



LEOPARD NEWS



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

AUGUST 24, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S SPOT

Welcome back to school, Lewis Leopards!

I am so excited to be the new principal at Lewis Elementary. I have spent a lot of time meeting the staff, and I can truthfully say that this is a group of highly-dedicated individuals that put children first. I feel extremely honored to have been chosen to work with this staff. I am very anxious to start meeting the students and parents. I have heard such wonderful things about both.

What a wonderful year we have ahead of us! Our theme this year is, "On the Road to Greater Success." Lewis has been a highly-successful school, and we want to continue the outstanding tradition that is already in place.

Lewis Elementary is a Texas Education Agency EXEMPLARY campus for the 2009-2010 school year. Students, teachers, and parents all played an active role in reaching this very impressive goal. Congratulations to the Lewis Leopards!

We are very proud of all of you!!!

I also wanted to make you aware of a new policy that will be implemented this year. You will receive information in the first-day packet, but I want you to make sure that you read about the new RAPTOR system. Everyone entering the building will be required to show a state or federal photo ID during the hours of 7:45-2:45. There will be no exceptions to this rule. The district has put this in place for the safety of your child, and we feel it will be a great asset on our campus.

Finally, I want you to know that I will have an open-door policy. Please come see me when you have questions or concerns. I am always willing to listen and visit with you about your child. I look forward to a positive and productive school year.

Respectfully,

Lynda DeMasco

School Hours

To help your child have a more successful year, we wanted to remind you about the following information:

7:15 A.M. Classroom teachers on duty. All students should wait in the front hallway until they are dismissed by a staff member to the gym/cafeteria/hallway.

7:40 A.M. Bell will ring for students to go to class.

7:45 A.M. Tardy Bell rings. All tardies are counted beginning at this time. If a child has 1 or more tardies in a nine week period, that child will not be able to receive a perfect attendance award. Administration will ensure that all adults are out of the school building.

2:45 P.M. Student pick up time is 2:45. All parents are asked to remain outside to pick up their children. Please DO NOT come into the foyer to pick up your child. This is for the safety of your child.

LEWIS AWARDED A 3-YEAR MILITARY GRANT

More exciting news for the Lewis Leopards! NISD was awarded a federal grant as part of the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) due to its high population of military families. Our school is one of only five NISD elementary schools that will benefit from this grant.

The grant is part of a district-wide effort to create college-ready students. It is a foundational program for elementary schools (grades 4-6) that feed into established and certified AVID programs at both the middle- and high-school levels.

Lewis students will benefit

from the program through gaining several pieces of classroom technology equipment. Some of these pieces include electronic note-taking systems, assignment notebooks, and interactive projector systems. You will receive more information in the near future regarding the grant.

PLEASE HELP US WELCOME OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS!

Please join us in welcoming our new staff members to Lewis Elementary.

Joining our already outstanding PE program will be Nick Benevidez. Coach Benevidez is coming from Lubbock, where he was an elementary PE teacher for five years. He loves children and is excited to help them learn good sportsmanship and strong fundamentals.

Catherine Singleton will be coming to work full time as an Instructional Assistant in the TLC room. Catherine, a certified teacher, has been substituting at Lewis for the past few years. We are fortunate to have her join our staff.

Rolene Schriedel is also a certified teacher. She has been substitute teaching in NISD and is very familiar with the curriculum. She will be a great asset to our TLC program.

Kristy Schirmer will be joining our staff as a part-time counselor. She has previously been a counselor at Cody Elementary in NISD. She has already brought several ideas to Lewis that our students will love!

Amanda Reyes will be working in the clinic with our nurse. Amanda has worked in day care facilities and as a Nanny for several families. She is just what the nurse ordered!!

Denise Bratcher will be on campus as a part-time Speech Assistant. She has been working in NISD in another capacity. We are excited to find her and look forward to her time with us at Lewis.

Geri Ardila will be the Lewis Administrative Intern. Our former intern, Vicki Kilpatrick will be the new Vice Principal at Steubing. Although we will miss her, we think Geri will be an excellent replacement.

Welcome to Lewis! You have chosen a great place to work!

SAFETY ISSUES

We just wanted to remind you of a few safety rules that help make Lewis a safer place for children:

- Please do not drop off or pick up your student in the parking lots. This is **EXTREMELY** dangerous.
- The front loop will be the only parent pick-up area.
- At approximately 7:20-7:40, students may be dropped off in the bus parking lot.
- There is no parking in the front loop.
- Please do not meet your child in the foyer after school. All 1st-5th grade students will need to be outside before they are allowed to leave with their parents. **THIS IS A HUGE SAFETY ISSUE.**

PTA

PTA is made up of parents, teachers and others who have a special interest in children, families and schools. By joining PTA, you become a part of the support system, making decisions about funding field trips, school programs, and a variety of other items. Please join our PTA. It is the best place to gain the knowledge that makes this a great elementary school.

You can join PTA at our next PTA meeting, Tuesday, September 8th at 7:00 P.M. in the Lewis Cafeteria, or you can send back the membership information that came home with your child in the first day packet.

THE NISD PARENT CONNECTION

The Parent Portal will be available on September 2nd. This program allows a parent to view their child's progress and attendance on the internet. Teachers will be using an electronic grade book that will link to the portal. At least once a week, your child's grades and averages should be current.

Students in grades Pre-K-1st, and those new to NISD, will be mailed instructions on how to use the program.

