



Home of the Tigers

Leonard ISD  
A Texas Recognized School District  
Superintendent Larry LaFavers  
#1 Tiger Alley  
Leonard, TX 75452

Visit us on the web  
[www.leonardisd.net](http://www.leonardisd.net)

Please support our local businesses - they support our school.

Parents and Community Members of LISD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Please watch for school buses



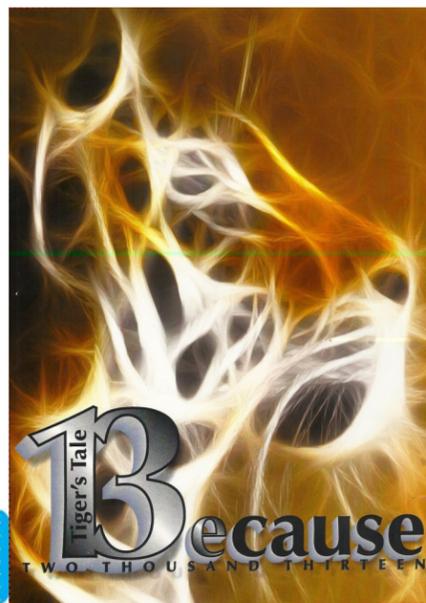
## Elementary News

Leonard Elementary School welcomed 275 students to the start of the 2013 - 2014 school year. We have also added some new staff members as well. Misty Berry joined us and is teaching third grade. Lesa Ashworth has moved from the role of music aide to pre-k teacher, and Serena Miller is our new music aide. We are also glad to have Coach Michael Hartsfield and Coach James Garner working with our students in PE. Elizabeth Clayton and J.C. Weaver round out our new staff as they are working in the cafeteria. On behalf of all of our teachers and staff, we are looking forward to working with your child each and every day.

Our Parent-Teacher League (PTL) is busy preparing for the upcoming Fall Festival set for Tuesday, Oct. 22 from 5-7 p.m. in the junior high parking lot. They are looking for new members to join with membership dues set at \$5.00 or \$10.00, depending on the level of membership you choose. Contact the elementary office if you need more information or you may "like" them on Facebook at Leonard Elementary PTL. Thank you for your support.

It's Coming  
2014  
Tiger Tale's Yearbook

We currently have a few 2013 yearbooks left for sale. The price is \$60.00. Hurry before they are all gone! Contact Nancy Longino at 903-587-3556



Hint The theme for the 2014 Tiger Tale's yearbook has been selected and it may PUZZLE you - **Order Yours Now!**

Order your yearbook now. →

On the Trail of the Tiger *Prowling with Pride*



# BACK TO SCHOOL



Leonard Independent School District

*"In the classroom the smallest acts can take on tremendous significance" - Rita Pearson*

Leonard Independent School District will partner with parents and the community to create life-long learners who are academically and socially prepared to be productive citizens. We are proud to provide a safe, respectful, learning environment where all children are challenged through stimulating learning experiences to achieve their dreams. At LISD we are investing in the future of our students.

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Ask former students about their favorite teacher, they'll most likely respond by expressing their most memorable experience. Their experience will usually arise from a "significant relationship" built in or outside of the learning environment. Rita Pierson, in her inspiring TED talk, suggest that teachers should make it their quest to relate to their students on a personal, human level.

Pierson, in her 40 celebrated years as an educator, says, "Every child deserves a champion — an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection, and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be." She once heard a colleague say, "They don't pay me to like the kids." Her response: "Kids don't learn from people they don't like."

Her assertion is true abroad. As an American EFL teacher in South Korea, teaching is very much a performance-driven task. Students respond better to enthusiastic educators who show an interest in their young, un-

predictable lives.

"Teachers are great actors and actresses," says Pierson.

Also, the small things teachers do usually create the biggest impact in a student's life. Pierson shared another anecdote which was the highlight of the video for me. It expressed the importance of maintaining a student's dignity in the face of tough academic challenges. She said:

"I gave a quiz — 20 questions. Student missed 18. I put a +2 on his paper and a big smiley face. He said, 'Ms. Pierson, is this an F?' I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Then why did you put a smiley face?' I said, 'Cause you're on a roll! You got two right, you didn't miss them all. And when we review this, won't you do better?' He said, 'Yes, ma'am, I can do better.' You see, -18 sucks all the life out of you. +2 said, 'I ain't all bad.'"

Article used with permission from the Technology Entertainment and Design news website

# Blackerby Joins LISD Board of Trustees

Scott Blackerby grew up in Leonard, Texas, and now calls it home again for him and his family. Scott, his wife Kelli, son Seth (sophomore), and daughter Brooke (6<sup>th</sup> grade) have resided in Leonard since 2009, having moved from the Lufkin area. "I graduated LHS in 1989 with 32 other classmates. There were very few of us, if any, who really knew what they wanted to do with their lives. My route took me to Texas A&M University," said Blackerby. Scott graduated Texas A&M in 1993 with a B.S. degree, along with his soon-to-be spouse Kelli, of Carthage, TX.

Scott worked for a year in scientific research with the Texas A&M Experiment Station in Over-

ton, Texas, before continuing his education at Stephen F. Austin State University. After earning an MS from SFA in 1996, his real education began. "I think the hardest thing to do in the workforce is to manage people and to lead a team to the successful solution to an issue or problem. It takes a lot of practice to be effective," stated Scott. He worked in various manufacturing supervisory positions for Temple-Inland Building Products for 10 years and sales management for Citation Corporation (Texas Foundry) for 4 years.

Many small and medium corporations did not make it through the economic turmoil of 2009 and prior. Citation Corporation closed its doors in 2009. This provided an

opportunity to the Blackerby family to return to Leonard. Scott is now employed by KD Johnson, Inc. here in Leonard. "I was lucky enough to be able to continue my sales role in the industrial sector while working for a great small town company." KD Johnson, Inc. is a manufacturer's representative that sells high voltage electrical products throughout Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

Since coming back to Leonard, Scott has not only been involved on the LISD School Board, but has also served as the LHS Alumni Reunion Chairman, President of the Leonard Chamber of Commerce, member of the Leonard Preservation

League, and Scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 156. When asked why community service is so important, Blackerby stated, "I believe that the community is our identity, which we must vigilantly promote and construct it in a positive manner."

*"I believe that the community is our identity, which we must vigilantly promote and construct it in a positive manner."*



Pictured above (L-R) - Seth, Scott, Kelli, and Brooke Blackerby

## 2013 Leonard ISD Board of Trustees

Stability and Continuity provide a steady base for our students. We are fortunate and grateful to have these qualities in our LISD Board of Trustees.

- Billy Michael Watson—President
- Jack Bonds—Vice-President
- Amy Boggs—Secretary
- Harold (Buster) Sudderth
- Kevin Brockus
- Scott Blackerby
- James Watson

## Leonard ISD On the Trail of The Tiger

This newsletter is written and distributed for the parents and patrons of the Leonard Independent School District. Comments, questions, concerns and suggestions may be directed to the Superintendent, Larry LaFavers, at the LISD Admin Bldg., or to Nancy Longino at longinon@leonardisd.net Please remember that space is limited, therefore we may or may not be able to share your ideas, but we always welcome your input. Special thanks to Mrs. Alice Dills at Leonard High School for her proofing and editing skills.



# Tiger Talk with Mr. LaFavers

As a district, we have a lot to look forward to and be proud of going into the new school year. This summer has been one of our busiest to date when it comes to professional development for staff and improvements to our facilities. If you drove past our school track during these last summer months, you most likely noticed some construction projects going on. We are replacing our old track and installing a leading-edge new design. The track project has been designed by Vibra-Whirl Sport, LTD., one of today's leading producers in the market of state of the art sport facilities, and a projected completion date is set for early November of this year.

Along with these facility improvements, our students have also been busy preparing to make transitions from elementary to intermediate school and from middle school to high school. Our elementary students have been working hard on literacy skills this summer by participating in our reading programs at the local library. Graduation is the end goal and vision we want for each of our students here at LISD. It's a proven fact that no student can graduate and walk away with a meaningful diploma without an educational support system that begins in pre-kindergarten and lasts till the end goal is achieved. The skills students need to be productive members of any society are communication, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving, and creativity. Our goal at LISD is for all of our teachers to continue to incorporate literacy across all curriculum areas, from physical education and art, to math and science. Students at LISD will use reading, writing and presentation skills. We will increase opportunities for acceleration to help challenge students academically because closing the achievement gap means raising the floor, not lowering the ceiling.

Another objective focus of LISD is to create opportunities for parents, community members, and business leaders to fulfill their essential roles as engaged partners in supporting student achievement. It's more important now than it's ever been for teachers and students to feel the support of the community. We plan to fulfill this objective by creating and strengthening business, community, and higher education partnerships and by giving parents the tools they need to help their children succeed.

Sincerely,  
*Larry LaFavers*  
LISD Superintendent



# Go

# Band



**Flash Alert  
Emergency  
Newswire**

For up-to-date school closing information due to inclement weather, snow closings, or other emergency messages, be sure to sign up with Flash Alert Newswire. LISD will post the emergency bulletins online at [www.flashalert.net](http://www.flashalert.net) and you can be notified by email or cell phone or home phone. The service is free of charge and makes it much more convenient to monitor school closings.

Check out pictures of your children on the **Photo Gallery** on the main page of the school website. When the yearbook staff photographers cover any event, they will post all of their pictures on the Photo Gallery. All you have to do is 'right-click' and 'save as' to your own computer. [Visit us online at www.leonardisd.net](http://www.leonardisd.net)

