

Hickory Creek Elementary School

HAWKS' NEST

"First we love them, then we teach them"

Dr. Paul Goricki, Principal

Marcela Knight, Asst. Principal



From the Principal's Desk

January 31, 2014

Sounds from the Aerie

2014 Needs Assessment Parent Survey is "live" and available to HCE Parents

Again this year we ask Hickory Creek school parents to share your thoughts about your child's experience at Hickory Creek by responding to the annual school needs assessment survey. We make school improvement decisions with your voice in mind. I appreciate your taking a few minutes to complete the survey today! The survey link is:

<https://surveys.stjohns.k12.fl.us/TakeSurvey.aspx?SurveyID=96KJnn72>

Thank you in advance for participating in this year's school survey.

Dr. Paul Goricki and the HCE School Advisory Council

Planning is underway for New K-8 School HH

Emily Harrison, Principal of the K-8 school in Durbin Crossing recently met with parents at Hickory Creek to discuss her plans for the new school. After school HH opens in August, Hickory Creek will shrink by more than one-third of its present enrollment to approximately 525 students. The opening of the new school is expected to affect between 11 and 16 HCE teachers. Across the county, nine elementary, middle and high schools are affected by the opening of the two new K-8 schools in St. Johns County. Next month, Mrs. Harrison and Mr. Wayne King, Principal of the K-8 school in Nocatee will begin interviewing teachers for their schools and it is my hope that many of Hickory's wonderful teachers will find places in the district's newest schools. We enjoy the opportunity to work with our Durbin Creek students and their supportive families.

Art Teacher Kathy Jones presents at FAAE Arts Integration Symposia

HCE Art Teacher Kathy Jones, who is recognized as a statewide exemplar practitioner of arts integration, recently co-presented professional development for art teachers entitled, "Vincent Van Gogh Skies, Skyscrapers and Arrays", in the area of Visual Art and Mathematics. It's great to see area art educators have an opportunity to learn from St. Johns County's finest elementary school art teacher!

Food Service Manager Denise Zokus teaches Fifth Graders about Nutrition and Food Preparation

Did you know that Hickory's Food Service Manager Denise Zokus is teaching students about nutrition and the importance of eating for good health? Mrs. Zokus has already met with several fifth grade classes and the children have learned a great deal about the history of food preparation and nutrition. I commend Denise for her good work educating children about the food they eat.

Make plans to join us for the annual "Chili Cookoff/Stargazing" event at 6:00 p.m. on February 6!

Counselor's Corner
Patricia Iisager
(904) 547-7457



Hickory's Heart Providing Support to Hickory Creek Families

"Hickory's Heart" has been providing support to Hickory Creek Families. Thank you for your continued support by donating food: (pasta & sauce, granola bars, cereal, PB&J, soup, spaghettiOs, fruit cups, snack crackers). There is a box in the office for food items and they may be dropped off at any time. If we can assist your family with any needs, please contact Ms. Iisager, HCE Guidance Counselor at reginap@stjohns.k12.fl.us, or 547-7457. Your request will be handled confidentially.

Thank you for also supporting holiday food donations for Second Harvest North Florida. Your generosity helped fight hunger in St. Johns County and we donated more than 1000 pounds of food!



Anti-Bullying Initiative

This year I have been focusing on helping students understand the power of their words and actions. I have met with each class and discussed what bullying is and what to do if they are a target of bullying or if they see it occur. I have been reading *Confessions of a Former Bully* by Trudy Ludwig on the morning show. It is a wonderful book that brings us into the mind and heart of a girl who bullies and shows us that change is possible. It provides effective tools for girls and boys in every social role, whether they are instigators, targets or bystanders.

Students will be recognized on the morning show if they are "caught" having the courage to take a stand against bullying. Please encourage your child to include someone being left out or letting an adult know when they see bullying.

I have also created an Anti-Bullying Student Task Force that will be meeting with me during lunch to brainstorm and implement anti-bullying ideas school wide. One idea is for task force students to share their heartfelt bullying experiences with other students at HCE so they can see, first hand, how hurtful bullying can be! My goal is to make Hickory Creek a safe and kind school for all children!

Helping Kids Deal with Bullying

If your child tells you about being bullied, listen calmly and offer comfort and support. Kids are often reluctant to tell adults about bullying because they feel embarrassed and ashamed that it's happening, or worry that their parents will be disappointed, upset, angry, or reactive.

Sometimes kids feel like it's their own fault, that if they looked or acted differently it wouldn't be happening. Sometimes they're scared that if the bully finds out that they told, it will get worse. Others are worried that their parents won't believe them or do anything about it. Or kids worry that their parents will urge them to fight back when they're scared to.

Praise your child for doing the right thing by talking to you about it. Remind your child that he or she isn't alone — a lot of people get bullied at some point. Emphasize that it's the bully who is behaving badly — not your child. Reassure your child that you will figure out what to do about it together.

Let someone at school (the principal, school nurse, or a counselor or teacher) know about the situation. They are often in a position to monitor and take steps to prevent further problems.

Because the term "bullying" might be used to describe such a wide range of situations, there's no one-size-fits all approach. What is advisable in one situation may not be appropriate in another. More information about St. Johns County School District's bullying policy may be found at <http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/>.

Please free to contact me at any time if I can assist you or your child. I can be reached at 547-7457 or reginap@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

Media Center News TrueFlix: Non-fiction resource for kids!

Parents and students, looking for something to engage a reluctant reader or a lover of non-fiction? Check out TrueFlix! This great literary resource by Scholastic provides short videos and ebooks on a variety of non-fiction topics, including historical events (like the sinking of the Titanic), science experiments, extreme nature events, and many more. The topics are sure to interest a young reader (3rd-5th level). It also has a feature that will read the book to struggling readers. All books have AR quizzes. To check it out go to: tfx.grolier.com User Name - hickoryces Password - trueflix. Enjoy!

Lost and Found

Please feel free to stop in the café if you are in the building and check out the lost and found. Also remind your student to check at lunch for any missing items. The lost and found is overflowing and will soon be donated. Thank you for your help.

St. Johns County School District Media Release January 27, 2014

The St. Johns County School District (SJCS D) will hold pre-registration for children entering kindergarten and students new to St. Johns County and/or public schools on Wednesday, February 5 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; Wednesday, March 12 from 1-5 p.m.; Thursday, April 17 from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.; and Tuesday, May 6 from 1-5 p.m.

To be eligible for public kindergarten in St. Johns County, children must be 5 years old on or before September 1 and must reside in St. Johns County. To register for first grade, children must be 6 years old on or before September 1 and have documentation of successful completion of kindergarten.

Parents must register children at the school where they are zoned for the 2014-2015 school year. Three proofs of residency must be provided such as a current mortgage statement, lease or rent agreement and two other forms of residency documentation such as a current electric bill, car registration and/or driver's license. Additional information on residency and guardianship as well as a link to the Attendance Zone Locator can be found on the website at www.stjohns.k12.fl.us under "Featured Links."

Florida law requires any student entering a Florida school for the first time to show proof of required immunizations documented on the HRS Form 680. Proof of a physical examination that has been obtained within one year prior to enrollment in school is also required. Physical examinations can be performed by either a private physician or by the county health department.

Voluntary Pre-kindergarten (VPK) pre-registration will also take place at select schools on the above dates and times. Children applying for the VPK program must be 4 years old on or before September 1. The SJCS D offers full day VPK at the following locations: The Webster School, John A. Crookshank, Cunningham Creek, Ketterlinus, Otis Mason, Mill Creek, Ocean Palms, Osceola, PVPV/Rawlins, South Woods, Timberlin Creek and Wards Creek elementary schools. For additional information on the SJCS D VPK program, please contact Early Childhood Services at 547-4899.

Students can be registered during the spring and summer for the 2014-2015 school year, however; parents are encouraged to register during the designated dates above so that schools can adequately prepare for the new school year. Additional information regarding registration and school attendance zones may be obtained from the Student Services Office at 547-7598.

DECEMBER 2013 ALL PILLARS

KINDERGARTEN

Deliazard	Dylan Dunham	Ava Pertile
Densmore	Blake Robertson	Kinsley Braughton
Goselin	Aiden Bascelli	Samantha Antunez
Kruse/Fillingane	Maggie Watts	Rowan Clarke
Stephens	Jaxon Earle	Elizabeth Helton
Williams/Howes	Hudson West	Lilly Rivera

FIRST GRADE

Andreoni	Adam Cury	Sarah Rocheleau
Eads	Ayla Shields	Maddie Moore
Lewis	Logan Leister	Kera Webber
McGill	Abree Abbott	Cailin Plunkett
Tees	Kylie Moses	Zachary Marshall
Watters	Levi Bush	Carly Doll
Young	Josslyn Piersall	Jonathan Sutjandra

SECOND GRADE

Connelly/Littlefield	Jacob Czajkowski	Renate Blaumueller
Culbreth	Hannah Foss	Aditya Mittal
Ford	Cora Middleton	Ryan Blaumueller
Hawkins	Jackson Phillips	Gavin Cook-Williams
Miller	Landon Anderson	Brie Arnett
Naft	Caroline Fossati	Matthew French
Skinner	Ryan Whitaker	Olivia Molina

THIRD GRADE

Begley/Guthmiller	Tanner Owens	Vivian Stovall
Bowden	Caroline Solloway	Jack McKay
Itner	Mackenzie Rust	Brody Michel
Lee/Chris	Hayley Brunz	Harrison Brunz
Slate	Daniel Bush	Emily Gaunt
Vara	Elise Habres	Kellen Brown
Wood/Hall/Mecke	Lauren Wenzloff	John Higginson

FOURTH GRADE

Davis	Olivia Livingstone	Austin Hicks
Love	Ryan Dean	Landon Murray
Moody	Dylan Goldberg	Nia Antonetti
Neel	Hailey Cocchiaro	Bill Edinger
Olson/Libers	Judah Samples	Abby Wilson
Valentin	Natalie Smith	Marco Rangel

FIFTH GRADE

Benes/Bean	Emily Armstrong	Olivia Romanowsky
Campbell	Samantha Byrd	Joseph Ronemous
Cowherd	Rebekah Hughes	Stephen Gomez
Dimon	Luke Weakland	Erin Wagner
Grainger	Carson Welch	Morgan Hartley
Rice	James Getz	Maggie Manassaram
Turnipseed	Kaitlyn Hayes	Phillip Horn

EXTENDED DAY

Hannah Foss	Ruby Noland
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PTO News

The PTO would like to recognize Melissa Farhat as the January volunteer of the month. This is Melissa's first year at Hickory and she is a wonderful addition to the PTO. She has volunteered to help with the upcoming carnival and is in charge of all the games. She is also the homeroom parent for Ms. Deliazard's class. In addition, Melissa is a physical therapist. Melissa and her husband are both Jacksonville natives and moved to St. Johns County in 2012. They have 2 children, a daughter in kindergarten and a son in preschool. Thank you Melissa for all you do!!

HCE's annual Chili Cook Off will be held on February 6th from 6-7:15pm followed by the stargazing event for 3rd-5th graders from 7:15-8pm. There will be activities in the cafeteria for the younger kids during this time. Anyone may participate in the cook off. Just fill out and return the slip that your child brings home or click on the volunteer sign up below. Even if you do not want to participate, join us for delicious chili, hot dogs, and other treats FREE of charge.

VOLUNTEERS are needed to help set up and clean up and we are also in need of some food/drink items. Please click on the following link if you would like to volunteer, donate food items, or sign up to bring chili: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040448A5AA2BA64-2014>

CASTING NOW OPEN FOR 1ST-5TH GRADERS

Drama Kids is preparing for our spring play and we are searching for our star cast! All students who enroll will receive a part in the play. For over 30 years, Drama Kids International has been the world's most popular children's drama program with over 60,000 students enrolled across 25 different countries! This award-winning program has been internationally recognized for its creative drama curriculum and fun teaching methods.

Casting is now open for 1st-5th grades. Only 5 spots left! Class is held weekly on Tuesdays immediately following the school day and will conclude with an original play in May. No additional registration, performance, costume or ticket fees! **Register online at www.dramakids.com/fl3 or call (904) 257-5752.**

Saint Johns County Center for the Arts

The Saint Johns County Center for the Arts at Murray Middle School is accepting applications at this time. Center for the Arts has the application online and the deadline is February 10th.

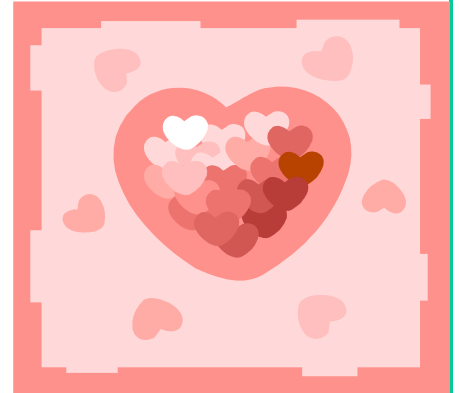
Chocolate and Beyond

Chocolate and Beyond will be held February 22nd at the First Coast Technical College. Participating Artists include Whetstone Chocolates, Purple Olive, Raintree Restaurant, Peterbrooke Chocolatier and Sakura Asian Cuisine. Visit the website at www.rsvpstjohns.com or call 904-547-3945.

HICKORY CREEK CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FEBRUARY

- 3rd In-Service Day No School
- 4th SAC Meeting 4:00pm
- 5th Kindergarten Pre-Registration 9-1
- 6th PTO Meeting 9:30am
Chili Cook-off & Stargazing 6:00pm
- 11th Spring Pictures Individual
- 17th Presidents Day No School
- 25th 4th Grade Florida Writes
- 26th 4th Grade Florida Writes
- 28th Book Fair



MARCH

- 4th Book Fair Family Night
- 5th K & 1st Field Day
- 6th 2nd & 3rd Field Day
Book Fair Family Night
- 7th 4th & 5th Field Day
- 12th World Market
Kindergarten Pre-Registration 1-5
- 14th Planning Day No School
- 17th Spring Break
- 24th Classes Resume
- 28th Spring Carnival



APRIL

- 8th Play Tees & McGill
- 15th & 16th Spring Concert
- 17th Kindergarten Pre-Registration 9-1
- 18th No School
- 29th Play Eads & Watters

