

LPS PANTHER PRESS

Lecanto Primary School
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From the Principal's Desk

Dear Friends and Families,

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year... December is filled with a wide variety of holiday activities, crafts, performances, and spreading the joy that the holidays bring to our students. But make no mistake there is still a lot of serious learning going on! Our amazing and very busy PTO once again will be bringing us the Scholastic Book Fair (which make great Christmas presents) and Santa's Shop (stay tuned for more information). Additionally, they have organized the Funrun that our students have been collecting donations for and coming soon the Jiggle Man as our PBS reward on December 19th. Our fourth and fifth grade have been working on their Science Fair Projects that will be highlighted during our most exciting Science-Technology Night on December 6th. Please watch for notices and class newsletters providing information about all these and other special events for your child's specific class.

We are also very excited to participate in the *Hour of Code*. This is a Global Movement that students in over 180+ countries participate in during Computer Science Week 12/3-12/9. So, what is it and why do it? With technology changing every industry on the planet, computing knowledge has become a part of a well-rounded skill set. In 2015, 7 million openings in the U.S. were in occupations that value coding skills. Regardless of what our students do when they grow up, whether they go into medicine, business, politics, or the arts, knowing how to build technology will give them confidence and a competitive edge. We are proud to say that Lecanto Primary has had a strong focus on teaching computer science and STEM for many years. Be sure to ask your child about their coding experience!

With all the holiday festivities that families experience during this time of year, it is easy to get away from our routines which have a direct impact on student behavior. Academic standards are rigorous, and our teachers and students are working hard each and every day. As we prepare for upcoming state assessments, you can help by reading to and with your child regularly, maintain homework practices, sign planners or calendars and encourage your children to share their day with you. You can ask them to share the new vocabulary words they learn from Wordly Wise, what skills they practiced on the day's SuccessMaker or Study Island session, did they cite evidence when writing, and what projects, lessons, or activities have they been working on. Each day brings exciting learning opportunities for your child by a sincerely dedicated and talented staff.

We thank you for all your support and encouragement as our staff works diligently to help your child reach their fullest potential. Their future begins with their elementary experience and we take that very seriously. Please take the time to thank your child's teacher for their sincere dedication and request a conference when you have questions or concerns. It truly takes a whole school community to provide the very best education possible for our children.

On behalf of Lecanto Primary, I would like to wish each one of you a wonderful Christmas holiday. May you enjoy every moment of your traditions and celebrations of the season with your family and friends. And may your New Year be filled with good health and prosperity.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

Vicki Lofton

Citrus United Basket is accepting applications for Christmas assistance through December 23rd, 9-2 M-F. For questions and further information, please call 344-2242.

All agencies require: 2 forms of ID, social security cards for all family members, birth certificates for children, proof of residency and proof of income.



PTO News and Events

- Dec. 3rd – PTO meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Media Center
- Dec. 3rd-7th – Book Fair
- Dec. 6th – Book Fair Family Night with Santa and Santa Shop
- Dec. 10th – 14th Santa Shop
- No PTO Meeting in January

Thank you all so much for your incredible support of this year's Panther Fun Run! As soon as we have a total amount raised we will share it with you.

We wish each of our Panther families a very happy holiday season!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- 12/3 - 12/7 PTO Book Fair
- 12/6 - Science/Technology Night; 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- 12/8 - SHAC meeting @ TRC; 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.
- 12/10 - Marine Science Station (Banks)
- 12/10 - 12/14 Santa Shop open daily from 9:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- 12/11 - Marine Science Station (Lantzy)
- 12/12 - Marine Science Station (Quinn)
- 12/13 - Yearbook Club Meeting; 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
- 12/13 - Marine Science Station (Cioe)
- 12/14 - Marine Science Station (Cirone)
- 12/17 - Marine Science Station (Swistack)
- 12/18 - Marine Science Station (Wiseman)
- 12/18 - Kindergarten Holiday Concert @ CPA; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
- 12/20 - LPS Holiday Concert in Cafeteria; 6:30 p.m.
- 12/21 - Early Dismissal @ 12:30 p.m.
- 12/24 - 1/8 Christmas Break; NO SCHOOL
- 1/9 - Students RETURN TO SCHOOL
- 1/21 - Martin Luther King Holiday; NO SCHOOL
- 1/23 - SAEC meeting in Media Center; 4:15 p.m.

No SAEC Meeting in December

The holidays are quickly approaching! Need child care during holiday breaks? Look no further, the YMCA is here for you!

Our hours of operation are 6:30 AM-6PM. We will be located at 3 different schools for your convenience; Forest Ridge Elementary, Crystal River Primary and Pleasant Grove Elementary.

If you are currently not enrolled in the program, we do offer holiday specific packages.

For pricing information and any other questions or inquiries please contact Tiffany Grabarz at tgrabarz@suncoastymca.org or 352-500-9622.

The staff here at Lecanto Primary YMCA wish you all a safe and prosperous holiday!



Substitute Positions Available

Citrus County Schools is now hiring for all substitute positions (Teacher, Support (Aide), Custodian, Food Service and Bus Drivers). If you are interested or have any questions please call 352-726-1931 Ext 2295 or go to

<https://skyfin.citrus.k12.fl.us:444/scripts/wsisa.dll/WService=wsFin/rappjoblst484.w> and select the substitute positions you would like to apply for, click on apply for selected positions and fill out all the required information/application.

Health Tidbits

December

Anyone can get head lice. It is mainly spread through direct head-to-head contact but also from sharing hats, brushes, and other personal items. Head lice do not reflect poor hygiene and do not transmit disease. A few steps to help prevent head lice are checking your children on a regular basis (weekly), shampooing with Head and Shoulders a few days a week (lice seem to not like the smell), blow drying hair (lice do not like fluffy hair shafts), applying products such as mouse and gel (lice like clean hair), and keep long hair pulled up when possible. If you need further information regarding prevention or treatment of lice, please contact your school clinic.

January

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seasonal flu activity begins to increase in October and most commonly peaks between December and February, but can last as late as May. The CDC recommends fighting the flu by taking daily actions to stop the spread of germs such as washing your hands often, covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, avoiding close contact with sick people and, if you become sick, limit your contact with others.



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

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.



#readamillionminutes

This year we have a school wide goal (collectively as an entire student body) to **read ONE MILLION MINUTES!**

We began October 1st, and our end date is May 3rd. Continue to log your child's nightly reading minutes on the Reading Log your child brings home at the start of each month. Logs should be turned in on the last day of the month.

We are currently at **86,412 minutes as of October 31st!** Just a reminder that if we reach this goal, all our panthers will attend a Magic/Illusionist Show during the second week in May. Please encourage your child to read nightly. Together I am confident we can reach this goal!

Congrats to our yearbook cover contest winners!

Alexa Armstrong (Front Cover)	5th Grade/Cleveland
Giorgios Spaulding	4th Grade/Wiseman
Summer Ferguson	3rd Grade/Moyer
Hunter Bass	2nd Grade/Stahl
Lindy Rossi	1st Grade/Elson
Makenzie Kujan	KG/Keeran
Annamarie Bryan	Pre-K/McCrumb

Also...**5th Grade Ad information** will be sent home in January. Ad's will cost \$25.00 for a ¼ page that includes picture and message.

Yearbooks are \$20 and can be purchased by sending cash/check (made payable to LPS) to your child's teacher OR **take advantage of online ordering** by going to ybpay.lifetouch.com and entering code 9906719.

A Shout Out of Thanks!

The Kindergarten Team would like to thank M&B Dairy and all the families & staff that brought animals and made other donations for our annual Farm Day. We had a such a great day of learning and appreciate all those who helped make our day so much fun!

PE NEWS

Bike safety and riding for all grades will begin Monday, December 3rd. Students are allowed and encouraged to bring their own helmet into school for their own use (students may not bring in their own bike). If students do not have or forget their helmet we have plenty to use during class (they do have to wear a hairnet). Bikes will leave our campus January 17th.

LPS Concert Information for December



All 4th and 5th grade chorus students will be participating in Holiday Concerts again this year. The morning concerts on Dec. 21st and 22nd are for the LPS student body only.

A concert for **PARENTS to attend** will be on **Thursday, Dec. 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the LPS cafeteria.** PLEASE NOTE: **Doors will not open until 6:00 p.m.**

In order to participate in the concerts, all performing students must have good attendance, working to their potential, not missing any assignments and not have any discipline referrals or discipline problems in the classroom or in special areas.

ALL PERFORMING STUDENTS should wear **PE shoes**, so they will be safe walking up and down the stage risers. Please, for safety, no shoes with heels, boots or sandals.

Parents may not leave the building at any time without their child and need to stay for the ENTIRE CONCERT. Concert will last approximately 45 minutes.

Due to the large number of students performing, we can only accommodate family members of performing students for the evening concert.

A concert permission slip has been sent home. Each parent should have already **signed the concert permission slip and returned it to the homeroom teacher.**

If you have not already done so, please request another permission slip from your child's **homeroom teacher.**

Upcoming Testing Dates

April 1st - 5th	ELA Writing - Grades 4 and 5 ELA Reading - Grade 3
May 1st - 7th	ELA Reading - Grades 4 and 5 Math - Grades 3, 4 and 5

Guidance Corner

Guidance lessons this month will focus on choices. This book's focus is **P2C**, the Power to choose. Students have the ability and power to make great choices. Have them put their hands out. Visualize one hand making good choices (sharing, caring, listening) and the other making poor choices (caring only about oneself). This simple visual assignment can be used every time they face a decision.

Choice wisely, **P2C!**

