



EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

# LEWIS LEDGER



PARENT NEWSLETTER

## November 2015

# Lewis students learning with technology in the classroom

Fourth and fifth grade classrooms currently have one iPad checked out to each student, therefore called one-to-one classrooms. Our third grade students will soon have classroom sets of iPads as well. First and second grade classes have sets of iPads to share that they check out from the library and we are working on obtaining a small set for use in kindergarten center time.

There are a myriad of ways that students are using the devices to enhance their learning each day, but here are just a few:

Students are using kidblog.org to share their writing with each other and an online audience. Sharing with a real audience encourages students to communicate clearly and effectively that their readers will easily under-

stand. Ask your child to “invite” you to follow the class.

Another opportunity students have is the ability to quickly search for, read and view, a variety of sources on a topic. They can collect information by watching a video, reading short articles, looking at pictures or posts about the topic and even e-mailing an expert through a website. Imagine the difference between this and what WE did as students: go to the library, search key words, read an encyclopedia, maybe check out some library books or magazines! Seriously, how did we ever learn anything? The process took so long just to look up information!

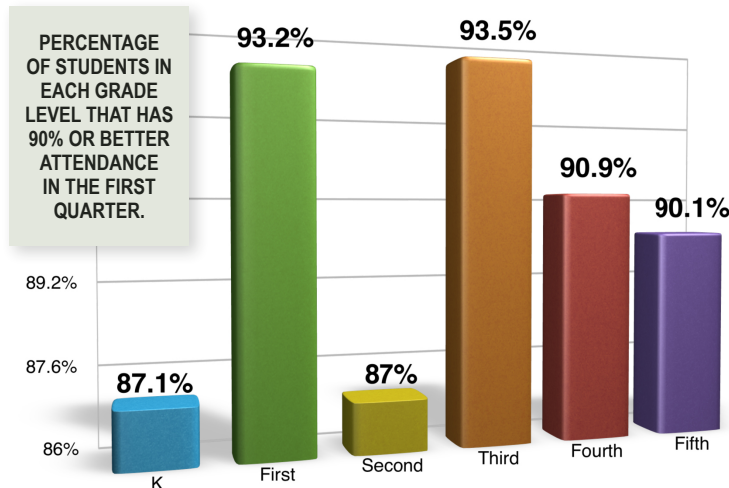
Apps like iMovie and Keynote are being used by students to create short videos or presentations to show others what they have



learned. They can interview each other and record ideas. This gives the students practice in speaking clearly and effectively for others to understand. Children are learning how to cooperate and work together to create

projects together, an important skill for their future. They get to show off their creative ideas and bring a bit of their own personality to the learning environment. Sure beats completing a worksheet over famous Missourians!

## FIRST QUARTER ATTENDANCE REACHED 90% GOAL



Overall, 90.41% of students have been present for 90% of school days this year so far. This is good. We are meeting our goal, but we need to stay vigilant! We can even do better! Making sure that students are at school every day unless they have a fever, are throwing up, or are contagious in some way will really help us out. Please schedule appointments for after school or on breaks. Please get stu-

dents to school on time every day--just like we need to get to work on time, students need to be on time to school. Below is the breakdown for each grade level showing the percentage of students who have a good attendance rate. Missing even 1-2 days per month, puts a student at risk of falling behind their peers in achievement.

Let's get that percentage up to 95%! Do it for our students' future success!



# November's Character Trait is Citizenship

Citizenship is about being an informed, responsible, and caring participant in your community. It means doing your share to make your school and community better. Good citizens cooperate and get involved in community affairs. Citizenship is obeying laws and rules. Responsible citizens do things like volunteering and protecting the environment. Good citizens make good neighbors.

Demonstrating good citizenship is being a person who is involved in trying to make the community, nation, or world a better place. Good citizens are people who are engaged in, whether in big or small ways, considering the needs of others in their community. Good citizenship in practice is understanding, appreciating, and doing things that make life better for you and for others.

Throughout the month, teachers read books about characters who demonstrate citizenship and help students to recognize ways they can show they are good citizens at school and at home.



# Students enjoy more reading options with myOn Digital Library

While I will ALWAYS promote reading actual books in which you can turn real pages, smell the ink, hold it between you and a child on your lap, and put a special bookmark in to hold your place, sometimes children want variety, and a digital library can provide another venue for reading some of the time.

Students in Excelsior Springs elementary schools have a digital library to access a huge variety of books that are right on their level and on topics of interest this year. With over 10,000 titles, the students can find fiction and nonfiction choices that are at a good practice level for each child.

Periodically, the student takes a short comprehension quiz to see if they are ready to move up a level. Reading silently and listening to the books can help boost a child's vocabulary-an extremely important skill for reading success. It is very important for students to

also read a wide variety of books. This builds their background knowledge on many topics and introduces new vocabulary and language patterns. This will help them as readers in middle and high school when reading a variety of textbooks and content area reading for all the different classes they will take.

At last check, Lewis students have read more than 1,350 hours in the digital library.

Parents can track their child's reading patterns by having the student log in and check the reading history. Check for the number of books they have read, the amount of time they spend on each book and the levels of each. The library can be found at [www.myon.com](http://www.myon.com) with each child's username and password. Your child probably knows their login, but you can always contact the teacher and they can easily look it up for you.

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- NOV. 1 ..... Daylight Savings Time
- NOV. 2 ... PALS Meeting and Student of the Month Recognition
- NOV. 3 ..... 4th Grade Music Program
- NOV. 5 ..... Tiger Reading Tutoring begins
- NOV. 6-13 ..... Book Fair
- NOV. 12 ..... PALS Movie Night
- NOV. 13 ..... PALS Santa, Book Fair, and Vendor Show
- NOV. 18 ..... Mid Quarter reports come home
- NOV. 19 ..... Pre K Music Program
- NOV. 25-27 ..... Thanksgiving Break

Stay connected with us!



# READ ALL ABOUT IT!

We are very excited to have award nominee books for specific grade level lessons, in the library.

For Kindergarten we take time to complete lessons supported by the Building Block Award Nominees.

First through Third Grade enjoy interacting with the Show-Me Reader Nominees, and even get to vote for their favorite. Then in March the votes

from all over Missouri are counted and the winner is revealed.

Fourth and Fifth grade will be working hard to study all the genre types that books can be categorized. Fourth and Fifth Grade also have the opportunity to read the Mark Twain Award Nominees.

If our Fourth and Fifth Grade students read at least five of the Mark Twain Nominees, and



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share their reading with me through a quick quiz, poster, book report, di-

orama, or other way, then they become eligible to attend a free field trip to the Children's Literature Festival. This is held each year at the University of Central Missouri at Warrensburg, and allows the students to meet and interact with real authors and illustrators.

What a neat opportunity! Mrs. Rice read several this summer-her favorites are noted with asterisks!

## MARK TWAIN NOMINEES 2015-2016

The Water Castle  
by Megan Frazer Blakemore

Navigating Early  
by Clare Vanderpool

\*\*Counting by 7s  
by Holly Goldberg Sloan

The Great Trouble: A Mystery  
of London, the Blue Death, and  
a Boy Called Eel by Deborah  
Hopkinson

\*\*Dorko the Magnificent  
by Andrea Beaty

Rump: The True Story  
of Rumpelstiltskin  
by Liesl Shurtliff

Will in Scarlet  
by Matthew Cody

\*\*What We Found in the Sofa  
and How it Saved the World  
by Henry Clark

\*\*Al Capone Does  
My Homework  
by Gennifer Choldenko

\*\*Gaby, Lost and Found  
by Angela Cervantes

\*\*Escape From  
Mr. Lemoncello's Library  
by Chris Grabenstein

Jinx by Sage Blackwood

# WORKS OF ART

Thank you for parents who have turned in permission slips for their student to have an Artsonia account set up. Those that have provided an e-mail address (using your phone works too!) will receive a picture of each artwork your student has created as they are completed. It will collect all artworks, adding more each year, creating a digital portfolio as they progress through elementary school.

You have the opportunity to pur-

chase a variety of items with an artwork on them, 20% of all sales go back to the art department, but there's no pressure to purchase!

If anyone has lost or forgotten their username/password send an e-mail to kcalhoon@estigers.k12.mo.us.

We also love reading the comments people leave with artworks so keep them coming! The students really enjoy it.

Visit [www.Artsonia.com](http://www.Artsonia.com) to see your child's works of art!



**Katrina Calhoon**  
Lewis Art Education  
kcalhoon@estigers.k12.mo.us

## Free events at the



**MID-CONTINENT**  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

Nov. 5, 2015, Thursday at  
6 PM – 7 PM

### THE ROCKIN' ROB SHOW

The Rockin' Rob Show is a completely interactive and educational rock concert that promotes fun and education through music and movement. (Ages 2 and up) Registration is required.

Nov. 10, 2015, Tuesday at  
6 PM – 7 PM

### MAD SCIENCE: HAPPY 50TH BIRTHDAY TO MCPL

Celebrate with Mad Science bringing together the "Best Of" our experiments through the years. Join us for special lighting of candles and a couple of explosions that always surprise! (All ages) Registration is required.

Nov. 10, 2015, Tuesday at  
7 PM – 8 PM

### CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Join us to celebrate our 50th birthday! Mid-Continent Public Library is celebrating 50 years of great stories, and we would like to share this milestone with you on Tuesday, November 10! (All ages) Registration is required.

Nov. 12, 2015, Thursday at  
4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

### KIDS CREATE: LEAF PAINTING TREES

Did you know you could make a leaf into a tree? Prepare to paint with us as we show you how! Get creative with colors and different leaf shapes to take home a beautiful masterpiece! (Ages 6 and up) Registration is required.

Nov. 19, 2015, Thursday at  
6 PM – 7 PM

### KID GAMERS

Put your game face on and bring on the fun. From board games to live action, join us as we play a variety of games, old and new. Want to know what we are playing? Contact your branch to find out! (Ages 6 and up) Registration is required.

**PALS Family Movie Night!**

Disney • PIXAR

# INSIDE OUT

**Friday, Nov. 13**  
6:00 - 7:30 p.m.  
**Lewis Cafeteria**

Bring your blankets, pillows and lawn chairs! It'll be a JOY to have you!

COUNSELOR'S CORNER:

# How much sleep should our kids get?

Sleep is so important for kids' bodies and brains to re-coop, rest and reset. Something to keep in mind when wanting our kids to do their best each day.

**Here are some benefits of getting enough sleep:**

- Melatonin, a natural hormone, released in your brain while sleeping has many health benefits. Melatonin helps flood the body with healthy antioxidants which help boost the immune system and fight against toxins in the body.



**Rebecca Mason**  
Lewis Counselor  
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- Heart rate decreases which lowers one's blood pressure and helps with heart function and blood flow.

- During rest, adrenaline and cortisol (your fight or flight responses or stress) decrease. Human growth hormones are released which are needed for muscle and bone growth and maintenance.

- Your immune system works overtime while one is sleeping. More proteins and white blood cells are fighting off germs, infections and disease.

This chart lists how much sleep our kids should get each night. Most elemen-

tary aged students will fall into the range of requiring 10-11 hours of sleep each night.

So if your child has to be

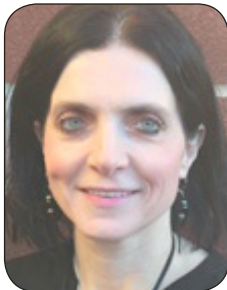
up by 7 a.m. each morning, then a bedtime between 8-9 p.m. would give them the recommended amount of sleep.

Age	Total Sleep	Hours at Night	Number of Naps
0-2 months	10.5-18	What night?	It's all naps
2-12 months	14-15	9-10	3 → 2
1-2 years	12-14	11-12	2 → 1
2-3 years	12-14	11-12	1
3-5 years	11-13	11-11.5	1 → 0
5-12 years	10-11	10-11	You wish
13-18 years	8.5-9.5	8.5-9.5	They wish



## MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Lewis fifth grade students started the year with a great performance of the musical "Making the Band" on Tuesday, Oct. 6. They are now beginning their recorder unit and using some apps on the iPads to help with rhythm and note naming.



**Athena Gillespie**  
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students have been working on some dances for songs, creating different textures for a song, adding rhythm and melody patterns, and learning proper musical terms.

Lewis first grade students have been working on keeping a steady beat, reading and playing rhythm patterns on different instruments, and showing the style of a song by creative movement.

Kindergarten students have been working on identifying loud and soft sounds, high and low sounds, keeping a steady beat, and using movement to show the mood or style of a song.

Lewis fourth grade students are putting the final touches on their musical "Let's Jam: It's Our Band". Their performance is on Tuesday, Nov. 3. The all district fourth and fifth grade choir rehearsals are underway. This group will perform at the annual Hall of Waters tree lighting on Saturday, Nov. 21

and at Crown Center in Kansas City on Wednesday, Dec. 2. Lewis third grade students have been working on musical terms, and rhythm and melody patterns. They are beginning to work on their musical "A Bugz Christmas", which will be on Tuesday, Dec. 1. Lewis second grade



## Join us for the Kindergarten-2nd Grade Super Family Night Nov. 10

Kindergarten-Second graders should bring their parents and be a superhero of learning from 5:30-7:00 p.m. in the Lewis Elementary gym. Enjoy a super hero sub sandwich dinner. Hear tales on the Trolley. Door prizes will be given throughout the evening. We have great activities planned for students in this age group that we want to share with parents.