

Mark your calendars for these important events!

Reminder: As the weather changes please send your children to school dressed appropriately!!!

- 10/3-10/14: LES Social Action Committee begins collecting items for the Jefferson County Humane shelter
- 10/6: Math Wizard pledge sheets due, students take test
- 10/10: Fire Prevention Week, BOE mtg.: 7:00 pm District Office
- 10/13: Kindergarten to Discovery Center
- 10/14: 4th Grade to Kaufman Stadium
- 10/17: LES Social Action Committee Cookie Sale, Math Wizards pledge money due
7:00 pm PTO mtg. @ PES
- 10/19: LES Social Action Committee field trip to the JC Humane Shelter
- 10/21: End of 1st 9 weeks, PPK sessions to Pumpkin Patch, 1st grade to Prairie Park Nature Center
- 10/24: No School - Teacher In-service**
- 10/26: Grade Cards sent home
- 10/31: Halloween parties & parade:
PES 12:15 - 1:30; LES 1:50-3:00



Safety One of my highest priorities is to provide a safe and secure learning environment at the elementary schools. During the first weeks of school PES & LES students and staff have practiced tornado and fire drills. During the month of October we will practice lock down drills.

Reminder @ PES: During morning drop off and afternoon pick up times please enter through the north parking lot drive completely around the building, drop off or pick up your child on the south side of the building and exit through the south parking lot. If you choose to walk your child into the building please park in the north lot. No cars should be left unattended in the line. Please share this information with all individuals who will be transporting your child to school. This policy is in place for your child's safety. Thank you to those who continue to follow these guidelines.



Parental Involvement in School

Studies have indicated that children whose parents and/or other significant adults share in their formal education tend to do better in school by: Higher grades and test scores, positive attitudes and behavior, long term academic achievement, more successful programs and more effective schools. All parents want their children to become successful, caring adults. Similarly, many parents want to be involved with the formal education of their children. Sometimes, however, they don't know where to start, when to find the time, or how to go about making positive connections with the school. At the most basic level, parents can begin encouraging the education of their children by showing that they truly value education themselves. Becoming involved with parent-teacher organizations gives the teacher and parent the possibility to interact outside the classroom. Children do better in school when parents talk often with teachers and become involved in the school. There are number of ways that parents and teachers can communicate with each other. Close communications between parents and teachers can help the student. Teachers usually welcome meeting their students' parents early in the school year. Making an effort to do this will help the teacher better understand you, your child, and how you will support the education of your child. We had approximately 95% attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences in September. Thank you for your attendance!



Library News: The Scholastic Book Fair @ PES was a huge success! Thanks to the support from all the parents, students, staff and community members, we sold \$2424.38 at the Book Fair! We will get \$1700 back in books (hopefully more than 100 new books). Parents & PLES PTO bought 34 new books to donate to classrooms. I had 5 wonderful parent volunteers help me run the Book Fair. The PES teachers were also very thankful for all the wish-list books that were purchased for them to support their classroom libraries. Another Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled at LES in the spring.

Social Action Committee: While in fourth grade, students have the opportunity to join a group called the Social Action Committee. The group meets on a regular basis during lunch to plan school-based community service projects. While the projects vary each year with the change of membership, the group remains focused on learning through helping. In the beginning stages the group discusses and selects a project to complete within the course of the nine weeks. Once that major obstacle is out of the way, the group then starts to plan their first endeavor. To complete a project, students can be involved in many activities that are academic in nature. Often times they need to make presentations to other classrooms, design posters, write announcements, count money, and organize materials. The first project is centered around providing support to the Jefferson County Humane Shelter. Items may be donated to the school and money will be generated through a cookie sale.

PTO News: This organization continues to be a huge benefit for both elementary schools. Their financial support assists in acquiring new technology for our classrooms and providing the funds needed for grade level field trips. Currently students are participating in the Math Wizards fund raiser. Students collect pledges toward the number of correct problems they will have on the Math Wizards quiz. We appreciate your support of this fund raiser.



The LES Nature Study Site is beginning its 3rd year as a nationally registered Monarch Way station - Monarch Miracle Garden! Currently students are studying the Monarch life cycle by observing their developments in mini condos as well as catching and tagging Monarchs that enter the garden and feed on the milkweed. The tagged Monarchs will be tracked so that migratory patterns can be studied. What a great opportunity for to experience 'hands on science'! A special thank you to Pam Rees for her continued support with this project.

FYI: Whitfield Street repairs in Lecompton: During the months of October and November this street will be under construction. This project will include the removal and replacement of the street surfacing, re-grading the existing drainage ditches and removal and replacement of culvert pipes.

Please continue to check the district web site for up to date information
www.usd343.org

I truly appreciate your support of our schools!

Connie Thornton

