

# TIGER TIMES

## PLEASANT LEA MIDDLE SCHOOL

DECEMBER 1, 2017

NO.14

630 SW Persels Road  
816-986-1175

Lee's Summit, MO 64081

**Dr. Janette Miller, Principal**

[Janette.Miller@lsr7.net](mailto:Janette.Miller@lsr7.net)



@JanetteMillerPL



PLMS\_Principal

**Mrs. Kimberly Alonzo**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

[Kimberly.Alonzo@lsr7.net](mailto:Kimberly.Alonzo@lsr7.net)



@PLMS@1971



PLMSTIGERS

**Dr. Joe Dan Vendelin**

8<sup>TH</sup> Grade Assistant Principal

[Joedan.Vendelin@lsr7.net](mailto:Joedan.Vendelin@lsr7.net)



@JDVENDELIN

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

4pm WRESTLING @ HOME

4pm GIRLS B BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT @ BRITTANY HILL

4pm GIRLS A BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMNENT @ MORELAND  
RIDGE

4pm BOYS B BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT @ DELTA WOODS

4pm BOYS A BASKETBALL  
TOURNAMENT @ PAUL KINDER

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

All tournaments continued

8PM TIGER  
ORCHESTRA  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

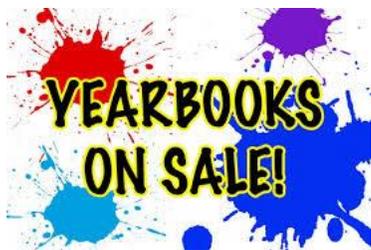
All tournaments continued

4PM WRESTLING AWAY

### PLMS SCHOLAR BOWL SEASON IS HERE

The Scholar Bowl season begins in January. Scholar Bowl is an academic competition involving teams of students from schools in our region. Our season runs from early January through early March. We will have an informational meeting during Power Hour on Thursday November 30 in Mrs. Fuchs' room 202. If you missed the meeting, contact Mrs. Fuchs.

### PLMS YEARBOOK



Order your yearbook today for \$25.00 by clicking this link [Purchase Yearbook](#).

**Get one before the price increases to \$30.00 on December 21<sup>st</sup>.** Don't miss your

chance, order now! Last day to order yearbooks is Wednesday, February 28, 2018. Please contact Mrs. Alonzo at [kimberly.alonzo@lsr7.net](mailto:kimberly.alonzo@lsr7.net) for more information.

### LSR7 GRAD TETONS SUMMER 2018 ADVENTURE

#### What is the LSR7 Grand Tetons Adventure?

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity! The LSR7 Grand Tetons Adventure is a summer trip for LSR7 high school students to the Grand Tetons School of Science in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. All high school students are eligible to participate, except current seniors.

The trip allows students the opportunity to explore the natural world in one of the most biologically diverse and geologically special areas on the planet. **The trip includes:** daily hikes within the Grand Tetons and

Yellowstone National Parks, a high altitude ropes course, a canoe trip, and many other unique opportunities working hands-on in the field with scientists at the Grand Teton School of Science.

### **Below you will find important FAQs and information about the trip:**

#### **When is the 2018 trip?**

The 2018 trip will take place **July 8-15th**.

#### **How much does the trip cost?**

The approximate cost of the trip is between **\$900-950** (DEPENDING ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENT PARTICIPANTS ON THE TRIP). This INCLUDES food, lodging, guides, and transportation. You are only financially responsible for TWO meals, one on the way there and one on the way back. Payment amounts and dates are found below:

**1st payment: \$375 (due by November 30)** - THIS FIRST PAYMENT IS REQUIRED UPON SIGN-UP TO RESERVE A STUDENT'S SPOT ON THE BUS.

**2nd payment: \$300 (due by February 28)**

**3rd payment: \$275 or below (due by April 30)** - FINAL PAYMENT TBD BASED ON THE TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS.

#### **How do I sign-up for the trip?**

Participation is based on a first come first serve basis. **If you are interested sign up ASAP!**

Email Mr. Gerding ([chris.gerding@lsr7.net](mailto:chris.gerding@lsr7.net)) or stop by his classroom (1302) to directly express your interest in the trip and sign-up.

Attend the Informational Student & Parent Meeting about the trip, with your parents/guardians, on Monday, **November 20th** from **6:00-7:00pm** at **Lee's Summit North High School** (Room 1302). If you cannot attend the meeting on that day, please let Mr. Gerding know ASAP.

Follow the LSR7 Grand Tetons Trip account on Twitter and/or Instagram (@LSR7Tetons) to receive updates and important reminders regarding the trip.

#### **How do we travel to the Grand Tetons (Jackson, WY)?**

We travel to and from Jackson, WY on a charter bus. The cost for transportation is included in the overall price of the trip.

#### **Where do we stay during the trip?**

We stay in lodges/cabins at Teton Science School located right outside of Jackson Hole, WY.

#### **Where can I find more information about the trip?**

You can find more information on our [LSR7 Grand Tetons website](#). You can also find pictures, student testimonials, and more! You can also check out a cool video about the trip [here](#).

## **DR. DENNIS L. CARPENTER RELEASES 'LOOKING, LISTENING AND LEARNING' SUPERINTENDENT'S 100 DAY REPORT**

Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter, Lee's Summit R-7 School District superintendent, presented his 100-Day Report to the Board of Education at a Nov. 16 meeting. The report includes information about the district's strengths and the superintendent's input process as well as immediate, short-term and long-term commitments.

"My goal since beginning my tenure as superintendent on July 1 has been to work collaboratively to deepen and further cement the district's well-deserved reputation of academic and extra-curricular excellence," Dr. Carpenter said. "Throughout my first 100 days as your superintendent, I have sought to look, listen and learn. This 100-Day Report is based on these many interactions, meetings and events as well as my own analysis of the district's achievement, student demographic and other data sets."

Since being named Lee's Summit R-7 superintendent in January 2017, Dr. Carpenter has met with more than 50 individuals including community leaders and district-level and school-level administrators. In addition, he has attended numerous community events and met with organizations such as the R-7 Citizens' Advisory Committee, R-7 Business Roundtable, PTA presidents, Lee's Summit Economic Development Council, Lee's Summit Educational Foundation, Lee's Summit Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club and Jacomo Chapter of Retired School Personnel. Dr. Carpenter also spoke to several groups including the district's All-Staff Kick-off Meetings, new teachers' orientation, Chamber of Commerce monthly luncheon, local clergy and the R-7 District Leadership Team.



Dr. Carpenter said the overall public sentiments of the school district are positive. "The community believes the school district to be a cornerstone that continues to be recognized as one of the most desirable in our country," he said. "These positive sentiments are also evident in the greater community's commitment to serving the district."

In terms of opportunities, Dr. Carpenter said his community discussions indicated that the district must proactively address enrollment growth and increased diversity, meet the increasingly complex needs of our children, build trust and continue opportunities to listen to the community.

District strengths include outstanding educators and support staff, students who come to school prepared to learn, high levels of parent involvement, excellent curricular resources, outstanding community support and engagement, excellent salary/benefits for employees, top-quality operations and facilities and a strong financial position.

Dr. Carpenter shared that his immediate commitments are driven by his unwavering belief that excellence and equity cannot be divided. "To continue to enjoy the tradition of excellence that has become synonymous with our district, we must honor the fact that some subpopulations of students are not participating in our tradition," he added.

Immediate commitments included in the report focus on increasing the learning and achievement of each child; addressing disparities and inequities to better serve all students; comparing favorably to Kansas City area Big 5 districts; enhancing workforce development and access to college courses for all students; further defining 21st century learning spaces; addressing facilities in terms of both new schools and improvements to existing schools; and strengthening public trust and enhancing communications. Dr. Carpenter also discussed his ongoing short-term commitments which include emphasizing equity-focused schooling that maximizes key opportunities to tightly couple the work of the district with schools; addressing opportunity gaps among various subgroups; analyzing and addressing suspension rates in terms of gender, family income and ethnic groups; critiquing the district's current continuous improvement process to ensure we meet the needs of 21st century learners; removing barriers for all students to rigorous courses and programs in the area of workforce development; forging a culture of equity-focused decision-making that puts students at the center, inclusive of analyzing hiring processes and committing to development of a workforce that mirrors our student demographics; developing strategies to ensure that the superintendent provides instructional leadership within the organization; and implementing a district-wide comprehensive mentoring program.

Long-term commitments presented in the 100-Day Report were maintaining the district's tradition of excellence; working with governmental entities and citizens to address growth; addressing needs related to new schools and existing schools; enhancing workforce development and the value of the Lee's Summit R-7 high-school diploma; enhancing, supporting and maintaining a robust digital environment for all students; continuing to merge curricular resources through technology; and focusing on equity in all areas including overall performance and subgroups.

"I have always heard that you are either getting better or you are falling behind," Dr. Carpenter said. "My commitment to Lee's Summit R-7 is continuous improvement in all areas, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with our district's staff, families and community leaders to implement this vision for our schools. There isn't a community more equipped to do this work than ours and for that reason we should all be very excited about the future of Lee's Summit R-7."

## LEE'S SUMMIT R-7 EARNS STATE'S TOP RANKING THROUGH MSIP 5 ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

District-wide scores jump by 5.7 percentage points when compared to three years ago. The Lee's Summit R-7 School District has earned the state's top rating for academic achievement following the Nov. 15 release of Missouri assessment scores. The district scored 98.2 percent on the state's rigorous Annual Performance Report (APR) for the 2016-17 school year, an increase of 5.7 percentage points over the past three years.

The Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education annually issues a state report card for public schools through the Missouri School Improvement Program. This assessment system, established in 1990, is now in its fifth cycle and is often called MSIP 5. Performance standards used through MSIP 5 are designed to recognize the achievement and growth of all Missouri students.

"The Annual Performance Report reflects the high level of instructional effectiveness taking place in our schools," said Dr. Dennis L. Carpenter, superintendent. "This is reflective of the quality of teachers and students we get to work with in our district. As we look to the future, this data also points to our greatest opportunity and that is ensuring that each student in our district participates in the level of academic achievement that has become synonymous with Lee's Summit R-7."

Through the 2016-17 MSIP 5, Lee's Summit R-7 scored 137.5 out of a possible 140 points. This is an increase over the 2015-16 year. Since the 2013-14 school year, Lee's Summit R-7's score on the Annual Performance Report has increased by 5.7 percentage points. Percentages over the last four years are 92.5 in 2013-14, 96.8 in 2014-15, 97.9 in 2015-16, and 98.2 in 2016-17. The MSIP 5 Annual Performance Report includes five major standards - academic achievement, subgroup achievement, college and career readiness, attendance rates and graduation rates. Lee's Summit R-7 students scored well in all five categories.

## RACHEL MCBRIDE FEATURED IN "EQUITY MINUTE" VIDEO

### **Videos highlight staff members for outstanding work in area of equity**

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District recently launched a new video series known as "Equity Minute." The 60-second videos are available on the district's [YouTube channel](#). Rachel McBride, Westview Elementary reading specialist, is highlighted in the [latest video](#), posted during November. The videos highlight Lee's Summit R-7 staff members for outstanding work in the area of equity and ensuring that every student is successful.

## LEE'S SUMMIT R-7 EARNS MERITORIOUS BUDGET AWARD FROM NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The Lee's Summit R-7 School District was selected to receive the Meritorious Budget Award for excellence in budget presentation by the Association of School Business Officials International. The award recognizes the district's budget for the 2017-18 school year, and the school district also received the award for the previous school year.

According to the national organization, the Meritorious Budget Award promotes and recognizes excellence in school budget presentation while acknowledging school business officials' skills in developing, analyzing and presenting a school system budget. After a rigorous review by professional auditors, the award is conferred only on school districts that have met or exceeded the program's stringent criteria. The award is sponsored by Voya Financial, Inc.®.

“School business officials are responsible for ensuring taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and that the district budget reflects student priorities and needs,” said John Musso, Association of School Business Officials International executive director. “The program helps applicants create an accessible, accurate budget that builds trust with their community.”

The Lee's Summit R-7 budget is available on the school district's website at [www.lsr7.org](http://www.lsr7.org).

**Sign up to receive 'R-7 News Update,'  
your weekly source for district news**

“R-7 News Update” is published weekly by the school district and is a great source of information for parents and community members alike. Visit our website at <http://tiny.cc/pahyny> to sign up for the electronic newsletter and stay informed.

**Families encouraged to visit website  
featuring student-related flyers**

Lee's Summit R-7 families are encouraged to frequently visit the district's informational flyers web page to learn about a wide variety of family and children's activities and events. The website includes student-related informational flyers from the R-7 School District as well as Missouri not-for-profit organizations and is located at <http://ow.ly/UR3k>.