

State Championship Girls' Golf Results

BY JANINE MOJICA, LADIES GOLF COACH



On Nov. 3-4, the Lake Nona High School Girls' Golf Team represented Lake Nona HS in the state championship in which they qualified for by winning the regional championship.

After a very tough 1st round, the team was tied for 8th place with a score of 330, while Erika Smith led the entire field with 2 under par in 1st place. The team rebounded and came out to show everyone what they were really made up of in round 2 on Saturday. They came in 3rd for the day with a score of 305 - a well-played solid round for the ladies with all four top scores 80 or less, surpassing six schools during this round.

Final scoring at the end of two days for the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) 3A State Championship for Lake Nona HS Girls' Golf was 4th Place. Individual: Erika Smith medaled for 2nd place overall with a two-day score of 4 under par.

The team finished their season as Metro East

Champions, District Runner-up, Regional Champions, and 4th in the State for 3A FHSAA Girls Golf. We are very proud of their accomplishments and look forward to having them all return next year, as we do not have to say goodbye to any seniors.

On day 1 - During the practice round (11/2), we ran into the Lake Nona High School Boys' Golf Team just before tee time and were able to grab a quick picture with them and wish them good luck.



Two-hour study hall at hotel in lobby.

After the first round, both teams met up to enjoy their success at dinner.

These students were well behaved and showed class; when you get a chance please congratulate these 9th, 10th and 11th grade students for their success.

Erika Smith - 11th

Shannon Rhoden - 11th

Emily Gordon - 11th

Stephanie Towle - 10th

Lisbeth Espinal - 10th

Caroline Nemes - 9th



Future Leaders Molded at Local Elementary School

BY NICOLE LABOSCO



Leaders of tomorrow. That's how most adults describe the younger generations to follow. Narcoossee Elementary School is working to help mold our future leaders, one child at a time. Narcoossee Elementary is one of only two schools in Osceola County that implements a process called *The Leader in Me*. The journey began just over a year ago. Principal Scott Knoebel took notice that something was missing with the school's students and staff in his second year at the school.

"At one point," Principal Knoebel said, "I asked everyone if they knew our mission statement. No one could answer. I knew it was time for us to redefine our school by writing a new mission statement and moving in a new direction. I was aware of *The Leader*

in Me through a fellow principal at the time, Jonathan Davis, who brought it to his school. I had taken several staff members with me to *The Leader in Me* symposium that year to learn more about it and right away knew this was what our school was missing. We, as a team, decided that *The Leader in Me* was the answer.

"Once we knew our initial direction," he continued, "I created a team of staff members to begin the first steps in the process - rewriting our mission statement. We met multiple times with representatives from all areas of the school who provided input, took that information back to their teams, and then we would reconvene until the mission statement was complete. From that point forward, we began all of the work behind

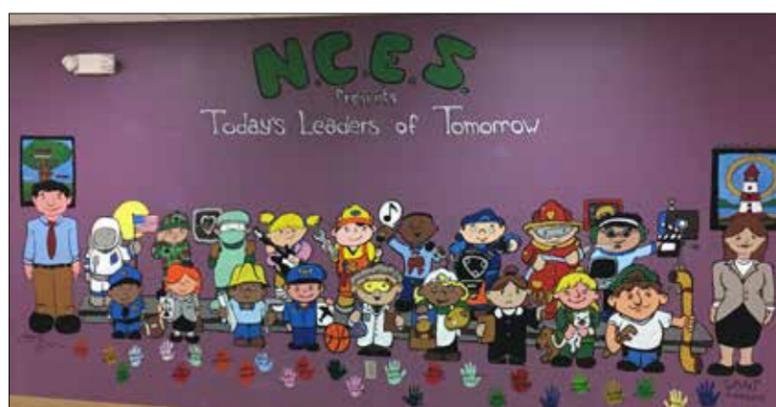
the scenes to get the process up and running."

The Leader in Me is a whole-school transformation model and process, developed in partnership with educators, that empowers students with the leadership and life skills they need to thrive in the 21st century. "The great thing about *The Leader in Me* is that it isn't a program. It's not one more thing. It's a process and a change in mindset. The process is not just for students but adults as well,"

said Principal Knoebel.

The staff actually went through a handful of days of training to learn *The Leader in Me* process, most of it consisting of the staff volunteering their time. "Much of what I heard from staff was that it was because the training wasn't about learning a new curriculum, a new teaching strategy, disaggregating data, but about each staff member as an individual person. It was learning about *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* and learning how to be better and more effective as an educator and as a person. I had some staff say that the 7 Habits have significantly changed their lives for the better both inside and out of work."

The initial costs of the process are high without special funding, but Principal Knoebel ensured his staff he would find a way to fund it and did just that. The school received two grants to cover start-up funds



Future Leaders Molded at Local Elementary School (cont.)

BY NICOLE LABOSCO



from Osceola County Commissioner Fred Hawkins through the Community Betterment Grant. The other grant was through the school's business partner, Nonahood's local Sam's Club #4828. Knoebel worked directly with Sam's Club General Manager David Speer. "Mr. Speer saw the potential in our school

and developing student leadership within it. We are forever grateful for their generosity."

The students are taught secular principles through *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, developed by Stephen R. Covey and introduced in his best-selling book originally published in 1989. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* is a key component of the overall Leader in Me process and is a synthesis of universal, timeless principles of personal, interpersonal and organizational effectiveness such as responsibility, vision, integrity, teamwork, collaboration and renewal, which are secular in nature and common to all people and cultures. The process includes student participation in goal setting, data tracking, leadership roles, student-led conferences, leadership environments and leadership events. Students and staff refer to the 7 Habits on a daily basis, and Principal Knoebel uses it at home as well as at school. "Our hope is that what is taught and learned at school transfers to the daily lives of our students, staff and families."

The Leader in Me program is distinct in several ways:

- Starts from a powerful premise – that every child possesses unique strengths and has the ability to be a leader. This premise shapes the views of staff to value and develop the whole child.
- Integrates leadership development into existing school programs, curricula and traditions. More than a program, *The Leader in Me* serves as a foundational operating system for the school, helping to improve relationships, transform culture, and highly motivate staff members and students.
- Helps students learn how to become self-reliant, take initiative, plan ahead, set and track goals, do their homework, prioritize their time, manage their emotions, be considerate of others, express their viewpoint persuasively, resolve conflicts, find

creative solutions, value differences and live a balanced life. In short, *The Leader in Me* helps students develop the skills and self-confidence they need to lead their lives and succeed in school and beyond.

- Impacts all stakeholders, starting first with the staff of a school, then expanding to students, their families, and the community at large. This inside-out approach is a key ingredient to successfully creating positive change in the school.

The school already has seen a positive change in its physical environment and how both staff and students are taking leadership within the institute. There are leader specific murals, Wildly Important Goals scoreboards, and most everything Narcoossee Elementary does revolves around leadership.

"We have noticed a dramatic decrease in discipline referrals with students. We also have noticed an increase in the number of students demonstrating leadership and in a variety of ways," said Principal Knoebel. "It has given our students and staff members more of a chance to show their voice. We have a Lighthouse Team consisting of a cross section of staff members from across the school who meet monthly to help run the process. The rest of the staff is broken into Action Teams who help lead specific ventures around the school throughout the year. This way, 100% of the staff is involved in doing 100% of the work. We have eight Action Teams focusing on curriculum, family learning, professional learning, the leadership environment, leadership events, positive and safe environment, students and teachers using data, and student leadership roles. We also have a Student Lighthouse Team, consisting of fourth and fifth graders, who meet monthly to allow the students to have a voice on what they want to implement or to see happen in the school."

An example of success from the Student Lighthouse Team was when they developed the idea to create welcome bags for new students to the school and had a member of the team take those new students on tours of the school when they first arrived.

The process is not teacher driven but student driven. Principal Knoebel mentioned that students also are involved in the morning news show, not just behind the scenes but on camera and around the campus doing interviews or making videos about learning the 7 Habits and more. Every student has a leadership role within their classroom. They will be assisting with development of the yearbook this year and are developing and participating in community service learning projects.

The Leader in Me process lasts the entire time a student is enrolled at Narcoossee Elementary, and all students participate as it's the overarching process at the school and all other programs



and processes fit within it. The school's mission statement is "Learning and Leading. Every one. Every day." *The Leader in Me* process aligns with that statement perfectly. Staff maintain students' interest in the process because it's constantly at the forefront of what they do. The principal mentioned that the process becomes seamlessly integrated in the language they use and the instruction of the lessons.

"If a school is looking to positively impact its climate and culture, this is the process to implement. As educators, we are teaching the Florida Standards at each grade on a daily basis, but we also have the duty to impact our students and staff by giving them the tools to grow socially and emotionally and use that information to make an impact in their lives and the lives of others. We are not just teaching the 'How,' we are [also] teaching the 'Why.' Learning the 7 Habits allows everyone, including staff and families, to benefit through the process," said Principal Knoebel when asked why he'd recommend the process to other schools.

It's always an achievement to see a positive change in schools, but a process that also optimistically impacts the overall life of a student is one to really acknowledge.



	<p>Habit 1 — Be Proactive (You're in Charge)</p> <p>I am a responsible person. I take initiative. I choose my actions, attitudes, and moods. I do not blame others for my wrong actions. I do the right thing without being asked, even when no one is looking.</p>
	<p>Habit 2 — Begin with the End in Mind (Have a Plan)</p> <p>I plan ahead and set goals. I do things that have meaning and make a difference. I am an important part of my classroom and contribute to my school's mission and vision. I look for ways to be a good citizen.</p>
	<p>Habit 3 — Put First Things First (Work First, Then Play)</p> <p>I spend my time on things that are most important. This means I say no to things I know I should not do. I set priorities, make a schedule, and follow my plan. I am disciplined and organized.</p>
	<p>Habit 4 — Think Win-Win (Everyone Can Win)</p> <p>I balance courage for getting what I want with consideration for what others want. I make deposits in others' Emotional Bank Accounts. When conflicts arise, I look for third alternatives.</p>
	<p>Habit 5 — Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood (Listen Before You Talk)</p> <p>I listen to other people's ideas and feelings. I try to see things from their viewpoints. I listen to others without interrupting. I am confident in voicing my ideas. I look people in the eyes when talking.</p>
	<p>Habit 6 — Synergize (Together Is Better)</p> <p>I value other people's strengths and learn from them. I get along well with others, even people who are different than me. I work well in groups. I seek out other people's ideas to solve problems because I know that by teaming with others we can create better solutions than anyone of us can alone. I am humble.</p>
	<p>Habit 7 — Sharpen The Saw (Balance Feels Best)</p> <p>I take care of my body by eating right, exercising and getting sleep. I spend time with family and friends. I learn in lots of ways and lots of places, not just at school. I find meaningful ways to help others.</p>