



## **LEEDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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**Sal J. Canata, III, Principal**

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Leeds Elementary School is an amazing place. I might be biased but I think it is a great place to work, a fun place to visit and a great place for children to go to school. What makes Leeds such a special place is not the location, nor our physical features and expansive grounds but rather the students, faculty and families that walk the halls and breath life into the school each and every day.

It's no secret that all aspects of a child's school experience improve when parents and guardians are involved in the school's mission. This is evidenced quite often whenever we have an event whether it is school wide or within a classroom. There are so many ways to be involved in this amazing community, but today I want to talk to you specifically about the Parent Teacher Organization, the PTO.

The Leeds Elementary PTO raises approximately \$50,000 each year to support our students. This money is used to ensure everyone can attend ALL field trips even if a family cannot afford to contribute, it is used to get tools into teacher's hands to support students through the Leeds PTO gives program, and the money is also used to underwrite many of our beloved community events. Without the PTO, our school would be lacking in areas of technology, multi-modal seating, library books, pumpkins on Halloween, our amazing school t-shirts and many things we currently enjoy that aren't funded through the school department budget.

Did you know that the PTO recently restocked all of the safety kits and backpacks for each classroom? They paid for many of the Chromebooks our students use to complete their research, books for the library, childcare for the school council meetings, certificates and awards for the science fair, funding for graduation related activities, curriculum nights like the soon to be held math and literacy nights, the upcoming One Book One School program launching this spring the incredibly popular Nature's Classroom experience and the school directory which keeps us all connected. The bottom line is that the PTO has been able to support our school when there is a need.

What we need now are more volunteers to keep Leeds Elementary School strong and vibrant. It is certainly not an easy undertaking to do all of these things and many of the same people have been contributing for years. Some are getting ready to move on to JFK leaving many open spots to fill. In addition to needing a mostly new executive board next year (who chooses the fundraisers, and does the recruiting and planning) there is also a need for volunteers at events, and fundraisers.

Please consider if you can spare some to volunteer at a fundraiser (no experience necessary) such as Family Fourth, Transperformance, Election Day Bake Sale, Trunk or Treat, Spring Auction, Science Fair, World Café, Field Day, Variety Show, Movie Nights, etc. Perhaps you prefer to be involved in more planning such as Catalogue orders, Leeds PTO Gives, Spring Auction planning, Giving Tuesday, Florence Bank Community Grant, etc. Or maybe you would love to help from home with things such as box tops, coke rewards, baked goods, grant writing, the possibilities are only limited by initiative.

There are so many ways to be involved and every single way makes a difference on behalf of our students. Remember it does take a village.

If any of these ideas excite you or concern you please come to the next PTO meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6PM in the library (childcare is provided) or email [info@leedspto.org](mailto:info@leedspto.org) to find out where we still need help this year.

On behalf of the PTO, I am

Sincerely,

Sal J. Canata, III  
Principal