



The Principal's Corner

As the school year goes by, I continue to be impressed by how much your children have grown and progressed in the classroom and most importantly in life skills; like friendship, kindness, and empathy for others. When I reflect back on all of the things that we have done in and out of the class-room, I am proud of our school and our students

It is hard to believe that we have so little time left in the school year. We want the children to continue to work hard and be prepared for the next grade. The children have been working very hard to meet their grade level goals. I am very proud of all their efforts. We are working hard to make sure that every single child will feel the pride in achieving success.

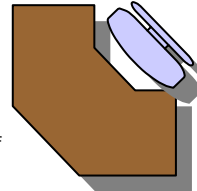
With two months left of school, we get ready to finish the year with our state testing. The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Testing (FCAT) will take place from April 14 through April 22. Testing is for students in 3rd through 5th grade, and most testing will start first thing in the morning. Thank you all for encouraging your child/children to do their best. It can be a very stressful time for both students and staff. The assessments are not the be all end all of anything, however, an important life lesson is to teach children to always do their best no matter what is asked of them.

There are four ways that you can help your child do well on these tests:

- Make sure your student is at school on time.
- Get your child to bed early so they are well rested.
- Provide healthy food.
- Schedule appointments during another time.

Lastly, I urge everyone to attend the FCAT Family Night presentation on April 3rd at 5:00 P.M. in the gymnasium. This presentation should give you accurate information about FCAT. This information will be presented by the classroom teachers who have spent every school day with your child. Please come with your questions and hopefully they can be answered. I look forward to seeing all of you there.

Thank you so much for working with us to help your children do their very best work.



4/1 – April Fool's Day; End of the 3rd Nine Weeks

4/3–FCAT Family Night (5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)

4/4–Teachers' Planning Day (No School)

4/9–Early Release Day (12:45 p.m.); Graduation Monies Deadline

4/11–FCAT Pep Rally (2:00 p.m.)

4/14-24–FCAT Testing

4/15–Report Cards (Go Home)

4/16–Early Release Day (12:45 p.m.)

4/18– Good Friday (No School)

4/25–Field Day; Writer's Tea (2:00 p.m.)

4/30–SOM Celebration (2:00 p.m.)



Inside this issue:

Assistant Principal's Corner

Are you speaking the language of encouragement?

Most parents enjoy praising their children with phrases like "Great Job!" and "Good for you!" However, did you know that research suggests that encouragement has a bigger effect than praise on a child's motivation? The big difference is that words of **praise** lead your child to rely on your assessment of his or her accomplishments, while words of **encouragement** lead him or her to form their own positive assessment of themselves: "You cleaned your room without being asked, Look at that clean floor and organized desk!" **Motivation** can also be given regardless of your child's performance: "That didn't work the way you

I can tell you're but I know you'll week. What do might do differ-time?" So, remember that

makes motivation soar!!!!!!!



planned, did it? disappointed, try again next you think you ently next parents let's **encouragement**

Kindergarten

This past month, Kindergarten has been running full steam ahead in all subjects. Students have begun to read simple books on their own. It is very important for students to have time to read every night! In math, students have learned how to measure objects by length, height, and weight; and sort objects and shapes by their attributes or characteristics. Addition and subtraction are the next math topics we will tackle. We are learning about informational (nonfiction) texts and their features in reading. In writing, our students have written reports and are now learning how to write poetry. Students have learned what makes up the day and night skies; and will begin learning about matter in science. In social studies, we have already learned about the Man behind "The Cat in the Hat" Dr. Seuss and that the wind goes Whoosh! We will begin to look at the lives of city and country living and swing into Spring as well.

Thank you for your continuous support.

The Kindergarten Team

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1st Grade

Happy Spring! It's hard to believe that we are nearing the end of first grade. We have had the privilege of working with some wonderful students this year. This quarter we have learned so much. In Math, we have been learning about fractions and telling time! In Reading, we continue to focus on telling the main idea and supporting details of informational and fictional books. We are learning about the bossy "r" and letter blends such as "st" too. In Science, we have been learning about Earth's Natural Resources; and in Writing, we continue to master writing a good piece, which includes a beginning, middle, and end.

Please continue to work on homework and read a book daily with your student.

WAA First Grade Team

2nd Grade

March was a whirlwind of activity for us second graders. We learned many new things and we wanted to share a few of them with you. First of all, though, we wanted to say thank you for allowing us the privilege of celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday with our classmates. *Horton Hears a Who* was a fabulous way to celebrate!

In Language Arts, our topic of choice for learning was biographies. We did learn a few extra things about Dr. Seuss. For example, did you know he wrote one of his funny stories after a long boat trip? Furthermore, Dr. Seuss challenged himself to write a children's book using as few words as possible. We thoroughly enjoyed learning about Dr. Seuss, but we also studied Dr. Mae Jemison. She was the first African-American woman in space! We did learn about biographies. It was fun to study other people's lives.

One day you'll be reading all about mine. On Tuesday, March 11, we had a special guest. Captain Citrus came and shared about the exciting world of the citrus fruits in Florida. Did you know Florida provides 85% of the citrus fruits to the United States? We learned there are three primary citrus fruits and we even got to taste each one. Centimeters, inches, feet and yards were our studies in Math. We had an opportunity to measure so many things in our room. We measured our doorway and we found it is over five feet tall. We know a ladybug measures about one centimeter. We also found it interesting our feet measure about the same size as our teacher's feet. Our favorite center activity was when we got to eat our equipment after we

measured it! The gummy bears were the best part!

Science had new and challenging topics. For example, we learned it takes energy to sit and learn. We also learned there are different forms of energy. My favorite part of Science was when we got to go outside and use our extra energy. By the way, we used two forms of energy that day. We used food energy and solar energy.

3rd Grade

We hoped you had an awesome Spring Break. It's crunch time now as we only have two weeks left till FCAT. Please encourage your child to put his/her best foot forward and soar to heights.

As we continue to prepare for FCAT here are a few helpful hints:

- Review homework with your child daily
- Sign agenda book/planner daily
- Adhere to scheduled parent-teacher conferences
- Make sure students get proper amount of rest
- Read at least 15-30 minutes daily with your child
- Allow student to practice reading and math skills on www.fcatexplorer.com (students' user ID and Password are stapled inside of their agenda book/planner).

As always, thank you...Third Grade Team

4th Grade Math

FCAT is fastly approaching this month and our 4th graders are READY to ROCK the TEST!! Parent Night is on Thursday, April 3rd, please fill out the form and return it by your child to let us know that you're coming. During Parent Night we will discuss the ins and outs of the FCAT 2.0 for Mathematics and Reading. Continue to review the basic multiplication and division facts with your child nightly. These days leading to FCAT, we have

had discussions about solving math problems with precision, calculating problems with exactness and accuracy. Our 4th graders are working very hard and we are confident it will pay off!!!

4th Grade Reading and Writing

As we get closer to our FCAT test, we have been doing a comprehensive review of all reading concepts. For example, we have identified author's purpose, story elements, main idea and supporting details, causes and their effects, how characters change, text elements, and text structures. We have been analyzing many different genres of fictional and nonfictional literature. We have also practiced comparing and contrasting different texts to each other as well as, different events and characters within the same text. Every student has had small group instruction in their Guided Reading groups. The children love their Guided Reading time. While one small group is working with a teacher, the other group is working on vocabulary activities or reading a chapter book. After the students read for a while, they write Readers' Responses to the chapter books they are reading. After our FCAT exams are completed, we are going to resume work on our writing portfolios. We will also continue working with the students in Guided Reading groups. Soon we will be starting our Book Chats and Literature circles in reading class! We are very excited about that. We will tell you more about that in next month's newsletter.

5th Grade

FCAT is fast approaching! Fifth grade will start testing on April 14th. There will be 2 days each of math, science, and reading. It is **VERY** important that your child gets a good night's sleep, eat breakfast, and comes to school on time.

Important Reminders:
Graduation will be June 4th at 9 a.m.
Graduation monies is due April 9th
There will be a field trip on May 19th. Money and permission slips are due by May 2nd
Report Cards go home April 15th
Please continue to check your child's agenda daily for any messages and their conduct grade.

Thank you for your continued support.

Fifth Grade Team