

# LECS PRESS

**Lake Eola Charter School**



## A Sweet Thought to Help those with Cancer

**T**he team of: Juan Campos, Caroline Clark, Lindley Minton, Erin Ross, Angelina Marcus, Jillian Cumming, Regan Elliott, and Arianna Thackurdeen heard the news that a classmate's dad had been stricken with cancer and jumped into action. The team planned a bake sale, made posters and solicited contributions for the sale. In conjunction with Earth Day as we are asked to take care of the planet, they took it one step forward, talking care of the many people who receive the diagnosis of cancer each year. Families and friends around the world hear this news daily and these eight student leaders wanted to do something about it. They did: they raised almost \$200.00 to be forwarded to the American Cancer Society. We thank them for their role as community minded leaders.

**Carly Tamborello and Wade Urtz represented Lake Eola Charter School in the Middle School Oration Competition.**



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# THE GREAT MAIL RACE

By: Heath Ward and Angelina Marcus

The Great Mail Race is when kids from different schools send letters to other schools talking about their school and their state. For example, Lake Eola Charter School is participating in The Great Mail Race so that means we are going to write to different schools about our school and community. The Great Mail Race is pretty much just a race between different schools. This is because they are doing this at the end of the school year. So, they need to send the letters in and also have time for the schools to reply.



This is a very fun thing to do for schools because the kids learn about other schools and communities that they did not know about. Tons of schools participate in this very fun activity. Schools do The Great Mail Race because it also teaches the kids how to write letters and where to put the address and the stamp on the envelope. The Great Mail Race has been around for years. It is a massive thing around the country.

The Great Mail Race has many people involved, as you all know. 2nd cluster is participating in The Great Mail Race. This activity has got people motivated to write letters without using technology. We are very excited about this activity. We hope that you like it!

## American Heart Association Fundraiser

February kicked off LECS joining in partnership with the American Heart Association. Cluster 1 and 2 students took part in a campaign to help raise funds and awareness on heart related diseases and illnesses. The money raised focused on supporting innovative research

on heart disease and stroke in

both adult and pediatric populations and providing training for health professionals. Students were rewarded for their efforts with amazing gifts

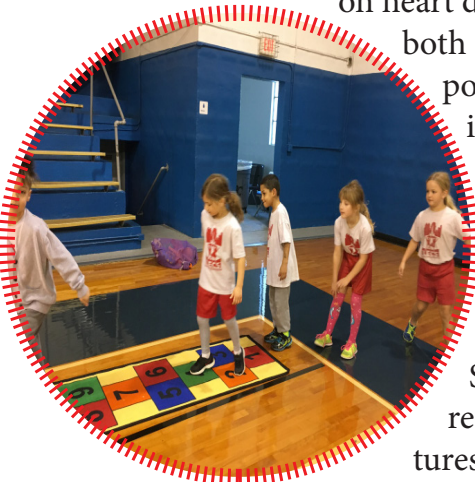
and incentives. LECS was able to meet the participation goal of 75% while raising over \$2,000. The top earner was second, Shayla Glenn.

Shayla was able to raise \$545.00 and received a medal and certificate of recognition for her hard work. Shayla is pictured below along with pictures from the Jump Rope for Heart event which concluded the fundraiser.

The event was a fun way to thank students for their part in the fundraiser and a celebration of the heart healthy benefits of physical activity.



Shayla raised \$545 of the \$2,047.10 that was raised by cluster 1 and 2 students.





## 3rd Grade News

Last month, as part of our social studies unit on civics, third grade visited the City of Orlando Mayor's office and sat in on a city hall meeting, toured Mayor Dyer's offices and met a variety of city workers. We wrote letters to Mayor Dyer and we received letters back in the mail a couple weeks ago! The class was thrilled! Last month, we also took a guided walking tour of the City of Orlando, and took a trip to the Orange County Courthouse. At the courthouse, we toured the building, participated in a mock trial with Judge Carsten. All students were able to sit in the courtroom and view behind the scenes areas such as the jail cells behind the courtrooms and jury deliberation rooms. We will be visiting the Orange County Mayor's office and the Regional History center at the end of April. We are participating in a mock trial at the History center to better understand the judicial system. Our class received a grant from Mayor Teresa Jacob's office to attend the History Center for free!



April is National Poetry Month, and this year marks the 20th anniversary! This month, we have been learning about different types of poetry, analyzing poetry and have celebrated by reading and writing a different poem each day in class. Students have been exposed to poetry classics such as Edgar Allen Poe, Lewis Carroll and Shel Silverstein, among many others! Our class is entering poetry to Creative Communications, which offers a poetry contest and the Orange County Library 'Celebrate Your World With Poetry' Kids Poetry Contest. Additionally, we are celebrating with Poem in Your Pocket Day on 04/21. On this day people celebrate poetry by selecting a poem, carrying it with them and sharing it with others throughout the day.



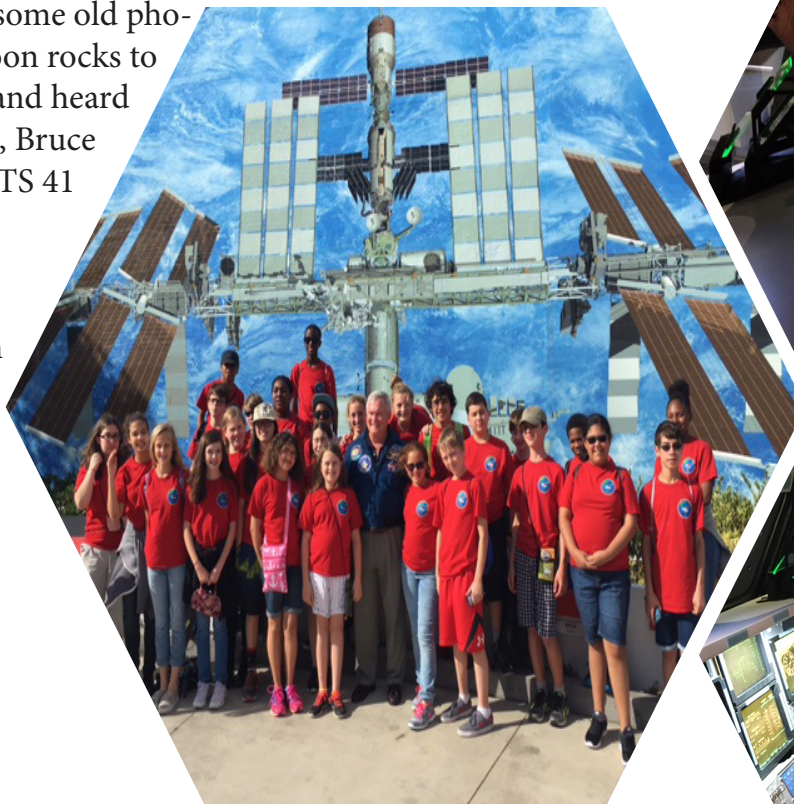
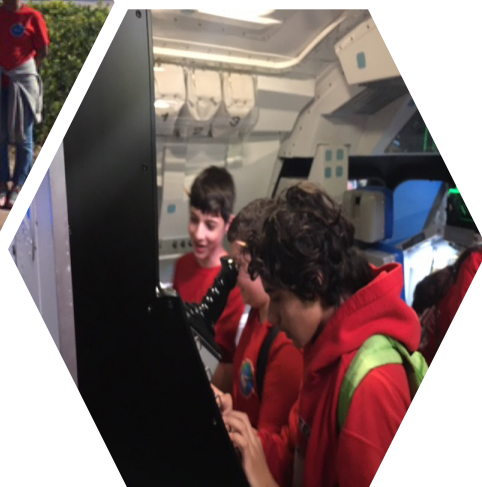
In science, we are studying life cycles of plants and animals and have planted watermelon, cucumber, cilantro and flowers in the classroom. Thank you to all the families who donated soil and seeds! We are charting their growth every couple days. We have 3 caterpillars in our classroom and are anxiously waiting to see their metamorphosis. We received a red eared slider turtle as a gift from the Benbrahim family who saved the turtle from their pool! He has made himself at home in our class fish tank. Also, a big thank you to the Hillerman family who brought in minnows for the class to observe in our second fish tank, which was donated by the Pack family. We also have tadpoles and mealworms on order and we will be observing the frog and mealworm life cycle in the classroom. At the end of the year, students will have the option to take home our class pets to continue caring for them after the students move on to 4th grade.



# STEP

**S**pace, Technology and Engineering Program (STEP) students toured Kennedy Space Center on March 8th. The students took in the Space Shuttle Atlantis exhibit and rode the Space Shuttle Experience ride to see what it feels like to blast off into space. After studying the history of the American and Russian space programs for months, the Saturn V Center and its stories about the Apollo Program meant a lot more to the students than just some old photographs and a few moon rocks to touch. They also met and heard from former astronaut, Bruce Melnik, who flew on STS 41 and 49.

STEP will be blasting off itself next year with its sixth simulated mission to space at the Orlando Fashion Square mall in May.



## Cluster II and Cluster III

**C**luster II and Cluster III Oration Contest was a success. The first and second place school winners moved on to one of the District Level competitions and Carly Tamborello took home a second place win. Congrats to all of our school winners!

Students in cluster II are now participating in the Great Mail Race, learning how to write letters as well as learning about other students their age in other schools and states across the nation. It is a motivation for them as well as a way for them to build social and communicative skills. Students will choose schools in their selected states at random and send a letter to a random class, from which a letter would be delivered to a student, who will hopefully respond. If their school is not currently involved in the Great Mail Race, then it will serve as a way to get them involved as well. You might consider it a race, because it starts in April and students have until June to reach all fifty states and get everyone involved. Also, schools in some areas lets out in May. We received a letter from a student in New Mexico. This also serves as a reminder or introduction to what the fifty states actually are, as some are not very familiar.

Cluster II Battle of the Books team will participate in the Learning Area Battle of the Books competition on Wednesday, May 11, 2016 at the Winter Park 9th Grade Center. We hope to do well. Winners of 1st and 2nd place in this competition will advance to the county level.

The middle school Odyssey of the Mind team competed in February 2016 among other schools in the region in a problem solving/critical thinking long-term problem titled "Fins, Feathers, Furs and Friends" at Edgewater High School. It was a good experience and students are motivated to prepare for next year in hope of advancing to a winning position.



**F**irst Grade greatly enjoyed Tales Two Tell Storytellers (in April) and the Junie B Jones performance in May.

We are now in the middle of our art lessons and are having a fantastic time! Our pottery pieces came back from our 3 weeks of pottery! Boy did we have fun!





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The mission of Lake Eola Charter School is to provide differentiated instruction leading to mastery of national standards and uses best practices to develop the 5 C's: comprehension, computation, critical thinking, character, and community service in our family of learners.



## **The Gradeless Pilot Program**

**By Arlyned Delgado**

**N**o grades? Yes, that's right! The gradeless pilot program is a program that doesn't give you grades! Instead, your teacher and your peers give you feedback and comments. For some people, that sounds perfect. But not for everyone. Whatever you think about no grades, I will show you why this is a good idea.

I think the gradeless pilot program is amazing, and not just because you don't get graded by your teacher. When most people get a grade on their writing they aren't motivated to write anything else. They think a grade is the ending point. It doesn't have to be that way. With the new program, you receive suggestions and feedback. You can expand on your writing.

Many authors started just like you. A person who wanted someone else to judge their writing. Judge your writing yourself! You don't need anyone to do it for you. If you like the way your story sounds, and you like your writing, then it's good. You give feedback to yourself.

Another reason the gradeless program is a good idea is because everyone is at different levels. Some students have different goals for themselves. With grades, there is no way to change the meaning of that number for someone else who is at a different stage.

With grades, I feel judged. With comments, I feel like someone has my back. Also, you see your writing through another person's eyes. You may get more ideas with their help! You can become a better writer! In fact, the comments you get will help you on your next piece of writing.

Unfortunately, some people get the wrong ideas about the gradeless program. Here are some examples. You might understand the program, but your parents might not. Your parents probably need a little reminder that you're not getting grades sometimes because they might ask you what you got, but otherwise they get the program. In reality, you might not be used to it, and your parents might be okay with it.

Another example some students argue is that some kids may feel lost. They may be very confused with how well they did on their piece of writing. That's not valid. You should know whether your writing was great or maybe lacking something, because you wrote it. Besides, school isn't for you to get a grade from your teacher, it's for growing as an individual. School is for you, not for you to try to get the teacher to say 'yes'.

In my opinion, you don't need grades to be successful in school. You just need to think. Try more than your best. But don't think that no grades means that you can slack off. In my opinion, the gradeless pilot program is a great idea. You can get farther in your life without grades.