



LECS PRESS



LECS BUILDING GOES GREEN

by Ronnie DeNoia

LECS has been working hard to add another hue to its school colors: green.

Teachers, students and staff have taken steps to reduce the school's impact on the environment, and LECS is well on its way to becoming a green building.

We recycle our paper and have done so since August. We also recycle all mail-order catalogs. In December, we switched to environmentally safe cleaning products, purchased from Shaklee through LECS parent Lori Welch.

The second-grade class is cutting up the plastic loops that hold soda cans in six packs, so that they do not injure the birds in the landfill.

Our efforts will continue with Earth Day activities at Lake Eola Park on April 18.

We have received a 2007 Lowe's Toolbox for Education Grant of \$4,500 – these grants are reserved for approved school improvement projects, and we will use the funding to benefit the park, which is such an important part of our physical education program.

In addition, Stephanie Caney's enrichment students have created a bit of green space downtown, by helping plant a garden at the County Administration Building on Rosalind Avenue.

LECS FIFTH-GRADER MATTHEW SHINNER WINS GEOGRAPHY BEE

By Jennie Hess

What large bay shared by Michigan and Wisconsin is an arm of Lake Michigan? If you guessed "Green Bay," you're as smart as a fifth-grader. This and other geography questions tested the mettle of LECS students as fifth-grader Matthew Shinner correctly answered his way to first place in the annual Lake Eola Charter School Geography Bee.

After weeks of practice in LECS Clusters II and III, participants knew their world geography well, and performances at the Dec. 18 Geography Bee were stronger than ever, said social studies teacher Steve Hughes. Semi-finalists in the competition were: fourth-grader Edythe Heins; fifth-graders Alec Reed and Matthew Shinner; seventh-graders Clarice Owen, Olivia Crawford and Christian Stenoff; and eighth-grader Easah

Rahman.

Contestants answered a series of world geography questions and, as the competition advanced, Clarice secured third place while Christian and Matthew advanced to the championship round. In the finale, the question that clinched it for Matthew was this: "India borders two landlocked countries to the north. Name one of them." If you don't know the answer, then you aren't smarter than a fifth-grader, after all.

This month, Matthew took the next step by completing the teacher-administered test that determines state winners. From there, state contestants in Tallahassee compete to go to the national level. In March,

Matthew will learn whether he qualifies to move on..

"We wish him all the best – both this year and in future years" when he's bound to compete again, said Mr. Hughes.

Still wondering whether you can match wits with Matthew? The answer to the winning question (drum roll, please) is: Nepal or Bhutan.

Geography Bee winner Matthew Shinner, right, shakes hands with Steve Hughes.



LECS SCIENCE PROJECTS WOW JUDGES JANUARY 25TH

Best of Show Prizes Awarded to Dominic Robinson, Emily Moloney, Kellan Hoffman

Thirty students with 28 science projects won first-place prizes at the Lake Eola Charter School Cluster III science fair Jan. 25 and will represent LECS at the 2008 Orange County "Ying Expo" Science Fair Feb. 25-28. Top "Best of Show" awards went to Dominic Robinson (gold medal), Emily Moloney (silver medal) and Kellan Hoffman (bronze medal). Dominic (8th grade) won with his engineering project called "Hummer." Emily (7th grade) earned silver for her botany project about the effect of overcrowding plants. Kellan (6th grade) triumphed with his zoology experiment called "Rock 'n' Rollin' Guinea Pigs."

Along with those top winners, other first-place prize winners were: Sam Benjamin, Courtney Alakan, Jessica Hawkins, Tulene Farwell, Christian Stenoff, Taylor Scribner, Kaley Bookhardt, Alec Dulskis, Olivia Crawford, Erik O'Conner, Dana Driscoll, Allyson Driggers, Raina Edmondson, Callie Jensen, Zachary Glaser, Mattie Hill, Brooke Dawkins, Youssef Benbrahim, Katelyn Moloney, Kyrstin Mays, Clarice Owen, Garrett Carr, Amber Sheldon, and the teams of Olivia Talton and Christal Capo and Evie Eddins and Alexis Martinez. All first-place winners will present their projects at the Ying Expo, which will be set up at the Orange County Fairgrounds Feb. 25. Judges will evaluate projects and interview students Feb. 26. Awards ceremonies will occur Feb. 28 at Howard Middle School.

Second place winners were: Sophia Katen, Glenda Nater, Zaki Graham, Caroline Bosworth, Sunil Maraj, Ezra Perry, John August Raoux, Carly Larr, Joshua Moy, Erin Bradford, Daniel Adams and the team of Katy Rose Lindborg and Alessa Craner.

"Every year I am more surprised than I was the previous year," said Bob Madewell, Cluster III science teacher. "The quality of the students' projects continue to improve year after year, and I don't know how they do it, but the students just keep stepping up!"

Twenty judges from professional fields including engineering, biology, physics and other areas judged this year's contest, Mr. Madewell said, and "the judges can't say enough about the quality of the LECS student projects. One of the judges commented that this show is more enjoyable than the county show, which she also judges every year.

"Unfortunately, not all the students can win, and I really wish they could. Because I sit on the board of the Orange County Science Fair (Ying Expo), I get to see the paperwork and the projects of all the middle school students in the county, and I always believe that some of the LECS projects that never make it to county could and certainly would beat out those that do get there from other schools. That speaks to the quality of projects from LECS!"

Last year, LECS earned top middle-school status in the county at the Ying Expo, knocking Lake Highland Prep from its perennial position -- "one of the proudest moments in my career," Mr. Madwell said. "I hope and I truly believe we could do that again this year, as the quality of this year's projects are every bit as good as last year's."

Four LECS students won first-place prizes at last year's Ying Expo and went on to the Florida State Science Fair in Fort Myers, Fla. The students brought home one fourth-place award and two awards of merit from that state fair.

"I won't make a prediction. I never do," Mr. Madewell said. "I just wish our 30 students the best of luck. I know they will be ready to do their best, and that is all I can ask for."



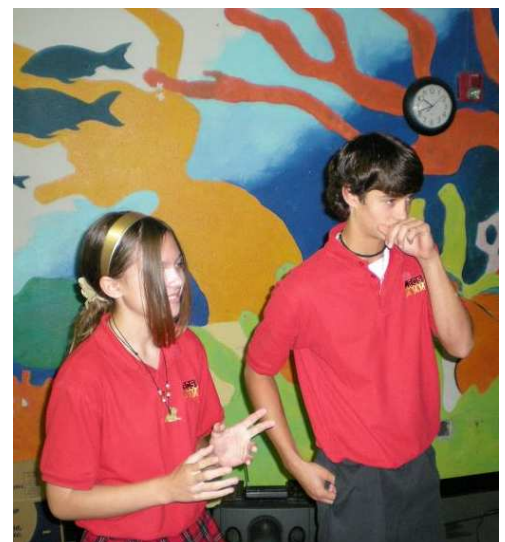
These students were Best in Show Award winners at the LECS Science Fair. Clockwise from top left: Gold medalist Dominic Robinson, Silver medalist Emily Moloney, and Bronze medalist Kellan Hoffman.

EIGHTH-GRADER RICKY WELCH WINS LECS SCHOOLWIDE SPELLING BEE Amber Sheldon, 7th Grade, is Runner-Up

Play a victory march on the glockenspiel – there's a spelling renaissance at Lake Eola Charter School! Two students' mastery of unusual words clinched their triumph in this year's schoolwide spelling bee. Eighth-grader Ricky Welch (far right) emerged victorious with the word "renaissance," while Amber Sheldon (right) secured the runner-up spot with "glockenspiel."

Cluster II language arts teacher Michele Stucker went through 72 words ranging from "access" to "capricious" before the spelling bee was over. Other words spelled by students included indigenous, algorithm, mnemonic and euphemism.

"It was a hard-fought battle," Ms. Stucker said. Ricky will go on to the district competition, where students compete in a written spelling bee, in February.





Director's Desk

Dear Parents:

Welcome to what I believe will be a great 2008! I hope you all had a restful and joyous holiday season. I had a great time with family and friends as I traveled to Richmond, Charleston and Savannah. There is so much to see by car that is beautiful in this country.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our mission of bringing holiday joy to those who might not have had it. While we started off slowly, my second request brought in enough money to exceed even our wildest expectations. In addition to helping the family that we adopted through the Orlando Rescue Mission, we were able to help out additional families. In fact, Joyce Nichols' students at Rock Lake were the recipients of some of our holiday cheer. More than half of her students were served by your generosity – thank you so very much.

Kudos to the Student Council advised by Mrs. Morell. Council members brightened the season for more than 60 senior citizens with gift cards and their service at the holiday luncheon at the Marks Senior Center. And to Mr. Hughes' Community Service Club, more kudos for collecting items and shipping 14 boxes of goodies to soldiers serving in Iraq.

The Foundation is realizing quite a slow growth as it moves toward \$83,000. If anyone has questions about the Foundation or why there is such a pressing need to contribute, please refer to the letter that was sent out in December by Board President Charles Frederick and SAC Chair Jean Dierking. We are at a critical stage now as we home in on sites and actual building plans. Please commit to a pledge or a one-time donation of any amount. Please send those checks to school with your child.

One of the benchmarks that the Board set for itself about a year ago was to actively seek new members with specific skill sets that would assist the school in achieving its goals. You have seen in the last six months the inclusion of Pete Clark, Laura Sundberg, Jenifer Davis, and Rollins MBA intern Grant McCaghren. During our January meeting, we welcomed the last two members to form the full complement of the Board. As our educational representative, Elizabeth Hoffman, exits the Board, new member Deanna Guiseppa, a reading coach for Orange County Public Schools, will succeed her. Mrs. Guiseppa has a long history in education, both in private and public education in schools that reflect the philosophy of LECS. We look forward to her input as she begins her term, and we thank Dr. Hoffman for her years of service to the Board.

We also welcome Stacey Cole to the Board as a business member within the local financial community. Stacey is a trust officer at Bank of America. Prior to that, Ms. Cole practiced estate law for fifteen years. Stacey is truly the final chess piece on a Board that now holds all needed components for us to move forward with strength as we build for the future.

On Friday, January 17, the entire school went to City Hall for our second annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Read In. When we participated in this event last year, we spread out to locations throughout the city, and it was quite a profound experience. This year it was even more significant as a sea of red and black uniforms descended upon the plaza walking around the corner at South and Magnolia, walking down Orange and getting off the bus. The police were gracious enough to stop traffic so the children could cross, and that added to the emotion of the day. The children sat and read for 20 minutes without a sound. They held their signs; they respected the event. What a proud day for Lake Eola Charter School! Your kids were awesome. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Our next schoolwide event will be our Earth Day clean up, which is tentatively scheduled for Friday, April 18. We will be back at Lake Eola Park. We have received \$4,500 by way of a Lowe's Tool Box grant, and we will use that grant to clean up and refurbish the park. Please mark your calendar so you can join us.

Curriculum-wise, we have completed the Geography Bee, are in the midst of the Spelling Bee, and are headed toward Science Fair, soon followed by the Oration Contest. Congratulations to Matthew Shinner, the schoolwide Geography Bee winner. It was great to see a fifth-grader excel among the range of competition from fourth through eighth grades.

Finally, as we move toward the standardized testing period, please make sure that all the pieces are in place for the optimum success of your children. Students should be reading between 15 and 30 minutes a night, depending on their grade level (30 minutes for third- through eighth-graders). The fcatexplorer.com website is up and running, and it would be a good idea to have the kids practice on that site two to three times a week for 15 minutes.

Students also need rest and nutritious food. If your child is in grades K-2, bedtime should be no later than 7:30 p.m.; second cluster, 8:30 p.m.; and third cluster, no later than 9:30 p.m. While those times may seem early, the research coming out now shows kids need 10 to 11 hours of sleep a night. That means children who are getting up at 6 a.m. need to be in bed and asleep by 8 p.m. at the latest.

One other suggestion, especially for the little ones: limit the sugar at breakfast. Some of them are having sugar crashes around 10 a.m., as the sugar high wears off and sleepiness sets in. The children need to have some type of protein at breakfast to sustain them to snack time and beyond. Please be mindful of the snacks sent for all students. Cookies, Doritos and candy are not suitable snacks. Peanut butter, apples and cheese are better choices.

Working together, we will have the best possible result for your children.

With gratitude for allowing me to educate your children,

Ronnie DeNoia

BROWSING THE INTERNET CAN EARN MONEY FOR LECS

By Ronnie DeNoia

Did you know you can support LECS with the click of the mouse? Here are two easy ways to earn money for our school when you are online.

GoodSearch.com. LECS has just received its first check from GoodSearch, a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue to charities. When you need to do an online search, go to www.GoodSearch.com. In the box under "Who do you GoodSearch for?" type in LECS, then click verify. After you see the school's name, begin your search.

iGive.com. This website will donate a portion of your online purchases from more than 680 brand-name stores, including Gap, Nordstrom, Staples, Office Depot, Lands End and Expedia.com. The school receives a check from iGive twice a year. Before shopping online, go to www.iGive.com. Under "Find and Select Your Cause," select Florida, then K-12 schools, and then type "Lake Eola Charter School" in the "Keyword Search" box. Click "Find Causes" and click on Lake Eola Charter School when the school name pops up. Click "Select this cause," then register and shop.

Of course, you do not have to be online to support LECS. Help for our school is always right in your pantry. Just clip and save **Campbell's Soup** and **Box Tops For Education** labels.

As we move into the second half of our school year, please keep in mind the following policies:

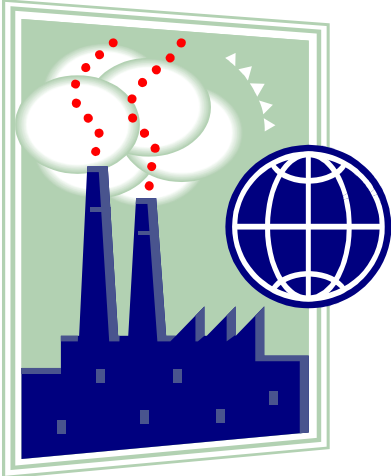
Sick children: Your child must be fever free and not have vomited for 24 hours before he or she can come back to school

Cell phones: Students must turn their phones into the office every day. Parents, please do not talk on your phones in the school office.

Cluster I & II News

SECOND-GRADERS RESOLVE TO CLEAN THEIR ROOMS, CLEAN UP THE EARTH

by Mary McCormick



The new year is always a chance for a new start, and this year our second-graders thought hard about what they want to do differently in 2008.

From helping with horses to helping around the house to helping the Earth, students pledged to do their part to make the world around them a little bit better.

Here are our New Year's resolutions: We will help Grandma at the farm with her horses, learn more about animals and the ocean, eat right and exercise more. We'll sell more Girl Scout Cookies, help around the house, make more muscles in our bodies, and give our toys to Goodwill.

We will brush our teeth in circles, be more creative, clean our rooms and learn more about building hotels. We'll learn more tricks on the skateboard, practice back hand-springs and clean the house.

We're going to help the Earth by picking up trash, learning how to cut the grass, practicing the guitar 30 minutes a day, going to the Y more, eating fewer sweets and learning how to square dance.

Looking forward, looking back

While planning for the future, second grade students also have been interviewing grandparents and other relatives to learn more about the past.

We had our first class interview with one of our grandparents. It was so exciting to hear about how life was in the past and in another island country. We are learning so much from our families' past and how things used to be.

In other class news, we had our first pottery class and had a super time. We also walked to City Hall and participated in the "read-in" in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. It was a very moving experience to have the whole school there.

LANGUAGE ARTS STUDENTS REACH FOR THE STARS

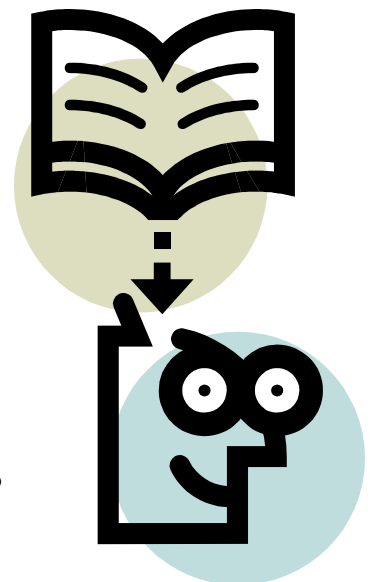
by Michele Stucker

Our reading workshop continues to be a success in Cluster II. Students are becoming real readers and writers as they practice their craft in the classroom.

As part of our deepening connection to the world of books, students who had read "Peter and the Starcatchers" took a field trip to meet authors Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson at Disney's Contemporary Resort. It was a great experience, and it honed our excitement about the sequel to "Kingdom Keepers" that Pearson is currently working on.

We also completed our class spelling bee, and winners Halsey Helfrich, Isabel Beard, Jessica Lindquist, Shawn Scribner, Stuart Rodriguez and Sofia Rahman advanced to the school wide contest. In April, we will participate in the Modern Woodsmen Civic Oration contest.

In other school news, fifth-graders are preparing for their February trip to Tallahassee. Also, Cluster II needs recess volunteers, especially on Tuesdays. We leave school at 12:35 p.m. and return by 1:20 p.m. If anyone is available, please contact Michelle White at mwhite5340@aol.com and she will add you to the schedule.



Cluster II & III News

WHO KNEW LAVA COULD BE SO DELICIOUS?

by Carrin Hahn

Marshmallows and chocolate chips are some of the tastier “minerals” that third-grade students will study as they learn about rocks and how they form and change.

Third grade’s study of geology will include demonstrations with real rocks and dirt as students learn about the processes that create different kinds of rock.

We’ll also learn about how a magma chamber works by making lava you can eat. The class will melt butter in an aluminum pan, add the chips and the marshmallows, and slowly stir the mixture to show what happens then the Earth rotates.

Then we’ll pour the “lava” onto aluminum foil. The students should see changes from the ingredients that went into the pan. This demonstrates how igneous rock forms.

Students also will make sedimentary rocks with glue, gravel and sand.

In addition to our classroom studies, students will be working on independent projects in the next month or so, some with books they will read and some with countries they will study.



LECS STUDENTS TAKE A STAND, SEE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR PUBLISHED IN *ORLANDO SENTINEL*

by Jillian Friedman



Several students who wrote letters to the editor for their Cluster III language arts class saw their letters published in the *Orlando Sentinel* Dec. 27. Sixth-grader Sadie Solomon, seventh-grader Taylor Scribner and eighth-grader Joshua Moy wrote letters to the editor of the *Orlando Sentinel* on the Friday Forum topic: "Should suspected terrorists or spies be tortured to obtain information?" Because the newspaper received an overwhelming number of responses on the topic, student letters to the editor were published on Thursday, Dec. 27.

Part of the language arts writing curriculum this year involved writing news articles and letters to the editor. Guest speaker Dixie Tate, who edits the *Orlando Sentinel* letters to the editor, addressed all Cluster III students in December and offered letter-writing tips.

FEATURE WRITER AND LECS PARENT CONDUCTS CLUSTER III WRITING WORKSHOP

by Carli Eurton, 6th Grade

On Dec. 13, feature writer Jennie Hess visited Ms. Jillian Friedman’s classes at Lake Eola Charter School to give advice on writing a news article. Ms. Hess currently is a writing consultant and also is the editor of the *LECS Press*. While she was in Ms. Friedman’s class, she gave the students examples of how to write a news article and offered some journalism “do’s” and “don’ts.”

Seventh-grader Kelly Gardner assessed Ms. Hess’s lecture: “I thought she gave us a lot of good advice to definitely use in all of our news articles.”

After the lecture, Ms. Hess stayed to help some students work on their writing.



SCIENCE CLUB ENJOYS TRIAL BLAST-OFF DURING KENNEDY SPACE CENTER FIELD TRIP

by Kelsey Wolf, 8th Grade



On Thursday, December 6, Mr. Madewell's purple-clad Science Club went to the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. The main purpose of this trip was to see the space shuttle that was supposed to launch that night, but sadly the launch was scrubbed. This didn't stop us from having fun, though!

Along with the actual shuttle launch, another attraction at KSC was the Shuttle Launch Experience, which simulated being in a space shuttle while it was launching. The ride was complete with a prep course, vertical turns, and an overhead view of the stars.

"Yeah, I liked the new ride," says Lauren Scott, a Science Club veteran. "It was like a shuttle launch that wasn't scrubbed, so it made up a little for the real launch being scrubbed."

But theme park rides weren't the only thing our clan of the purple T-shirts enjoyed. We also went to a live educational show called "Mad Mission to Mars," complete with songs about Newton's Laws of Motion, and a guy who was eaten by a giant blow-up model of the sun. We also went to a 3-D movie documentary about the landing on the moon and

saw the Saturn-5 rocket close-up in one huge, long building. There, some of us got green screen pictures that made it look like we were floating in a real spaceship!

All in all, we really enjoyed our KSC trip. Lots of people were disappointed because of the launch scrub, but pretty much everyone had a good time. As put by eighth-grade science club veteran Frances Goode, "I had lots of fun, but I was disappointed that the launch got scrubbed, because in previous years the launches have also been scrubbed."

But that was more than made up by shuttle launch simulators, Mad Missions to Mars, and 3-D movies.

LANGUAGE ARTS TEACHER JILLIAN FRIEDMAN INTRODUCES NEW TEACHING METHOD

by Leah Bisbee, 7th Grade

This year, Mrs. Friedman has a new teaching method called *Readers and Writers Workshop*.

She lets the students pick whatever book they would like to read and records their pages every day. Each student is supposed to have a running list of books he or she would like to read, in addition to a list of books each has read or abandoned.

For the writing part of this new method, Mrs. Friedman tries to teach the students at least one type of writing every week. So far, she has taught how to write book summaries, free verse poems, memoirs, newspaper articles, and letters to the editor.

I interviewed a couple of Mrs. Friedman's students to get their opinion on this new teaching method. Overall, many people are saying they like it.

"I like that we don't have assigned reading, but I don't like that we have two days that we have to write and can't read," said Morgan Carr. Denysa Guerrios Armaiz said, "I like it because I don't have to read at school if I don't want to – I can just write."

Students also are learning other styles of writing such as book reviews, oral book talks, expository essays, and persuasive essays.

LET'S GO TO THE HOP!

Silent Auction April 19 Benefits LECS Arts Program

by Emily Moloney, 7th Grade

The LECS Silent Auction will be on April 19, at the Citrus Club in Downtown Orlando. At the Silent Auction there will be class baskets, theme park tickets, and many more exciting items to be auctioned off, and the proceeds go to a worthy cause, the LECS arts program. The theme this year is "The Sock Hop."

This is the 8th Annual Silent Auction. Each classroom will have a theme to its basket. LECS would like you to donate items to the basket in your student's classroom. The cost for the Silent Auction is \$18 per person and \$30 per couple. There will be no kids allowed. We hope to see you there.

ATTEND A PTSA MEETING, WIN TWO SILENT AUCTION TICKETS!

by Staci Baker

PTSA members who show up for the Thursday, Feb. 21 General Membership Meeting have a chance to win tickets to the 8th Annual Lake Eola Charter School Silent Auction. The PTSA meeting is set for 3:15 p.m. at St. Luke's Church across the street from the school, and all members can enter the drawing for two free Silent Auction tickets.

This year's Silent Auction revs up with a sock hop on **April 19** at the Citrus Club in Downtown Orlando. Formal invitations are in the works, and pre-order forms for tickets have been sent out. Themes for classroom baskets – always some of the highest-bid items – will be announced soon. Keep an eye out for flyers to come home with your children. And if you'd like to volunteer to be a "basket parent" please contact me at 407-254-0862.

Remember, no item is too small for our auction. We graciously and willingly accept any and all items to be put up for bid. If you have questions, have a donation to make or know of any company or person who wants to make a donation, please contact me at 407-254-0862 or 407-924-8903 or e-mail staci120470@yahoo.com.

The Silent Auction Committee thanks everyone for their assistance and for donating precious time.



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

STUDENTS HEAD TO LANGFORD PARK FOR DISCOVERY THROUGH NATURE GAMES

by Katelyn Moloney, 7th Grade

Langford Park did you say? Yes, Cluster III did go to Langford Park! On Jan. 8, all of Mr. Madewell's third-period class piled into a bus and headed to Langford Park, where they learn about nature with Nikki Tanner.

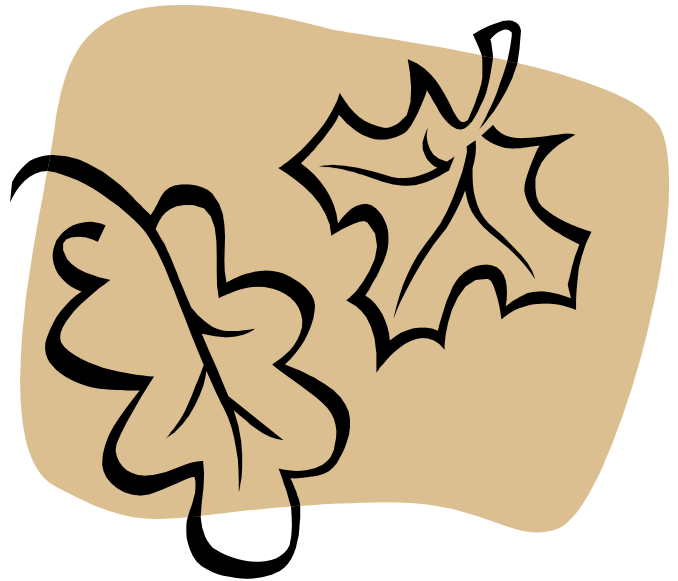
As soon as the bus hit the asphalt of the Langford Park Center's parking lot, the kids jumped out and headed to the center's door, where Ms. Nikki greeted them. Soon, the fun began.

Ms. Nikki directed the students to sit on either side of a large orange square in the middle of the carpet. Inside the square – plates numbered one through 30.

"I like to take board games and make them my size," said Ms. Nikki. She then explained the game's rules. "Inside a locked room plants are about to pollinate and, when they do, they will create a gas that will destroy the earth and all of its living creatures. You have to break into the room and stop the plants." To do that: 15 different feet have to touch the plates in order, in 45 seconds. Only one person can be in the square at the same time. After several attempts, the students finally completed the difficult task, but not in 45 seconds. The world is now covered in the lethal gas.

Now, she leads the students outside. There on the grass behind the Center are two tarps, one stretched to its largest expanse, and the other folded into one fourth of its original size. Turns out the tarps actually resemble islands out in a sea full of savage sharks. The object of the game: fold the large tarp to get it to match the small tarp- with everyone standing on it. Don't let any of the students fall into the dark waters! Again, the students did not succeed.

The students headed back to the bus and left Langford Park. They will repeat this short ride several times through the first Monday in February. And they are determined to succeed!



NEW WAYS TO GO 'GREEN' FOR GOOD GLOBAL SENSE

by Ezra Perry, 6th Grade



Gas resources. Electricity usage. Pollution. All are big concerns. But a lot of new things are out or are coming soon that are green, and they help us stop global warming. Some of them are hydrogen cars, spirally light bulbs, and the Flex-Fuel car. These are some ways of getting "green."

The spirally light bulb is made of Hg (mercury). It uses less wattage, but still lights up a room like a normal light bulb. They come in many different colors, shapes, and wattages. One thing that's odd about it is that it's made of mercury. Yes, mercury can be harmful, but the mercury is sealed in glass with a plastic coating to protect the bulb from breaking.

The hydrogen car is a concept that is still in development. When this car is released to the public, it will lower the pollution level of regular gas cars. The engine is designed to take in hydrogen and combine it with oxygen to power the pistons and drive the shaft. And it releases nothing but pure water! Too bad it's still in development.

The Flex-Fuel car is a car with an engine designed to use a mix of gasoline with Ethanol (E85). Ethanol is pretty much corn juice. Many people have already bought this car and many of them are driving around today! These cars are made by GM, Ford, and many other car companies. This car will help lower gas consumption rates in the US.

GUEST SPEAKERS CALL ATTENTION TO DARFUR'S PLIGHT

by Jasmin Low, 8th Grade

Just after the Geography Bee on Dec. 18, several guest speakers talked to LECS students about the atrocities in Darfur and other countries. I thought that this was a cool learning experience. The most intriguing person there was Michael Savage, because he made it funny, so most of us wanted to know more. Now I know we can all work together to help stop this horrible thing from happening again.

People may say, "Oh, yeah, I know how you feel," when they're trying to sympathize, but they don't know until they've experienced it for themselves. Mr. Savage was trying to explain that by saying that you don't understand how a broken arm feels so you can't explain it to someone. Nobody should ever have to experience some of the things that those people had to witness or experience themselves. It's wrong that people do such horrid things, and it makes me wonder what happened to them that makes them want to kill innocent people, even babies, or beat a child for firewood. That's wrong. The president should pay attention to Darfur and stop another genocide – a lot of people died already. We can stop this. Only we can make the difference.

Note from Mr. Hughes: Other speakers addressing the subject of genocide were Chantal Gakwaya and Helena Greenspun through their own experiences in Rwanda and the World War II Nazi camps in Poland. Savage saw (and was disturbed by) various ugly signs of warfare with special services in the British military and is now an advocate for (the Holocaust Museum and) SaveDarfur.org and/or making people aware of potential genocides. Robert Simental (and Ahmed) were the ones that produced the film (and website) GoogleDarfur (which most of the kids knew since portions were shown in class.)

PTSA TO LAUNCH WEBSITE, PLAN SPRING FUNDRAISER

by Micelle Emery, PTSA President

Well! We made it through the first part of the year and are looking forward to an exciting second half. Some great fun is just ahead, including Field Day, Family Fun Night, and other terrific events. In addition, we are planning to launch our own website, so watch for details, and remember to sign up for e-mail listserv@yahoo groups.

Unfortunately, we didn't earn as much money as we needed to cover our expenses this year, so watch for a spring fundraiser to come home with your students. The money raised pays for student-teacher appreciation, family fun events and Field Day, and it also supports the Silent Auction, Space SIM program and class trips.

On behalf of the PTSA Board, thanks to all of you who showed up for the Martin Luther King Read-In/Sit-In. We know our kids are always excited to see their parents out with them in the community. Everyone did a great job! Finally, please check the calendar information in this issue for dates of PTSA meetings, field trips and other events.



**Don't forget! Report
cards go home Feb. 22!**

NATURAL DISASTERS, A MISSION TO MARS — IT'S JUST ANOTHER DAY WITH STEP

by Devan Spear, 7th Grade

Members of the LECS Space, Technology & Engineering Program (STEP) in January took an overnight field trip to the Museum of Science & Industry in Tampa.

The museum, known as MOSI, is a large building, several stories tall, full of a variety of exhibits. Upon arrival, the STEP students were ushered up to the third floor, which contained interactive displays on magnetism, electricity, the human body and others. This was also where we rode the “sky bike,” a bicycle on a wire 30 feet above the museum floor. Some students were reluctant to try but most of us did and it was awesome!

Throughout the rest of the day, the students participated in many activities in different parts of the museum. Disaster-ville, an entire floor devoted to natural-disaster simulations, was among the favorites. “The hurricane simulation felt really real,” said Leah Bisbee, 13. Another activity that the students enjoyed was an IMAX movie about one man and his goal to climb the north face of the Eiger, one of the most treacherous mountains in the Alps.

In the planetarium, students got an in-depth look at the night sky. The STEP members leaned back in their seats and stared at the ceiling, on which hundreds of stars were projected. Many of the students also enjoyed the Kids-In-Charge building, where activities including lying on a bed of nails.

“There was so much to do. It was my favorite part of the trip,” said Allyson Driggers, 13.

Out of all of the activities, the Challenger Mission was probably the most popular. Each student was assigned a position, and then to one of two teams. Half of the students proceeded into the “Mission Control” room, while the other half went through an “air lock” and into a “space shuttle.” The Mission Control team, who were already on “Mars,” had the job of guiding the other team to the planet.

Like any real mission there was the possibility of failure and, of course, there were problems. A leak in the air tanks made an emergency landing necessary. Luckily, though, everyone arrived on Mars safely. Once they had arrived on the planet, the two teams switched off. The former Mission Control team was to journey back to Earth, and the former flight crew was to stay on Mars and replace Mission Control. As before, there were problems, but again they were fixed and everyone arrived safely back on Earth.

By the end of the day, everyone was ready for bed. The students spread out, sleeping in small groups around the Kids-In-Charge area. When the lights went out, almost everyone was asleep within minutes.

“I had a lot of fun at MOSI. It was a really good learning experience, and we had fun, too. My favorite part was being a navigator on the Challenger mission,” said Callie Jensen, 11.



Callie Jensen prepares for blastoff with members of STEP at Tampa's Museum of Science and Industry.

Letters to the LECS Editors

LAKE EOLA CHARTER SCHOOL IS TOO SMALL

by Sunil Maraj, 7th Grade

Do you think that Lake Eola Charter School is too small? I think the school is too small for the number of children that are in the school. I think we should find a school that has a gym, a bigger building, and a cafeteria.

In LECS, the multipurpose room is our cafeteria and it's either hot or cold. But when it's hot, it is really hot there, and since there are classes around us, we could not be very loud because the classes are doing work.

Our gym is the Downtown Recreation Center or the park at Lake Eola. Every time we go to either place, it takes time out of our activities to get there, which is not very fun at all. I think we should find a quicker way to raise money for a new school, like a fundraiser or marathon. That is my opinion about the school's building.



DON'T MAKE FEMALE LECS STUDENTS PLAY UNBEARABLE SPORT

by Olivia Crawford, 7th Grade

The Patriots have not lost a single game this season. They are a **professional** team, and it is their **job** to play football. So I ask you, why are we being forced to play a sport with violent influences that is incomprehensible? Playing football is not a need-to-know thing in life; learning the game won't help us in the near future.

Ashley Bever of the seventh grade said, "I don't think that we need to play football because it's a boring sport. It is boring for most girls, and we should do basketball instead because more people like it."

Most of the female students at Lake Eola Charter School believe that playing football in Physical Education is too complex. We could simply replace football with another sport that is easier to understand and more fun to play. "I'd way rather play another sport than football," said Callie Jensen of the seventh grade. "Any other sport. Just not football," said seventh-grader Katelyn Moloney.

In conclusion, football may be fun to watch for some. But when it comes to playing, leave it to the pros.

BOONE BRAVES DESERVE KUDOS

by Anna Dierksen, 8th Grade



The Boone Braves High School Varsity football team was undefeated last season. The first game of the season was against Lake Mary; the score was 10-3, and the skill of the team continued throughout the whole season. The hard work of the football team paid off when Boone played and won 21-14 against the Edgewater Eagles. This was the first time in many years the Boone Braves got the barrel back.

On Saturday Dec. 15, the Boone Braves played in the state championships at the Florida Citrus Bowl against the Northwestern Miami Bulls. This game was the biggest game of the season, and about 2,000 fans attended. Even though the Braves didn't win in the state championships, they should still be very proud of their accomplishments this season. This is the first time ever in Boone's history that the varsity team has been undefeated in a regular season and made it to the state finals. Good try Boone Braves, and congratulations to the Northwestern Miami Bulls, State Champions 2007.



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**The editors of LECS PRESS are Jennie Hess and Sara Isaac. If you would like to contribute to our next issue, please email the editors at jshess50@cfl.rr.com.
Layout and design by Casey Morell.**

Calendar

February

- 2/5 - "Donuts with Dads"
- 2/12-2/14 - FCAT Writing Test (4th and 8th grades)
- 2/14 - Noon Dismissal (Second Trimester Ends)
- 2/15 - Student Holiday (Teacher Workday)
- 2/18 - Teacher/Student Holiday
- 2/20 - Katie Kaufman Photos
- 2/21 - PTSA General Membership Meeting, 3p.m., St. Luke's
- 2/22 - Report Cards
- 2/27 - County Science Fair Awards 7:00 p.m. Howard Middle School
- 2/28-2/29 - 5th grade trip to Tallahassee

March

- 3/11-3/21 - FCAT Testing
- 3/14 - Field Day
- 3/24-28 - 8th grade trip to Washington, D.C.
- 3/31-4/4 - Spring Break

April

- 4/9 - Box Tops Free Dress Day
- 4/11 - Progress Reports
- 4/15 - Oration Contest - Clusters II and III
- 4/17 - PTSA General Membership Meeting, 6:30 p.m., St Luke's
- 4/20-4/23 - Science Club Space Simulation at Orlando Fashion Square Mall (from 9 p.m. Sun., 4/20 to 6 p.m. Tues., 4/22)
- 4/23 - Science Club Sim Open House 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fashion Square Mall
- 4/25 - Poetry Alive! at the Orlando Public Library, Cluster III 10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.
- 4/30 - Class photo