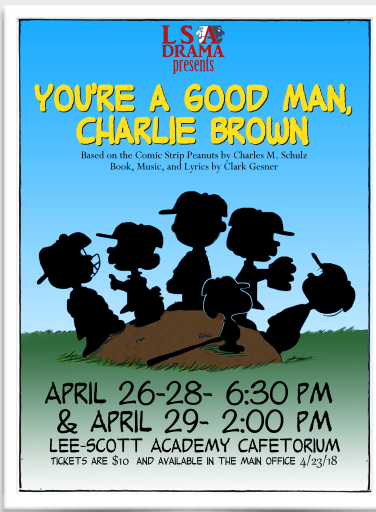


# LSA LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

## NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR PRINCIPAL

### You're A Good Man Charlie Brown

Tickets are on sale Mon., April 23  
in the front office! Don't miss it!



### Warrior Gala

Thank you to everyone who supported the PTO Warrior Gala. Wow, what a great time for a great cause! This support of the school does so much for all of our students. Funds are used for a large range of activities and events including special classroom projects, curriculum support, student recognitions, event hospitality, spiritual emphasis and arts presenters, and on and on. So many people supported this event from volunteering and providing items and experiences to donating funds through sponsorships and the auction! THANK YOU!



WLSA News Crew surprised Mrs. Parker with a baby shower. LSA students are very thoughtful!

### Spring Standardized Testing Next Week

It's that time again...standardized testing. While not the most enjoyable part of school, it is necessary and does provide accountability for all stakeholders to show growth, and students get the opportunity to show off all they have learned! Next week 3rd - 6th graders will be testing M-Th, with makeups throughout the week and culminating on Friday. Each session will be completed by lunchtime. Our schedule is as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Reading	Math	English	Science

The students are well prepared, but you can support by:

- Ensuring your child is here in plenty of time to get settled.
- Ensure s/he has plenty of rest and a low sugar, balanced breakfast
- Feeling confident and supported

Thank you for all of your support during this week and always!

## Spring Student-Led Conferences

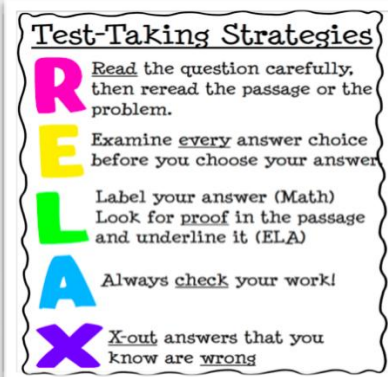
We had another successful round of SLCs. These empower students to take the lead role in communicating their learning. The practice helps build dispositions and skills- such as speech, presentations, and organizing and presenting information. Sharing work and reflecting on learning with the family strengthens the school-home connection and helps parents understand their child's progress more deeply. It is a win-win-win!

## Accelerated Reader

We are so excited about our introduction of AR to the students. Stay tuned for more info. Get ready to see your child's reading soar!

## RELAX During Test

The teachers have presented several test taking strategies with students as they dig through text and word problems. These tests are high level, multi-step thinking and problem solving. They can do much better if they are relaxed and confident. Thanks to Mrs. Harris, our counseling intern, who has presented RELAX to all students.



## Pre-K's Precious Moments

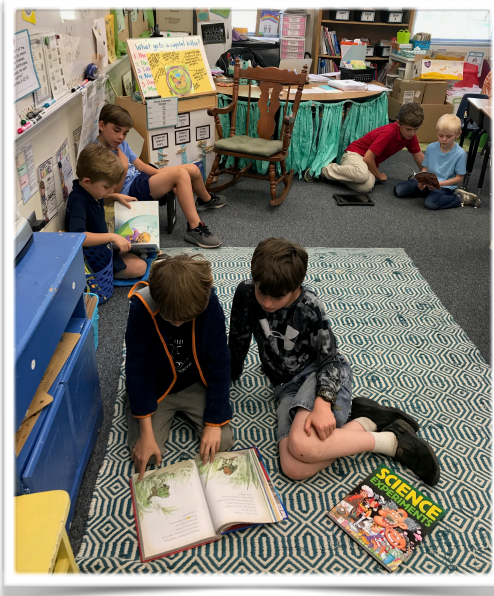
You would think that Pre-K students were learning about the letter V with all of our visitors! Well, we haven't learned about V, yet, but we have certainly learned about lots of other things. Rocko the chicken from the AU Poultry Department visited us during the study of the letter R. He reinforced our studies on the letters C for chicken and E for egg, too. Patrick Starr visited with his petting zoo during the week of Z. Even though he did not have a zebra this year, he did have other zoo animals and lots of farm animals to reinforce our study of Mr. R and his love for red barns and roosters. We dressed up like zebras and snacked on zebra cakes to finish our study of the letter Z. What fun to learn that baby zebras have brown and white stripes and adults zebras have black and white stripes. Learning about insects was right up pre-k's alley! Who doesn't like insects and creepy crawlies? Mr. I loves insects and measuring with inches. Three entomologists from AU visited during our study of the letter I. Learning about the metamorphosis of butterflies and learning the three main body parts of insects made us feel like entomologists. Our favorite insect to explore was the Madagascar hissing cockroach. Using rulers to measure insects was a fun way to end our study of I.

Many of our students are emerging into readers. What an exciting time for these children! They are definitely almost ready for kindergarten.



## Kindergarten's Corner

What a wonderful time of the year in Kindergarten! The children have grown so much and this is the time of year where writing and reading are flourishing! April has been a busy month with a special author project in the mix. Each child is preparing, illustrating, and editing their very own book that will be published. This has been an amazing way to see the



creativity and individuality of each child. During reading instruction we have focused on many skills that help strengthen beginning readers such as blends, sight words, story elements, and more. We have enjoyed an author study on Eric Carle and are now into a unit on fairy tales. These units have also been great way to learn about authors and illustrators! In math we have been subtracting and adding, solving word problems, representing our answers in various ways, identifying place value and groups of ten, counting on and back. Each class has also opened up a bank. Each child works to earn money for jobs in the classroom. For example; a journal entry complete with details, a beginning, middle, and end, neatness, and an illustration would earn 5 pennies. The children have a wallet to store their checks earned and a bank book to graph how many pennies they have earned. Each week the bank is open and the children share the responsibility of working as the teller, bankers, and stamper. The children visit the bank to cash in

their checks for coins. This has been a wonderful, real-world experience for our students! In science we have continued researching animals on the farm, discovering insects in our environment, and enjoying another set of baby chicks that will hatch later this month in Mrs. Gilmore's classroom. We are loving spring in kindergarten!

## First Grade's Finds

Last month was a fun time of learning and growing in first grade! Not only because we were able to share the Biblical story of Easter and experience a FUN Easter Egg Hunt, but because of SPRING BREAK! The children were ready for a break and they came back ready to dive into new learning. Long vowels has been quite a challenge but we are getting there! Also, naming and counting coins has been a big part of our math block. The students have worked hard at adding pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters. Parents have helped at home by allowing their children to "count the change in their pocket or purse". Learning about Yellow and Red codes as part of our safety program was very important to everyone. We were so proud of our students for listening and paying attention to this new information. We can hardly believe we are in the final grading period! We expect great things from our students in this final stretch!

## Second Grade's Sensations

We have had a great start to the Spring Season! Dr. Seuss Week was a huge success! We had so much fun diving into all of his wonderful books. The dress up days were so fun and helped us love reading even more. We



also got to study different poems and how poems can help us express our feelings. We just completed our book study on *Ranger In Time*, and we loved this book! We made a storyboard to go along with our book, and also found all of the flat and round characters.

Our Student Led Conferences were a hit! Thank you to all of the parents that came and supported their children in this process of taking ownership of their learning! The students did an excellent job showing their parents how they have achieved their goals throughout the year and what they still want to continue to work on. Thanks again!

Science and Social Studies has led us to travel the globe and learn all about different map skills and ways we can use our maps! We have also studied the different States of Matter and we made a Lapbook to show all that we have learned! We are currently learning about different Tall Tales and how they have impacted our culture. We can't believe that the end of school is approaching so quickly! We have been so impressed with our students' work ethic and their ability to never give up! We look forward to finishing out this school year strong!

### Third Grade's Thoughts

Spring has proven to be quite the jubilee for third grade! In reading, we started our final novel study, *Charlotte's Web*, and the students can't put the book down. They are working hard to create their own alphabet book with characters, themes, vocabulary words, and events from each chapter of the book. These books will be bound and presented at our annual Sip-n'-See event closer to the end of the school year. In science, students also created their own book through the an app using research and pictures they found on an animal from their classroom habitat. Each

classroom studies a specific habitat, and students choose an animal found in that habitat to research. They created an animal model at home, researched facts and pictures on the iPads in technology and the classroom, painted and drew their animals in art class, and compiled all of this information together in an ebook that is being printed by Shutterfly. We wrapped up our animal and habitat study with a trip to the Montgomery Zoo, where students enjoyed petting stingrays and feed the giraffes. Wow, what an up close encounter with nature! Students are working hard to finish the school year on a strong note!

### Fourth Grade's Greatness

March was such a busy month in 4th grade. Students learned about geometry and fractions in Math. Electricity and sound was explored through hands-on activity labs in Science. Students discussed the



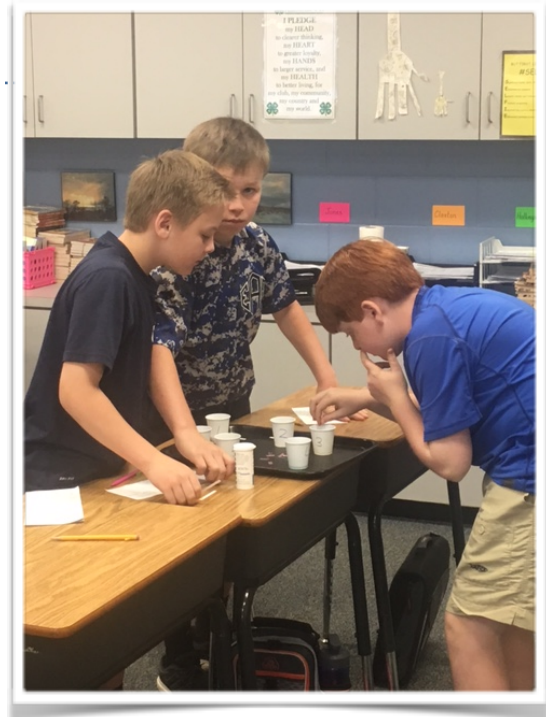
Creek War in Alabama History. We have jumped in feet first to Accelerated Reading in fourth grade. Students have really enjoyed choosing books and reading everything that interests them. We have shared our new knowledge of the program with our 1st grade reading buddies. Each week the 4th graders read with their buddy and encourage the 1st graders to complete book quizzes to check their understanding. The connections that the children are making with each other and sparking the love of reading are priceless!

## Fifth Grade's Fantastic News

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5th grade has been studying Chemical and Physical changes. We have done many experiments so we could observe the traits of each. The class favorite was creating a precipitate using soda and learning how the phosphoric acid in it can cause our bones to lose calcium! We also tested unknown liquids in order to classify them as an acid or base. In reading we finished up the novel, *Number the Stars*. The students enjoyed learning about how the Danish people helped smuggle the Jews to Sweden. Currently we are reading plays and studying point of view.

In Social Studies we have finished the War of 1812 and are now studying the Industrial Revolution. Adverbs are the current topic in Language class and solid figures are being studied in Math.



## Sixth Grade's Scene

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Reading a good book is like taking a journey, and journey is just what we have done. Literature Circles have been our vehicle for exploring new genres, experiencing life through the eyes of amazing characters, and escaping into worlds of imagination and creativity. Each child has completed at least 14 novels this year, and some many more. We can truly say that our love of reading has been ignited, and we look forward to the continual progress on our educational journey. In social studies we felt like we were frozen in time studying the 40 years of the Cold War. Our heads were spinning around the globe as we moved from the Korean War to the Vietnam War, from the Space Race, to the Nuclear Arms Race, from JFK's assassination to MLK's, from the struggle for Civil Rights to Watergate and Nixon's resignation. We even enjoyed a "Watergate" cake with "Cover-up" icing and had Christine Chang's grandfather speak to the class about his memories of life in Korea during the war. In science we finished our erosion and weathering unit and put our creative skills to the test by designing brochures and flyers for "our own" erosion control companies. Come and check them out on our bulletin boards. We have solutions to your erosion problems! In math, we are finding the perimeter, area and volume of plane and 3-dimensional shapes. We are also learning how to correctly use a calculator. It is shaping up to be a lot of fun. The bright spot in our month was the amazing job the children did on their Student-led Conferences. Our students are shining stars!