



LEOPARD SPOT

MARGARET LANDELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 2018

Principal's Message

Dear Landell students and families,

I am very excited to join the school community. My first day as principal was Wednesday, September 26th, and I want to thank Julie Gautreau for launching the school year and assisting me with this leadership transition. Ms. Gautreau will transition back to her role at the district office. It is exciting getting to know your children and wonderful working with this talented staff.

The Cypress School District Board of Education sets clear goals for all schools, focusing on student academic and social, emotional growth. Below are the five goals for the 2018-19 school year. We hope to work with the whole Landell community – including our parents -- to meet the five goals below.

GOAL 1: Provide a data-driven, evidence-based instructional program that effectively addresses the educational needs of *all* students and supports high levels of academic achievement and student success.

GOAL 2: Promote student innovation and creativity through the development of STEM (science technology engineering and math) and music programs that serve *all* students.

GOAL 3: Foster a safe and positive district climate by building strong internal and external relationships to support student achievement.

GOAL 4: Effectively manage resources to maximize student success while maintaining the financial health of the district.

GOAL 5: Pursue options for modernizing the district office facilities in order to maintain a strong district infrastructure to support student achievement.

The Cypress School District has specific strategies that are attached to meeting each goal. You can find these goals on the district website. Families will receive communication through the monthly Leopard Spot Newsletter as well as a bi-monthly newsletter highlighting our award winning instructional program.

As a new principal to the school, I am committed to continuing the legacy of educational excellence that has been set forth by exceptional leaders who have come before me. I believe that strong lines of communication and family involvement are essential to student success. Therefore, it is imperative that school and family work together to assure each child reach their full potential.

Kind regards,
Kimberly Benaraw

Mark Your Calendar!

Non-Student Day

Monday, October 8

Reading Counts

Wednesday, October 10 & 24
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

No School

Friday, October 12 and
Monday, October 15

Great American Shakeout

Thursday, October 18

Box Tops Contest #1 Ends

Friday, October 19

Red Ribbon Week

October 22-26

Out of the Park Pizza Family Night

Tuesday, October 23

Have Questions?

Principal

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Administrative Assistant

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Cypress School District

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Bully Prevention Month

October is Bully Prevention Month. At Landell, we believe that every child should feel safe and respected at school at all times. In order to properly address bullying, we must educate students on how to identify bullying and how to respond appropriately. Bullying is when an individual or a group of people with more power, repeatedly and intentionally cause hurt or harm to another person or group of people who feel helpless to respond.

Bullying is not:

- Single episodes of social rejection or dislike
- Single episodes of spite
- Random acts of aggression or intimidation
- Mutual argument, disagreements, or fights

At home it is very important to talk with your child about what they can do if a peer ever makes them feel unsafe at school:

- Have your child practice being assertive and telling the other child to stop. Role playing is a great way to build confidence in dealing with difficult situations
- If the child does not feel safe to speak up, let them know to walk away and find an adult immediately
- Have your child identify a staff member who they trust that they can go to report any bullying
- Let your child know that getting bullied is not their fault and they should always report it to an adult

When we all work together, we can help create a safe school where everyone feels respected and valued for who they are.

Your actions – big or small – can make a difference! Remember, kindness is something everyone can give.



Spotlight on Reading/Language Arts

This year the Cypress School District adopted Benchmark Advanced a new English Language Arts program. This new rigorous program takes on a balanced literacy approach that supports differentiated small group instruction as well as pushes students to analyze complex text.

The program is designed with ten units that are vertically aligned across all grades levels. This allows for students to build their content knowledge over time. Each unit has an Essential Question which enables students to dive deeply into each unit topic. Topics include Next Generation Science Standards as well as social studies standards. Below are the topics and essential question for each grade level for Unit 1. Please talk with your child about what they have learned and how it applies to the essential question.

Unit 1: Government and Citizenship

Kindergarten: Rules at Home and School

Why do we have rules?

First Grade: Being a Good Community Member

Why do people get involved in their community?

Second Grade: Government at Work

Why do we need a government?

Third Grade: Government for the People

Why do people participate in government?

Fourth Grade: Government in Action

How can government influence the way we live?

Fifth Grade: The U.S. Constitution: Then and Now

Why do laws continue to evolve?

Sixth Grade: Beyond Democracy

Why might societies form different types of government?

Coming Soon!

Watch for bi-monthly newsletter that will be coming out next month.