



School News

LEGEND SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Message from our Principal, Mrs. Nichole Basl

2017-2018 Quarter 2

Dear Legend Springs Families,

Hello, January! Farewell first semester! As we sit and reflect on our first semester of school, we have much to celebrate, reflect upon, and prepare for as we welcome the new year. The year began with celebration as we honored countless students for their performance on AzMERIT testing and the honor of another A rating for our campus! We took time to welcome new staff members- myself included- and embrace the beginning of a new school year. With 28 perfect scores on AzMERIT, top proficiency rates in the district in multiple grade levels, and 1:1 technology added in 4th-6th grade, there is much for our campus to celebrate!

This first semester has also been a time to reflect upon the community we have, the students we serve, and the work that we do everyday to unite together. In October, our campus raised over \$500 for Breast Cancer Awareness Month, which we were able to donate to support one of our staff members as she fought, treated, and defeated another round of breast cancer. In November, our community pulled together to raise over \$2000 for another staff member Ms. Sherri, whose son was in a tragic accident this summer, paralyzing him from the waist down. Ms. Sherri wrote a special note of thanks to our community which is also included in this newsletter. Our staff, students, and family members also brought in toys for our annual Turkey Trot, resulting in a truckload of toys, books, and games delivered to Phoenix Children's Hospital. The generosity of our community continued into December, where we raised over \$2400 in our Ducks for Diabetes event, sending the check to the American Diabetes Association to help support the cause to find a cure for diabetics across the world. And finally, after the heartbreaking news of the death of our Kindergarten student Declan, families and staff rallied together on social media and in person to shower the Presmyk family with love, support, and encouragement during the holiday season. In the midst of need and tragedy, it is humbling to reflect upon the generosity and comradery of our community.

Transitioning to a new year brings energy, planning and preparation as well. With 2nd quarter in the books, we have been meeting with grade level teams to analyze data, track growth, and focus on second semester goals for achievement. Our staff has great goals for assuring success at the individual student and campus level, and continues to implement the effective practices to achieve these goals. Additionally our PTA has been walking alongside our staff to encourage, spoil (thanks for the holiday festivities and treats!) and plan events to support our visions. We look forward to the upcoming Read-A-Thon and other family-friendly events this spring. We thank Mathnasium for their generous gift to our staff this season as well, sponsoring our new Legendary Staff STEAM shirts for each staff member. Our partnership with PTA and businesses in the community is invaluable, and we are so thankful for everyone who makes our campus the legendary place it is.

Thank you for making the first half of the year a semester to remember. We look forward to further growth, collaboration, and memories in the 2018 year.

Happy New Year!!

Mrs. Nichole Basl, M.Ed.
Principal

SIXTH GRADE

On December 20, the sixth grade presented their culminating Egypt projects to the school. Students from pre-K through fifth grade toured through our mock museum to see some truly incredible projects. The creators of each project gave an oral presentation as viewers passed by, showing off the wealth of knowledge they amassed while studying their topic.



FIFTH GRADE



On December 1, our fifth graders became official EQ Ambassadors. With the privilege of being recognized as an EQ Ambassador comes great responsibility and leadership opportunities on campus. For example, on

Flagpole Fridays the fifth graders welcome all students as they enter the academic building. We also have EQ students lead new students on school tours to communicate they matter. Every Thursday our fifth graders are encouraged to wear their the EQ shirt and pass out "Legendary Cards" to students on campus they see making a positive impact. These are a few of the many opportunities fifth graders participate in throughout the school year as they aim to develop the best in themselves as well as their peers.



FOURTH GRADE

Fourth graders had the privilege to visit the Desert Botanical Gardens on Thursday, December 3. Much of our science curriculum focuses on life science, so the Garden was a perfect place for us to see firsthand all the beautiful, rare and important plants that make the desert their home. Desert Botanical Garden had been teaching and inspiring visitors from all over the world, providing research, exhibits and more designed to help us understand, protect and



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help preserve our desert. The Garden has more than 50,000 plants on display for students to observe and learn about.



THIRD GRADE

Third grade students are on the move here at Legend Springs! We are currently finishing up our second rotation of switching classes for science and social studies. Each homeroom class moves to another third grade teacher to learn about and investigate the topics of rocks and minerals, economics, Ancient Greece and living structures of snails. Students are busy planning investigations and gathering information for their related topics. This has been a great opportunity for us to build a strong third grade community as we all get to know one another and get to experience different teaching and learning styles. We look forward to our third rotation of science and social studies beginning shortly after we return from Winter Break.



SECOND GRADE

2nd Grade has been busy working on our reading fluency and comprehension skills. We are working on being accurate readers. We are using text from all genre's. We are using passages, books and online passages!

Our early release Friday's have been full of STEAM activities. The kids absolutely love these hands-on, engaging activities. Our most recent project was to create a tree that could stand on its own using only paper, craft sticks and tape. We are noticing our students are becoming more creative, are able to persevere through the challenge and are thinking critically of ways to solve the problem.

We have been using many different strategies to solve 2 and 3 digit addition and subtraction problems. Ask your child their favorite strategy and have them model it for you! You will learn something new from them!

We wish for you a wonderful winter break making lifetime memories with your little ones! See you next year!



FIRST GRADE

Our first graders have grown and become more independent during second quarter. We are improving our reading by applying the closed and

silent e syllable types to help decode words. In math, we are continuously adding more strategies to our "toolbox" to add and subtract within twenty fluently. Also, we are acting as engineers to create and design many STEAM projects. The kids are actively engaged in these hands-on experiences. Technology is integrated throughout our day and was highlighted during the Hour of Code where the students' problem solved and persevered to code on their own. After putting in lots of time learning, we celebrated our friendships during the fall and winter parties. Lastly, our field trip to Legoland Discovery Center, was both a fun and educational experience. We look forward to more learning and enjoyment throughout the remainder of the school year!



KINDERGARTEN

Our Kinder students are indeed top notch! We are so proud of how our Kinder kids performed during our Annual Holiday Show! Everyone sang along with traditional holiday songs and we're sure families were able to take a few treasured photos. Our kindergarteners are to be praised for their efforts here at school, but we also recognize the great efforts made at home. Thank you Kindergarten families for partnering with us to help your children learn and grow. We received some amazing Family Tree projects over the past few weeks and the children are very excited to share with their friends and teachers how they created the projects with their families. In support of our school's All Things E.Q. program, we help each other succeed! We can hardly believe we've hit the midway mark this year, but when we look at what we've learned, we are proud that our time has been and is well spent. Though we continue to review letter sounds and sound out CVC words, we are progressing to leveled readers and the mastery of sight word lists. There is such pride this time of year. "I can read!" In Math, we are also well on our way as we have learned about numbers to 10, 2D and 3D shapes, and comparison of length, and capacity. We are now working on number pairs, addition and subtraction to 10 with a focus on number bonds. We are learning so much in Kindergarten! Whenever possible we enhance our instruction and learning with technology. Some examples include Coding and Osmo! Student-led conferences are held in February and are all about our students showcasing what they've learned. This is such a special time of year. We look

forward to seeing all of our families in the classroom soon!



MUSIC NOTES

This year has gone by so fast and I can't believe Semester Two is almost here! During the third quarter, students in grades 2-6 will put everything they've learned thus far to great use by playing instruments! Second graders will begin recorders, third graders will learn to play the violin, fourth graders will practice keyboards, fifth graders play melodies on the baritone ukulele while sixth graders focus on chords and singing and strumming on the baritone ukulele! Kindergarten and first grade students will work on solfege singing and playing and learning about the instruments of the orchestra.

Updated weekly lesson objectives are posted on the music website, as well as videos of student learning!

Chorus will resume the week of January 15, with fourth graders attending on Tuesdays and fifth/sixth graders attending on Thursdays. Our next performance will be at the Flag Football Championship Game in February and then we begin our Spring concert music preparation which is all Country Music themed!



HEALTH CENTER

It has been a busy time in the nurse's office. I am seeing a lot of illnesses including influenza, common cold, strep, impetigo and pink eye. So if your child is showing any signs of illness such as fever, cough, runny nose, general aches, sore throat, headache, stomach ache, nausea or rash please do not send them to school and follow up with your doctor or health care provider. The district policy **is fever free (without medication) and vomit free for 24 hours or one full school day before returning to school and school activities.** So please do not send your child to school or school activities if they are vomiting or have a fever. Do not give fever reducing medication and send them to school. Thank you for adhering to our policy and helping keep our students and staff healthy during the school year.

Nurse Jamie Miller

Jamie.Miller@dvusd.org



HATS FOR SHERRI



Wow! I can't thank everyone enough! Bless your hearts for going above and beyond. Your kindness added a bright spot of sunshine to my day.

On behalf of my family, I would like to thank you for your generous donations to the "Hats for Sherri" fundraiser. The \$2,050 raised will be used to cover some

medical equipment not covered by insurance and if there is any left over, will go towards a roll-in shower that will be wheelchair accessible.

Bryson's stander was recently delivered and set up which will help him with his muscle spasticity and allow weight bearing to strengthen his bones and muscles, as well as improve circulation in his legs since he has been paralyzed from the waist down since his accident June.

The gift cards will be enjoyed as well and helps us out.

Your thoughtfulness and caring has brought some tears of joy to my eyes and joy to my heart.

Legend Springs has such wonderful staff and families. I miss seeing everyone, but hope to return in the near future.

Sherri Smith
Paraprofessional
Legend Springs



CAFETERIA NEWS

We hope your children are having a great school year! Feel free to join your child for breakfast or lunch in the cafeteria anytime - just sign in at the front office and head over to the cafeteria!

Please be sure to check the balance on your child's lunch account. We do tell the children when they need lunch money, but are not stamping student's hands or sending weekly past due notices this year per district policy. You can register your student at www.ezschoollpay.com. On that site, you will be able to check their balance, add funds to their account via credit card (there is a small fee to do this), and see their purchase history.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Chris Mahle or Trish Roth in the cafeteria.

Happy New Year!

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PTA

Thank you to all of our incredible Legend Springs families who have attended one or more of our numerous fundraisers this quarter! With your help, PTA has raised just over \$3,400 through Movie Night, Barro's Restaurant night, Amazon Smiles, Peter Piper Fundraiser Night, and the Goodwill fundraiser. We hope everyone had a great time at these community events! The money raised will be used toward software subscriptions used in classrooms. We have some really great events coming up so mark those calendars!

- PTA meeting on Tuesday, January 16 at 2:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend!
- Father/Daughter Dance on Friday, February 2 from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
- Read-a-Thon on Friday, March 2.
*More information to come!
- Fun Festival on Friday, March 16.

Without PTA, none of these events would take place. We are looking for a chairperson for Fun Festival in March and Mother/Son Bowling in April. We need people who are energetic and who love our school, but more importantly, we need people who will strive to keep a strong relationship with staff and parents. Any help we can get is greatly appreciated! Please email Tracy (tjennings623@gmail.com) or Kim Johnson (Kimberly.Johnson@dvusd.org) if you're interested!





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