

**B****BE**

Respectful &amp; Responsible

**O****OWN**

Your Choices

**L****LEAD**

With Integrity

**T****TRUSTWORTHINESS**

## Principals Corner

### Dr. Mederios

Greetings Lightning family:

I hope this message finds you well. It has been a very positive start to the school year. It is hard to believe that we are already at the end of first quarter. We are looking forward to celebrating outstanding student accomplishments in mid-October during our Quarter One Awards Ceremony.

Our clubs and sports teams are in full gear now, and we would love to have your support at all of our events. If you have the opportunity, please come out and show your support for our students who work extremely hard at balancing their academic life with their extracurricular life. We truly appreciate all of their hard work and dedication to the school, so let's show them our appreciation. If you have any questions regarding after school activities at VLMS, please contact our Athletic Director, Mr. Craig Bullock, at (239)694-3464.

We look forward to the continued success of our students, and we appreciate your support at home, in the school, and in our community. Go Lightning!

Sincerely,  
**Matthew Mederios, Ed.D.**  
**Principal**



**Dr. Mederios**  
 Principal

**Mrs. Booker**  
 Assistant Principal:  
 6th Grade Discipline

**Mrs. Fisher**  
 Assistant Principal:  
 Curriculum

**Mrs. Padilla**  
 Assistant Principal:  
 7th Grade Discipline

**Mr. Plucker**  
 Assistant Principal:  
 8th Grade Discipline

**Ms. Burke**  
 Counselor:  
 8th Grade

**Ms. Guiterrez**  
 Counselor:  
 7th Grade

**Ms. Kombat**  
 Counselor:  
 6th Grade

**Contact Information:**  
**(239) 694-3464**  
 801 Gunnery Rd. N  
 Lehigh Acres, FL  
 33971

### **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM:**

- ALL NEW VLMS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM TO BEGIN OCTOBER 8TH FROM 4:15-6PM
- STUDENTS WILL SPEND THE FIRST HOUR IN THE MEDIA CENTER WORKING ON HOMEWORK WITH STAFF AVAILABLE TO ASSIST WITH ANY QUESTIONS.
- THE SECOND HOUR WILL BE SPENT IN THE CAFE WITH SNACKS AND GAMES AVAILABLE.
- REGISTRATION PAPERWORK IN GUIDANCE OR FRONT OFFICE

**ONE TIME REGISTRATION FEE: \$15**

**(WAIVED IF IN MORNING PROGRAM)**

**COST PER DAY: \$3**

## ***Varsity Scholar Creed***

*My education will determine my future*

*My choices will shape my life*

*I will do my best to maximize my potential*

*I will not quit when things get tough*

*I respect myself, my family, my teachers,  
and my school*

*I will support and stand up for my peers*

*Through my actions, I will make a difference  
in this world*

**WHO AM I?**

***I AM A VARSITY SCHOLAR***

## **SAC MEETINGS 2018-2019**

**All meetings begin at 6pm**

**Monday, October 29**

**Monday, November 26**

**Monday, January 28**

**Monday, February 25**

**Monday, March 25**

**Monday, April 29**



# Student Highlights

These students were nominated by their teachers for going above and beyond in the classroom. They will have an opportunity to win a 2018–19 Yearbook, as well as being featured on the VLMS News and get a paper certification in their Advisory Class.

## 6th Grade:

Kaylie Brown  
Judieanna De La Cruz–Vera  
Adrian Howell  
Ayanna Johnson  
Josue Martinez  
Mia Martinez  
Oscar Martinez  
Angelo Ochoategui–Callej  
Yolimar Perez  
Chiara Schubel  
Brycelyn Turner  
Alejandria Uria  
Kenny Valcourt  
Scott Weill

## 7th Grade:

Alanna Beauplan  
Ke’vontay Duverne  
Lylah Hamilton  
Cawadeshia Mallard  
Aisha Rojas

## 8th Grade:

Samara Bates  
Questley Bunch  
Nate Bostick  
Angel Hernandez  
Mason Stanley  
Jenny Tang

**2018–19 Yearbook Winner: Kenny Valcourt**

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

OCTOBER 12: END OF QUARTER 1

OCTOBER 12: WET WALK FIELD TRIP @ 6 MILE CYPRESS

OCTOBER 15: NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

OCTOBER 19: MUFFINS WITH MOMS @ 8-9AM

OCTOBER 19: GAME NIGHT @ 4:30-6:30PM

OCTOBER 19: MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND NIGHT - LSHS @  
7PM

OCTOBER 26: HALLOWEEN DANCE @ 4:30-6:30PM

OCTOBER 29: SAC MEETING @ 6PM

OCTOBER 29: CIVICS NIGHT

NOVEMBER 1: BAND FALL CONCERT - LSHS @6:30PM

NOVEMBER 9: JROTC VETERANS DAY PROGRAM - G.  
WEAVER HIPPS @ 8AM

NOVEMBER 12: VOLLEYBALL & STEP TEAM SPORTS  
PICTURES @ 4:30

NOVEMBER 15: PICTURE RE-TAKES

NOVEMBER 17: MATH COMPETITION - DUNBAR HIGH  
SCHOOL @ 8:30AM

NOVEMBER 26: SAC MEETING @ 6PM

DECEMBER 3: BAND SWFL AIRPORT PERFORMANCE @  
10:30AM

DECEMBER 4: CHORUS SWFL AIRPORT PERFORMANCE  
@10:30AM

DECEMBER 5: BAND GATEWAY ELEMENTARY  
PERFORMANCE @ 9:45AM

DECEMBER 6: BAND TORTUGA ELEMENTARY  
PERFORMANCE @ 9:45AM

DECEMBER 7: FALL PLAY @ 7PM



## CLUB MEETINGS

### EVERY MONDAY AFTER SCHOOL:

CHESS CLUB  
GUITAR CLUB  
MATHLETES

### EVERY TUESDAY AFTER SCHOOL:

VARSITY TSA

### EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL:

GUITAR CLUB  
LEGAL STUDIES CLUB

### OCTOBER 11:

NJHS

### OCTOBER 12:

GQ @ 8AM

### OCTOBER 25:

NJHS

### NOVEMBER 2:

GEMS @ 8AM  
GQ @AM

### NOVEMBER 8:

NJHS

### DECEMBER 7:

GEMS @ 8AM

## SPORTS:

### OCTOBER 8:

B/G BASKETBALL PLAYOFFS ROUND 2 @ 5:30

### OCTOBER 9:

B/G CROSS COUNTRY REGIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP MEET @ 5:30

### OCTOBER 10:

BOYS BASKETBALL QUARTERFINALS

### OCTOBER 11:

GIRLS BASKETBALL QUARTERFINALS

### OCTOBER 16:

B/G CROSS COUNTRY MEET-ESTERO @ 7:30

### OCTOBER 17:

BOYS BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS (TBA)

### OCTOBER 18:

GIRLS BASKETBALL SEMIFINALS (TBA)

### OCTOBER 16-31:

VOLLEYBALL TRYOUTS

### OCTOBER 23:

BASKETBALL FINALS

### OCTOBER 27:

B/G CROSS COUNTRY FINALS - LAKELAND

### NOVEMBER 12:

VOLLEYBALL VS. OAK HAMMOCK  
@ 5:30

### NOVEMBER 14:

VOLLEYBALL @ FMMS @ 5:30

### NOVEMBER 19:

VOLLEYBALL VS. DUNBAR @ 5:30

### NOVEMBER 26:

VOLLEYBALL @ OAK HAMMOCK @ 5:30

### NOVEMBER 28:

VOLLEYBALL VS. FMMS @ 5:30

### DECEMBER 4:

VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS ROUND 1 TBA

### DECEMBER 5:

VOLLEYBALL PLAYOFFS ROUND 2 TBA

# Disney Youth Education Series

WHEN: MARCH 15-17

ALL SPOTS FILLED! CONTACT ONE  
OF THE CHAPERONES TO BE PUT  
ON A WAITING LIST

## FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES:

### COUPON BOOKS:

OCTOBER 1-19

BOOK COST \$25 EACH

STUDENTS MAKE \$10 FOR EACH BOOK  
SOLD TOWARDS THEIR TRIP  
FOR EVERY 5 BOOKS SOLD, THEY GET A  
FREE BOOK (TO SELL OR KEEP)  
MONEY DUE TO THEIR ASSIGNED  
TEACHER BY OCTOBER 19

### GAME NIGHT:

15 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

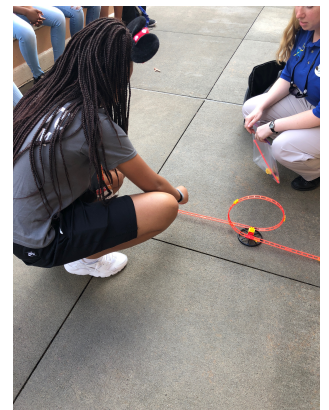
### CONCESSIONS:

NOVEMBER 19 & NOVEMBER 28

### CONTACT:

MR. ARMSWORTH - [JEFFREYAR@LEESCHOOLS.NET](mailto:JEFFREYAR@LEESCHOOLS.NET)

MS. STOKES - [JESSICALST@LEESCHOOLS.NET](mailto:JESSICALST@LEESCHOOLS.NET)



# VARSITY LAKES MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND

## Snap! Raise

### WHY ARE DONATIONS NECESSARY?

BAND IS LARGELY A SELF-FUNDED PROGRAM. WITHOUT DONATIONS, WE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE THE HIGH QUALITY AND COMPREHENSIVE EXPERIENCE OUR STUDENTS DESERVE & MANY STUDENTS NEED.

### WHAT WILL THE DONATIONS GO TOWARDS?

DONATIONS WILL GO TOWARDS THE PURCHASE AND UPGRADING OF MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, SHEET MUSIC, CABINETS AND CLINICIANS. DONATIONS ARE VITAL FOR THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM.

[HTTPS://WWW.SNAP-RAISE.COM/FUNDRAISERS/VARSITY-LAKES-MIDDLE-SCHOOL-BAND-2018](https://www.snap-raise.com/fundraisers/varsity-lakes-middle-school-band-2018)

## YEARBOOK 2018-19

CONTACT MS. STOKES FOR DETAILS:  
JESSICALST@LEESCHOOLS.NET

### WANT TO ORDER ONLINE?

[YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM](http://YBPAY.LIFETOUCH.COM)

OCTOBER 6 UNTIL WINTER BREAK \$25  
ALL ORDERS AFTER WINTER BREAK \$30

ID NUMBER: 13581419

WANT TO SUPPORT THE  
YEARBOOK? PURCHASE AN AD  
SPACE FOR YOUR BUSINESS



\$25: BUSINESS CARD  
\$50: 1/4 PAGE  
\$100: 1/2 PAGE  
\$150: FULL PAGE

## Salvation Army Canned Food Drive Hosted by NJHS:

Each year, National Junior Honor Society hosts this event in hopes of helping our local families who rely heavily on nearby food pantries to eat.

**The advisory class that brings in the most canned goods will receive a pizza party on us!**

Students can either bring cans to their advisory teacher's classroom, OR to me (Ms. Weicht) in room 1124.

**The food drive will go for two weeks (October 1st through October 12th).**

NJHS will then collect any items on October 12<sup>th</sup>

## NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY



### BREAST CANCER AWARENESS PINS:

Another fundraiser NJHS does each year is sell awesome pins in hopes of spreading awareness, strength, and courage, as well as raising monetary funds for the American Cancer Society.

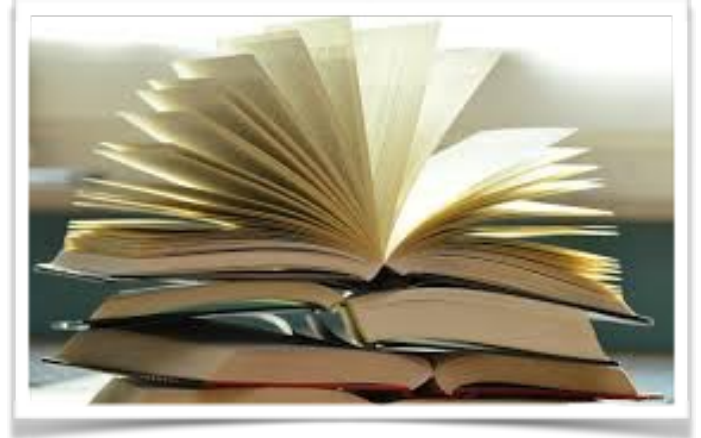
**These 3" pins are ONLY \$1!!**

Then, to show support to such an amazing cause that helps so many families, students get to use a metallic marker to sign the "Be Pink" poster our students created that will hang in the cafeteria the remainder of the year.

# MESSAGES FROM MEDIA

WITH MRS. SHAW

**Come see Mrs. Shaw for any or all of your literacy needs. She can help you find and recommend all types of books! Come before or after school or when your ELA or reading teacher allows it!**



## TECH TALK WITH MR. NEES

MAKE SURE TO STOP BY BEFORE SCHOOL WITH ANY CHROMEBOOK RELATED ISSUES. SIGN IN AND WAIT TO BE CALLED ON TO GET ANY ISSUES RESOLVED.

REMEMBER, CHROMEBOOKS ARE FOR SCHOOL RELATED TASKS!

BE KIND TO YOUR CHROMEBOOKS!





# CIVICS

## CIVICS NIGHT:

OCTOBER 29TH: IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE SAC MEETING

MR. SCHIFFHAUER AND HIS STUDENTS WILL BE RUNNING A BRIEF PRESENTATION OF HOW POLITICAL ADS EFFECT TODAYS UPCOMING ELECTION.

STUDENTS WILL SHOW EXAMPLES AND ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS.

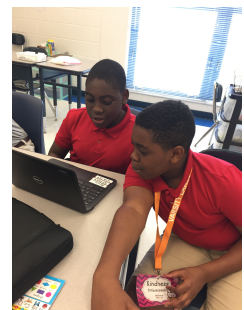
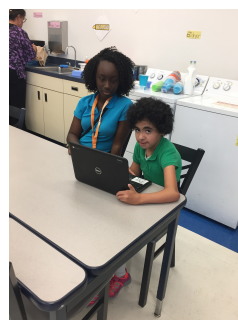
The aim of the Acts of Kindness class is to inspire and empower students with kindness skills that will result in authentic expressions of kindness in the form of community service and social action. This month students are learning about Compassion, Empathy and Respect.

Kindness Ambassadors have already started serving our school community by peer tutoring students in Mrs. Whiteman and Ms. Howiszak's Life Skills classes.

## Random Acts of Kindness

### Quarter 1 Service Project: Together We Rise

Did you know that EVERY DAY 1,200 KIDS ENTER FOSTER CARE IN THE UNITED STATES- many children are only given a trash bag for their belongings. Students have decided to improve the lives of children in foster care by raising funds to purchase duffel bags and fill them with toiletries and small gifts. Our goal is to raise \$650 to sponsor 26 bags and donate them to a local foster care agency.





## Artist Corner

Art students recently studied the artist Picasso and made their own abstract/cubism faces. They are looking forward to making ornaments for the Edison Home Children's Tree Trail and getting ideas for this year's Middle Schools turn to create Holiday Greeting Cards where the winners design will be displayed at the district office during the month of December. Have fun creating!!!!!!

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### Fall Play

**The Seussification of Romeo  
& Juliet**

The Shakespearean tale  
with a Dr. Seuss twist.

Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup> 2018  
7:00PM

### Winter Showcase

An evening of scenes, songs  
and monologues

Presented by the Theatre  
Classes

Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> 2018  
7:00PM

### Faculty Freakshow 2

A Talent Show

Starring the  
Teachers and  
Administration

Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2018  
7:00PM



## DRAMA

### Spring Showcase

An evening of scenes, songs and  
monologues

Presented by the Theatre Classes

Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 2018  
7:00 PM

### The Wizard of Oz

The classic story brought to life  
onstage.

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2018  
7:00 PM







## The School District of Lee County

PERSONAL • PASSIONATE • PROGRESSIVE

### Why is my school asking me to okay receiving telephone calls or text messages?

Under a federal law designed to protect consumers, we have to get your permission to send nonemergency messages to a mobile phone by automated voice call or SMS text. It's also just a good idea, so that we're sure the message is going to the right phone number for the right person. This permission is needed only for automated voice calls and texts. Permission is not necessary for other calls from the school, like you might get directly from a teacher, principal, or other staff member.

### I have never been asked about phone calls before. Is this new?

While it is not completely new, the rules were recently updated to make it clear that we need the recipient's okay to send non-emergency automated phone notifications, as well as SMS text messages, to a mobile phone number. To comply with the law contact information must be current.

### What if there is an emergency?

In an emergency, we will call or text you as long as we have your contact information on file. The law has an exception for calls made for "emergency purposes," which is usually a situation affecting the health and safety of consumers. What if I change my mind about phone calls, or change my mobile number? You can opt out of non-emergency calls and text messages at any time. For voice calls, we will provide instructions on how to use touch-tones on your phone keypad to stop receiving calls. For text messages, you can stop receiving them by texting "UNSUBSCRIBE" or "STOP" after receiving a text from us.

### Can I be contacted in other ways, too?

Yes. We can contact you, if you would like, by email. Email is covered by a different set of rules than the permission required for automated voice calls and text messages to mobile phones.

### My school says it uses the SchoolMessenger app. What is it?

The SchoolMessenger app is a free web and mobile app that gives you access to school notifications of all types (text messages, voice and email) inside a single inbox. You can also change your contact preferences and adjust contact numbers in the web app, available from any Internet-enabled device.

### How do I sign up for the SchoolMessenger app and provide permission?

The easiest way is to visit the SchoolMessenger app website at <https://go.schoolmessenger.com/>. Create an account by clicking "Sign Up" on the top right menu, using the email address that you have provided to the school. You can choose how you want to be contacted based on the category of message (from emergencies to school activities) and provide contact permission. You will also be able to listen to and read messages from the school for the previous 30 days so you do not miss a thing, including alerts, notifications and attachments. You can also sign back in to change your preferences at any time.

## What if I want to use the SchoolMessenger mobile app?

You will find the SchoolMessenger app in the Apple iOS Store or Google Android Play Store. If you have already created an account, you simply have to log in. If you have not, Click the “Sign Up” button, enter your email address, and create a password. An email will be sent to that address with a secure token. If you receive a “This email is already registered” error message, which means you have already created a SchoolMessenger account via another SchoolMessenger product. Simply follow the “Return to login” link and login. Use the “Forgot your password” link if needed.

## Will the SchoolMessenger app notify me if there is new information?

You can opt in to receiving Device (or push) Notifications under Notification Preferences. When you choose to receive Device Notifications, a badge or alert will appear when new communications are available in your SchoolMessenger app inbox.

## How private is the information in the SchoolMessenger app?

West, the trusted provider of SchoolMessenger is one of more than 200 organizations that has signed the Student Privacy Pledge ([www.studentprivacypledge.org](http://www.studentprivacypledge.org)). The Pledge spells out a dozen commitments related to the protection and responsible use of student data. You can rest assured that your student’s information is secure and will never be sold, rented, or shared. Signatories to this pledge can be held legally responsible for actions or practices that do not conform to it.

## Who should I contact if I have more questions?

Please contact us at the school offices if you need any more information.



### STAY CONNECTED THROUGH SCHOOLMESSENGER COMMUNICATE



The SchoolMessenger Communicate website and app enable parents, staff, and students to stay informed and up-to-date on important information and activities within their school and district communities.

**RECEIVE  
24/7/365  
ACCESS TO  
NOTIFICATIONS  
SUCH AS:**

- Activity and event information
- Classroom and group updates
- Potential emergency situations
- Related weather reports
- Schedule changes

Set your communication preferences for phone calls, emails, texts and more. Additionally, the app allows teachers and parents to communicate individually or in groups, **all in one place.**

**GET  
STARTED**

**SIGN UP FOR  
SCHOOLMESSENGER  
COMMUNICATE TODAY!**

Visit [Go.SchoolMessenger.com](http://Go.SchoolMessenger.com) and sign up for your free account. This app is available via PC, Apple iOS and Android.

For a detailed user guide, sign up instructions, and FAQs for teachers and parents, visit [www.LeeSchools.net](http://www.LeeSchools.net)





### MANTÉNGASE CONECTADO A TRAVÉS DE SCHOOLMESSENGER COMMUNICATE



El sitio web y la aplicación SchoolMessenger Communicate permiten a los padres, el personal y los estudiantes mantenerse informados y actualizados sobre información importante y las actividades en curso dentro de su escuela y las comunidades del distrito.

**OBTENGA ACCESO  
LAS 24 HORAS DEL  
DÍA, LOS 365 DÍAS  
DEL AÑO A LAS  
NOTIFICACIONES,  
TALES COMO:**

- Información de actividad y evento
- Actualizaciones en el aula
- Posibles situaciones de emergencia
- Informes meteorológicos relacionados
- Cambios de horario

Establezca sus preferencias de comunicación para llamadas, correos electrónicos, textos y más. Además, la aplicación permite a los maestros y padres comunicarse individualmente o en grupos, **todo en un solo lugar.**

**EMPEZAR**

**COMIENCE HOY CON  
SCHOOLMESSENGER  
COMUNÍQUESE!**

Visite [Go.SchoolMessenger.com](http://Go.SchoolMessenger.com) y regístrese para obtener su cuenta gratuita. Esta aplicación está disponible a través de PC, Apple iOS y Android.

Para obtener una guía de usuario detallada, instrucciones de inscripción y preguntas frecuentes para maestros y padres, visite [www.LeeSchools.net](http://www.LeeSchools.net)

