

- Commem-
orating 9/11 at
LECS—A Day
of Service
- Rethinking
Assessment in
Cluster II &
III
- October
Community
Service Pro-
jects

INSIDE
THIS ISSUE:

- So many first 2
fo
- Gradeless 2
Pilot
- Inside Story 2
- New 3
"K"onnectio
- It Does Mat- 3
ter
- October Non 4
-Uniform
- Inside Story 6

LECS PRESS

You can STEP it Up too!!!

By Juliet Marcus

Fourteen years ago, on September 11, two planes crashed into two New York City buildings called the Twin Towers. Thousands of people got hurt or died. In order to remember those people who died on 9/11/01, students in STEP (space, technology, & engineering program) went to Blue Jacket Park to "spruce" it up.

When we arrived at the park, Mr. Stuart, a former student's uncle, gave a speech about 9/11/01 and how Blue Jacket Park used to have a giant ship where the navy trained. Then he intro-

duced us to a man who



Commissioner Stuart speak-
ing to STEP students.

was in the US Navy and
trained there!

After he gave his
wonderful speech, we

started to plant trees and plants; everyone else either scrubbed or mulched. I went on to plant my own tree with two other girls, Hannah and Elle.

After we planted the tree, we went on to plant plants, took a short water break and started carrying big buckets of mulch to the people that were mulching.

When we were done with that, it was time to go, so everyone said thank you and goodbye. That is what STEP did on 9/11 and how we remembered the people who died in a tragic attack on 9/11/2001.

LECS Remembers September 11th

This year, as part of Patriot Day and the National Day of Service and Remembrance, LECS participated in a community service project to honor those our Nation lost and those who rose in service as a result of the September 11th tragedy.

Thanks to the generosity of our families, students collected and assembled hygiene kits that were donated to Catholic Charities of Central Florida, a local organization that provides relief for individuals and families in Central Florida. In total, Cluster III students assembled more

than 85 complete hygiene kits. collecting a total of more than 744. Catholic Charities was happy to take our additional items as well

Continued on p. 3

So Many Firsts for 1st Grade

First Grade

We are all so excited to start another year! We are looking forward to going on our first field trip to the Orlando Philharmonic!

First Grade has hit the ground running with our new STEM engineering kits thanks to Donor's Choose. We look forward to our sing alongs and dance party for our daily Wiggle breaks

with Raffi, singing "Apples and Bananas", Lois, Sharon and Bram (elephant too), singing Skinnamarink, Ed Sheeran singing "Two Different Worlds" (home and school) or Pentatonix, "Sings to Five" for kids!

First Grade loves our new Reading A-Z, reading stories on-line or watching videos with the new Reading Rainbow Skybrary!



First grade engineers hard at work!

*"This project allows us to share our writing and provides us with an outlet to do what we want to do creatively."
Whitney Wright*

Gradeless Pilot Rethinks Assessment

Ms. Friedman and Ms. Roxbury are well on their way to re-shaping assessment in Cluster III language arts and Cluster II Social Studies and Science. The purpose of their gradeless pilot program, which was approved by SAC, is to change the way in which students are motivated to learn. Rather than being motivated by the external reward (or

punishment) of grades, students in these classes must find the motivation to learn in the work itself.

This pilot program is grounded in research that shows that grades have the following negative effects on learning:

*Students' interest in whatever they are learning is decreased

*Grades create a prefer-

ence for the easiest possible task

*Grades focus too much attention on "how well" a student is learning, and not enough attention on "what" a student is learning

*Grades encourage cheating, unhealthy competition, and "cramming" for tests and quizzes without long-term retention

Rubric scores in Ms. Friedman and Ms. Roxbury's classes will be replaced by a combination of narrative reporting and portfolio assessment. To support this new approach, students in the pilot classes will be working on compiling electronic portfolios which will help show what students are learning. All of

their students have been given Google Classroom Accounts (and in Cluster 3, g-mail accounts with an lecs.org extension) which will allow them to include not only documents, but also photos and videos, in their portfolio. There's quite a learning curve with all the new technology, but students and teachers are embracing these



new digital tools, and working hard to make them work for a new kind of assessment .

Kinder makes New “K”onnections at LECS



Kindergarten students continue to adjust well as we delve into another school year. We have focused on safety rules, procedures, academic and behavioral expectations and getting to know one another. In October, we will be focusing on Fire Safety and Cluster 1 is currently in the process of scheduling a visit from the fire department. Firefighters will come to LECS to discuss fire safety with the children while allowing them the opportunity to explore safety gear and a fire truck. We will end our month with a visit from the Tales Two Tell storytellers, Kinder’s annual trip to Green Meadows Farm, and our school-wide Halloween parade.

“I never saw anything like it before! It was very cool to see things in the classroom dropped into syrup.”
 Ke’Asaunti Washington

3rd Grade Knows “It does matter”



In Third grade science, we are starting our year learning all about matter! We have learned about observable and measurable properties of matter, the states of matter, how to find volume of a liquid and mass and density. Our class’s favorite experiment was the Density Graduated Cylinder. We took an empty glass graduated cylinder and by applying our knowledge of density we sorted a variety of liquids by density. We poured honey in first (heaviest density), then Karo syrup, glycerine, followed by Dawn™ soap, shampoo, colored water, then vegetable oil, rubbing alcohol and finally baby oil (lightest density). Students recorded their findings in their Science Interactive Notebooks. We also chose classroom objects to drop into the density column to gain additional information about what solids (of different densities) would do when dropped into the liquids.

Lecs Remembers (cont)

Cluster II students created heartfelt and patriotic cards, with messages like “hope this brightens your day” and “hope this helps you in your time of need”. Cluster I students participated in the event by making a pledge to help in their community. Some students plan to recycle, donate money and even become firefighters. Seventh grader, Alexis Brown, said, “I liked the project because I felt like I was helping someone in need.” Other students expressed that with everyone pitching in, it didn’t take much effort. Students expressed a desire to do even more in the future.





Lake Eola Charter School

MISSION: Lake Eola Charter School provides differentiated instruction leading to mastery of national standards and uses best practices to develop comprehension, computation, critical thinking, community service, and character (the 5C's) in our community of learners.

135 North Magnolia Ave.
Orlando, FL 32801

407-246-0900
407-246-6334 (fax)
info@lecs.org

Learn



October Non-Uniform Days for Community Service

October 7: Mr. Richard Fund Through the years many of you have had the opportunity to experience Mr. Richard and his special brand of musical story telling. The last few years have had its challenges as his wife battled brain cancer. She lost that valiant fight this summer. As life resumes for him without his wife, he is faced with the mounting bills of catastrophic illness. We would like to support him as he faces those financial challenges. The cost of the Free Dress Day is \$2.00.

October 14: Students are going to participate in a project, through impacthomelessness.org, called **Make It A Home Project**. We are going to furnish an apartment for someone who has recently been homeless. The cost for the Free Dress Day is \$2.00. Each class or homeroom will have some items to purchase. More information will come through your child's teacher.

October 21: The Greater Orlando Spinal Cord Injury Network (www.goscin.com). **GOSCIN** is a group for persons with SCI (spinal cord Injuries) in the Orlando area. Their mission is to serve the needs of SCIs in employment, adaptive sports, recreation, social functions, networking, outreach, SCI prevention, and guest speakers for the group. This organization is headed by one of our parents who was directly impacted by a SCI. The cost of the non-uniform day is \$1.00.

October 28: Breast Cancer Awareness. Most of us within the LECS family have known someone who has been stricken with breast cancer. While huge strides have been made, there is still a way to go. The funds collected, (\$1.00 per student if you come dressed in something pink and \$2.00 if you do not have on something that is pink) will go directly to breast cancer research BCRFcure.org.

