



## CCPS YEAR IN REVIEW: POINTS OF PRIDE 2024

**OVERVIEW & PURPOSE:** To showcase each school's points of pride in the 2023-2024 school year that speak to academic achievement, community engagement, culture and safety, special recognitions, and key initiatives or partnerships that are unique/special and newsworthy.

**Name of the School/Department:** Lake Ridge Elementary School

**Point of Contact:** Kelley Starks

**1st Point of Pride:** Thanksgiving Box Drive

**Description of the initiative or special recognition:**

In November 2023, our school organized a heartwarming Thanksgiving Box Drive, symbolizing the spirit of gratitude and generosity within our school community. The initiative brought together staff and students from each grade level, who eagerly collected nonperishable items essential for crafting a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Additionally, our valued partners in education generously donated turkeys to complement the boxes, ensuring that each family received a complete holiday feast.

**Explanation of the impact it is having within the school:**

A total of 10 beautifully decorated Thanksgiving boxes were crafted and distributed to 10 student families facing hardship. The Thanksgiving Box Drive deeply impacted our school community, extending beyond mere food donations. It united students and staff, fostering empathy and camaraderie. The Thanksgiving Box Drive wasn't just about providing meals; it was a symbol of unity and compassion. It allowed us to join hands, express gratitude, and make a meaningful difference. It reminded us of the importance of supporting one another, especially during challenging times. This endeavor instilled values of kindness and generosity in our students, emphasizing the significance of even the smallest acts of goodwill.

## 2nd Point of Pride: Angel Tree

### Description of the initiative or special recognition:

In December 2023, our school participated in our annual Angel Tree program to infuse the holiday season with warmth and support for our students in need. The initiative allowed staff members to select tags representing individual students, each detailing essential items such as clothing, toys, books, and other necessities.

### Explanation of the impact it is having within the school:

The impact of the Angel Tree program rippled throughout our school, cultivating unity, kindness, and support among students and staff alike. Beyond the material gifts exchanged, the initiative nurtured a culture of compassion and solidarity within our school community, leaving a lasting impression on everyone involved. Through their collective efforts, staff members exhibited a deep commitment to one another, solidifying the Angel Tree program as a beloved tradition within our school community.

## 3rd Point of Pride: Parent Engagement Day

### Description of the initiative or special recognition:

Amidst the usual rhythm of our school calendar, a pivotal event unfolded on March 27, 2024 – Bring Your Parent to School Day. Anticipation filled the corridors, and classrooms brimmed with an extra spark of excitement as families gathered under the warm spring sun. Parents, guardians, and caretakers embraced the invitation to step into their child's world, immersing themselves wholly in their educational journey. Throughout the day, the school transformed into a vibrant hub of shared exploration and joyous collaboration. From solving math problems to conducting captivating science experiments, parents eagerly embraced the day's curriculum alongside their children, forging deeper connections and mutual understanding. Laughter filled the air as families embarked on a journey of discovery together, transforming every corner of the school into a canvas for shared learning experiences.

### Explanation of the impact it is having within the school:

By inviting parents to actively participate in their child's educational experience, Bring Your Parent to School Day strengthened the bond between home and school, creating a more cohesive learning environment. Students felt a renewed sense of pride as they showcased their school and shared their daily experiences with their parents. This event also provided parents with valuable insights into their child's

academic journey, allowing them to better support their learning at home. Additionally, teachers benefited from the increased parental involvement, as it facilitated stronger communication and collaboration between home and school.

#### **4th Point of Pride: Elementary Cheer Competition**

##### **Description of the initiative or special recognition:**

On March 16, 2024, our school's cheerleaders showcased their talent and dedication at the Clayton County Public Schools Elementary Cheer Competition. Amongst 35 formidable teams spanning three divisions, our spirited squad rose to the challenge and emerged triumphant, clinching first place in the fiercely contested choreographed division.

##### **Explanation of the impact it is having within the school:**

Winning first place served as a testament to the hard work and commitment of our cheerleading team, as well as the unwavering support of their coaches and supporters. Beyond the thrill of victory, this achievement inspired students to strive for excellence in their own endeavors, reinforcing the importance of determination, teamwork, and perseverance in the pursuit of success. The accolade not only elevated the profile of our school's cheerleading program but also fostered a sense of school spirit that resonated throughout our halls.

#### **5th Point of Pride: Clayton County Public Schools Builders Award Finalist**

##### **Description of the initiative or special recognition:**

Our school's commitment to innovation and excellence was recognized on a prestigious platform as we received nominations in seven categories for the CCPS Builders Awards. These accolades celebrate groundbreaking initiatives within our school system and community, spotlighting endeavors that redefine norms and pave the way for future advancements. Each nomination reflects our dedication to pioneering new approaches and embracing transformative ideas to enhance the educational experience for all. Out of the seven nominations, our school proudly emerged as a top three finalist in four categories: the Customer Service Award, Excellence Award, Pride and Spirit Award, and Best Publication Award. These nominations highlighted the outstanding dedication of our faculty, staff, and students in nurturing a culture characterized by excellence, innovation, and active community involvement.

##### **Explanation of the impact it is having within the school:**

This recognition served as a validation of our collective commitment to pushing boundaries, embracing change, and striving for excellence in all endeavors. It also instilled a sense of pride and motivation among students, educators, and stakeholders. Moreover, these nominations highlighted our school as a beacon of inspiration and a model for innovative practices within the wider educational landscape. As we look ahead, these nominations stand as a catalyst for ongoing

**innovation, excellence, and community involvement, driving our school towards greater success and influence within our educational system and beyond**

**Please ensure your school principal or department supervisor has approved the 2024 Points of Pride and the description.**