Big December at Lancaster!

This is a big, busy month at Lancaster! We hope you will celebrate the holidays with us at our upcoming choir concert, violin concert, 2nd Grade program, Dad’s Breakfast, and holiday classroom parties!

Please use the calendar on the back of this newsletter for reference of all the things going on this month.

Check out Superintendent Folse’s very special letter on page 5 and Principal Welch’s column on page 7.

The PTA invites you to join us for s’mores and hot chocolate at our General Board Meeting on December 11th.

Lancaster wishes your family a very merry holiday!

LES Mission Statement: TURTLE - Teaching Us Responsibility To Learn Everyday!

Our Third Grade picture from Maritime Museum.

Mrs. Cummings Third grade class enjoyed decorating their oyster shell ornaments for the Maritime Christmas Tree Project.

Christmas Holiday Break
Dec 21-Jan 2

2nd Grade Christmas Program
December 11 & 12, 2012
9:30 AM
Last month, the third grade students thoroughly enjoyed a great field trip to the Maritime Museum in Madisonville. The students enjoyed several wonderful learning stations. One station explained the story of southern St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana, which became an international port destination during the latter part of the 19th century. Students were engaged in a knot tying station that helped them learn how to tie a few basic knots for boating safety. Another important station focused on boating safety, which is so important to learn due to the opportunity of our water recreational opportunities here in Louisiana. We also learned about our community’s museum and how it is an educational and research center to help interpret and preserve the maritime cultural history and artifacts of the Lower Mississippi River Basin. We are excited that several third grade classes participated in decorating a Christmas Tree at the Maritime Museum. Look for those beautifully decorated trees on display outside at the Museum! Oyster shells and nautical ornaments were used as inspiration for the trees.

Within this past month, many topics have been covered in Science and Social Studies. We’ve learned about the different types of communities we find in Louisiana, our wonderful natural resources, along with great information about the Human Body, Food Guide Pyramid, and Nutrition.

We look forward to our upcoming Christmas parties later in this month. We hope everyone has a wonderful vacation from school, and is ready to come back to school in January. With the start of the second half of the school year, please look for the content and expectations in third grade to become much more rigorous as we prepare and focus on learning success each and every day.

Mrs. Marino/Dronet’s Third grade class thoroughly enjoyed Character Dress Up Day!

Yo ho ho! A pirate’s life for me! Mrs. Booth’s Pirates took over the class on Character Day!
If you LOVE the bags you bought from Mixed Bag Designs during our Spring Fundraiser this year... get some more for you or for gifts. Any items purchased by March 25, 2013 Lancaster will still get credit for and get bonus money for the PTA to spend on technology items for the school. Go to "fundraiser.mixedbagsdesigns.com" to browse catalog and enter our order. BE SURE TO ENTER LANCASTER’S FUNDRAISER CODE ID# 89868.

Second graders at Lancaster are Wild about learning! As the second semester begins, they continue to sharpen their skills and take on new adventures in learning. In Math, they are extending their knowledge of addition and place value to the addition of 2-digit and 3-digit numbers. In ELA, the focus is on critical thinking skills, including identifying cause and effect relationships, making predictions, inferring, and comparing and contrasting. Also, many of the activities in the second grade classrooms have been directly connected to improving verbal and written expression. Some classes presented paper bag book reports on their favorite fiction book. A study of Native American tribes, pilgrims, and Thanksgiving then and now was the focus of Social Studies. Students researched the characteristics of various tribes, and created crafts similar to what the tribes did.

This month our students participated in Lancaster’s Family Learning Night. It was a blast. Many students and parents visited second grade halls and participated in activities like Place Value Safari, Safari Jeopardy, Graph Your Favorite Jungle Animal and many more.

LES TURTLE BUS NEWS

NOVEMBER GUEST RIDERS:
Mrs. Meyers rode bus 297 and had a great time with the kids! We have quite a few more teachers that are signing up to ride them home. Look for their names next month as they are still making plans on what bus they will choose.

MONTHLY SAFETY REMINDER:
Our focus this month is to have all students be respectful to those students around them. Remind your child that they don’t have to be “friends” with the person next to them, but they must be RESPECTFUL at all times. Everyone should remain seated, talk only to their neighbors, or read a book. They should keep their voices low and the words kind.

DID YOU KNOW???
School buses are the safest mode of transportation for getting children back and forth to school. The number of cars needed to transport students currently riding on all school buses in the U.S. averages 17,333,333.

Thank you parents for your support!
Thanks to the American Legion

May Hartley with the Covington American Legion Auxiliary Group delivered donuts to share with the staff of Lancaster Elementary School before leaving for the Thanksgiving Break. The faculty was very thankful for the generous and thoughtful gift as well as the recognition for their hard work.

Pictured here is Principal Susannah Welch and May Hartley.

Positive Behavior Intervention and Support

“Don’t let what you can’t do stop you from doing what you can do.”
- John Wooden

“FOCUS ON BEHAVIOR”

“Getting Along With One Another”

Being able to get along with others is often times taken for granite and assumed that everyone knows how to do this possessing the social skills that are necessary. Children can only do this when they are specifically taught how to resolve conflict in their life. In the classroom, teachers teach students how to share, work together and be kind to one another. Many conflicts between students arise when they don’t understand how to compromise. Talk to your child about compromising, what it means and how to do it. Here are some scenarios to practice with:

Scenario #1: You tell your child to clean their room, but they want to go outside and play before it gets dark outside.

Scenario #2: Your child wants to do something that their sister, brother or friend does not want to do.

Scenario #3: Your child is in class and another student is making noises that is annoying to him/her.

As always, we are here to help! We feel so privileged to have your child with us! Feel free to contact us anytime!
A Letter From the Superintendent

The St. Tammany Parish Public School System recently received a letter grade of “A” in the latest District Performance Scores released by the Louisiana Department of Education. This is a great accomplishment by any school district and especially one as large as ours with 55 schools and almost 38,000 students.

I would like to thank our parents and caregivers for their assistance in this achievement. We know that parental involvement in our schools has a direct impact on education. Our St. Tammany community values public education, and through the PTA our parents are full partners in the education of their children.

Each and every one of our students, their families, teachers and school employees should be congratulated for this score. With the leadership of our School Board, School Administrators and Central Office staff, we were able to see great gains this year. I am very proud of the efforts within our School System.

We still have work to do, and we are always looking at ways to improve each of our schools. We recently have added new avenues of communication for our School System.

We invite you to “like us” on Facebook at www.facebook.com/stppschools, “follow us” on Twitter at www.twitter.com/stppschools, view School System videos on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/user/channel13sttammany and browse our internet photo pages for each school by clicking the “School Photos Online” link on the District homepage. I also invite you to follow me on my personal Twitter account at www.twitter.com/stpsbsupt.

-W.L. “Trey” Folse III, Superintendent

Staying Connected with STPSB

Want to know more about the great things that are happening in our School System? Here are some different ways that the STPB is sharing information with our community.

Please sign up and check us out as we help "Spread the Good News":

- Channel 13 on Charter: Channel 13
- Channel 13 on AT&T: U-Verse Channel 99
- Channel 13 on the Internet: http://www.stpsb.org/Channel13/channe13homepage.htm
- Channel 13 on You Tube: http://www.youtube.com/user/channel13sttammany
- Website: www.stpsb.org
- Mobile Website: http://mobile.stpsb.org
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/stppschools
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/stppschools

PTA President’s Report

It is hard to believe it is already December! We would like to thank our Lancaster administration, faculty and parents for all your help to make these past months so successful. Please join us December 11 for our S’mores and Hot Chocolate Night. This is always a fun holiday event for the family. We would like to wish each of you a joyful holiday season and a happy new year.

For more information on PTA please visit our website: lancaster.stpsb.org/pta or like us on Facebook - Lancaster Elementary School PTA for upcoming event reminders and news.

Happy Holidays,

Mindy Perry and Kathleen Morris

PTA WORKROOM SCHEDULE

December

12/3 Melancon
12/10 Inman
12/17 Millet

January

1/7 Holliday/Booth
1/14 Burns
1/21 Muller

2012-2013 LES PTA Board

Co-President ………Mindy Perry ……… copresident.lespta@gmail.com
Co-President ………Kathleen Morris ……… copresident2.lespta@gmail.com
Vice President ……… Chantel Lincoln ……… vplepta@gmail.com
Treasurer …………Penny Kelley ……… ttreasurer.lespta@gmail.com
Secretary …………Christen Lang ……… secretaries.lespta@gmail.com
Fundraising ………Stacy Bloecher ……… fundraising.lespta@gmail.com
Co-Fundraising ……Katie Reynolds ……… cofundraising.lespta@gmail.com
Membership……………… membership.lespta@gmail.com
Newsletter …………Kerry Faler ……… newsletter.lespta@gmail.com
2/3 Room Parent .Kelly Blum ……… roomparents23.lespta@gmail.com
4/5 Room Parent .Angie Kyle ……… roomparents45.lespta@gmail.com
Volunteers ………Susan Munro ……… volunteers.lespta@gmail.com
Box Tops/Labels .Sunny Groom ……… boxtops.lespta@gmail.com
2/3 Teacher Rep .Cindy Thiels ……… cindythiel@stpsb.org
4/5 Teacher Rep .Kay Burns ……… kayburns1@stpsb.org
Fourth grade has really "fall"en into routine this 2nd quarter. Students have been working very hard towards mastering their multiplication facts to help them succeed in division. We have been using technology to enhance math skills and engage the students. The students enjoy interacting with the Promethean Boards. In Reading, we have transitioned into two week literacy units. During the first week, we focus on the story elements and comprehension skills. The second week we incorporate literacy stations to expand literacy, spelling, and language skills and build cross-curricular connections. Prior to election day, we studied the branches and levels of government. This allowed our students to gain a better understanding of the current events and the election process. We are currently focusing on the events leading to the growth of our nation.

Science has been "electrifying" as we studied the different forms of energy such as heat, light, and sound. Students participated in varying science labs to provide hands on experiences. We have moved on to the next unit on classifying living things. We look enjoyed our field trip to Global Wildlife, so that our fourth graders can continue to be WILD about learning!

Mackenzie Fletcher

December Word Find

Christmas
Holiday
New Year
Parties
Choir
Carols
Hanukkah
Lights
Santa
Driedel
Elves

The LES Turtlettes as they performed at the Madisonville Junior High Football Game on Tuesday, October 30. They were able to perform and cheer during the third quarter, alongside the MJH cheerleaders. They did a great job representing LES for the first time. Mrs. Hebert is the instructor of this Community Education course offered after school on Tuesdays.
by Susannah Welch
Principal

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Break with family and friends. It was definitely a wonderful break for my family! December will be a short month here at Lancaster but will pass by quickly as we move right into our winter break.

Family Learning Night was a huge success! We thank everyone who came and participated in our Wild Learning Safari! The teachers and staff did a great job preparing activities for our families and students. Mrs. Danenhower also experienced much success with the Book Fair thanks to her wonderful planning and great volunteers. Thank you!

At this time I would like to thank the faculty and families for their continued support and commitment to making Lancaster a great school to learn and grow. Everyone here and in our community deserves to be congratulated for helping Lancaster qualify for an “A” school rating and a 121.6 School Performance Score. The ratings were assigned last grading period by the LA State Department of Education. I truly believe it takes the whole community being involved and committed to make this happen. We definitely have a dynamic team here, and we are proud to say that we are a great school where all children succeed. I know you all help to promote our shared school vision: “The faculty and community at Lancaster strive to provide a quality education where students are held to high standards and respected as individuals. We envision our students taking an active role in their education and having the confidence to be risk takers in their learning. As future citizens, our students will be prepared to succeed in a technology-based, global society of the 21st century.”

Car line news – for the safety of everyone, please make sure that you are following the signage posted at school. Stop signs have been added to slow the flow of traffic and allow buses to exit quickly. Please remember that the Perrilloux Rd exit/entrance is for buses only. It would also be helpful to remember to pull all the way up to the first available spot in the morning when using carline. This would make the flow faster allowing more buses and cars to be on campus. In the afternoon carline, please follow your child to their assigned number to keep the line moving.

We appreciate all of you help with this.

In December we have quite a few events planned. The PTA General Meeting and Musical Performance will be on December 11, 2012 at 6:00PM. Second grade classes will have their winter productions and parties on December 11th and 12th. Please watch for more specific information from your teacher. Third through fifth grade classroom parties will be 19th and times will be sent by the teachers. Report Cards will be sent home January 8th.

Before you know it Testing will be here. Please mark your calendars for these important dates. March 19th is Phase I for LEAP (4th gr). The rest of the school will test March 8th – 11th with make-ups on Friday and early the next week. Please have your child at school each day of testing.

Sincerely,
Susannah Welch, Principal

from the editor:

We love our Lancaster parents and teachers! If you snap a great pic in the classroom or at a school event, we would love to include it in a future newsletter! Please send it to Kerry Faler newsletter.lespta@gmail.com
# December 2012

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<td>PTA workroom - Millet</td>
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<td>3rd, 4th, &amp; 5th Grade parties</td>
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## Campus Spotlight

Jack Hunley, Stephanie Carter, Karleigh Spalt, Macy Businelle, and Evan Baham are engaged in an electricity lab in Mrs. Burns’ classroom.