

**Second Cup of Coffee**  
**Website Update – January, 2012**

The Second Cup of Coffee was founded in October, 2010 by Mrs. Davis, Principal. Since last year, the committee has grown and developed a mission statement. With the commitment to develop a successful home and school partnership, the Second Cup of Coffee Committee seeks to support Lakehurst Elementary School's classrooms by focusing on literacy. With your support, our goal is to develop and implement a variety of school programs and activities that enhance student learning.

Our first program presented to the district was the *Author in Residence Program*. Mr. Jon Gibbs was introduced to our school by Mrs. Oliver, a Committee Member of the Second Cup of Coffee. He presented an assembly to our primary (K-5) and middle school (6-8) students. Mr. Gibbs utilized many of the concepts of writing and aligned his work as an author with our updated language arts curriculum and the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. His assemblies covered writing from the author's perspective (i.e. get your thoughts down on paper first, then edit for grammar, punctuation, and capitalization). Mr. Gibbs also shared the importance of allowing someone to read and critique their story before completion. He also encouraged reworking a story multiple times. Since the workshop, first and second drafts are now routine for our student writers.

Mr. Gibbs presented workshops for grades 3, 4 and 5, in the months of November, December, and January. The first part of his workshop series was entitled *Fun with Fiction*. The students were very excited and engaged with Mr. Gibbs as they created and developed a character for a story. The students developed character traits for the lead character in order to attract the reader of the story. This makes the story memorable. At the end of the session each class created a character. During this process the students developed their writing skills.

In the December session, *Brilliant Beginnings* covered *Titles and Opening Lines*. The students developed their stories further with an introduction to the story. The class learned that their goal was to grab the reader by their eyeballs so the reader asks themselves early on – what happens next.

Finally, during the January session, *Perfect Plot Lines*, the students will be writing the story. Students will incorporate their work from the previous two sessions and write a story about their selected character.

Lastly, a second author, Eric San Juan, will be featured during the month of January. He will address our students during a Town Meeting for our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades. Mr. San Juan graduated from Lakehurst Elementary and works for a local newspaper, has written a book about the history of Lakehurst. After the assembly, grades seven and eight will have the opportunity to interview Mr. San Juan and participate in a question and answer discussion.

Although it is certainly not our goal to sell books, if you are interested in any of the author's books, they are for sale. Please contact the Second Cup of Coffee Committee for more information and they can answer any questions you have.

The Second Cup of Coffee Committee would love to expand our focus on literacy. However, we need your support to do so. Please check the Wednesday folder for upcoming fundraisers to help support our literacy programs. By partnering with us, more programs will be announced in the near future. Be sure to check the website as information will be forthcoming. We hope you will join us at our monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month beginning at 9:30 a.m. Any adjustments to our schedule will be located in the Wednesday folder each week.

Please join us for the next Second Cup of Coffee, on Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

Mrs. Carmen M. Davis  
Principal