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Volume 1, Issue 1

# Panther Tracks

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## LECS Chosen As Cool School of the Week!

From future space explorers to geography bee champions, geologists to journalists, Lake Eola Charter School students are truly a special group of kids at a special school where all can achieve. We as parents have known this for years, and now WOFL Fox 35 has made it official what we as parents have known for years: LECS is a Cool School!

Watch as Alessa, Carli, Ezra, Katie and others share with Orlando what makes our school so unique. Congratulations to the LECS students, faculty and staff for making Lake Eola the Cool School of the Week!



Link to "Cool School" Video

[www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/mornings/cool\\_schools/100709\\_cool\\_school](http://www.myfoxorlando.com/dpp/mornings/cool_schools/100709_cool_school)

### Pizza for Puppetry

If you feed them, they will come...With apologies to **Field of Dreams** that's exactly what happened on Thursday, November 12 at Brick and Fire on Orange Ave. Thanks to the efforts of DeVonna Craner, SAC Business Partnership Chair and mom of Alessa-8<sup>th</sup>, Lane, 5<sup>th</sup> and Audrey 4<sup>th</sup>, LECS held its first Pizza for Puppetry fundraiser. The event was so heavily attended that Brick and Fire ran out of plates!!! No matter, LECS was still able to raise half the funds they needed to bring the program back to LECS. Thanks to all of you who supported the event.

### Special points of interest:

- Check out the great poetry by LECS students!
- Read about how LECS celebrated Veterans' Day this year.
- Make sure you read Ms. DeNoia's Letter to the Parents. See Dear Parents...
- Pizza for Puppetry was a great success!

## LECS Panthers Love To Give Back

Lake Eola Charter School has a long history of community service. There are a variety of activities that are done annually such as a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank and our annual holiday family adoption through Orlando Union Rescue

Mission. Other activities have been situational, such as collecting cans of mosquito repellent for the homeless population of Orange County living in the woods and our backpack and school supplies that were collected for the victims of

Katrina. It has been said many times that while children don't always listen to us, they watch us and hear us.

See Community Service, page 2

## Great Day At Green Meadows !

As told by a parent, their teacher and students. It was a beautiful, cool day. The kids especially loved the train ride and the hayride. According to Jack's mom, Laura Sundberg, "It is such a marvelous opportunity for children to learn about animals in a hands on setting." As I understand it, the children milked cows, held baby chicks, tried to capture and hold grown chickens and ducks. They pet pigs and learned the unique differences among many types of animals. Jack's mom said, "I was amazed last week by my son's specific recollections

goats, pigs, ostriches, llamas, lambs and donkeys to name a few. They also got a chance to see Tigger...a cross between a zebra and a horse. I imagine that must have been a "sight to see." Ms. O'Leary said, "I enjoy taking the children there because they are able to explore and try things that they have not done before."

from that day, and I think that is due to the engagement of all of his senses in the education process at Green Meadows."

According Ms. O'Leary, this was the first field trip that this class had taken



Ms. O'Leary's Kindergarten Class

As a working parent, I was unable to take the day off but I am so glad that Willie had an opportunity to experience this great day at Green Meadows!

**"I was amazed last week by my son's recollections from that day and I think that is due to the engagement of all of his senses in the education process at Green Meadows."**

this year, but "I have been taking classes to Green Meadows for four years now." She said she always takes the classes in October at the conclusion of the animal unit (which includes mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish) and at the beginning of the Fall Harvest unit. Ms. O'Leary said the children are able to see animals such as chickens and chicks, ducks and ducklings, turkeys,

### Where I'm From

I'm from "trees,"

and taking the Nutella chocolate out of the fridge as I ate it with my finger in Turkey!

From soccer scene I was 2-7, elephant teddy, and the family's Bop It. As my sister and I joyfully danced off the walls to Britney Spears.

From "I'm not Kathleen I'm Baby Doll" at my birthday as the glistening wind

pulled me back from the water slide.

"Chocolate milk belly"

I use to say "apple juice belly"

my "sissy" use to remark.

I'm from the photos hidden under my parent's bed, and the giggles from the videos on the shelf.

Kathleen Alakan

## Panthers who give back !



### **Community Service, continued from page 1**

That quote could not be any truer this year as in the first few months of school we have had two different community service activities initiated by students.

The first activity was in October for Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Bailey Barnes, a LECS 5<sup>th</sup> grader, felt that our school should support the effort to "go pink" in support

see Community Service, page 3

## Our Adventure Begins....

I remember back a few years ago when my son Willie was much younger. I was pushing him around at Lake Eola when I saw a group of children running around in these uniforms so of course I assumed they were from a private school. When I was able to get a closer look, I saw LECS on their uniforms. At the time, I knew nothing about Lake Eola Charter School but I certainly am glad that I found out more about it. I considered a private school for Willie but that was really out of our budget range. So I began to think, could this be a possible school for Willie to attend? After all, we



**Willie's 2nd day of school in his uniform**

were in Hillcrest Elementary School's zone and Willie's stepbrother attended there. It is

an excellent school but there was just something about those other students I saw; they just all seemed so happy and well behaved.

Fast-forward about 3 – 4 years and here we are! We are one of LECS's newest families and thrilled to be here. As a parent, I'm ecstatic about the learning environment and caring attitude that all the parents, staff, students and administrators exhibit. Willie loves LECS! He was beside himself with grief the other day when I told him he had

an eye doctor appointment and couldn't go to school. I've never seen a child react that way when they were given a day off from school! I'm not sure how he's going to react to Thanksgiving break. We are excited about our new adventure at Lake Eola Charter School and hope it continues for many years to come!

### Where I'm From

I am from elephants, dancers,  
and breath taking beaches.  
From various plants in the backyard.

I am from a whole bunch of singers  
and Baby Bottle Pops.  
From Fairy Tale Classics  
to doctors and stuffed animals.

I am from a place of sunshine,  
space shuttles, and hurricanes.

I am from reading and nature.  
From evil seat belts to falling chairs.

I am from the land  
of tigers and snakes.  
From the beginning of spices.

I am from one of the  
seven wonders of the world.  
I am a part of the generations to  
come.  
I am who I am.

Chessna Valley

## Community Service, continued from page 2

of breast cancer awareness. Bailey, with help from mom, created flyers and flooded the school with the message to donate funds to Breast Cancer research by way of a free dress day. The generosity of our students and families resulted in a collection and subsequent donation of \$149.00. When asked what the impetus for this activity was, Bailey said, "My mom has a few

friends who are breast cancer survivors and I thought that it would be a good idea to raise money for breast cancer awareness and then maybe there will be more survivors."

Close on the heels of this effort, was a request by the Tamorello girls to sponsor another free dress day to fund malaria nets for the children in Africa. Julia Tamborello, a 3rd grader, came to talk to

me about the free dress day and once the day was approved, she and her sister Carly, in kindergarten, set about to make posters that they put up in all the classrooms. LECS is glad to be part of a community effort to raise \$600.00 to buy 60 mosquito nets for the children.

## Dear Parents...

Welcome to the digital age of the online newsletter. We have talked about this for years and now thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Holly Mosley-Cooper (mother of Willie in kindergarten) and Clifton Bruce (father of Marques 6<sup>th</sup> and David, 3rd) we are finally moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are so excited to be able to have this digital newsletter available on our website for students, parents, donors and all those who search the web to find information about our school. It is a very streamlined version and is consistent with other nonprofits and charters as they look to showcase their schools and organizations.

We have had a very smooth opening to school this year and it is hard to believe that the first trimester is completed and we have begun the second trimester. Despite the events in the downtown on conference day our parents, ever resilient, managed to make it to the school where they had the opportunity to discuss their child's academic progress with the teaching staff at LECS.

It seems that the children have also been off to variety of field trips this year. Kindergarten has already been to Green Meadows Farm and K, 1, and 2 have seen a wonderful play about Pirate Adventures at the Orlando Rep. All the students have visited the downtown library and the middle school science club has gone to the Kennedy Space Center in the hope of seeing one of the final space shuttle launches.

The Foundation broke the \$100,000 mark this summer and that was certainly a milestone. I encourage all of you as you look for end of the year tax donations to consider a donation to the foundation. It is anticipated that the renovation on the facility we will be moving to will be between \$75,000 and \$100,000 which would just about wipe out the foundation. So please consider an end of the year gift.

That transitions nicely into an update, brief as it will be, on the move to the Education Building at the Downtown Baptist Church. At present, lawyers from both LECS and DBC are fine tuning the agreement that will finalize our new lease. Once we are signed, sealed and delivered, we will hold a meeting to discuss all the particulars with you.

On another positive note, we have Mr. Jenkins, dad of first graders Matthew to thank for the new furniture: teacher desks, bookcases, chairs, file cabinets that we will have when we move in.

Finally, we are getting ready to launch our second annual online auction, which was extremely profitable last year. We anticipate an end of March early April date and will be looking toward our parents to help us gather those donations that will contribute to another successful event.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a Happy Chanukah!

Ronnie DeNoia

## LECS “STEPS” Into the Future

By Ezra Perry

Step stands for Space, Technology, and Engineering Program. It is a science club in which the kids run a very realistic space simulation every two years at Orlando Fashion Square Mall. In the simulation students play various roles to simulate a NASA launch and mission to some place in the solar system. The simulation usually lasts about 48 hours and takes us two years for which to prepare.

My position this year is Systems Director. I have to take care of all of the computers and wireless networking devices and the video systems.

Some others are also leaders, like Erin Bradford and Jessica Hawkins who are the Flight Directors this year. They are in charge of everything. I report to them. I am the boss of the ComSpecs, VidComs, and RobiEs (computer specialists, video communications specialists, and robotics engineers). Every two years STEP has a full scale simulation at the Orlando Fashion Square. We setup up a large dome and testing center, along with a living quarters in the middle of the mall, and a mission control center in another part of the mall.

Additionally, we have Biomed and Envirospecs (biomedical and environmental

Specialists), a security team, and a group of students who develop classroom lessons and hands-on activities to share with 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students at Lake Eola Charter School as well as some other invited schools in Orange County. There is also this position that only Mr. Madewell, the program director, knows about that is called “the saboteur”. This person is supposed to covertly cause problems that the rest of us have to discover and problem-solve to figure out. After about 2 days of Sim we break down and prepare for another simulation two years later.

## Going to Ganymede

By Matthew Shinner

3...2...1... BLAST OFF! In April 2010, six middle school students in Mr. Madewell’s Science Club are going to Ganymede. Well, not really, but what they are doing is launching a simulation to Ganymede, the 4<sup>th</sup> moon of Jupiter. All of the Science Club will participate in the simulation, but only 6 students will actually have the job as playing the astronauts. Mr. Madewell does it to teach his students how a space launch works. Since the beginning of last year, Mr. Madewell has had his Science Club prepare for this year’s simulation. They will have to research Ganymede, create simulated tests, fill out applications, and go to a space camp

where the astronauts train to be in space.

The process is almost an exact copy of real NASA preparations, and is just as hard, with members of the Science Club modeling all of the stages of pre-flight. Some of the preparations include: Sending in applications and being interviewed to get the job that fits best, running multiple rehearsals of the flight, and spending extra time out of school to make the props for the simulation.

The astronauts will live in a big dome for 2 days to simulate life on Ganymede, where they will ride in “space buggies”, guide robots, and uncover facts about the mysterious moon in which they are visiting.

The actual missions begin in April at the Fashion Square Mall. The simulation is open to the public during mall hours at 10 AM-9 PM. At the simulation tour guides will guide students around the simulation and introduce them to the flight directors (Erin Bradford and Jessica Hawkins). You will also get to see via webcam; the astronauts (Matthew Shinner, Callie Jensen, Kellan Hoffman, Carissa Hamilton, Dora Meritovic, and Madeline Gasdick) simulate life in the dome.

## LECS Science Students Create the “Perfect Storm”

In Cluster II science, the students studied about processes that effect the Earth’s surface. The students learned about hurricanes, tornadoes, volcanoes, earthquakes, wind, landslides, and erosion. For a homework assignment, the students were required to create an actual model of a hurricane, volcano, tornado, or earthquake. They also were required to create an actual model of a hurricane, volcano, tornado, or

earthquake. The students were required to present them to the class by explaining how they made their model, and what effects it had on the Earth’s surface. According to Mrs. Joerg, “The projects were amazing. They turned out to be some of the best projects we’ve ever assigned.” Kudos to Dalton White who completed the tornado project shown in the picture!



Tornado Project

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We're on the web  
[www.lecs.org](http://www.lecs.org)

Hey! Do you have suggestions? Ideas? You  
can reach us at:  
[hollymosleycooper@memgroupinc.com](mailto:hollymosleycooper@memgroupinc.com)

## Veterans' Day Presentation

Each year LECS commemorates Veteran's Day by recounting the reason behind the celebration of the day. The children have viewed DVD's, listened to stories and sang songs. We have received lesson plans that are used in Orange County School and even received curricular parameters from national organizations such as the VFW (Veteran's of Foreign War.) But this year it was different. This year it was up close and personal. This year we had the honor of the presence of Sergeant Carter (father of Kindergarten student Aiden) speak to all the students. Sgt Stephen Carter was born and raised in Orlando, FL. In his talk, Sergeant Carter spoke about the preparation to go to war, serving in battle and the dedication of all our servicemen. Sergeant Carter has completed 5 tours and is currently on active duty

All of the classes were engaged in Sergeant Carter's story and asked many probing questions. 4<sup>th</sup> grader Wyatt Sladek was overheard saying that he wants to go into the army as a career when he is old enough.

