



The Buzz At Leeds 9-30-2019

Welcome to Leeds Elementary School. Our goal is to keep you updated and informed through our weekly "The Buzz At Leeds" newsletter. At Leeds, our preschool through grade 5 students will tell you we are about being kind, being excellent, being Leeds! Our educators and staff will tell you we are - All the Kids... All the Time!

Newsorthy Notes

- The Thoreau for Young Children project, funded through a Northampton Education Foundation grant, teaches second grade students about the life and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau and gives them experience cultivating mindful practices by spending quiet time outdoors in the Mill River area. Children engage in focused activities which require using their senses while they build observational and self-regulation skills. Mrs. Bryant's river walks occur on Tuesdays (began on 9/24), while Mrs. Nagle's class visit on Fridays (began on 9/27). Thank you Mrs. Alton for our pictures.

- Please be mindful of the bus loop at morning arrival and dismissal. Only buses are allowed to be in the bus loop from 8:30-9:00 and 2:50-3:20.
- We had our annual Leeds Open House on 9/24 where many Leeds and Clarke families and students were able to tour the school.
- Please be considerate of the time your car is idling, if you are picking up your child/ren. Our neighbors are concerned with the amount of idling that is occurring as people wait to pick up their child/ren. If you arrive early and the line is not moving, please shut your car off. We are trying to do our best to move the line as quickly as possible. We appreciate your consideration for our environment.
- On 9/26, we had Picture Day. If your child was absent, we will have Picture Re-take day on Wednesday, 11/13.
- Our grade 5 students read our announcements each Monday morning at 9:05am.
- Some of our grade 5 students are buddies to some of our kindergarten students.

Each week this newsletter will highlight various classrooms or activities that have occurred at Leeds.











Safety Drill Discussions

Safety Drills: Bus Evacuation and “Lock down”

Several members of the PTO asked if we would share ways to discuss our "Lock Down" drill with their children.

Bus evacuation practice is scheduled for tomorrow Tuesday, October 1st and a “Lock down” is scheduled for Wednesday, October 2nd. We appreciate the challenge of explaining to young children why we need to do this type of practice. The following set of guidelines was recently shared with me. We will use the term “safety drill” instead of “lock down”, which encompasses our fire drills, bus evacuations, as well as any other way we need to remember to keep our school safe. These guidelines are good reminders.

Statements – from Bank St. Graduate School “Emotionally Responsive Classroom model” — Safety Drill Process in the Early Grades

- 1) Use the term “Safety Drill” to describe the process to children. (We will be using this term.)
- 2) Compare safety drills to fire drills. If there is a fire drill, kids have to practice being quiet and finding a safe place to be outside of the building. When there is a safety drill, kids have to practice being quiet and finding a safe place to be inside of the classroom. In both fire drills and safety drills, it is important for kids and teachers to be quiet (to listen to the next direction) and stay together.

3) After a fire drill or safety drill has occurred, our teachers will give students an avenue for self-expression about what that experience was like for them. This can be a group discussion, a journal entry, a drawing, story writing or dictating, etc. Without this invitation, children who have experienced trauma may act out to express their distress or become preoccupied and inattentive.

4) Older children may refer to specific dangers such as Sandy Hook, earthquakes, hurricanes, etc. The teacher can acknowledge these realities and how scary they are, but assure children that they are safe in their school and most likely always will be. Kids who remain preoccupied can study the safety features of their school buildings that are already in place. (Fire alarms, sprinklers, P.A. systems, etc.) They can also become the classroom "safety patrol", inventing ways that they can make themselves and their friends feel safer. Their ideas can be shared with and acknowledged by the school principal.

School Meals



We serve breakfast and lunch.

- Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria at 8:30 for \$1.25-full price and \$0.30-reduced price.
- Lunches are also served in the cafeteria for \$2.85-full price and \$.40-reduced price.
- Just a note, milk is available for \$0.50. Students can pay for milk through the online program or with cash, but it cannot be charged.
- Menus are prepared monthly and will be sent home and be available online.
- Click here for [Food Services](#) website.

According to the [American Dietetic Association](#), children who eat breakfast perform better in the classroom and on the playground.

Nature's Classroom

Our fifth grade students will be learning at Nature's Classroom from Tuesday, November 5th through Friday, November 8th. Please see their website for more details at naturesclassroom.org

Upcoming Events

- 10/1 Bus Evacuation Day (Students will practice evacuating the bus.)
- 10/1 LEAP activities start
- 10/1 School Council Meeting @6:30pm in the Leeds School Library
- 10/2 Lock down Drill
- 10/4 Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm. PM preschool will **not** be in session. Full Day preschool students will be released with AM session at 11:20am)
- 10/14 No School - Indigenous People Day
- 10/16 **Grade 4 Community Meeting Day** @9:15am in the Leeds Cafeteria
- 10/16 PTO Meeting @6:00 in the Leeds School Library
- 10/21 Caregiver/Teacher Conferences - Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm.) AM and PM preschool sessions **HAVE** school.
- 10/22 Caregiver/Teacher Conferences - Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm.) AM and PM preschool sessions **HAVE** school.
- 10/22 Caregiver/Teacher evening conferences
- 10/23 Caregiver/Teacher Conferences - Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm.) AM and PM preschool sessions **DO NOT** have school.
- 10/24 Caregiver/Teacher Conferences - Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm.) AM and PM preschool sessions **DO NOT** have school.
- 10/24 Caregiver/Teacher evening conferences
- **10/25 Halloween Parade** (Please remember no weapons). Please inform your child's teacher if you do not want your child to participate. Students who do not participate will be in our library with an alternate activity.

- 10/25 Caregiver/Teacher Conferences - Early Release for students - Teacher 1/2 work day (K-5 students will be released at 12:20pm.)
- 10/27 PTO Trunk/Treat
- 10/28 Fire Drill

[District's School Year Calendar 2019-2020](#)

[Leeds Elementary School Calendar 2019-2020](#)

We do our best to keep our calendar current; however, we may add events or these events may be subject to change as the date gets closer. Thank you for your understanding!

Contact Us

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Visit us on the web at:

<http://www.northamptonschools.org/project/leeds-elementary-school/>