

On The Trail of The Tiger Prowling with Pride

Volume 3, Issue 1

November 4, 2011



Bugz and Boltz Make Their Debut for LJHS Robotics Team

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.

B.E.S.T. ROBOTICS

Our Vision:

To excite our nation's students about engineering, science and technology to unlock their imagination and discover their potential

Our Mission:

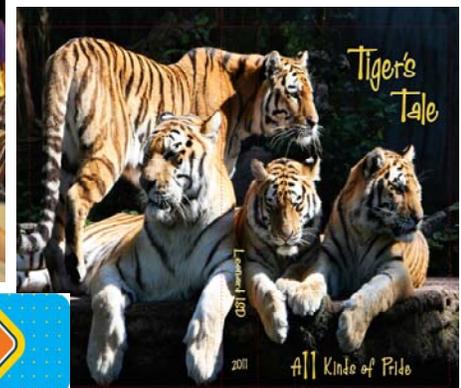
To inspire students to pursue careers in engineering, science, technology, and math through participation in a sports-like science- and engineering-based robotics competition

For the BEST Robotics competition, students are expected to take plywood and a box filled with items like PVC pipes, screws and a variety of hardware pieces, aluminum paint grid, a bicycle inner tube, and a BEST Robotics Advanced Instruction Node programmable platform (aka THE BRAIN). Students then have six weeks, to design and build a functioning machine that can perform specific tasks in three minutes to earn the team valuable points.

However this is not the only aspect of the program, nor is it the most weighted believe it or not. Students are to design their own mock company including fundraising, management of finances, and advertisement as well as prepare to sell the company to executives at the competition. Students are also expected to keep the spirit of the game alive with a team that designs an exhibit relaying the story of

how their engineering process and robot came alive!

Be sure to come and check out and support your LJHS Students, the Bugz and Boltz Team.



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Tiger Talk with Mr. LaFavers

Dear Parents and Staff,

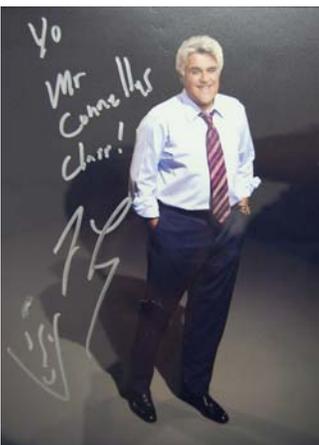
Welcome to the new school year. We are looking forward to another wonderful year for our students. This year will be especially challenging financially because of the state reduction in funds for schools. Leonard ISD will be significantly affected by this. The Leonard ISD Board of Trustees has been diligent and has planned for such a shortfall. Therefore, students, and teachers in our school should not notice the budget crunch in the classroom. Our district website keeps improving with the goal of making it more informative and useful to parents and the community. The website continues to be updated with student assignments on the parent portal so that parents have the opportunity to be genuine partners in the education of their children. In addition, each campus has been hard at work improving their teacher pages and producing a campus website overhaul. As we continue in the new school year, I encourage every parent to stay involved in your children's educational program. We truly believe that you are a vital partner with the school in ensuring that all our students have the tools necessary to be successful. Feel free to email me at lafaversl@leonardisd.net or call me at (903) 587-2318 if I can provide additional information.

Larry LaFavers

Superintendent of Schools

Connelly's Operation Autograph

Sarah Palin's up there. She's next to the cast of Grey's Anatomy and cooking guru Paula Deen and just a bit northwest of Batman. Just a glance at Coach Greg Connelly's room at Leonard High School reveals that this place is different. The learning taking place here wanders outside the box sometimes. A visitor would find the applicable classics in there – novels, Shakespeare, grammar books...along with autographed pictures of Fats Domino and the guy who played Freddy Krueger, complete with an original sketch and the message, "Study or die...read or Freddy will visit!" Junior Darian Wilkinson is carrying around an autographed color photo of Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, a cast member of the popular reality show, *Jersey Shore*. Snooki personalized it with the words "Go Tigers!" "I love that show," said Wilkinson. "I love Snooki, and I thought this assignment was really cool." "Snooki" and seven other celebrities have gone home with juniors this year since September, arriving as a result of "Operation Autograph," an assignment Connelly came up with in 1999 while teaching at Trenton. "I had watched the movie *Summer School* about a dozen times, and there is a scene where these students write complaint letters to get free stuff," said Connelly. "It dawned on me that those rough kids loved that assignment. What if we tried that with autograph request letters to athletes instead? So I bought a box of baseball cards, a box of football cards, and a pack of index cards. The deal was this: each kid got an index card to send for a signature, and if the sports card came back as well, it went on to a bulletin board for display during the year, then into a scrapbook for future classes to see." Ten years later, after experimenting with hockey, basketball, the WNBA, and a year in which they exclusively wrote coaches, Connelly loosened up and allowed the students to write any celebrity (with a U.S. address) they wanted. The floodgates opened. Photos were coming in from the genres of music, film, television, politics, sports, authors, and even prison. Senior Heather Bryant really wanted the autograph of her favorite rapper, Lil'



Wayne, who was serving time on weapons charges. "I knew he was in prison, but I figured he would just be sitting around and have plenty of time to sign something," said Bryant, whose signed index card arrived within two weeks. "I was excited when it came back. I love him and his music." Connelly himself writes around a dozen letters each year as examples to send off along with the students. Nearly 50 autographed photos are framed and scattered around the walls of his classroom. The scrapbook of sports cards from 1999 has grown to two full volumes, and none of this includes all the photos and signatures the kids take home each year. There is even a Facebook page which chronicles the last two years of the experiment, "Connelly's Operation Autograph." "All of this is just a bonus," said Connelly. "The key here is that the students learn to correctly compose a business letter for college, job applications, a letter to the editor, or whatever. If they get something back, that's great; but even if they don't, they had a good time doing it. Learning can be fun occasionally."



Royalty arrives in vintage style—Homecoming King (Dario Gomez) and Homecoming Queen



Paws gets all dolled up for Homecoming

LISD School Year's Greatest Week of Events !

Homecoming week at LISD is always marked by a host of traditional events leading up to the Homecoming Coronation proceeded that night by the Varsity Football Game. This year's homecoming was a great success and a good time was had by all. Leading off the event-filled week was a food drive hosted by the Student Government which brought in a total of 3700 points. This resulted in the freshmen class walking away with the bragging rights of most items collected. All items were delivered by the students to a very grateful Leonard Food Pantry. The following student events were held in the high school gymnasium during break time: Monday – Pack the Square, Tuesday – Dodge Ball, Wednesday – Relays, Thursday – Tug of War, Friday – Class Chants. Each class competition was fiercely battled and brought out some true Tiger Spirit, with the junior class winning the “Super” class week. The all-school Homecoming Pep Rally is a big event for each campus and their students. Students participated in the special day by making noise makers and various pep rally items in their classrooms. The homecoming king and queen were announced during the coronation prior to the football game. Homecoming royalty were Bailey Ainsworth, Heather Bryant, Stephanie Grantland, Angela Lewis, Gavin Buckaloo, Dalton Ball, Dario Gomez and Matthew Weaver. Seniors Bailey Ainsworth and Dario Gomez were crowned LHS King and Queen, and the Tigers went on to demolish S&S with a 41-0 win, in addition to a dance following the game. A good time was had by all with the exception of Head Boys Basketball Coach, Jeff Smith, who could be seen standing in the corner of the gym possibly hyperventilating from the sight of street shoes actually touching the shiny new basketball court.



Dario Gomez and Angela Lewis



Matthew Weaver and Bailey Ainsworth



Dalton Ball and Heather Bryant



Gavin Buckaloo and Stephanie Grantland



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www.leonardisd.net

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Parents and Community Members of LISD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Leonard Tiger Marching Band Advances to the Finals

The Leonard Tiger Marching Band has worked very hard this season on their UIL Marching Show, Pendulum: Simple, Harmonic, Motion. They started their competitive season in Aubrey on October 1. They took 2nd place in Marching and advanced to the finals. They took 10th place overall.

The next stop was the Northeast Texas Marching Festival held at Texas A&M-Commerce on October 3. This was followed by the Plano East Marching Invitational held at Plano's Clark Stadium on October 8. All of these contests were just warm-ups for the big one. Region 25 UIL Marching Competition was held on October 15 at Plano's Clark Stadium. The Leonard Tiger Marching Band received a Division III rating.

The remainder of the marching season will consist of half-time shows at the football games. The band will be shifting gears quickly to tune up for concert band competition. The first concert will be November 11 at LHS for the Veteran's Day Concert. We are very proud of the work that the band members have put forth so far this year.



The Pride of Leonard show off their formation as well as the newly painted Tiger Eye (painted by Tyler McCarley) during the half-time performance of the Homecoming Football Game.

