing window on March 6th with the writing component of the FSA. You will receive notification of further testing dates as each grade level may have different days. We encourage families to build confidence by reminding their children to set some goals, practice the skills they have been taught, and like any task in life, just focus on doing their best.

Technology is an integral part of our society today and we at Lecanto Primary School are committed to integrating technology across the curriculum. There are so many technology apps that your children are being exposed to for teaching and learning purposes, I couldn't begin to list them all. Ask your child to explain how they use technology in their classroom. While we have security blocks on our technology to protect our students, please take the time to ensure that you have similar protection at home. For example, YouTube is a wealth of information and contains many educational sites, but it also has components that can be inappropriate for your children. They do not have independent access to YouTube at school for this very reason. Another area you should be cautious with include any apps that encourage chat rooms. These can be an avenue for inappropriate language and content if not monitored by an adult. If you choose to allow your child access at home, please remember to monitor them closely.

One way parents can help make a difference in their child's learning is to validate the importance of school attendance. Please check the school calendar and try to make appointments on student holidays or early dismissal days. Our teachers teach "bell to bell", which means instruction takes place from the moment students enter the room up until 3:30. Missing a lesson can create a hole in a child's learning that can become a serious obstacle later when more complicated concepts are presented. We are unable to send home all the work they missed when absent because they missed the valuable lesson that prepares students to complete the task. Please know that checking your child out early is an unexcused early withdrawal and multiple early withdrawals count as unexcused absences. Thank you for helping us maximize your child's educational experience.

It is important to us at LPS to maintain a strong home school connection. We encourage you to participate in after school events, Student Advisory Enhancement Council meetings (SAEC), PTO meetings, and parent conferences. Please feel free to share ideas and suggestions that you may have that can enhance our school community.

Sincerely,

Vicki Lofton
 Principal

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Feb 1 - Yearbook Club meeting; 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 5 - PTO meeting @ 4:15 p.m.
- Feb 9 - Jump Rope for Heart @ LPS
- Feb 12 - Deadline for ordering Candy Grams
- Feb 15 - Yearbook Club meeting; 3:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
- Feb 19 - President's Day; NO SCHOOL
- Feb 21 - 5th Grade Field Trip/Swimming with Manatee
- Feb 22 - Family Night @ Homosassa McDonalds to benefit Safety Patrol; 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Feb 26 - Tampa Bay Lightning visit LPS
- Feb 20-23 - 2nd Grade Swimming @ YMCA
- Feb 26-Mar 1 - 2nd Grade Swimming @ YMCA

NO SAEC meeting in February

PTO News and Events

Parents and family members can send **Candy Grams** to the children and the kids can send them to their friends and teachers.

A Candy Gram is a Hershey Kiss with a Valentine card with a Hershey Kiss attached to it. **Each Kiss costs \$0.25** and you can order as many as you'd like.

Look for your order forms. The deadline is February 12th.

FSA ELA TESTING DATES

- March 5 - 9: Writing / 4th & 5th Grades
- April 10- 13: Reading (Session 1 & 2) - 3rd, 4th & 5th Grades
- April 16 - May 18: Math (Session 1 & 2) - 3rd , 4th & 5th Grades
- April 30 - May 4: Science - 5th Grade

Please keep these test dates in mind when making appointments for your children.

Availability of Title 1 information for Parents

The monthly Title 1 newsletters are available for you to view on our LPS school website. Just visit www.citrus.k12.fl.us and under the school tab, find elementary and then click Lecanto Primary. The Title 1 link is on the top. It's so easy and your children will enjoy the activities and benefit from them as well.

Click the Parent tab for the **School Improvement Plan** and the **School Parent Involvement Plan**.

Also, the **School Alignment Plan** is now available on the website under Title 1.

The **District Parent Involvement Plan** is located on the District site.

Click the Parents tab and then the Title 1 tab.

Feb. 9th is our **Jump Rope for Heart** celebration that **benefits The American Heart Association**. Families and friends can donate on-line at www.heart.org/jump or through LPS students.

Students can earn a lanyard with rubber mini-animals for various levels of donation. The minimum donation is \$5.00 for the animals.



Please check the **LOST & FOUND** rack in the hall outside of the cafeteria if your child is missing any items brought from home. We have SO MANY jackets on the rack!

Please remember to write your child's name on all coats, lunchboxes and items brought to school so that if misplaced, we can return it right away.

Come out and support Lecanto Primary's Safety Patrol to help fund their Washington DC trip

Location: Homosassa McDonald's

Date/Time: Thursday, February 22nd, 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

15% of every order will go back to the students for their trip.

Any questions please email cironek@citrus.k12.fl.us or call Kim Cirone at 352-746-2220



Our friends at **Sugarmill Woods Rotary** continue to partner with LPS and support our PBS Rewards on Friday's.

One or more of these members visit each week to help with the process and the Rotary has offered to donate additional items as prizes.

We Thank You for your Support!

Citrus County School's Emergency Form

Persons listed on the Citrus County School's Emergency Form are, as stated, **for Emergency Contact/Pick-Up only**. Therefore, if you would like to authorize person(s) to have lunch with your child, pick up your child in non-emergency situations, attend your child's school functions, etc., please send a note to school. **Please send your note to the attention of Shannon Oberg and include your child's name, teacher's name, the authorized person's name, authorized activities, indicate whether it is a one-time authorization or authorization for the whole school year, your signature, and date.**

Head Lice Treatment:

It is a good idea to check your child's head every week. The louse is a small black bug. The areas of the head to watch closely are the back of the neck and above the ears. The lice leave eggs or nits on the hair shaft. They look like dandruff but must be picked off. Without treatment, these eggs do hatch into live bugs. As far as treatment for live bugs, there are several products available for use. The directions must be followed exactly. Along with treating the child's head, bedding must be washed in hot water and all surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned.

FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

LPS sponsors several fundraisers each year, including student pictures, for different purposes. Profits from fundraising at LPS will be used, among other things, to purchase school wide needs, such as additional playground equipment, technology supplies, and instructional materials. A small amount of these funds may be used to provide food and other consumable items for faculty and staff sessions throughout the year, staff appreciation, and student recognition.

Some fundraisers are for specific purposes such as Jump Rope for Heart. We are always mindful that these are optional for students and are deeply appreciative of the support of the LPS community.

PE News

We have 524 students participating in the **New York Road Runners Mighty Milers** Program.

Students have now logged **17,624 miles** since the beginning of school!

* 2017-2018 Lecanto Primary Yearbooks * ONLINE ordering is a SNAP!!

Ordering has never been easier for the **2017-18 LPS Yeabook**. Just log on to: www.ybpay.lifetouch.com and enter **school code 9906718** and make your credit card payment of \$20/book.

If you would like to pay by cash or check (made payable to LPS), please send in your payment and indicate your child's name and teacher on the order.

THANKS for supporting the LPS Yearbook Club!!!

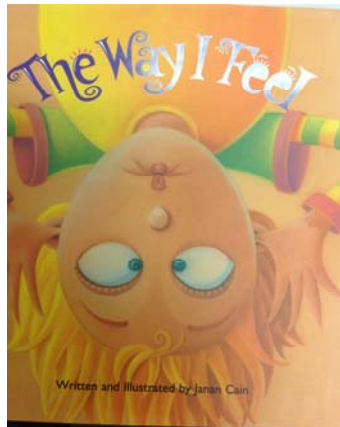
From your Guidance Counselor

Kindergarten-2nd grade will have guidance on their wheel.

I will be introducing my friend Z. He doesn't always understand emotions and needs help figuring out how his emotions effect his behavior.

We will also be reading a book entitled, "The Way I Feel," by Janan Canan.

Shennen Bowman
Extension 5841



Tampa Bay Lightning are coming to LPS!!!

Please encourage your children to wear blue or white on February 26th. If they should have a Tampa Bay Lightning shirt or jersey, even better!

As always, students should be wearing sneakers....

It's going to be an exciting day here at LPS!