

LECS PRESS

Faculty and Staff Mark a Century of Service to LECS

Do you ever stop to wonder how LECS came to be such a great school, sought out by hundreds on our waiting list and known by high school administrators across the county for the well-prepared students we send them? It's obviously not our funding level (lower than other public schools) or our physical plant (to put it mildly).

If you've been around our school for any length of time, you know that the key ingredient to our success is an amazing faculty and staff who work so passionately and tirelessly with and on behalf of our kids. It is true that LECS was founded by and even today would be unable to operate without the significant infusion of time and energy provided by parents and other community members. But the backbone of the effort is the team that equips and instructs our kids every day.

See 100 Years, page 12

Letter to Newcomers

Dear new students,

I know it's hard changing from a school that you have probably come to know and love, and no doubt you left behind some great friends. But I am here to tell you that it's going to be all right -- and I know from experience.

When my mom told me a spot had opened up for me at LECS, I had one day to make up my mind whether I wanted to come. I was bewildered, and even after visiting for a short time with Mrs. Morell, I was still a bit unsure. But my mom encouraged me and told me that this school would be cozier and homier.

I also thought that it was unique the way the school is organized into clusters. I also liked the idea of rubrics instead of the normal A's and B's.

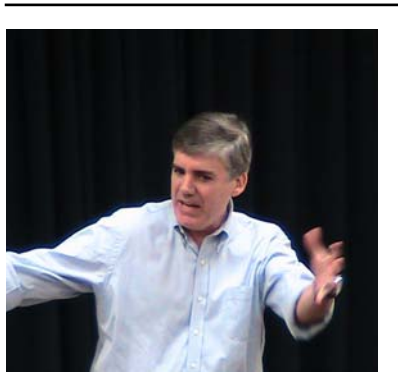
I knew I was in for a new challenge: projects using technology, public speaking, the refinement of skills, opportunities to try new things from pottery to fencing, but most of all a focus on learning fun.

The old friends I left behind are dear, but the new friends I have made are wonderful. I feel at LECS we are on a quest for learning, a mission of caring and sharing what one has learned.

So my now fellow students, I want to tell you that the new-school jitters will soon go away and you will feel as much at home as anyone.

Sincerely,

Rachel Goldenberg, 6th grade



↑ Why did some LECS students get to meet Rick Riordan? See **Rick Riordan**, page 8 ↑

Cluster I:

Second Grade

Weather watchers. We are chasing clouds---literally! Second grade has been studying four major types of clouds. Students went to Lake Eola to sketch and identify cloud types. Ask any second grader what the weather will be like. They can identify the fair weather clouds and the stormy clouds by name.

Learning by eating. As part of our fall unit, we learned that apples grow in orchards and are picked this time of year. We graphed our apples by their attributes and categorized them into a Venn diagram. We wrote stories about our apples using super, stupendous, fantastic, exciting adjectives. Then we cooked apples, mashed them with cinnamon candies, and made applesauce. Delicious!

Living history. We are completing our own books on the U.S. Constitution and what it means to us. Since this is a major election year, students are very excited to voice their opinions on whom they support for president.

Third Grade

It's debatable. In social studies, we studied two civics benchmarks on what people can do to be good citizens. We broke up into groups to debate whether summer or winter is better, and whether reading or writing is better. Each side presented arguments and tried to persuade the other side to switch their votes. We also set up a voting booth to give students an idea of how that process works. The school will set up a "polling place" as the presidential election gets closer, too.

Book talk. Third graders are reading lots of books and enjoy giving "book talks" about the books they like.

Array of games. In math, we are working with arrays to learn the multiplication facts. Arrays are arrangements of objects into rows and columns. Math arrays involve many games, so they are a fun way to learn the facts.

Cluster II:

Language Arts

Poetry slam. Readers' and Writers' workshop are both in full swing. Stop by in mid-October to see the poems students have been working on. They will be displayed on the wall outside of our classroom.

Mark your calendars. We will be attending a performance of the Orlando Philharmonic on November 6, 2008.

Book of the Month. Cluster II language arts students will be voting on a "Best Book of the Month" beginning in October. Fifth grade student Lucas Spear came up with the idea for students to vote on their favorite book they read that month. We hope that this will be one more way to get the word out on books that students enjoy.

Global season's greetings. LECS has partnered with schools in Taiwan, Canada, Ukraine, Australia and the U.S. for the International Education and Resource Network (iEARN) Holiday Card Exchange. We are looking forward to all that we will learn this year through this global connection.

Cluster III: Language Arts

The write stuff. Based on last year's success, LECS language arts teachers are continuing the reader's workshop to encourage avid independent reading. This year, we're expanding the use of writer's workshop to create similar excitement about writing. Revised language arts benchmarks in grades 3-8 reflect the new workshop approach to reading and writing. Students in Cluster III write nightly and turn in a final draft every two weeks.

Lottery luck. A group of LECS students were selected in the Winter Park Public Library's lottery for a chance to meet Rick Riordan, author of the popular *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series of young adult books. Yes, you read that correctly . . . so many kids wanted to meet him, a lottery was needed to decide who would be lucky enough to attend the event! On Sept. 23, the winners heard Riordan speak and waited in line for a chance to meet him.

A poem a day. A daily diet of poetry has been added to language arts class. Most days, students begin class with a poetry reading. The poems provoke interesting discussions and give Ms. Friedman a chance to teach important literary concepts in bite-sized portions. Check the reading section of your child's binder to see the poems they've read so far.

It's all in the cards. Regular library visits began October 3rd, and are planned about every three weeks so that Cluster III students have plenty of choices for great fiction to read. Please be sure your child has a library card in good standing on the day of the library visits.

History

So much to say. Students have begun preparing for the annual oration contest, delivering practice speeches of two minutes. Some found it tough to keep their presentations to the time limit. Another challenge was making a "speech," rather than reading what they had written. But there's plenty of time before the competition later in the school year.

Obama vs. McCain. Students are closely watching the presidential election, and are well versed in the policies and styles of the two contenders, Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain. Students have completed cooperative group efforts on the current campaign as well as individual work on a previous presidential campaign of their choice. As before, students will participate in a mock election just prior to the real election. In addition, students can try their hand at predicting how each state will vote on Nov. 4. The winner will get free full credit for my homework in November (though they must keep up with current information and assessments).

The ocean blue. Soon we start exploring the explorers, concentrating on the "Columbia exchange" that began in 1492, a date in history that very few are not familiar with!

BOOKS ALTERED BY ART

By Clarice Owen, 8th grade

Cluster III students will be making altered art books in Ms. Friedman's class in 2009. To make an altered art book, students take a piece of writing they have done over the course of the year, such as a free verse poem or a short story. Then they rip it up and paste it into an old hardcover book. They also rip up the book's pages and glue designs and pictures on them. They can cut up the books and design them any way they want.

See *Altered Books*, page 13

LET'S TALK TRASH

By Grace Helfrich

What happens to something that you don't want anymore? You throw it in the trashcan and it's out of your life, right? It "disappears."

Well, not exactly. Take a trip to the Orange County Landfill. What you will see is rather disturbing.

Here are some facts about garbage:

—Humans are building bigger and bigger mountains of garbage.

—The U.S. produces billions of tons of waste annually, the majority of which ends up in landfills.

—Incinerators reduce the volume of trash, but toxic gases and ash are emitted in the process.

—The U.S. has 5 percent of the world's population, but creates 30 percent of the world's waste.

—Each person in the U.S. generates an average of 4.5 pounds of garbage a day. That is twice what each person generated 30 years ago.

Let's all be a part of reducing the amount of trash going to the dumpster, into the landfill or incinerator, and eventually into our water and air.

IT'S A BUNCH OF RUBBISH

LECS fills as many as four large trash bags a day just from lunch. This is not including the garbage cans upstairs.

Here's what you can do to make our school less trashy:

The multipurpose room has a recycling bin for cans, bottles and containers. Please use it!

Don't throw away unopened food, whole fruit and vegetables, and any other items that will not spoil before you get home.

Pack your lunch in reusable containers. Use reusable utensils or wash those plastic spoons and forks and use them more than once.

PTSA BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC KICKS OFF YEAR OF FUN

By Annette Perry

Welcome back!

Thanks to everyone who braved stormy skies and a few sprinkles to come out to our annual Back to School Picnic at Delaney Park. Over 450 students, parents, staff and extended families attended to catch up with old friends and munch a few hotdogs. Many thanks to Alli and Stan Wright for putting the whole event together.

The picnic kicked off our PTSA membership drive for the 2008-09 school year. At last count we had 146 members, including 100 percent of our faculty. In addition to supporting local, state and national PTA functions, your dues support LECS in a number of ways, including Field Day, Teacher Appreciation, classroom supplies, activities and special programs. And if you join you will get a window cling with our cool new logo.

See *PTSA*, page 14

SPACE, TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING CLUB

Rocketry takes off. The Space, Technology and Engineering Club (STEP) is blasting off its non-sim year already. With 20 new participants in a two-year commitment, club members have already begun to learn about the history of the space program and rocketry. I was very surprised to see that 24 of the 25 students in STEP this year had never seen *October Sky*, the true story about Homer Hickam and the "Rocket Boys" of Coalwood, West Virginia, who won the national science fair gold medal in 1960 for their incredible work with model rockets. Last week we began to put together our own model rockets and we will launch time sometime in the next few weeks.

Cookies go back on sale. The other news from STEP is about cookies! We were asked to look into getting reduced fat cookies late last year as some parents were concerned about the health of their children. So we began selling the reduced fat cookies this year and cookie sales dropped off nearly 500 percent. I wish we could continue to offer the reduced fat cookie, but economics just does not allow us to. Additionally, the reduced fat cookies are nearly twice the cost of the regular cookies, and to continue selling them we could only put two in the bag for the same price (\$1). So, starting in October, the good old Otis Spunkmeyer cookie made a come back. The cookies are a little smaller but there are four in the bag instead of three. Students will get the same value as last year, four ounces of delicious chocolate chip cookies for only \$1. Cookies are on sale at both lunches every day unless we sell out. I generally cook on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday morning. Leftover cookies are usually frozen and sold frozen the following day. Frozen cookies (and they are awesome) sell about as well as warm, fresh cookies!

LECS TO EMBARK ON AN ODYSSEY OF THE MIND

By Mr. Madewell

The Odyssey of the Mind creative problem-solving competition is coming to LECS. Mr. Madewell and Mrs. Caney have begun assembling teams, and about 20 middle schoolers have signed up. Fourth- and fifth-graders also are being recruited.

The teams initially will meet Wednesdays after school until 3:15 p.m. Parents and volunteers are needed to help with sponsoring and coaching teams.

Odyssey of the Mind teams often meet on weekends at team member homes, in garages, and elsewhere. Mrs. Joerg and I will be looking for just that kind of assistance. Coaching is easy because you don't really do anything. Odyssey of the Mind is 99.9 percent student-run. The children make the choices, decisions, build the stages, and create and manufacture everything they need. Parents and teachers watch, listen, and answer questions. "Egging" is allowed but suggestions of how to do something are not!

For more information, visit www.odysseyofthemind.com.

DIRECTOR'S LETTER

October 2008

Dear Parents:

Wow, so many things have happened so far this school year that it is hard to believe it is only October!

Talks continue on new location. Financially, the LECS Foundation is creeping toward the \$100,000 mark. As we move toward a formal agreement for a new location for the school, that money becomes critical in our contribution to the renovation that will be needed. In a recent email, I provided information on how we can raise \$20,000 through opening accounts at Sun Trust Bank. It would be great to get as near to 100 percent participation as possible. You can also make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation at any time. Send your check made out to LECS Foundation to the school office, or make a payment with your credit card via PayPal using the email address info@lecs.org.



As far as a new location for the school, I can report that we continue to talk to Downtown Baptist Church at 120 E. Pine St. There have been a series of written exchanges that have defined parameters, such as length of lease, rental, renovations and shared use. As we move further into the year and firm up a proposal, I will schedule a meeting to discuss all of the particulars.

Bell rings for new high school. As many of you may already know, the high school was unanimously approved by the Orange County Board of Education at their September meeting. We have recently signed internship agreements with both the History Center and the Science Center and are very excited about the opportunities that will be afforded our students. I will be scheduling a meeting in November to speak more about the high school and to enlist parental support to work on fine-tuning that program.

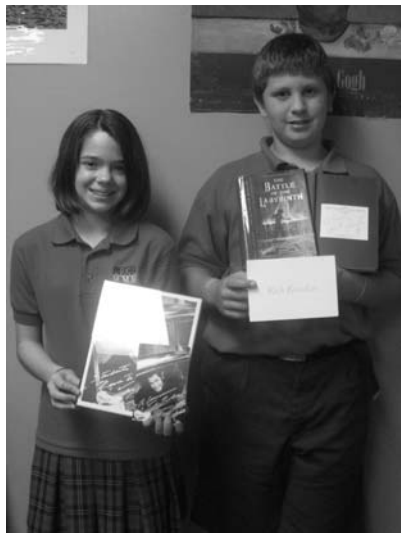
Make time for conferences. By the time you read this, the semester will be drawing to a close. Teachers will be working on report cards on the Oct. 31 student holiday. On Oct. 30, student dismissal is at noon; staff will stay for Red Cross training in CPR and first aid.

Please make time to attend the report card conferences on Friday, Nov. 7. Teachers are available from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. No report cards are given out without an in-person conference. Please arrange your schedule so that you can be here during those times. Report cards not picked up during that eight-hour period will be picked up from me via a conference. I cannot impress upon you how important it is to meet with your child's teachers during this time.

Ballot initiative. We are planning a very special Election Day event on Nov. 4. This is a historical election regardless of your party affiliation, and we want the children to share in it. The Student Council will set up a polling booth in the lobby. Children will arrive by class and be given ballots to vote. The first cluster will vote only for president, the second cluster for president and congressional representative, and the third cluster will also vote on some of the six proposed amendments to the Florida Constitution. We have a banner, stickers that say Future Voters and balloons for the event. The PTSA will be furnishing cupcakes with American flags at lunchtime to cap our celebration. It will be a wonderful day and all of you are welcome to join us.

Have a wonderful fall!

Ronnie DeNoia



BIG FANS

A picture may be a thousand words, but words themselves can be pretty precious – especially when they come from someone famous. At the end of last school year, several LECS students wrote personal letters to celebrities as part of a class assignment. Two

actually wrote back. Lauren Barr and Stuart Rodriguez, now in sixth grade, hold the responses they received from actor John Travolta and author Rick Riordan.

PULLING HER WEIGHT

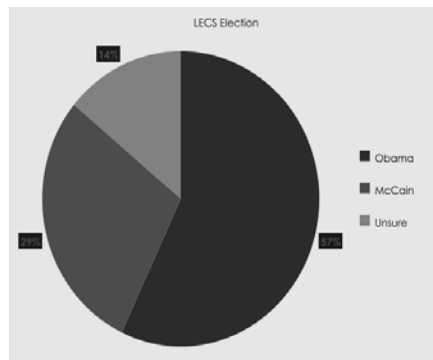


LECS fourth-grader Ashley Dixon was a winner at the Zellwood Tractor Pull competition last month, winning 2nd place out of 15 contestants in the 12-and-under division. Ashley, who is a member of the Florida Antique Tractor Club, pulled 49 feet at the Zellwood Corn Festival grounds.

OBAMA SWEEPS MIDDLE SCHOOL POLL

By Callie Jensen, 7th grade

If the presidential election were held today – and Cluster III students could participate – who would win the school vote? We’ve been doing a lot of election projects in Mr. Hughes class, so I decided to hold a poll and find out. Forty percent of Cluster III students voted in the poll, which was held on Tuesday, Sept. 23. Of the voters, 14 percent were undecided, 29 percent preferred Republican Sen. John McCain, and 57 percent backed Democratic Sen. Barack Obama. In conclusion, if the election were up to LECS middle school students, Obama would be the winner.



ECONOMY IS KEY ELECTION ISSUE

By Alec Reed, 6th grade

With the 2008 presidential election just weeks away, the race is still too close to call. What will decide this election? People are mostly concerned about the economy, so each candidate needs to have a good economic plan.

Sen. Barack Obama, the Democratic candidate, wants to save the economy by helping the middle class by giving them tax cuts. He also wants to help people who are struggling to pay their mortgages so they can keep their homes, which will help people in Orlando. There is a link on his website so you can present your own ideas on how to help.

see *Election*, page 12

Rick Riordan Rocks Orlando:

LECS students win lottery to see popular author

Author readings are usually sedate affairs, but when the author in question is Rick Riordan, expect to see kids jumping in their seats.

Riordan, a former middle school teacher who wrote the wildly popular *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* series for young adults, rolled into town last month for a rollicking afternoon storytelling session and a spirited evening discussion of the writing process.

The events were in such high demand that the Winter Park Public Library held a lottery for the tickets.

A number of LECS students were in luck, and four wrote about what they saw. Here are their accounts.



Afternoon Event is Mythical

The afternoon event was extraordinary. The stories that Rick Riordan told and the way he told the Greek myths were hilarious. The event was held at the Winter Park Library on the first floor. You had to enter a lottery just to get tickets. That's how popular this author is.

When I first walked into the library, I saw a line to get in. Based on how long the line was I knew I was in for some fun! I slowly advanced in line until I was at the front. When I walked into the room, there were kids everywhere. There were a few adults scattered in a few seats.

Mr. Riordan walked in and a second later, I realized that I was in the same room as a famous author! The first story he told was about Perseus and Medusa. He used so many funny actions that I couldn't help but laugh. The next story was about Apollo and he son who wanted to drive the chariot.

When I was walking out, I could hear everyone around me talking about how much fun it was. I walked out feeling changed because I got to see the famous author Rick Riordan.

-- GRACE HAMILTON, 5TH GRADE

Percy Jackson Fans Get the Scoop

Get your books out! The famous author Rick Riordan was at the Winter Park Civic Center on Tuesday, Sept. 22. The event was sponsored by the Winter Park Public Library, but because so many kids wanted to attend they had to find a bigger location for it. To get tickets, I had to enter a lottery.

Mr. Riordan wrote many adult fiction books as well as the *New York Times* bestsellers *The Lightning Thief*, *The Sea of Monsters*, *The Titan's Curse*, and *The Battle of the Labyrinth*. He will write one final book in the Percy Jackson series and it will be called *The Last Olympian*.

I found out lots of interesting information about Mr. Riordan. Did you know that he used to teach middle school? Did you know that *The Lightning Thief* is being made into a movie? Did you know that he wrote *The Lightning Thief* for his own children and never dreamed that it would be a bestseller?

One of the most interesting times during the evening was when he showed us four book covers from all around the world. Places like England, Japan, and Switzerland. Each book cover was totally unique.

See *Jackson*, page 12

How Poseidon's son was born

Rick Riordan is from Austin, Texas, and started writing while he was working as a middle school History and English teacher. His first book, *Big Red Tequila*, is a detective novel for adults. He wrote several more books for adults before he began his famous Percy Jackson series for children.

When Mr. Riordan spoke Sept. 22 at the Winter Park Civic Center, he spent an hour and a half explaining why he writes and telling stories about Greek mythology. He also revealed how he came to create the character Percy Jackson, who is the son of Poseidon, the Greek god of the sea.

Mr. Riordan said one of his two sons had ADHD and dyslexia, and had a tough time reading. To keep his son interested in books, Mr. Riordan read to him. His son loved Greek mythology, but one day, Mr. Riordan ran out of stories. So he made one up.

This is what helped to make Rick Riordan a great writer.

Mr. Riordan also told stories of Perseus, the slayer of Medusa, and the Greek god of the sun, Apollo. He signed books and posed for pictures. This event will stay forever with the children who attended.

-- GIOVANNI GONZALEZ, 8TH GRADE

See Student News, page 12

Choking Incident Highlights Importance of First Aid Skills

By Courtney B. Alakan, 8th grade

On Sept. 22, 2008, during lunch in the multipurpose room, Cluster III science teacher Bob Madewell began choking. This brought up panic when everyone didn't know what to do. One of the parent volunteers quickly started to do the Heimlich maneuver, but it didn't work so he ran upstairs to get the school director, Ronnie DeNoia.

Then Mr. Madewell started doing the Heimlich maneuver on himself. He threw himself against a table onto his fist. Mrs. DeNoia and other staff members came down to help, but by then Mr. Madewell had managed to dislodge the apple that was causing him to choke.

Afterwards, Cluster III students sat in horror as the reality of what had happened sank in.

"This was a real life and death situation; something worse could have happened," one eighth-grader said.

"At first I thought it was a joke, but soon realized that it was the real deal," said another.

Mrs. DeNoia explained to students what had happened and said to always eat slowly. She also said she would bring in someone to teach first aid so if something like this occurs again we will be prepared.

LECS teachers and staff will receive a half-day of training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and first aid on Oct. 31, after students are dismissed at noon.

Stop the Speech

What is the number one fear of most teenagers? Going to high school? No! Getting bad grades? No! The fear of most teenagers, including me, is public speaking. Standing up front, all eyes on you, and people snickering in the back. Public speaking is scary.

So, why should students at LECS have to have to participate in the oration contest? I, for one, think the speech contest is pointless.

Each year students are given a topic that they have to speak on, in front of the whole class. I know many students dread the speech contest, including me. The speech contest puts a lot of stress on students.

I think students should have a choice whether they want to participate or not. I don't think students at LECS should have to participate in the oration contest!

-- ERIN BRADFORD, 7TH GRADE

Lighten the load

On August 20, 2008, LECS's middle schoolers found out that they were getting agendas. It sounded fine at first. But then we were told that we were required to carry them every day or we would get an after school detention. Last year teachers claimed that they were going to "lighten student's loads." Clearly, giving them more stuff won't accomplish that.

I believe middle school students should be trusted to use their own ways of remembering their homework, such as writing your math homework on the piece of paper that you will be doing it on, or putting the work you have to do for science in your science notebook. By doing simple things like this we can reduce the weight of our backpacks and remember our homework.

-- KATY ROSE LINDBORG, 7TH GRADE

Homework – too much of a good thing?

Cluster III homework – too much or not, that is the question. Let me list the tasks that have to be done weekly:

- Language Arts. Read and write every night – 45 minutes
- Math. Every night except for Friday – 1 hour
- History. Every Wednesday with projects given at different times – 1 hour
- Science. Homework given two times a week and now in preparation for science fair – 1 hour
- Spanish. Studying for tests and class – 30 minutes

This amount of work may take longer for some than others. Several students said they spend an average of two to four hours a night on homework.

From the students I have talked to, the higher the grade, the less time it takes. So for the sixth graders, it takes us a little longer to do the homework. This is a learning process for us. For those who have extra curricular activities, this is very challenging.

Learning is always a joy. But when is it too much? Three or four hours of homework a night is a lot for a person with extra curricular activities.

-- ERICA EXALIEN, 6TH GRADE

See Opinions, page 13

THE MOVIE

Hearing I might be in a movie feels like I might faint with happiness and fright.

Hearing I might be in a movie tastes like eating red roses.

When I hear I might be in a movie it makes me see all my family being happy together.

When I hear I might be in a movie, I hear my dreams coming true.

Hearing I might be in a movie makes me see the stage we might be on and the costumes that we might wear.

Hearing I might be in a movie is hard to write about because it is an almost indescribable feeling. I almost skipped a heartbeat as soon as I heard.

-- ISABEL BEARD, 5TH GRADE

PUMPKINS

Evening breeze with a whiff of pumpkin

I can see the metal object on the grass.

"Daddy," I call. "Can I carve the pumpkin?"

The answer I get back is "yes."

I hold the metal object in my hand.

Outburst of giggles

"Go ahead," I hear echoing in my ear. "Go ahead."

"No, you do it, but I still get the insides."

I hear the knife plunge into the big ball of orange.

A straight line as skinny as a piece of paper, but as deep
as a crater inside

Drooling already, ready for pumpkin pie.

-- SOPHIE WRIGHT, 4TH GRADE

BABIES

Babies are the ones I grasp in my heart.

The smell of baby powder transferring to my
nose.

I taste the strong alcohol so strong in my nose
that it makes my eyes leak.

I wait to see those crystal eyes that will gleam at
me like the fresh morning dew.

The sound of their crying cracks me open like a
peanut giving in to the crushing force of one's
hands.

-- TAYLOR ANDREW, 5TH GRADE

100 Years from page 1

Year after year, our faculty and staff pour energy and enthusiasm into their work. And those years have added up. This year, our faculty and staff have for the first time amassed more than a combined century of service to LECS. That's 100-plus years of rain-drenched car lines, 90 degree recesses, countless training sessions learning to fill several different roles, and, most importantly, relentless efforts to help our kids reach their potential as both students and citizens of the world.

So when you see any of these 18 folks in the weeks ahead, thank them for their century of service, and tell them we look forward to many millennia more of great things at LECS.

Sharon Morell	11th year
Mary McCormick	10th year
Jillian Friedman	9th year
Ronnie DeNoia	9th year
Carrin Hahn	8th year
John Urtz	8th year
Bob Madewell	7th year
Michele Stucker	7th year
Katherine Scott	6th year
Joe Demyan	5th year
Maria Larr	5th year
Steve Hughes	4th year
Rob Caney	3rd year
Stephanie Caney	3rd year
Trish O'Leary	3rd year
Melanie Radkowski	3rd year
Christie Shelton	3rd year
Katie Joerg	2nd year

Election from page 7

Sen. John McCain, the Republican candidate, wants to help the economy by creating jobs for America. He also wants to help by supporting small businesses. On his website, McCain has a list of important people who support his economic plan.

No matter who gets elected, the next president will have to deal with the economy. It's very confusing and hard to do. If you want to get involved in this close election, visit johnmccain.com or barackobama.com or visit one of their Orlando offices.

Jackson from page 8

During the book signing, he asked me if I had any questions for him and let everyone take pictures if they wanted to.

This was an unforgettable event for all Percy Jackson fans.

-- BIANCA PERITO, 5TH GRADE

Student News from page 9

More than just paper and words

Rick Riordan, the famous author who wrote the Percy Jackson series, spoke at the Winter Park Civic Center about how he got started and what the covers of the series look like in other countries. And he was there to sign books.

"I thought it was amazing and awesome, and it was the best night I'd had in a long time," LECS sixth-grader Stuart Rodriguez said.

Mr. Riordan told us about when he got his first rejection letter. He was 13. His mom was so proud of him that she put it up on their fridge, and Mr. Riordan had to walk by it for the rest of his life until he moved out.

Later his mother's house burned down and the only thing that didn't get burned was that letter and Mr. Riordan still has to walk by it when he goes to his mother's new house.

Continued on next page

Student News from page 12

“I think it was really cool how *The Lightning Thief* got started,” said Lucas Spear, a fifth grader at LECS. “It’s cool because it started with Rick telling his son real myth stories. But one day Rick had told almost all the real myth stories he could find and had to stop, so his son told him to make one up of his own.”

Rick Riordan is one of the most inspiring authors to me because his book, *The Lightning Thief*, was the first real chapter book I had ever read. Before I read his book, I thought books were just paper and words. But his book proved me wrong. It inspired me to become a better writer and helped me realize that books are really adventurous and amazing. I hope he will come back again so I can get other books signed and so other people who were not able to go can experience what I experienced there.

-- DANIEL BARR, 6TH GRADE

Altered Books from page 3

LECS graduates Sam Benjamin and Frances Goode, both now in ninth grade at Boone High School, said they enjoyed making altered art books at the charter school.

“Doing an altered art book was fun. I just didn’t like all of the writing,” Sam said.

“I wish I could do it again,” Frances said.

Many current Cluster III students are looking forward to the unusual language arts project.

“I want to do altered art books because it sounds like a fun way to express yourself in a way that most people won’t think of,” said eighth-grader Mattie Hill, “and it’s way more fun than just writing and never being able to do any thing with your work after it’s graded.”

Seventh-grader Ezra Perry disagreed. “I don’t want to do altered art books because I think we should just be writing,” he said.

Opinions from page 10

Students need first aid training

Last month during middle-school lunch, students were caught in the face of an emergency when Cluster III science teacher Bob Madewell choked on an apple. The whole lunchroom went into shock. What were we going to do? Luckily, a few of us were able to calm down and go get help. Fortunately, everything turned out okay. But what could happen next time?

We need basic first aid training in skills like cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver. I think this should be available to everybody who would like to learn and not just the teachers. After all, we should take all the precautions necessary to ensure our future safety or next time it could end up much worse.

-- TAYLOR SCRIBNER, 8TH GRADE

See Opinions, page 14

Opinions from page 13

Agendas waste time, paper

I believe that agendas are a waste of time. Nobody even looks at them besides when the teachers make us write in them. Plus, they're just taking up space in our already full backpacks. But we can get a detention if we don't write our homework in them. Nobody deserves an hour after school just for not writing something down. And don't you think it should be up to the student to remember to do their homework? Also, isn't the school trying to save paper and "go green?" Well, the 112 pages in each agenda are a waste of paper. I think agendas are useless and wasteful.

-- CHRISTIAN STENOFF

Obama vs. McCain

Sen. Barack Obama should be our next president. His views on the war, the economy, and women's rights are exactly what our country needs. I think he would make the best president ever.

—MORGAN CARR, 8TH GRADE

PTSA from page 4

If you haven't signed up, it's not too late. You can go to our website at lecs.org, and download the form. Just send it in to the office with your check.

Fundraiser update

Our Sally Foster Fall Fundraiser fell just shy of meeting our goal of \$6,000. Many thanks to the 43 families that went the extra mile to make sales in this tough economy. The Fall Fundraiser provides a major part of the PTSA operating budget.

Parties were awarded to the top-selling classrooms. They were:

Cluster I: Mrs. McCormick's class, ice cream party from Dairy Queen

Cluster II: Mrs. Hahn's class, movie and popcorn party from Blockbuster Video

Cluster III: Mr. Madewell's class, pizza party from Dominos.

Many of you expressed an interest in the "green" company fundraiser that was displayed at the picnic. We hope to have that available to parents through an Internet sale in time for Christmas orders. Check our website for details to follow.

Fun and fellowship

One of our goals for the PTSA this year is to provide our parents with family-friendly activities and venues where they can get together and socialize, network, enjoy fellowship, hang out -- what ever you want to call it -- at a reasonable cost.

We will kick off the year with the annual Family Campout, Nov. 14-16. Check the website for details and the sign up form. Early registration and a discount will be available until Oct. 31.

Next up is Family Fun Night at the Magic vs. Minnesota Timberwolves game on Wednesday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m.

All students who sold Sally Foster will receive one free ticket to the Magic game with the purchase of a second ticket offered at a discounted price. We have a whole block of tickets reserved so come and enjoy the company of your LECS friends and a great Magic game.

Stay tuned for upcoming events. We're looking forward to a great year.

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Friday —November 7—Student Holiday-Report Card Conferences

Friday/Sunday—November 14-16—Family Camp Out

Mon./Fri.—November 24-28—Thanksgiving Break

Tuesday—December 16—Progress Reports Go Home

Thursday—December 18—Nutcracker Ballet, K-8

Friday—December 19—Noon Dismissal - Winter Break

Mon./Mon.—Dec. 22-Jan. 5—Winter Break (inclusive)

Monday—January 19—Holiday, Martin Luther King Day

Shout Out!

Thanks to the Glasers for supplying us with all the crackers for kids who forget their lunch. Thanks to Michele White for getting us \$100 in gift cards from Staples.

What would we do without our families!!!

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We appreciate contributions from students, staff, and parents. Email news and events to: sara.a.isaac@gmail.com