Leopold PFO Post

Encouraging Kids. Connecting Families. Serving Leopold.

Bi-Monthly Newsletter September / October 2012

Registration
Registration for new Leopold families is ***August 22 from 8-12.*** *Registration for current Leopold families is* ***August 24 from 11-6.***

Open Schoolhouse
Leopold's first Open Schoolhouse of the 2012-13 school year will be held on Tuesday, ***September 11 from 6-8*** *p.m. Open schoolhouses will be held each Tuesday night during the school year.*

PFO Meeting
The PFO will kick off the year with our first meeting on Tuesday, ***September 11 from 7-8 p.m.*** *Come learn about what we have planned, hear from the principal, and ask questions about the upcoming year.*

I Scream, You Scream
A Leopold fundraiser will be held at Dairy Queen on Tuesday, ***September 18 from 4-9 p.m.*** *Come grab a treat and be sure to tell them you're from Leopold as we will get a percentage of the night's sales for our school!*

Open House
Let your kids introduce you to their teachers and show you around their school. Open House is ***October 9, from 5-8 p.m.*** *Stop by the cafeteria for ice cream from the PFO, and find out more about what we do.*

Mark Your Calendars
One of Leopold's most exciting events, FunFest, will be held ***October 13,*** *this year! This school carnival is a great way to meet other families, play games, and win prizes. Be sure to mark your calendars because you won't want to miss it!*

Focus on Fundraisers

This year the PFO has decided to target the two programs that have proven most beneficial from a fundraising perspective for our school. Both of these are easy ways to help our school, by doing what you already do. We encourage you to reach out to family, neighbors, and others and encourage them to support Leopold through these means as well.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Last year, Leopold raised $2,300 from boxtop collection. We think this is just the tip of the iceberg! Consider setting a collection spot right on your counter so your family can stick box top in as they find them. Ask grandparents to cut their box tops for you. Visit www.boxtops4education.com for other fun ideas and contests. Let's set a goal of 50,000 box tops this year, that's about seventy box tops per student. No problem, right?!

TARGET RED CARD

If you shop at TARGET stores, be sure to open a Red Card debit or credit card and designate Leopold as your school of choice. In addition to getting 5% off of your total purchase using your card, Leopold gets 1% of your purchase as well. Last year, this fundraiser made nearly $1,400 for our school. And, it takes almost no effort to do this!

Visit www.leopoldpfo.org for more details on these and other fundraisers for our school.

From the Principal's Office

John Burkholder, Leopold Principal

Greetings and welcome to the 2012-2013 school year! With this publication, our PFO begins a new school to home communication effort that will include information important to our Leopold community, including a regular short article from me. To get us started, I want to make you aware of some important information across three important topics.

First, I hope you will join me in welcoming Rigoberto Gallegos, our new assistant principal. Rigoberto has been a teacher for 15 years, most recently at Nuestro Mundo where he taught second, third, and fifth grade. He is also a member of the Nuestro Mundo Board of Directors and is on the Madison school district's Bilingual Leadership Team. Welcome Rigoberto!

Speaking of meeting new people, August begins the process of welcoming all students into their new classrooms for the new school year. As a part of this welcoming, classroom teachers will again be conducting Ready-Set-Goal conferences with families. Shortly after registration day, teachers will be contacting families to arrange a time for RSG conferences. Conferences may take place at any time prior to the first day of school, or during the first several weeks of the school year. The purpose of the RSG conferences is to discuss how students' interpersonal skills, self-awareness, confidence, interests, and other factors impact their performance as a learner and as a citizen within the school. Discussions also focus on how activities and interests that engage students outside of school can support and reinforce classroom learning.

As we work with students to achieve academic and co-curricular successes, we also work to build social and emotional

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FROM THE PFO PRESIDENT

Welcome to a new school year! The Leopold PFO (Parent Faculty Organization) is excited to work with our Leopold families on many fun events this year. With a new school year comes some changes. Two new PFO Board members, Tanya Lettman-Shue (secretary) and myself, Kris Aman (President), join current members Jill Arnold (Vice President) and Paul Nazario (Treasurer). Just like many of you, the PFO has been busy this summer on several projects. We have drafted bylaws for our organization; created a new website (leopoldpfo.org) with lots of helpful information; developed an org chart for all of our great volunteers to see how they work as part of a bigger picture; designed a new school and PFO-combined newsletter (which you are reading now); filled some (but not all) of our volunteer positions; worked with a vendor to design Leopold Spirit Wear for sale this fall; cleaned out our storage area, known as the dungeon, and moved all of the PFO stuff to new storage cabinets; established our budget for the upcoming school year; explored options for going digital for newsletters, volunteer sign ups, and other communication; updated old files and forms; and established a fundraising drive for the upcoming year. Whew! Thanks so much to the great volunteers who have given of their time and talents for all of these efforts!!

The PFO has also established a new motto to help identify our mission at Leopold. You will see this on many of our communications: Encouraging Kids. Connecting Families. Serving Leopold. *We put some good thought and effort into this, so we hope it will serve as a guide as we work with students, staff, families and volunteers at our school.*

Whether you've been at Leopold for many years, or your brand new to our school, please stop by and say hello when we have a table set up at events, or when you just see us around school. The PFO is here to connect families with our Leopold community.

Kris

Kris Aman

New Dates for Trample and FunFest

Fall means back to school, cooler weather, raking leaves and the Timberwolf Trample Fun Run at Leopold - or at least it has for the past seven years. This year we're trying something NEW! FunFest will now be held in the fall, welcoming our Leopold families to our school for an afternoon of fun! Timberwolf Trample will be held in the spring. If you haven't attended before, FunFest is our school carnival with games, prizes, raffles, face painting, balloon artists and much more! FunFest will be held October 13 this year, so mark your calendars now. It takes dozens of volunteers to make this event and fundraiser successful so please say YES when you're asked to volunteer some time for this event.

Tablets for Timberwolves

The benefits of access to technology in schools are well documented. Improving student achievement in all subject areas, engaging students, improving attendance, decreasing dropout rates, improving school efficiency, meeting the needs of a wide range of students, promoting equity and access in education, and preparing for necessary workforce skills are just a few.

Last year, the PFO started Leopold's first-ever Giving Tree, where staff could request items that they wanted to improve their classroom environments. One of the most-requested items by staff was iPads. The PFO has taken this request to heart, and we have decided to undertake a donation drive with the hopes of purchasing twenty iPads for Leopold. In order to do this, we will need to raise approximately $10,000 through various means. Although that's a big number, put into perspective, it breaks down to a manageable $15 per student. We recognize that family finances vary widely, and the possibility of giving to this campaign isn't right for every family. However, we ask that you earnestly consider a donation to help us reach our goal.

In addition, we will reach out to businesses and others in the community in hopes of meeting, or even exceeding, our goal with community support.

A brochure will be available at registration, open house, and sent home with students, that outlines the program. We ask that you review this information and give as you are able. We are hopeful to get 100% participation, in some way, from all of our Leopold families. Please consider asking extended family members, businesses you frequent, your workplace, or other sources to donate as well.

The PFO website (www.leopoldpfo.org) includes a page with the full brochure and an option for easy online donation through PayPal.

Through the efforts of our families and our community, we are confident we can reach this goal and help our that kids have access to this exciting technology to help them learn!

Leopold PFO is a 501(c) (3) tax exempt, nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible as allowable under law.

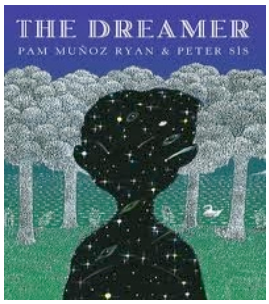
Book Nook

Spend some time at the Fitchburg Public Library this fall!

- Tuesday, September 11 @ 4:00 p.m. Get ready for fall by making fall crafts!
- Sunday, September 16 @ 3:00 p.m. Be a part of the library and join the Kids Council!
- Tuesday, September 18 5:30-7:00 p.m. R.E.A.D. to a Dog (register at the library).
- Wednesday, September 19 @ 7:00 p.m. Mother Daughter Book Club (check-out the book at the library).
- Thursday, September 27 @ 4:00 p.m. American Girl Party.
- Saturday, September 29 @ 3:00 p.m. WOW! Science Experiments (ages 6+).
- Saturday, October 27 @ 6:00 p.m. The Great Halloween Hunt. Games, prizes, candy and more!
- September 30 – October 6 is Banned Books Week. Books like To Kill a Mockingbird or The Hunger Games trilogy have at one point in time been challenged for various reasons. Stop censorship and celebrate your freedom to read by checking out a challenged book at the library during this week!

For more events or additional information please call the library at 608.729.1760 or visit us online at www.city.wi.us/departments/library/index.php

This month's book recommendation is *The Dreamer* by Pam Muñoz Ryan.



From the time he is a young boy, Neftali hears the call of a mysterious voice. He knows he must follow it–even when the neighborhood children taunt him, and when his harsh, authoritarian father ridicules him, and when he doubts himself. It leads him under the canopy of the lush rain forest, into the fearsome sea, and through the persistent Chilean rain, until finally, he discovers its source. *Available at the library in English and Spanish.*

VISTA Report

Greetings families of Leopold Elementary! My name is Jennifer Compton and I am looking forward to spending the next year getting to know and working with you all as the school's new AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer. Originally, I am from Ames, Iowa, but I graduated a year ago from Lawrence University and am excited now to return to Wisconsin and call Madison home.

I started my term as a "Volunteer In Service To America" with an orientation about Community Partnership Development and Capacity Building. These terms are based around the same ideas as the saying "It takes a village to raise a child;" that a rich and healthy education comes from much more than just the school building. I am very impressed by the work that parents, teachers, community members, and the previous VISTA, Melissa Stephenson, have done to support and strengthen the Leopold neighborhood. This year, with your help, I will continue and expand on efforts like Open Schoolhouse and the Leopold Garden, as well as help develop new ideas to bring out the many assets offered by friends and families of the school.

Please contact me if you have any questions, suggestions, or just to introduce yourself. My current e-mail is jencompton@gmail.com and I am available by phone at 515-450-1487. I will also be around working on my green thumb in the garden; it would be great to hear from you! I believe it does take the whole village to truly make a school community, and I am excited and humbled by the warm welcome I have received from the many people who care about Leopold.

Garden Update

The Leopold School & Community Garden was established this spring to engage Leopold students and families in a positive and healthy project to enrich learning and build community health and wellness. The garden, located at the front of the school near the intersection of Post Road and Leopold Way, consists primarily of school garden plots but also includes four plots rented by families or neighbors of Leopold. The school cares for raised beds, an in-ground plot, a pumpkin and melon patch, and compost bins, all of which, together, serve as an outdoor classroom space for Leopold students.

This season we've grown a wide variety of plants, including: tomatoes, peppers, kale, kohlrabi, cucumbers, broccoli, cabbage, collard greens, lettuce, eggplant, potatoes, beans, tomatillos, onions, radishes, pumpkins, melons, raspberries, and herbs! During the summer the garden is maintained by Leopold families, staff, and neighbors, who each "adopt" the garden for a week at a time.

Produce from the garden is donated to neighborhood families through the Joining Forces for Families office across the street from Leopold. During the school year we hope to involve classrooms in harvesting and consuming garden produce. The garden is still a work in progress, with more improvements coming this fall!

If you are interested in helping with the garden project, please contact Jennifer Compton, Leopold's current AmeriCorps*VISTA at (608) 204-4334 or jencompton@gmail.com.

Principal's Office, con't from page 1

competencies. A key component to achieving social and emotional competencies is our Positive Behavior and Supports program, or PBS. PBS is a system that helps all children improve their behavior at school, at home, and in the community. Applied school wide, it defines, teaches, and supports appropriate student behavior to create positive school environments. At Leopold, we define five school expectations: Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Kind, and Be There-Be Ready. This is known as Leopold's "High Five". Specific behaviors that correspond to each of these five expectations are taught and reviewed at monthly student assemblies. All staff members are then asked to re-teach and reinforce these new behaviors on an ongoing basis. When students exhibit desired behaviors, we reward them with individual small slips of paper that have our Leopold 'High Five' hand printed on them. These slips are then collected in classrooms with recognition ceremonies and events held when class goals are met. Whole school celebrations are also layered in when a majority of classrooms school-wide have met their individual goals.

On behalf of the entire staff at Leopold Elementary, I want to welcome you to the new school year! We look forward to working and communicating with you in the year ahead!

Paperless Communication

The PFO has made the decision to go green with our communication. Starting this year, most correspondence will be sent only by email. If you are not already on the PFO email list, please sign up through our website, on a list we have available at school events, or through your child's teacher.

What to Expect

The PFO won't bombard you with emails, but we will try to keep you abreast of important things at our school. You can expect to receive a full newsletter, like this one, every other month; a short, text-only newsletter for the months between; occasional notifications or reminders of fundraisers such as restaurant nights out; and any other important, time-sensitive notifications.

For quick hits of information, please follow our leopold PFO Facebook page at www.facebook.com/LeopoldPFO.

If electronic communication isn't possible for you, please send a note to your child's teacher requesting a hard copy of correspondence.

Thank you for supporting this important initiative.

How Can I Help My Child Succeed in School?

"When parents are involved in their children's education at home, they do better in school. And when parents are involved in school, children go farther in school and the schools they go to are better." Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla summed it up in their book *A New Generation of Evidence: The Family Is Critical to Student Achievement.*

Research shows that when parents are involved in their children's education, the children are more likely to:

- Earn better grades
- Score higher on tests
- Pass their classes
- Attend school regularly
- Have better social skills
- Show improved behavior
- Be more positive in their attitude toward school
- Complete homework assignments
- Graduate and continue their education

Please visit www.leopoldpfo.org to ready the full article on the benefits of involvement in your child's education.

How Can You Get Involved at Leopold? Spend time in your child's classroom, attend Open School House on Tuesday evenings from 6-8pm, attend school events, attend PFO and DLI meetings, or volunteer on a committee. To volunteer, visit the PFO website or contact Jill Arnold at leopoldpfovp@gmail.com.

Leopold Timberwolves
Spirit Wear 2012

ORDER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

A. Cotton T-Shirt

B. Ringer T-Shirt

C.Tie Dye T-Shirt

D. Hooded Sweatshirt

E. Flannel Pant

ADULT SIZES

	Description	Color	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	XX-Large	Qty	Price	TOTAL
A.	Cotton T-Shirt	Red							$10.00	
B.	Ringer T-Shirt	White/ Red							$16.00	
B.	LADIES Cut Ringer T-Shirt	White/ Red							$17.00	
C.	Tie Dye T-Shirt	Spider/ Red							$16.00	
D.	Hooded Sweatshirt	Grey							$22.00	
E.	Flannel Pant	Red/ Black							$23.00	

YOUTH SIZES

	Description	Color	Small	Medium	Large	X-Large	Qty	Price	TOTAL
A.	Youth Cotton T-Shirt	Red						$10.00	
B.	Youth Ringer T-Shirt	White/ Red						$16.00	
C.	Youth Tie Dye T-Shirt	Spider/ Red						$16.00	
D.	Youth Hooded Sweatshirt	Grey						$22.00	
E.	Youth Flannel Pant	Red/ Black						$23.00	

ORDER DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

For Questions Contact:
Kris Aman, PFO President
leopoldpfo@gmail.com

Child's Name:_____
Parent's Name:_____
Phone:_____
Teacher:_____
Email:_____

TOTAL ☐

Make checks payable to:
Leopold PFO

Return order forms and payment to:
The office or your child's teacher in an envelope marked: PFO SPIRIT WEAR
Orders can be picked up October 9 at the Leopold Open House or sent home

Elizabeth Beggs - Ascentives: 3822 Mineral Point Road, Madison, WI 53705 - 608.268.5541

¿Es usted padre de familia de Leopold? ¿Necesita intérprete para un evento o reunión?

¡Ahora hay servicios de interpretación disponibles!

Para mayor información hable con la maestra de su niño, especialista de servicios bilingües al (608) 204-4240 o con la Cooperativa de Intérpretes de Madison al (608) 255-0376.

Proyecto de Interpretación Escolar de la Cooperativa de Intérpretes de Madison

Gracias al financiamiento generoso de United Way of Dane County, somos capaces de ofrecer traducción simultánea en el otoño de 2010 para eventos escolares y comunitarios a las madres y padres de familia de Leopold Elementary School.

- **La interpretación estará disponible en los eventos escolares vespertinos y de fin de semana y en reuniones de la organización de padres y personal escolar.**
- **Hay subsidios disponibles para proporcionar servicios de interpretación para las reuniones comunitarias y otras necesidades de interpretación para las madres y padres de Leopold.**

La Cooperativa de Intérpretes de Madison (ICM), a través de un proyecto apoyado por United Way of Dane County, ofrecerá servicios de interpretación simultánea gratuita inglés/español para eventos escolares de Leopold fuera de las horas regulares de escuela. Desde 2004, la ICM proporciona servicios de traducción simultánea económicos y de calidad para hacer mas inclusivos y accesibles los eventos escolares y de gobierno. El financimiento también permite subsidiar servicios de interpretación para padres de Leopold en reuniones y eventos comunitarios. Para mayor información hable con la maestra de su hijo, especialista de recursos bilingües o con la Cooperativa de Intérpretes de Madison.

United Way
United Way
of Dane County

Are you a Leopold parent? Do you need an interpreter for an event or meeting?

Simultaneous interpretation services now available!

For more information speak to your child's teacher, the bilingual resources specialist (608)204-4240 or the Interpreters' Cooperative of Madison at (608)255-0376.

The Interpreters' Cooperative of Madison's School Interpretation Project

Because of a generous grant from the United Way of Dane County, we are able to provide simultaneous interpretation for the Fall of 2010 for school and community events for parents with children attending Leopold Elementary School.

- **Interpretation will be available at evening and weekend school events and parent faculty organization meetings.**
- **Subsidies are available to make interpretation services available for community meetings and other interpretation needs of Leopold parents.**

The Interpreters' Cooperative of Madison (ICM) through a project supported by the United Way of Dane County will be providing free English/Spanish simultaneous interpretation services for Leopold school functions outside of normal school day hours. The ICM has been around since 2004 providing quality, affordable simultaneous interpretation services to make community, academic and governmental events and meetings more inclusive and accessible. The grant also allows for subsidizing interpretation services for Leopold parents when they attend community meetings and events. For more information talk to your child's teacher, a bilingual resource specialist or the Interpreters' Cooperative of Madison.

United Way
United Way of Dane County