



# Leopold PFO Post

Encouraging Kids. Connecting Families. Serving Leopold.

## Bi-Monthly Newsletter

January / February 2013

### Every Tuesday

Open Schoolhouse from 6-8 p.m. at Leopold. Try Zumba, use the computer lab, special projects, open gym and many other events. This is a great way to burn off extra energy in the winter! PFO Movie Night will be held Feb. 12.

### PFO Meeting

Joins us Tuesday, March 12, in the school library, for our bi-monthly PFO meeting.



### Moving to Middle School

Join principals from Cherokee, Wright, and a parent panel on February 12, to learn more about moving on to middle school. Bring your questions about this exciting transition!

### DLI Meeting

If you have a student in the dual immersion program, join DLI teachers on Wed., Feb. 6, from 6-7:15 for info on math programs and understanding report cards.

### Black History Program

Join us for this celebration of black history month with a Black History Program on Thursday, February 21, from 6-7:30 p.m.

### School's Out

No school on Friday, February 22, for Professional Development.

### Science Night

Leopold Science Night will be held on Tuesday, March 5. Look for more info coming home, as well as opportunities to volunteer! We especially hope our science and engineering parents will share some expertise!

## Focus on REACH Science

Kelsey Kosterman, REACH science teacher

This quarter the Leopold science lab has been abuzz with excitement. Thanks to the Leopold PFO we have a beautiful set of brand new lab coats. They are an amazing addition to the science lab and the children look and feel even more like the scientists they are. Thank you especially to Jill Arnold for all of her time and commitment to making sure this could happen. We also welcome our newest pet to the science lab, Cocoa the Crested Gecko.

Many of children may remember from two years ago. He has again made himself at home in the lab. We have enjoyed observing him lick his eyeballs and climb up glass and any other surface with ease.



During the week of Halloween, the children in each class created Non-Newtonian fluid by adding cornstarch and water. We discovered the unique properties of this fluid when touched lightly and when pressure is applied firmly. This was definitely a student favorite and led to many interesting questions.

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## From the Principal's Office

John Burkholder, Leopold Principal

I want to wish all our Leopold families a happy 2013. We all enjoyed the benefit of an extension of our normal winter break thanks to two snow days in December. No word as of this writing as to how this time will be added back to our school calendar. With the changing of the calendar we find ourselves quickly approaching the mid-point of the school year. It is a point at which I take some time to take stock of student achievement to date, plan ahead for the second half of the school year, and in fact begin planning for the school year that begins this coming September!

Let's begin with attendance. The Madison Metropolitan School District is requiring all schools to follow the same guidelines when recording student absences and tardies. These guidelines have changed a bit from last year. Please keep in mind the following guidelines as you send your children to school each day: Any student arriving after 8:00am is considered absent for one-third of the day. Any student who is picked prior to 2:15pm is considered absent for one-third of the day. Students arriving after the start of the school day at 7:45am and prior to 8:00am can be marked tardy. Also keep in mind that student supervision and breakfast both begin at 7:25am, with breakfast ending at 7:40am. Having students in their classrooms for the entire school day is the first step to school success!

First semester report cards will be going home with all elementary students in the school district on Friday, February 1. The Madison Metropolitan School District uses the same standards-based report card for all elementary school age students across all schools. Beginning with this next report card and continuing through next year, you will begin to see some changes in the actual report card. These changes are being made as the school district aligns student achievement reporting to a new set of achievement *continued on next page*

*Focus on REACH Science continued*

Leopold's People.Power.Planet campaign is in full swing. We have been discussing many different ways that we can conserve energy at school and at home. The children all had a chance to think of and select some things that they would pledge to work on to help save money and save our precious natural resources. This has also tied in well to a unit on Aldo Leopold. Each class has begun an Aldo Leopold nature journal. We have taken time to get outside and observe our surroundings, writing poems, using our senses to record our observations, and much more.



Many of the classes had the opportunity to help in planting our new crabapple tree in the garden. The students analyzed factors that would go into the best placement for the tree: sunlight, overcrowding and overshadowing other plants in the garden. They planned out, selected, measured and dug the hole using the tree's specifications.

Kindergarten and the first grade have continued exploring some of the things that scientists do. They have been classifying objects based on various characteristics. They were able to explore and question the principles of buoyancy by comparing objects that floated and sank. We then graphed our results on a large floor graph. This led to a challenge to design and construct an aluminum boat that was able to hold the most pennies. Some of the boats held over 100!

Second grade has continued to observe their trees over time. They have had the chance to learn about how to calculate the age of a tree by counting its rings. Additionally, they applied these understandings by measuring their tree with a string. Using a dichotomous key, classes have figured out what type of tree they have adopted. We then were able to use our collected data to estimate the age of our trees. Most recently, we have been investigating the forces of gravity and impact. The children were given several different supplies to choose from and had to develop a design to protect their plaster of paris "brains" from breaking when dropped from 10 feet in the air.

Third grade has been learning all about hydrophobic and hydrophilic surfaces. The children dissected diapers to extract the water loving, hydrophilic polymer sodium polyacrylate from inside. They compared this with other hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials such as gel spheres and Lotus leaves to understand their water absorbing or water repelling properties. The children have taken our investigations further by asking testable questions. This led to an experiment combining oil, water and dish soap. Through this unit we have focused on the real-life applications of hydrophilic and hydrophobic materials.



The fourth and fifth grade classes have played an important role in promoting energy conservation tips for the younger grades through posters and creating their very own skits. We have also begun our recycling squad. Each 5th grade class will have the opportunity to collect and inventory recycling from specific rooms in the school building. This will give us a baseline for our very first MPower project; to increase the amount of material recycled at Leopold. The inventories will give us a good idea of the materials we are recycling and shed light upon which materials we should be promoting and informing people they can recycle. We have also begun working with acids and bases and the pH scale. The children designed their own experiments using a cabbage juice indicator and different types of soda.

As always, if you would like to volunteer or help out in the lab, you are more than welcome. Please feel free to contact me at [kkosterman@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:kkosterman@madison.k12.wi.us). In addition, if you are interested in assisting to wash the new lab coats, it would be very much appreciated! Please let me know if you're interested and I can give you dates and additional information.

*Principal's Office continued*

standards called the Common Core State Standards, or CCSS. The CCSS is a much higher set of standards that will be increasing the level of academic rigor in classrooms by a significant degree. As such, achieving scores of proficient and advanced will be much more difficult for all students. Keep in mind that if you see scores that seem to have declined on your child's report card, it is most likely due to increases in the requirements in each subject area and not changes in your child's ability or effort. After a period of adjustment, I am certain that our students will rise to the challenge of meeting these new standards! If you have questions about your child's report card, please contact the classroom teacher.

Lastly, our Leopold Elementary School campus will continue to be a registration site for the school district's 4K program. Registration will take place on Monday, February 4, 1-6pm. While Leopold is a registration site for 4K, at this time Leopold is NOT scheduled to be the location of any 4K classrooms. Registration for new Kindergarten students will be on Monday, March 4, 1-6pm. Please spread the word about these two important registration dates as they are critical events as we begin planning for the start of the 2013-2014 school year on Tuesday, September 3.

Thank you for your continued support of Leopold Elementary School!

**West Madison Little Lg Baseball and Girls' Softball Online Registration is now open through Feb 28, 2013**

- Baseball (boys & girls) ages 8 through 16 (age as of 4-30-13) --
- Girls' Softball (girls only) ages 7 thru 18 (age as of 12-31-12) --
- Website: [www.wmll.org](http://www.wmll.org) (click on the Registration button) --

Questions? Contact Bill Battista at 239-6161 or email to [board@wmll.org](mailto:board@wmll.org)

## Book Nook

*Brittany Gitzlaff, Fitchburg Public Library*

Spend some time at the Fitchburg Public Library this winter!

- Saturday, January 19 @ 3:00 p.m. Kids Movie (call for movie title)
- Tuesday, January 22 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. R.E.A.D. to a Dog (sign-up required)
- Wednesday, January 23 @ 7:00 p.m. Mother/Daughter Book Club (pick up the book at the library)
- Saturday, February 9 @ 3:00 p.m. Kids Movie (call for movie title)
- Sunday, February 10 @ 3:00 p.m. Kids Council – help make a difference at the library!
- Tuesday, February 12 @ 4:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Party – celebrate with crafts, games, and snacks!
- Saturday, February 16 @ 1:00 p.m. American Girl Book Club
- Tuesday, February 19 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. R.E.A.D. to a Dog (sign-up required)
- Wednesday, February 20 @ 7:00 p.m. Mother/Daughter Book Club (pick up the book at the library)

For more events, additional details, and information please call the library or visit our website: [www.fitchburglibrary.org](http://www.fitchburglibrary.org)

This month's book recommendation is *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick. Orphan, clock keeper, and thief, Hugo lives in the walls of a busy Paris train station, where his survival depends on secrets and anonymity. But when his world suddenly interlocks with an eccentric,

bookish girl and a bitter old man who runs a toy booth in the station, Hugo's undercover life, and his most precious secret, are put in jeopardy. A cryptic drawing, a treasured notebook, a stolen key, a mechanical man, and a hidden message from Hugo's dead father form the backbone of this intricate, tender, and spellbinding mystery. *Available at the library in English and Spanish.*



December 1 – January 31 is Cookie Club. Do you miss Summer Reading and earning prizes? Join the Cookie Club for a chance to earn a free book! It's as easy as checking out and reading books. Please see the Youth Services desk in the Children's Library to sign up and receive your Cookie Club card. On February 1 @ 4:00 p.m. join us for a Cookie Party and celebrate all your hard work!

## VISTA Report

*Jennifer Compton, Americorps VISTA*

The first week of December members of Madison's GROW Coalition offered Leopold a crab apple tree for our School and Community Garden. Excited, we got our tools... and started to dig.

The tree was delivered on Sunday, along with the first snow of the season. Thanks to everyone who helped us plant in December. How neat to think this tree will have beautiful blooms in the spring!

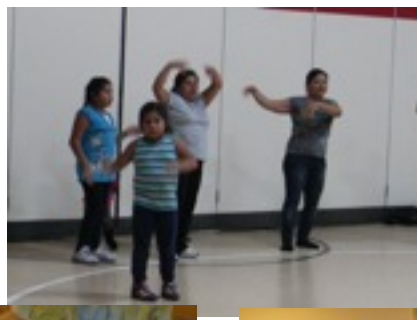


## READ YOUR HEART OUT!

Friday, February 8th, Leopold will be celebrating National African American Parent Involvement Day! In addition to our second annual NAAPID breakfast, we are happy to announce we will also be participating in Read your Heart out Day. The goal of Read Your Heart Out is to fill the school with African American role models from our neighborhood and to increase parent involvement not just that day, but year round. We will need many people to help with this event. Opportunities will include reading in classrooms, bringing treats and snacks for readers, greeting visitors, a decoration crew, and other important tasks. You can also always help at home by reading with your child and asking about books they have read. We will have special books set out in the library written and/or illustrated by African American authors. Leopold is collaborating in RYHO Day efforts with the MMSD Diversity and Equity Department and 14 other Madison schools in an effort to further engage families and neighbors and close our achievement gap. We are excited to be a part of this expanding and successful program that focuses on African American families and heritage, and celebrates the diversity that makes Leopold a great place to learn. For more information about the event or to find out how you can take part, please contact Jennifer Compton ([jcompton@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:jcompton@madison.k12.wi.us) 204-4334) or Myra McNair ([mmcnair@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:mmcnair@madison.k12.wi.us) 204-4336). Keep your eyes open for more information coming your way, and mark your calendars for February 8th!

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What's happening at Open Schoolhouse?! Let me show you....



## Elementary School Counselor Grant

Leopold Elementary School is one of six MMSD elementary schools selected to take part in a 3-year school counselor grant funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Comprehensive Integrated Mental Health Initiative grant (CIMHI) is intended to help our school build students' social-emotional strengths so they can do their best in school and in life.

Next month we will welcome, Daniella Porro, who will work within our school team to help us move forward on our school's Positive Behavior Support work.

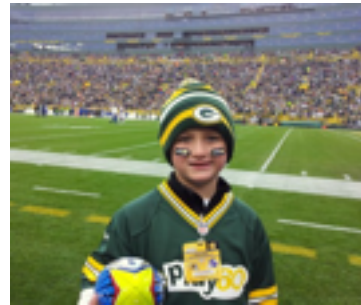
Daniella will be working with our Leopold staff on programs and initiatives aligned to the following goals of the grant:

**Social Emotional Learning:** Skill areas include managing feelings, having caring and concern for others, feeling good about oneself and seeing oneself as a lifelong learner.

**Life Challenges:** School staff will learn about life challenges that are experienced by students and the larger community and how they impact learning, using a series of 10 short modules. As a school we will learn about additional strategies for supporting those who have an abundance of adversity to overcome in their lives.

**Targeted Student Support:** To help students get help for emotional and behavioral problems before the problems become big, we will ask parents and students to complete questionnaires that will help us identify students in kindergarten and third grade who need more support.

The grant also addresses social-emotional needs through providing small group learning experiences. When children have more complex needs, we will work in partnership with parents to find solutions and resources. We will also work collaboratively with the community to access more mental health services for our students and work together to help students succeed in all aspects of school.



*Leopold's own Caleb Carll was a statewide winner at this year's NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competition! Read the article below from [packers.com](http://packers.com).*

## Wait Is On to See Who Will Compete at National Level

The Green Bay Packers on Sunday hosted the team championship of the annual NFL Punt, Pass and Kick competition prior to the Packers-Vikings game.

Sunday's participants, 21 boys and 20 girls ages 6 to 15, advanced through local, regional and sectional competitions across Wisconsin to reach the championship contest which took place this morning in the Don Hutson Center. All 41 competitors then displayed their passing talents on Lambeau Field as part of the pregame festivities, with the competition winners being introduced as well.

The first-place winning girls and boys in each age group follow: (6 and 7 year olds) Ava Reuter, **Chippewa Falls**; Caleb Karl, **Fitchburg**; (8 and 9 year olds) Alayna Suprenand, **Fond du Lac**; Joe Reuter, **Chippewa Falls**; (10 and 11 year olds) Callie Podmolik, **Phillips**; Mason Coffren, **Marshfield**; (12 and 13 year olds) Gabriella Janke, **Athens**; Jack Noffke, **New London**; (14 and 15 year olds) Jenna Curtiss, **Webster**; and Blake Marquardt, **Oshkosh**.

The winners' results will now be matched against others across the NFL and qualifying individuals will advance to the national contest to be held at a to-be-determined NFL playoff game.

## Parent Volunteer Spotlight

*A Q&A with Jackie Cooper*



**LPP: Who is/are your kid(s) at Leopold ?**

JC: Paige is in 5th grade with Mr. Langer (I also have a son, Robert, who is a 7th grader at Cherokee!).

**LPP: What do you and your family do outside of school activities (work, hobbies, activities, etc.)?**

JC: Both me and my husband work outside the home - I'm a Lab Manager in Environmental Engineering at the UW and my husband works/co-owns (with his siblings) Mid-Wisconsin Security - a family business started by his dad back in 1969 (and a regular donor to Leopold's Timber Wolf Trample fundraising event!). I spend a lot of my time after work driving the kids to all of their extracurricular activities (piano, soccer & gymnastics for Paige; soccer, baseball, basketball, wrestling and volleyball for Robert - depending on the time year!). But I love all the things they are involved with in addition to school - it keeps them active and happy. In my "free" time, I play indoor soccer with a bunch of other moms (it is great exercise - but after starting 3+ years ago, I realized that of all the sports I played when I was younger, none involved running - so soccer has been interesting! lol). My other passion is photography (I have a photography degree from MATC). I have my own photography business (Studio Q) where I specialize in photographing families and high school seniors (my favorite!). My schedule doesn't allow for as much photography as I would like, but some day I'll find that time!

**LPP: What things do you volunteer for at school (PFO, classroom, etc.)?**

JC: This is my 8th year at Leopold so the amount of my volunteering has dropped

considerably as my kids have gotten older. I was president of the PFO for 3 years, put together the school yearbook for 4 or 5 years, worked as the publicity chair for Fun Fest and the Timber Wolf Trample for the past 5 years, I've also taken photos at the finish line of the Trample (for the yearbook) the past 5 years, I've volunteered in my kids' classrooms a few times (I like setting up fun science experiments that seem to often involve food: science of bubbles, ice cream, popcorn are a few I've done), and I'm usually the mom that goes on class field trips (my favorite: 5th grade trip to the Forest Hill Cemetery - nothing better than telling people at my work that I'm taking a vacation day to go to a cemetery!! - unfortunately I had to miss it with my daughter's class this year because I had the flu).

**LPP: What do you enjoy about volunteering?**

JC: My favorite thing about volunteering is meeting the other kids in my children's classes. I've had the funniest conversations and have the greatest memories of their friends and classmates. The real joy comes at other school events because I know so many more children! At my son's 5th grade science "fair" - a group of 5 boys were standing by their project and because they knew me from a few classroom field trips, they called me over to show me what they had done. There I stood with my arms around two of the boys as they all talked about their project - they were so proud and had so much excitement in their voices as they explained to me every step of their experiment - it was a really wonderful moment. That is what really makes taking time away from work worthwhile - the kids!



**LPP: How has volunteering affected your relationship with your kids?**

JC: I think my kids like that they can count on me to go on almost every field trip with their classes (other than a few that I tend to veto because I might have done them too many times - or just didn't really enjoy it the first time around! lol). But it is funny field trips with my son's classes were so different than trips with my daughter's classes (I don't know, but boys tend to want to hang with the moms, while girls tend to be more independent - but maybe that is just my experience!).

**LPP: Any words of advice for others who might be wanting to get involved at school?**

JC: Field Trips!! If you can make the time, this is a really great way to spend time with your child during their school day. You get to meet their friends, plus you get to go to some really cool places that you may not go to your own (plus, transportation is almost always provided!). Plus, teachers always appreciate having another adult on the trips! Fun Fest and the Timber Wolf Trample are also great events to say YES to when someone asks you to volunteer. It really doesn't take too much time - and your kids will be so happy that you helped out :)

## Title 1 School Funding

Leopold Elementary School is a Title I school in MMSD. Title I is the largest single program of federal aid for elementary and secondary education. Using a poverty-based formula, Title I allocates funds to school districts on a per pupil basis to offset the effects of poverty on the educational opportunities of students in high-poverty schools. These funds are used to enhance or supplement above and beyond the regular school program paid for by state and local dollars. The Title I funding that Leopold receives supports our school improvement goals related to high quality curriculum and teaching in an effective learning environment. Leopold's goals for learning are focused on literacy, mathematics and student engagement. Title I funding also supports our Parent Involvement Plan and the activities that engage and empower families throughout the year.

## FROM THE PFO VICE PRESIDENT

January is a time of resolutions. Why not make a resolution to have fun and get fit while spending time with your children? Take time to play with your kids, they love it and it's good for you too!!! Here are a few ideas of things you can do together this winter and spring, while burning calories at the same time.

**Winter Activity Ideas**

- Go sledding with your kids, climbing up and down the hill can burn approx 350 calories per hour.



- Playing hide and go seek or tag outside can burn 350 calories per hour.
- Play at the park! You can still play at the park when there is snow. It is fun and very fast to go down the slide in snow pants! You can burn 350 calories per hour.
- Have a dance party with your kids in your living room can burn 360 calories per hour.
- Attend Zumba at Open School House on Tuesday evenings can burn 360 calories per hour.

**Spring Activity Ideas**

- Start a soccer or basketball game at the park. You can burn 360 calories per hour.
- Jump rope or double dutch with your kids can burn 600 calories per hour.
- Train for a running race! You can burn 600-800 calories per hour.\* Timberwolf Trample anyone?

**Have a Plan, Set a Goal**

May 11, 2013, is the 8th annual Timberwolf Trample, 1 mile fun run!. Put it on your calendar. Set a goal now to complete this run with your kids!!!

For more information on how many calories you can burn go to [http://www.fitday.com/webfit/burned/calories\\_burned.html](http://www.fitday.com/webfit/burned/calories_burned.html)

## Foundation for Madison's Public Schools

The Foundation for Madison's Public Schools is dedicated to enriching the education of all children by raising private funds, awarding grants, and developing partnerships to strengthen Madison's public schools.

At Leopold Elementary, the Foundation has helped to make a positive impact by securing resources to help grow the Leopold Endowment. The current balance of the Leopold Endowment is \$36,474 which is an increase of \$11,200 from a year ago. The income from the endowment is available on an annual basis to make grants for imaginative programs and projects that propel student learning which can't currently be funded through the core school budget.

This year the Leopold Endowment Grant Committee had \$906 in endowment income available and awarded \$810 to purchase mini iPads and \$96 to purchase literature in Spanish for Dual Language students

Leopold was adopted through the Foundation's Adopt-a-School Program by the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR) in August 2011. The Department of Revenue kicked off the partnership by holding a clothing drive and collecting over 100 items including 20 winter hats and scarf sets knitted by a DOR employee. DOR employees serve as pen pals with fifth graders and have collected hundreds of dollars and thousands of Box Tops to benefit Leopold.

Leopold also has Adopt-a-School relationships with Zimbrick Fish Hatchery Road and Group Health Cooperative of South Central Wisconsin. All the Adopt-a-School partners meet with Leopold staff on a regular basis to discuss the school's needs and additional opportunities for collaboration.

In addition to the School Endowments, the Foundation has its own endowment which it uses to award grants annually. Leopold received a \$10,000 grant for the 2012-2013 school year to help fund the Leopold Open Schoolhouse which seeks to engage families in a positive and successful school community by offering academic and community resources and programming every Tuesday evening.

The Foundation holds A Principal Experience on an annual basis. The event enables a wide range of community leaders to serve as Principal Partners, spending the morning in one of Madison's public schools, observing and participating in activities that are preplanned with the host principal. The experience provides participants with a deeper understanding of our public schools, and often sparks a desire to get involved. Some of the Leopold Principal Partners include Secretary Richard Chandler and Deputy Secretary Jack Jablonski of the State of Wisconsin Department of Revenue, Carl Gulbrandsen, Managing Director of WARE, and Diane Ballweg of Endres Manufacturing Company.

For information about the Foundation for Madison's Public Schools contact Community Partnerships Director Mary Bartzen at (608) 232-7820 or [mbartzen@fmops.org](mailto:mbartzen@fmops.org).