Dear MCCS Community,
Where does the word “Leobred” come from? Simply put, it’s where the thinking habits of Leonardo DaVinci meet the passion and legacy of the Thoroughbred, the former mascot of Middleburg Elementary School – but also a precious image of the beautiful horses that surround our school.
I am so pleased to be writing to you on the eve of our first month of school. Each month I plan to share Smith’s Shout Outs to pay some special tributes of thanks. I really want to start with our students – their vibrant happy faces rushing to get into school in the morning is a joy for all of us. What a gift families have shared with our school. I am also thrilled with how our students and fire safety team have pulled together to practice three safe and quiet evacuations. So far the times keep going down. Awesome work, team! I’d like to thank our amazing Teaching Assistants who just keep on giving – in the classroom, at recess, during lunch and at dismissal! They also teach physical education, dance, visual arts and language arts! As a matter of fact, let’s celebrate them every week with a “TA Tuesday” tribute. Students, parents and staff – can join us weekly as we celebrate our Fab Four: Mr. Cooper, Ms. Lutter, Mr. Pilarksi and Ms. Thaler for being there to support the team. I’d like to sum up the shout outs with a giant thank you to Board Chair, Dave Quanbeck and PTO President Richa Badami. These ‘Presidents’ demonstrate their commitment daily with their feet and with their hearts. Finally, I must give out a super SHOUT OUT to the families who honored our staff with The Brunch of Champions. I am so proud of these professionals and I am so pleased your kindness echoes this feeling, too. It is wonderful to be appreciated – so thank you! The most difficult part of this message is making the choice to stop. I have pages of material of people to thank – but I promise by the end of the year, I will try to acknowledge our whole village. Have a wonderful September!  Dr. Smith ☺
COMMUNICATION

Stay tuned to the website, your emails (from school and class parents), and backpacks (letter from school) for updates in daily notices or the Weekly Thursday folder! News coming this Friday:

- DECISION on SCHOOL START TIME
- INTERSESSION NEWS!

WELCOME!

Please join me in welcoming Pam Packard, our new resource teacher, to MCCS. On Wednesdays, Allison Swisher, our school guidance counselor, will also be in the school all day.

VOLUNTEERS

We would like to give MANY thanks to parents who volunteer each week during the ‘arts’ classes and during lunch. Just a reminder to everyone that staff and visitors should keep their cell phones off and not visible to the children. Students and staff are not to use phones when they are supervising children as well.

DAVINCI FAMILY PROJECTS

How are they coming? Date for sharing: Thursday, October 2.

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THURSDAYS ARE LEOBRED THURSDAYS

Wear something green/gold to celebrate school spirit!

FRIDAYS ARE FITNESS FRIDAYS

(Wear sports sweaters/fitness clothes to salute DaVinci’s focus on the healthy body!)
“Who is Leonardo Da Vinci, Aishwarya?” I ask my youngest at dinner. And she says, “Oh, Da Vinci was a painter, a builder, a drawer and author and he built stuff”. I doubt that a month ago my five year old (in Ms. Morgan’s class) would have used so many words all in one sentence, and articulated – albeit rather creatively “stretched” the language (paintress) in the manner that she did. Honestly, a month ago I would have received a blank stare with her thinking mom was talking to herself, again.

I think that nothing makes parents happier or more at peace than knowing that when in school, our children are in a nurturing, creative and safe environment where they are free to – in fact, encouraged to explore the lengths, breadths and depths of their intelligence, creativity and love of learning. In other words how to think, see and learn like none other than Leonardo Da Vinci himself.

As a parent of 3 daughters in this groundbreaking school, it is truly my honor to be serving the staff, teachers, students and parents as the 1st PTO President at MCCS. It truly humbles and inspires me to see the dedication, commitment and passion in our little schools community that is set to do big things in the world of education. This is a very exciting year for all of us!

I couldn’t be more proud to be in my role along with a terrific group of parent volunteers! Lisa Mohrman (Vice-President), Mark Pomeroy (Treasurer), Kami Nash Cleary (Co-chair Secretary) and Ken O’Keefe (Co-chair Secretary) – thank you for stepping up and leading the PTO with me!! Our committee chairs: Kelly Dillon (NASA Space Trip, Spring 2015), Angie Tomaszewski (Science Night – 9/18 & Volunteer & Parent Room Committee Chair), Kathy Rush (Spirit Wear), Kelly Fink (Breakfast With Santa – Auction Logistics Chair), Dyana Clark (Breakfast With Santa – Breakfast Chair), LEO Talks (Britt Cooper), Marketing (Susanna Calley & Sylvia Silver), Logo Design (Yvette Jacobs), Box Tops (Ellyn Miller) and our Art Hour Volunteers as well as Nicol Pomeroy, Jessica Miller, Laila Ali, Lisa Mohrman and Kami Nash Cleary for being our Room Parent Contacts!!! WOW!! We could not run our programs and events without the time, talent and resources of all our parents! THANK YOU!

The PTO is thrilled to be bringing you Family Science Night (9/18), LEO Talks (9/30) as well as our very famous Breakfast With Santa (12/6). Please mark you calendars and check the PTO page on our school website for information. Thank you to all the parents who attended our first LEO Talk and making it such a success. If you missed the live talk, please stay tuned for the video – coming soon!

Just as Dr. Smith and our teachers are helping our kids to think, see and learn like Da Vinci, as a parent and PTO President, it is my hope also to learn and grow as a Da Vinci parent – to “learn how to see”, to be creative, open minded and “realize that everything connects with everything else”. It is my hope that as your new PTO we too will embody that spirit of Da Vinci that drew us to this school to begin with, and together with our children we will have the greatest year celebrating our love of learning.

Thank you for joining me on this incredible journey this year. Your support is invaluable. We still have open positions to chair committees and plenty of room for volunteers for almost everything, especially Breakfast With Santa! Please keep an eye out for our Sign Up Genius links. If you would like to email the PTO please do so at MiddleburgPTO@gmail.com. To reach me directly you can always email me at Richa@RichaBadami.com or leave me a note at school. The PTO Board is here for you!

“It had long since come to my attention that people of accomplishment rarely sat back and let things happen to them. They went out and happened to things.” ~ Leonardo Da Vinci
**Deep Thoughts…**

Sometimes we make mistakes and that’s okay. We do need to learn from mistakes. DaVinci modeled making many drafts that he constantly changed. We could learn about him because he left his thinking tracks behind in all his journals and artifacts. I want to teach students to leave traces, so they can go back and think about their thinking. Handing in a page with no evidence of work “I did it all in my head” – does not mean a child is brighter; it can lead to careless mistakes. So precision and innovation comes out of re-checking and re-thinking our work.

Some mistakes, however, make their way to the Principal’s Office. Some are forgiven with an apology and recognition that using words and actions that help rather than words and actions that hurt, is part of a positive school culture. Our staff work hard to promote good choices in class. They are trained to handle discipline that includes the right time to intervene. From time to time I also have to make a call home to get parents’ help to stop poor habits from forming. This kind of work is highly confidential, but we are committed to helping all our students be the best they can be.

The following parable is one I’m hoping you will share at home – with your children. Imagine what a world would be like if we all fed the right fire?

**Cherokee Parable**

An old Cherokee chief was teaching his grandson about life…

“A fight is going on inside me,” he said to the boy.

“It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves.

“One is evil – he is anger, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, self-doubt, and ego.”

“The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, compassion, and faith.”

“This same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather, “Which wolf will win?”

The old chief simply replied, “The one you feed.”

Si tiene preguntas que quiere hacer en Espanol, por favor llame a Susana Calley (702-297-7899)