



Blast Off On A Learning Adventure

This Month's Edition
April 2021

The Leopard Letter

Staff Appreciation Week — April 19-23

Principal's Report

Dear Lake Forest Family,
I hope everyone enjoyed a restful and relaxing spring break with their families. My family enjoyed camping, hiking, and spending time on the lake.

During the month of April, we will celebrate Lake Forest teachers and staff for ALL they have done this school year. We truly have THE BEST staff in the world. I am so proud of the commitment and dedication they demonstrate daily to our students and their families. I hope you will join me in celebrating our staff.

National Assistant Principals' Week	April 5-9
National Administrative Professionals' Day	April 21
Lake Forest Staff Appreciation Week	April 19-23
LFE Teaching Assistants' Day	April 30

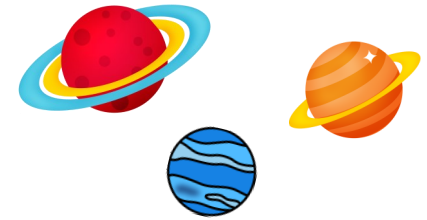
National Assistant Principals' Week was held over our spring break. I hope you will

take time the week we return from break to extend a thank you to our very own assistant principals, Curry Wilson and Morgan Warner. They do so much for LFE!

Administrative Professionals' Day is April 21. On this day we look forward to recognizing our office staff for their hard work: Lynn Cronin, Kathy Graves, and Tammy Halterman.

We will celebrate all staff during LFE Staff Appreciation Week April 19-23. Let's make this week extra special for our staff. Finally, we have planned a special day for our teaching assistants' on Friday, April 30. These important staff members do so much behind the scenes for our students.

As we approach the end of the year, we are preparing students for state testing. Virtual Program students in grades 3-8 will attend school IN PERSON to take the SCREADY test for English Language Arts on Thursday, April 29 and Friday, April 30, and SCREADY math test on Friday, May 7.



While Virtual Program students are in school facilities for SC READY testing, third through eighth grade students currently attending brick-and-mortar school will participate in eLearning on April 29, April 30, and May 7. It is important that parents prepare now for childcare on these eLearning days. Virtual Program students in grades 4 and 6 will attend IN PERSON on Thursday, May 6 to take the SCPASS science test. For more information, please visit <https://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/News/main.asp?titleid=2103testing>.

As always, please let me know if I can do anything to help you. Thank you for being such a supportive school community.

With love and gratitude,

Julie R. Cooke
Principal



Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

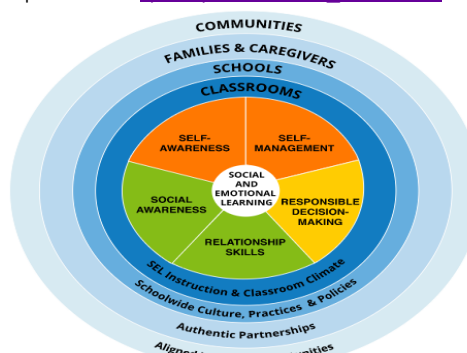
During the last week before Spring Break, we continued our SEL journey as a school with SEL Week. Social and emotional learning (SEL) is an integral part of education and human development. SEL is the process through which all young people and adults acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions.

Social and emotional learning starts at home. Parents and families are critical partners in helping their children develop social and emotional know-how. They can

model the kinds of skills, attitudes, and behaviors we want all students to master. And they can be important advocates for SEL at school. To learn more, check out this video for parents:

English—<https://youtu.be/y2d0da6BZWA>

Spanish—https://youtu.be/xz_aCbDI9uk



Our Motto

"Taking Pride in Learning!"

Vision Statement

The vision of Lake Forest Elementary School is to empower students to learn, grow, lead, and succeed.

Mission Statement

The mission of Lake Forest Elementary School is to provide a nurturing, student-centered learning environment where students are empowered to learn about the world, persevere through challenges, and develop positive character traits.

'Like' us on Facebook for school event reminders!



<https://www.facebook.com/LakeForestES>



Lake Forest PTA BOARD



Jamie Hicks
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Treasurer

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Volunteer Coordinator
elliesimister@charter.net

Vacant Position
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Please contact Jamie Hicks if you are interested in serving on the PTA Board. We need your help!

PTA President's Report

Happy Spring Lake Forest Families!

As we get closer to the end of the school year we have one of our most important weeks coming up!

April 19th- April 23rd is Staff Appreciation Week and we have a lot of great things planned to show just how much we all appreciate our LFE staff.

We are asking if anyone would like to donate gift cards, certificates, gift baskets, etc. we are going to do a few name drawings for door prizes every day that week! Please contact me at jamiechicks@gmail.com if you have anything you would like to donate.

April 13th will be Chic-fil-a spirit night and April 20th will be Marco's Spirit Day! Don't forget to mention Lake Forest Elementary when you order.

We are going to be putting some sign-ups out soon for Field day needs so please be looking for that later this month! We are so excited that field day will be a possibility again this year!

We hope that everyone has an awesome spring break week, and as always, we appreciate everyone's support so much!

Written by:
Jamie Hicks
PTA President

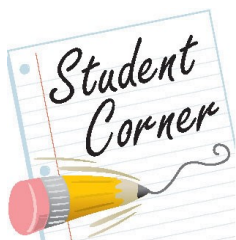


Let's celebrate the hard work of our Lake Forest classroom assistants on Friday, April 30. Our KA, KS, and self-contained teachers cannot do their jobs without their help!



Student Writing Corner

Students Should Get Paid for Every "A" They Get on Their Report Card



Students work very hard for their grades so they should get a reward. I think money is the perfect reward! Students are too young to work for money and if they do chores for their

parents the parents probably won't give a lot of money. (Maybe a dollar for a chore.) Students could be saving up for something they would really want like a skateboard, and like I said, they might not have a lot of money. Or maybe for every "A" students could

have a dollar added to their lunch account for snacks and drinks

Written by:
Lucas Mercier
Ms. Greene's Class
4th Grade



Counselor's Corner — Empathy

"Empathy" has been a big focus at LFE this month. **Empathy** is the ability to feel or understand what another person is feeling. There are many ways we can help build our children's ability to show empathy.

- Model empathy! Use everyday opportunities to demonstrate empathy in front of your children.
- Talk about how other people might be having a hard day because something difficult is happening in their lives and this can affect how kindly they speak to people.
- When reading a book or watching a movie with your children, ask them what feelings different characters are experiencing and why the characters are experiencing those emotions.
- When you're at stores, restaurants or spending time with family, point out the

facial expressions, body language, or tone of voice of people around you. Based on their observations, ask your children what others might be feeling and why.

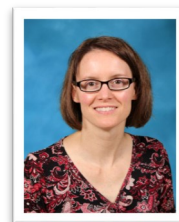
- When riding in the car, sitting at the dinner table, or tucking your kids in bed at night, consider asking them questions such as: What made you smile today? What was hard about today? How did you feel when that happened? (excited, disappointed, frustrated, nervous, happy?) How do you think the other person might have felt? How did you or someone else show empathy today?

We may think our children already know everything about emotions and how to express them appropriately. However, we need to help build our children's emotional vocabulary in everyday life situations and continually improve. Every person



experiences the same emotions at different times and in various situations. We may not have the same feelings about the same event, but we can practice empathy for those around us. The more we normalize conversations involving emotions, the better our children will become at demonstrating empathy for others.

Written by:
Melissa Henderson
School Counselor



LFE Staff Appreciation Week — April 19-23



3...2...1... BLAST OFF!

Our Mission—Make sure Lake Forest teachers and staff know they are the BEST in the universe!

The LFE staff has worked harder than ever this year to ensure our students are safe and nurtured at school. Teachers have spent countless hours planning and redesigning lessons to make certain students continue learning despite Covid safety protocols. LFE virtual teachers

have learned a whole new way of teaching through a computer screen all the while keeping students engaged. Our support staff spend time daily attending to cleaning measures to keep in-person school going.

A flyer about Staff Appreciation Week will be coming home the week of April 12. Let's make April 19-23 the best week ever at Lake Forest. Besides... What on Earth would we do without the LFE Staff!

LAKE FOREST ELEMENTARY CALENDAR



APRIL 2021



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<div>Spring Break</div> <div>National Assistant Principals' Week</div>					
11 	12	13 Virtual PTA Board Meeting, 9 am Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5-8 pm (Taylors location)	14	15 SIC Virtual Mtg, 11:00 am	16	17
18 	19 	20 LAKE FOREST STAFF APPRECIATION WEEK Marco's Pizza Spirit Day 10am-10pm (Use code LF20)	21 Administrative Professionals' Day	22	23 	24
25 	26	27	28	29 Virtual Program students 3-5 come to LFE for SCReady ELA Test	30 4K Half Day – 11:15 dismissal LFE Teaching Assistants' Day Virtual Program students 3-5 come to LFE for SCReady ELA Test	1
<div>MAY</div> <div>eLearning Days for 3-5 in-person students ONLY (K-2 attend school)</div>						
2	3	4 LFE 3 rd grade in-person students take SCReady ELA Writing Test Chick-fil-A Spirit Night, 5-8 pm (Taylors location)	5 LFE 3 rd grade in-person students take SCReady ELA Reading Test	6 Virtual Program students (4 only) come to LFE for SCPASS Science Test ALL in-person students attend school	7 Virtual Program students 3-5 come to LFE for SCReady Math Test eLearning Day for 3-5 in-person students ONLY (K-2 attend school)	8