

OWL ORACLE



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL • LIZ BOEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

DECEMBER 2013/JANUARY 2014

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you to everyone who gave of your time to be a part of our Great American Teach-In. The students learned about many different careers and hobbies from an excellent group of presenters. We appreciate your time.

On behalf of the faculty and staff of Watergrass Elementary, I wish all of you the happiest of holiday seasons. Please take time to relax and enjoy your family during the break. As always, if you need to speak with Mrs. Boeger or myself, please let us know.

Mr. Mitchell

GUIDANCE NEWS

It has been a busy month in the Guidance Department. Thank you to everyone who donated to our canned food drive. In December, WGES families will have the opportunity to pick an angel from our angel tree and purchase holiday gifts for a WGES child. Look for these angels on the Christmas tree in the front office, and please sign out the number you choose at the front desk.

Guidance lessons continue; we've focused on Career Exploration with the help of some interactive websites in 2nd-5th grades. Ask your child what they learned in Guidance!

Our character trait for the month of December is Trustworthiness. Be honest and be reliable. Wise Owls tell the truth and do what they say they will do!

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Mrs. Ward, School Counselor

PLEASE NOTE:

Our Citizens of the Month for December and January will be published in the February *Owl Oracle*.

IMPORTANT DATES:

12/10 SNOWY OWLS TO WCPAC
12/16 ELF OWLS PK CONCERT-10:30
12/17 ELF OWLS K-5 CONCERT-10:30
12/23 – 01/06 WINTER HOLIDAY
–No SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS & STAFF

UP-COMING

01/07 WINTER BREAK ENDS
-STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL
01/13 Q2 REPORT CARDS GO HOME
01/17 FIELD DAY
01/20 HOLIDAY-STUDENTS & STAFF
01/25 5K FOR OUR K5
01/27 SAC MEETING



NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE & TARDY NEWS



TOTAL # OF TARDIES: 90
**# OF STUDENTS WITH
TWO OR MORE TARDIES: 26**
TOTAL # OF ABSENCES: 176
**# OF STUDENTS WITH
FIVE OR MORE ABSENCES: 6**

CAROLS & COCOA

Our annual *Carols and Cocoa* event is Thursday, December 19th. We need volunteers to escort teams to their different stations. If you are an approved volunteer and would like to help, please contact Karen Reinhold at 346-0600.

3rd, 4th, 5th grades, and the Elf owls will be in the morning. K, 1st, and 2nd will be in the afternoon. We can use half-day or full-day volunteers! We also need help making cocoa.

VOLUNTEER INFO



WGES appreciates all of our volunteers. District policy requires that all volunteers must complete a NEW volunteer application every year. This year, we have found that some applications that were submitted before September 1st, are not in the system. So if you submitted an application before September 1st, and HAVE NOT yet received notification from the district office of the status, please RESUBMIT your application. Thank you!

MEDIA CENTER BOOK BRIGADE!!!

Our Owl students are voracious readers and we have many books piling up in the media center to prove it! **We are currently seeking more volunteers to help shelve library books** so that we can quickly get them back into circulation for our students. Even thirty minutes or an hour would be a great help.

If you come to school for lunch with your child, you could add thirty minutes to the visit before or after lunch to shelve books. Do you transport your child to/from school by car? If so, you are invited to come inside early to help shelve books. We provide the training and free smiles. Please contact Mrs. Causey in the front office if you can help. Thank You!

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Please continue to collect and send in Box Tops for WGES!

MUSIC NOTES



Thank you for coming out to our concerts so far this year. We have been very busy in the music department! Also, thank you to everyone who came to our first Movie Night of the year. This was the best turnout we've ever had! There will be another one in the spring.

Our chorus will be heading to Tampa International Airport December 10th to sing for holiday travelers. We are very excited about this event!

Our Elf Owl Concerts will be December 16th & 17th. Parents will receive invitations for this.

PARENT NOTICE:



Please notify the front office EARLY in the school day if your child's going-home plan has changed. ALL transportation changes must be made BEFORE 3:30PM, this includes student checkouts. Your assistance with this matter is greatly appreciated.

P.E. RUNDOWN

P.E. Exercise logs have been distributed to each student for the 2nd quarter. Please review the Exercise logs with your children and encourage/help them to complete the logs. The Quarter 2 logs are due on or before December 13th. We recommend that students turn logs in early if completed early.

Field Day is January 17th. Volunteer information notes will be sent home with each student the first week of December. Please consider helping with part or all of Field Day to help make the event enjoyable for all students. **Everyone keep moving!**

ART NEWS



Mrs. Cerino-Knott's last day, before maternity leave, is December 6th. Please continue to make great choices and great works of art! We are pleased to welcome Ms. Pellegrino, a certified art teacher, as the substitute. Mrs. Cerino-Knott will check in regularly and hopes everyone has a safe holiday season!

Our other Art teacher, Mrs. McAvey and her students have been busy making wonderful art creations using clay in Portable #1.

If you would like to pre-order a yearbook this year, here is the information: The cost is \$12 per book. Each book contains 88 pages in full color. Yearbooks should arrive late April or mid May. Cash or checks are acceptable: Checks must be made payable to WGES and have a **current phone number AND address on them or they will not be accepted.** Also, please write name of student on memo line. Money orders may not be accepted at this point in the year.

PYGMY OWLS

We would like to thank the families that came out to our Reading Night in November. If you were not able to attend, please look over the information your child's teacher e-mailed you.

Our citizen of the month for November was Sean Donahue. Sean earned this by being responsible. Congratulations Sean! The *Kindergarten and First Grade Winter Concert* was held on December 2nd. We enjoyed seeing the students perform! We also enjoyed our field trip to the Pioneer Museum on December 4th. Thank you to all of the volunteers!



BURROWING OWLS

Do you know your child's reading level? Ask your child today! In kindergarten, we read on Yellow, Green and Blue IRLA levels, and we are excited to offer a parent workshop in JANUARY. This workshop will help parents understand our new IRLA reading levels. Be on the lookout for more information to come!

Kindergarten wishes you a wonderful holiday season!

SNOWY OWL NEWS

This year sure is flying by! We can't believe it's December already! The Snowy Owls will be heading to The Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School on Wednesday, December 11th to see *Santa's Holiday Revue*. We are all excited to learn about the cultural diversity of the holiday season. There is no need to pack special lunches for this trip, as we will be back in time for lunch. Thank you in advance to the parents that have volunteered to come with us on this trip!

Even though we are all very excited about the holiday season, please remind your children that we are still in school. Classes are still learning each day and need to remain focused while school is in session.

December brings division to third grade. Though the learning has shifted to division, students need to continue practicing multiplication facts. The students will learn very quickly that if they do not know their multiplication facts, division is going to be very hard. FasttMath on the computer, flash cards, or verbal quizzing are all great ways to review facts each night!

Don't forget to READ, READ, READ! Classes are practicing being strong independent readers and should be reading at least 20 minutes every night! Happy Holidays from the Snowy Owls!

MILITARY KIDS

We offer a group for students who have parents in the Military. The intent of the group is to help the children understand the role of the military as well as learning to cope with changes that come about when deployment occurs. If you wish your child to be a member please contact Ms. Beth Rutz, via this email address: brutz@pasco.k12.fl.us

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?



Please be sure to update your telephone contact information when it changes. We must be able to reach you quickly in the event of your child's health or clinic emergency.

EAGLE OWLS

The Eagle Owl team would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers that came in for the Great American Teach-In! We would also like to thank the Great Grey friends and family who presented during the Great American Teach-In. The presentations were outstanding and we appreciate your willingness to give your time to support our learning. Our students thoroughly enjoyed your presentations and look forward to seeing you again next year!

We would also like to thank everyone who helped us with our Fall Celebration. Thank you so much for taking the time to make and share experiences with our students!

Thank you to the overwhelming number of students who donated nonperishable food items for our *Thanksgiving Food Drive* and also money donations for *Change for a Cure*. We all helped give others a wonderful Thanksgiving with their families! Don't forget that we are still collecting items for our *Blanket Drive* as well! We are collecting blankets and toiletries. Thank you in advance!

There was also an amazing turnout for our school's PTA Fall Festival and Music Boosters Movie Night! Thank you for supporting our PTA and the Music program! It was great to see so many Eagle Owl faces there for both!

Don't forget that 2nd quarter progress reports went home on Wednesday, November 20th. Please be sure to sign the bottom portion of your child's progress report and indicate whether or not you would like to schedule a conference with your child's teacher! Second quarter will be over before you know it!

Volunteers are needed for our Winter Celebration. Please check with your child's teacher if you would be interested in helping.

Our November Citizen of the Month was Darwin Heath from Ms. Thomas' room. Darwin is an amazing student who exemplifies responsibility. Way to go, Darwin!

A HAPPY
NEW YEAR



SPOTTED OWLS

Holiday greetings to our Spotted Owl families! We are excited to be welcoming Ms. Laura Chatmon, as our new teacher on Monday, 12/9. Please say hello or give her a wave when you see her smiling face in our hallways.

We continue to encourage our 4th graders to read while on Winter Break! Each quarter the goal for our students is to achieve at least 15 points with 80% comprehension or higher. Our Spotted Owl Citizen of the Month for November was Lourdes Marrero, from Ms. Rieke's class. She exemplifies the meaning of the word responsibility. Way to go, Lourdes!

The weather was perfect for our field trip to the Energy and Marine Center in Port Richey. Check out some photos of our field trip on the WGES Facebook page! Students commented on what a great time they had and how they would love to go back! Our 4th graders were able to experience a true estuary. They learned the importance of estuaries in a marine environment and how ecosystems support living things.

We would also like to remind you that 4th grade focuses heavily on writing. We have been concentrating on the writing characteristics of Focus, Organization, and Supporting Details, with adding personal experiences, and paying attention to capitalization, spelling, and grammar. With much hard work and positive effort, the students are showing growth with their writing skills every week! The Florida FCAT Writing Test will be February 25th and 26th.

During the test students will be presented with an Expository or Narrative writing prompt. They will be responsible to determine the focus of that prompt, develop a writing plan, and then complete a 4 or 5 paragraph essay all within a one hour time frame.

Cold and allergy season is here. If you can send a box of tissues to school, it would be greatly appreciated. We surely appreciate your efforts to support your children with academics at home. Our continued home and school connection will help the children experience success and academic growth, while developing a love of learning!

GREAT GREY OWLS

The Great Greys are zooming right along in quarter two. We have been very busy and have no intention of slowing down because we have a lot to do before the winter break. So stay motivated and make sure you are showing effort at home as well as in class.

A great way to keep up with your AR goal is by reading at home each night. In science, the STEM Fair has officially begun and students should be working diligently on their projects. Teachers will be checking in with the students periodically to see if each step of the scientific method or engineering design process is completed on time; however, the project should be completed at home. We are amazed at what these young minds have come up with and are eager to see the results!

IMPORTANT CLINIC NOTICE:



Children of any age may experience a clothing emergency at school. While we try to provide second-hand replacements in our clinic, our resources are limited and we do not always have the right size to fit every child. Additionally, "borrowed" clothing does not always get returned to school once it has been laundered.

One way you can help us with this problem is to keep a set of clothes in your child's backpack for "emergencies" that may arise. This would limit the learning time lost waiting for a parent to bring something to wear from home. Also, if your child has recently borrowed some clinic clothes, please return them to school as soon as they have been laundered.

PRE-K ELF OWLS

During the months of October and November our Pre-K ASD classes were filled with many fun and exciting learning activities! During *Community Helpers* week we met a veterinarian's assistant, and had a visit from a group of firefighters who invited our students to get up close to and even sit in their fire engine! We practiced trick-or-treating in preparation for

Halloween, and began exploring The Five Senses, which we will finish up before the winter break. We continue practicing our social skills and using picture exchange throughout the day to communicate and expand our vocabulary. As always, please check your child's backpack for daily home note, projects, and other important school information.



RELAY FOR LIFE

We are inviting our parents to join our Watergrass Relay for Life Team this year. The Relay event date is May 3, 2014, and we do many fundraisers and activities up to that point. We will have meetings from time to time.



To join our team, go online to www.relayforlife.org. Go to the bottom of the page where it says "Sign up for event". Type in Wesley Chapel, FL. Relay for Life of Wesley Chapel/Wiregrass will come up. Click "Sign Up". Click "Join a Team". On the pull down tab, click Watergrass Elementary. Make sure you go to Discount Code and enter "relay". You will only pay \$5.00 if you do this! Keep following the cues and you're in! Karen Reinhold, our team captain, will be in contact with you after you sign up!

Congratulations to our November Citizens of the Month who display RESPONSIBILITY. They enjoyed a celebration on November 22nd.

Burrowing: Tejuola Kolapo (Compton)
Pygmy: Sean Donahue (Pfeiffer)
Eagle: Darvin Heath (Thomas)
Snowy: Claire Donahue (Welling)
Jackie Koch (Hallam)
Spotted: Lourdes Marrero (Rieke)
GGO: Kylee Lane (Rosekelly)
Jonathan Alberghina (Turner)

P.T.A.

All the cookie dough has been delivered. This **fundraiser** was a huge success bringing in \$3200 in profits! **The top sellers for this fundraiser are:** Adam Brisbane from Ms. Hunter's class with \$428.50, Elizabeth Freeman from Ms. Barinas class with \$266.00, and Haylee Mack from Mrs. Hallam's class with \$231.00. *Way to go boys and girls!!*



The **Gingerbread Shop** will be open for business on December 9th! Presale lists and envelopes were sent home with the students during the first week

of December.

On your mark! Get set! GO, and sign up for the **5K for our K5 in January**. You can register online at **Active.com** or register in the front office of the school. Come out and join the festivities and keep your family active.



Come out with the family to enjoy **Bingo Night on January 17th**. Concessions will be available and presales for pizza will come out closer to the event! Mark your calendars and come out with the family and try and win some great prizes!

If you are interested in **volunteering** for any of our events, please contact us at wgesptavolunteers@gmail.com. If you are already signed up to volunteer, please contact us to ensure that we have the most up-to-date contact information available for you.

The Watergrass PTA wants to make sure your voice is heard. If you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please direct them to wgespta@gmail.com and someone will get back to you promptly.

Be sure to like our Facebook page and become part of the Watergrass PTA community.



PLACE is Collecting.... plastic & metal bottle caps for a large art project, Toys for Toys for Tots!



Examples: metal bottle caps, plastic bottle caps, plastic lids, soda and water bottle lids, jar lids, milk jug lids, Gatorade lids, juice lids, frosting lids, small, medium, and large lids.

Please assist us by saving and collecting bottle caps. PLACE students will be working on a very special art project and thousands of bottle caps are needed. This project will be a large one and will be displayed for all to see.

Bottle caps can be given to your child's classroom teacher, the front office, or directly to the place program which is located in the Watergrass Elementary school cafeteria.

PLACE is also a drop off center for Toys for Tots. We are collecting new unwrapped toys for families in need. We will be collecting up until December 20th.

Toys can be dropped off in the front office or brought to the PLACE program during place operating hours 6:30 am – 6:00 pm. For questions please contact the PLACE program site manager, Angela Turner, at 813-346-0692 or via email at: AKNOTTS@PASCO.K12.FL.US

Your assistance is greatly needed to make this endeavor possible and your support is greatly appreciated.