

## SPECIAL DATES OF INTEREST

- October 20-24  
Red Ribbon Week
- October 29  
noon dismissal ;  
October 30 and  
31 Teacher  
work Day,  
Student Holiday
- November 5  
Picture Make-  
Up Day
- November 5-13  
Book Fair
- November 7  
Report Card  
Conferences

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OCTOBER 2014

# Choosing Wisely-the Case for LECS

As a former public and private school teacher, it's easy to understand why school choice can be a polarizing issue. As the parent of five children, however, it's ceased to be an issue at all. When he entered kindergarten, our oldest child attended the private school where I was then teaching middle school. Halfway through his kindergarten year, our twins were born and I stopped teaching while Evan finished out his school year. That same spring, largely because I'd

worked with the director and students as part of a downtown schools consortium and I'd been

impressed by what I'd seen, we entered our name in the Lake Eola Charter School lottery. We were put on the waiting list for LECS, so moved forward with our plans for

Evan to enter first grade at our local public school through the science magnet program. Soon after the school year started, we began to realize our son's current classroom was having some difficulty engaging him throughout the day. He came home and told me he couldn't have scotch tape in school. I asked him why, and he told me he'd taped up the entire contents of his desk. When I again asked why, he shrugged and told me because he was done. (cont. on p. 2)

choice  
today  
tomorrow  
opportunity  
hope  
achievement  
future  
dreams  
power  
success

# Practicing the LECS Mission-Service

Unfortunately, if you asked the majority of parents and students what the LECS mission statement was you would get a blank stare. It is on the back of the newsletter and on our website; however, we are not often called to verbalize it. Perhaps we should remind



ourselves of the mission as it captures everything we are as a school. On Thursday, October 2, Makayla Jackson, Maddie and Griffin Shields, Julia Jamieson and Bree Spoonley served lunch at Ronald McDonald House. For Makayla Jackson, the highlight of the day was seeing the service dog and knowing the joy that the dog brings to the children.

## The Case for School Choice-continued



Done with what I wanted to know. His work, he replied. My husband and I looked at each other, baffled by the idea of a first grader finishing his work before lunchtime, and completely unsure of what to do about it. Within the next two days, we'd set up meetings with the teacher and the ad-

ministration, and began considering everything from a classroom change to figuring out how to afford private school. Then, unexpectedly, we received a call from LECS letting us know we were the next family on their waiting list. We were invited to visit the school to help make our decision.

During our tour, we found the entire first grade classroom gleefully engaged in creating a supersized, vibrantly colorful version of Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*. We knew with certainty what decision we would be making—a choice from which we've never looked back. (L. Combs)

*Kids may forget  
what you said, but  
they will never  
forget how you  
made them feel.*

*Carl Buechner*

First Grade is very excited to be back to school. They will attend the Orlando Philharmonic Concert at the Bob Carr and can't wait to take their first Lymmo bus ride of the year. We will see Click Clack Boo at the Orlando Rep in October and look forward to the return of Fall stories by the

storytellers of Tales Two Tell. In October, we will get to use the fire hose and see a fire truck up close when the Orlando Fire Dept. comes for a visit to Cluster 1. We are working on math fact families using our

"magic triangle," and graphing data on the Promethean Board. We have read some great stories and learned how apples grow.



## Under the Sea-Darling It's Better

Thank you!  
Merci  
Danke  
Gracias



No truer words were ever sung than those from the *Little Mermaid* and we have Mrs. Sohn to thank for it. During the summer, Mrs. Sohn, a professional artist and mom to Danielle-grade 8 and Joshua-grade 6, worked for over 30 hours refreshing the mural in the MPR and hallway. The mural, originally created by volunteers from Sea World with whom the school had a partnership in 1998, had faded from its once vibrant depiction of sea life. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Sohn, the mural was brought back to its former splendor! 감사해요.

thank  
you!



Kindergarten students continue to adjust well as we delve into the school year. We have focused on school rules, policies, academic and behavioral expectations and getting to know one

### October 17th visit from the Orlando Fire De- partment

another. In October, we will be focusing on Fire Safety and will enriching our unit by going to the Safety Village for two programs (Fire Safety and 911). Additionally, Cluster 1 will have the fire department come out to school to discuss fire safety with the children, while allowing them the opportunity to explore safety gear and a fire truck.

Ella Kelly, Dylan Elliott and Amelia Byrd thought the most exciting thing about the Firemen's visit was that the hoses held so much water. "About 100 bottles worth!" said Ella.

We will end our month with a visit from the Tales Two Tell storytellers, a cluster wide trip to the Orlando Rep Theatre to see Click, Clack, Boo!, and Kinder's annual trip to Green Meadows Farm.

*There were almost 5,000 parts of water in the fire hose," exclaimed Amelia Byrd.*

## Remembering 9/11

Each year we look for ways to honor the anniversary of 9/11. This year it was Mr. Madewell who stepped forward with an idea that included students, parents and staff. Using a memorial list generated by the 9/11 Commission, students were given 10 names and stars in red, white and blue and asked to record the names on the stars. Since the current 8th graders were born in 2001, there isn't a memory of 9/11 other than what is mentioned in school. This activity gave parents the opportunity to talk about 9/11 in an age appropriate way with their children. One of the surprise reactions was the sentiment that it evoked among staff. Writing the names, some of whom with the same first names, became a more emotional activity than anticipated. It really brought home the term "Never Forget." For Julia Pack, pictured to the right with Sean Irizarry, "I liked making the stars. I like to honor people who aren't here." It was an honor to see all those stars.



## "Compute" Your Donation

Now that all the standardized tests EOC (end of course) and FSA (Florida Student Assessment) are all online starting in grade 5, we are launching a 2.0 Technology drive. Laura Sundberg, who chaired the 1st technology drive has agreed to chair Tech 2.0. We are currently assembling home-room chairs and as soon as that task is complete Laura will be sending out information on the goal, target drive amount and other particulars. In the mean time you can start to calculate what donation amount will fit in your budget. As we near the end of the calendar year and are finalizing our charitable donations, please keep the Tech 2.0 in mind as well as the LECS Foundation.





Lake Eola Charter School provides differentiated instruction leading to mastery of national standards and uses best practices to develop comprehension, computation, critical thinking, character, and community service in our family of learners

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## STEP Students are Going to Mars

Students in the Space, Technology & Engineering Program spent the summer researching and learning about Mars. Their assignment was: If you went to Mars, where would you go and why? Why you might ask?? The student space simulation is back! After a five-year “break”, Mr. Madewell has decided to bring back the popular event since our country now appears to be back on track to explore our solar system beyond the Moon, with all efforts focusing on a manned mission to Mars. STEP students were to learn all they could about the red planet so they would be able to come back to school, present their

choice of destinations, explain why we should go there and be prepared to defend that decision. After weeks of discussion and debate, the destination for STEP’s return to space simulation was set: the Gale Crater on Mars.

Gale Crater was the landing site of the NASA rover, Curiosity in 2011. It is a very large impact crater with a mountain in the center and is three miles high. There is evidence of water running over the area and there appears to be some of the oldest rocks on the planet. There is quite a bit that we can simulate when we execute our mission in May of 2015 at Orlando Fashion Square.

