

LEFFINGWELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA

The FORCE is Strong at Leffingwell

Principal Dr. Scott Blackwell (email: sblackwell@ewds.org;
Facebook: Leffingwell Elementary ~ twitter: twitter.com/dr_blackwell ~ Instagram: [leffingwellschool](https://www.instagram.com/leffingwellschool)
10625 Santa Gertrudes Ave., Whittier, CA 90603
Office: 562/907-6300 Fax: 562/943-2445

Our Mission: Our belief is that dreams are the launching pad for all students in their educational journey through life. Our dream is to be accepted for what we are, challenged to become what we can be. Our intent is to motivate our children to seek and reach their maximum potential through honorable and productive behaviors, which will enable them to become responsible members of society. Our ultimate goal is that our students will never lose their thirst for knowledge or their joy learning and living and that they will always "Reach for the Stars."

A WORD FROM DR. BLACKWELL, PRINCIPAL

Welcome Back! Thank you to our staff and PTA for all their hard work to get prepared for the new school year. We are off to a great start! We are excited about our new theme – **The Force is Strong at Leffingwell!** The force is definitely strong due to our amazing staff, supportive parents, and hard working students!

Thank you for your patience and cautious driving in our parking lot as everyone gets back into the routine of drop-offs and pickups. Don't forget that supervision does not begin until 8:00am each morning. Students should not arrive before then unless they are in kindergarten or eating breakfast in our cafeteria. Breakfast begins at 7:45am. Also, please note that our playgrounds are

closed before and after school. If you are getting out of your car to pick up your child at the end of the day, please remember to wait outside the gates or in our Parent Reception Area. No parents or younger siblings should be in the hallways or playing on the playgrounds. Classes are still in session, and we do not want them being disturbed.

I encourage you to get involved this year by joining our PTA, volunteering at school activities, and taking an active role in your child's education. Hopefully, you were able to attend our Back to School Night, meet your child's teacher, and hear about the adventures that await your child this school year!

Please don't hesitate to let us know if we can be of any assistance. We are here to help you and, most importantly, to help your child be successful! You can always stay up-to-date with what's going on at Leffingwell by checking us out online at www.leffingwellschool.com or following us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/leffingwellschool), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/dr_blackwell), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/leffingwellschool). In addition, feel free to call (562-907-6300) or stop by the office at any time!

The Force is Strong at Leffingwell,

Dr. Blackwell



A WORD FROM MIKE AND SHAYLEEN SANBORN

PTA PRESIDENTS

As you probably already heard, the theme for this year is Star Wars, "The Force is Strong at Leffingwell." Your child may have told you about the opening skit at the first assembly, where the

new Star Wars bad guy, Kylo Ren, came and challenged Dr. "Master" Blackwell. But Master Blackwell and Rey (Miss G) defeated Kylo Ren and showed him the strength of the light side.

Ren kept saying, as Darth Vader had before him, "You don't know the power of the dark side." But all the while, just as in the latest Star Wars film, The Force Awakens, Kylo Ren was

(Continued on page 4)

PTA[®]

everychild.onevoice.®

September 6, 2016

Volume 1, Issue 1

Inside this issue:

Cook's Night Out	2
Box Tops	2
T-Shirts Sales	
Leopard Spot	2
Membership	
Important Volunteer Parent Information	3
Party Info	3
Thank you Gift	
Important Dates	4
Book Fair	4

Special points of interest:

- What Is Your Story?
- Who joined Leffingwell this year.
- Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 7134
- Important Dates
- Book Fair INFORMATION

COOK'S NIGHT OUT! - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH

Take a night off from cooking! Join us on Thursday, September 29th for a pizza dinner. Look for pre-sale envelopes to come home closer to the event date. The cost is \$5 for 2 slices of pizza and salad – it's the best deal in town! Drinks and dessert will be available for purchase that night. The book fair will also be



2 pieces of Pizza,
and Salad
For \$5.00

open so you can eat, shop and hang out with your Leffingwell friends. Again, there will be a class competition.

The class with the highest participation will win a pizza lunch party! And don't be surprised that night if a Storm Trooper asks you come to The Dark Side!

Thank you to all of you that came out to our first Cook's Night Out of the year at Carl's Jr. in August. It was fun to be with our Leffingwell friends and enjoy some dinner. There was a tie in the class competition for most attendance between Mrs. Caveness' and Mrs. Quintero's classes. The tie breaker was determined with a coin toss and Mrs. Quintero's class won the Carl's Jr. lunch party. But don't worry, Mrs. Caveness' class will have an ice cream party for being runner ups!

LEOPARD SPOT

What is "Leopard Spot"? It is a shop that is opened during the student's lunch on the first Friday of the month. Students can earn their ticket by doing their nightly assigned reading. There is also Above and Beyond tickets that can be used towards a homework assignment your teacher chooses. The first Leopard Spot will be September 9th at lunch. We can't wait to meet all of the 1st grade readers and show them how all their reading has paid off. The new Leopard Spot tickets are ready for all the readers.

MEMBERSHIP

Way to go Leffingwell Leopards! The Force has been strong with memberships. As of right now the top classes that are close to 100% are for lower grades Mrs. Bruckner and upper grade is Mrs. Quintero. We also have about 9 classes that are right behind them, it's very close. There is still time to get your class to the top and win a light saber. May the Force Be With You.

Thank you, PTA Membership

Debbie Guerra and Sarah Meza

T-SHIRTS SALES

T-shirt sales are different this year. It is on hand sales only. So if you have not bought your "The FORCE is Strong at Leffingwell" shirt yet, come to one of the following events to get your shirt. Cash, Check or Credit taken at each event:

September 8th at 6:30pm PTA Meeting.

September 29th at 4:30pm Cook's Night Out at Leffingwell

BOX TOPS



Our first drawing was last Friday!

Congratulations to:

Daniel Song, Jocelyn Mercado,
Logan Stanton, and Sophie Villagomez

Keep collecting those Box Tops so you can enter our next drawing in the coming months! Remember to ask grandparents, family and friends.

Box Tops adds up so quickly!!!

Keep the FORCE Strong!

REFLECTIONS

Theme: What Is Your Story?

What is Reflections?

Reflections Program provides an excellent opportunity for students of all ages to:

- Unleash their creative talents and be inspired
- Express themselves imaginatively in their artwork.
- Experience the joy and fun of making art.
- Tap into critical thinking skills to create art inspired by the annual theme
- Receive positive recognition for their original works of art.

Look for information in the coming weeks.

THE FORCE IS
STRONG AT
LEFFINGWELL

IMPORTANT REMINDERS FOR PARENT VOLUNTEERS:

We appreciate parent volunteers at Leffingwell. Even as a volunteer, your commitment needs to be professional. While you are on campus you are a role model for our students. In order to keep our students safe and reduce disruptions, please adhere to the following rules:

All visitors must sign-in/sign-out at the office and wear a visitor's sticker while on campus.

All visitors must have prior permission from the teacher to volunteer in a classroom.

Parents are not allowed to eat lunch at the lunch tables with students. Please check your child out for lunch if you would like to eat with him/her.

The teacher's priority is his/her students! Please do not interrupt while instruction is taking place. Refrain from parent conversations (if other parents are also volunteering) and refrain from talk-

ing on your cellphone as these things are very disruptive to the teacher and students.

Please keep our hallways clear and quiet. If you wish to have conversations with other parents during school hours, please go off campus.

All volunteers, no matter what job they perform, have an obligation to keep in confidence all information that pertains to the students and staff they assist. Information regarding students, staff, and other volunteers is not to be discussed with anyone who is not entitled to such information.

Volunteers should not use student bathrooms. Please use the "Adults Only" bathrooms in the office.

Do not speak to a student about behavior issues. Behavioral concerns are addressed by teachers and administrators only. Let the teacher know if there is a problem.



Joining the Leffingwell Family this Year.

Brittney Guerra (4th Grade Teacher)

Lisa Quintero (4th Grade Teacher)

Caitlin Brown (4th Grade Teacher)

Vicky Damico
(Primary Special Education Teacher)

Jeselle Escalante
(Primary Special Education Teacher)

Mystie Rapp
(Learning Center Teacher)

Tina Mecate (Instructional Assistant)

Evette Fierro (Instructional Assistant)

Yolanda Placentia
(Instructional Assistant)



PTA Mtg.

Please join us for our first PTA Meeting. We would love for you to get involved and be part of the Strong Force at Leffingwell.

Thursday, September 8th at 6:30pm.

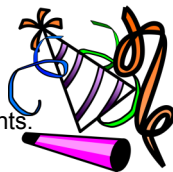
FOOD GUIDELINES FOR CLASS PARTIES:

Store bought food ONLY.

Try to include healthy food options for students.

No take home goodie bags filled with candy.

Note: All parties must be pre-approved by the classroom teacher.



Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 7134 for our bench outside the office.

It was made by current and former LEOPARDS!
We love it!

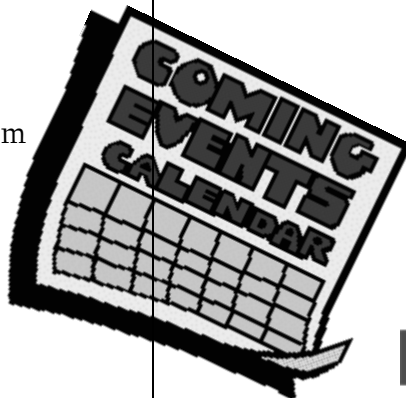
IMPORTANT DATES!

September

- 7 Fall Picture Day
- 8 First PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm
- 9 Popsicles With Principal (Summer Reading)
- 9 Leopard Spot at Lunch
- 9 Room Parent Breakfast
- 23 Parent /Teacher Conference Day (No school)
- 26-30 Minimum Day Schedule
- 26-30 Scholastic Book Fair
- 29 Cook's Night Out—Pizza, Book Fair and Star Wars Night

October

- 7 Pizza with the Principal
- 7 Leopard Spot
- 13 1st Grade Space Day & Parade 1:45pm
- 13 PTA Meeting at 6:30pm
- 14 PTA FUN RUN
- 17 NON-Student Day
- 19 Shakey's Pizza Cook's Night Out
- 24-28 Red Ribbon Week



A BOOK CAN TAKE YOU TO GALAXIES FAR, FAR AWAY.

Our Fall Scholastic Book Fair is the last week of September. If you're new to Leffingwell you may not know that Scholastic gives us a ton of free books for hosting book fairs. Last year alone, we received nearly \$5000 in FREE books that went straight into the classroom libraries which in turn supports our A.R. program.

On **Thursday, September 22**, we receive all the books to set up our own little shop. It's actually fun to unpack them & set it up. If you'd like to help, meet in the cafe at 12:30.

Also, on the evening of Thursday, September 29, there will be a night event with give a ways & Star Wars characters. Look for more details in the coming weeks.



(Continued from page 1)

feeling tempted by the strength of the light. The light at Leffingwell represents the virtues that the school has been aspiring to embody, virtues such as kindness and respect for everyone (especially the disadvantaged), diligence in our studies and work, cheering for the success of others, and sacrificial service for the benefit of children.

And when I "give in" to the call of the light, it is so much more fulfilling than the dark side.

But as a parent of a 7th grader and a 5th grader who is in her last year at Leffingwell, I know how hard it is to have the time and energy to try to instill these virtues in my children. I have plenty of experience in the "dark side" - ignoring my children when they really needed their dad to engage,

listen, and guide. But I have also experienced the allure of the light side at Leffingwell, which

is always beckoning, always "tempting," because it is just so doggone good, isn't it? And when I "give in" to the call of

the light, it is so much more fulfilling than the dark side.

All this is to say, I encourage you – I encourage myself! – to "give in" to the call of the light a little more this year. Put down the remote, the smartphone, the magazine, the laptop, whatever it is that is diverting your gaze away from a child who wants – who *needs* – some of your attention. A few moments of attention can produce years of benefits for your child. Give in to the temptation, because the Force is Strong at Leffingwell!

