

THE WALKER SPIN



Joan Walker Elementary Newsletter
Seminole County Public Schools



The mission of the Seminole County Public Schools is to ensure that all students acquire the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to be productive citizens.

A Note from the Principal, Mrs. José:

Walker Families,

It is hard for me to believe that we are discussing the end of the school year, it has certainly been a year to remember! I am so very proud of all of our students and the effort they put forth each and every day. I know that distance learning has been interesting and at times challenging however, I am impressed with how well our students were able to adjust and succeed.

This edition of the Walker Spin is our "getting ready for next year" newsletter. I have asked each grade level to share a few things that you can do at home to prepare your child for next year. Please take time to review and let me know if you have any questions.

A great big thank you to our AMAZING PTA!! Thank you for all you do. This school is better because of YOU!

I hope that you enjoy your summer, be well and know that I am here for you if you need anything throughout the summer months.

Mrs. José

Mark your Calendar:

May

- 26 5th grade Clap Out at Walker (begins at 9:00 a.m.)
- 27 School Good-Bye Parade (begins at 9:00 a.m.) /Last Day of School

July

(all dates are subject to change)

- 30 Kinder Camp (more information to come

August

- 5 KG Parent Night (6:00 p.m.)
- 6 Meet the Teacher (times TBD)
- 10 First Day of School 2020-2021/KG Boo Hoo/Yahoo Breakfast

Walker Mission:

Walker Mission Statement

Joan Walker Elementary School will provide a positive learning environment that ensures cooperation, mutual respect, and the optimum development of the whole child. We will teach our students to think critically, to act responsibly, and to perform successfully in order to become lifelong learners and responsible citizens in a technological and diverse society.





Welcome to Kindergarten!!!!

This is the year for our youngest learners to shine brightly in our classrooms. It will be a year of wonder and amazing growth. The Kindergarten teachers look forward to working with your child as we teach them to reach for the stars.

Looking ahead at what you can do to encourage your child's early Kindergarten success is: begin working on upper and lowercase letter recognition, recognition of letter sounds, writing names, knowing colors, two-dimensional shapes, tying their shoes, number recognition, and counting from one to ten.

Kindergarten is a chance to explore social skills and learn independence that allows them to build on the traits and characteristics that will make them lifelong learners. Read with each other regularly. The early exposure to vocabulary, comprehension, and prediction skills begins here. Children love the time that you share together and it becomes a beautiful gift that keeps on giving to them in the future. If you take a few precious moments to carve out of your busy day to share with your most prized possession, that time and love will allow them to grow and blossom ten-fold as a student in the future.

One last impression that we would like to share is a poem that embodies the very essence of this approaching year, as we tearfully and reluctantly loosen the "apron strings" just a little more and allow our children to begin a new chapter in their lives; this poem is a reminder of the direction that we head in assisting your child to becoming a stronger and more independent student. We are fortunate that we have this opportunity to guide them in their first year at Joan Walker. It is our honor, to continue the Walker legacy in such a joyful way. The poem is entitled:

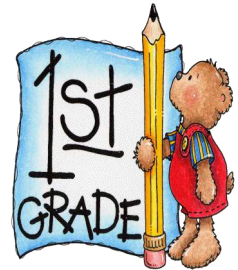
"All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten"
by Robert Fulghum

Most of what I really need
To know about how to live
And what to do and how to be
I learned in Kindergarten.
Wisdom was not at the top
Of the graduate school mountain,
But there in the sand pile at school.
These are the things I learned:

Share everything.
Play fair.
Don't hit people.
Put things back where you found them.
Clean up your own mess.
Don't take things that aren't yours.
Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody.
Wash your hands before you eat.
Flush.
Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you.
Live a balanced life -
Learn some and think some
And draw and paint and sing and dance
And play and work every day some.
Take a nap every afternoon.
When you go out into the world,
Watch out for traffic,
Hold hands and stick together.
Be aware of wonder.



First grade is an exciting year to see your child's growth in reading and math skills. Some things you can do to get your child ready for 1st grade is to practice letters and sounds (especially vowel sounds), ball word (sight words) recognition, and blending sounds to make words. Read with your child and ask them questions about the book: Who is this story about and what happened in the story. In Writing, encourage your child to write his/her first and last name using correct letter formation. In Math, practice counting to 100 by 1s, 5s, 10s. Students can practice identifying numbers to thirty, writing numbers to twenty, and practicing basic math addition and subtraction facts. Hand washing for 20 seconds, tying shoes, snap/buckle/zip clothing, holding scissors and pencils using the appropriate grip are good skills to continue practicing.



We are looking forward to and getting ready for second grade! Here are some helpful tips and resources:

ELA

Students should be able to:

Write at least 2 sentences with correct punctuation and capitalization.

Recall and retell important events in a story.

Read for 15 minutes and discuss what they have read.

Read nonfiction books relating to concepts in Science and Social Studies.

Math

Students should :

Know their basic addition and subtraction facts.

Count change to a dollar.

Be able to add and subtract.

Be able to tell time to the hour.

The understanding of place value.

Third grade can't wait to meet our new third graders next school year! We appreciate any help you can provide at home to get your child ready for third grade over the summer.

The following are some things that you can work on to prepare them for third grade math.

- Addition and subtraction with regrouping
- Basic math fact fluency with addition and subtraction (flashcards, mental math, doubles facts)
- Skip counting
- Telling time to the nearest 5 minutes
- Solving two step word problems
- Measuring to the nearest inch
- Identifying shapes (quadrilaterals, pentagons, hexagons, etc.)
- Legible numbers

The following are some things that you can work on to prepare them for third grade reading/writing.

- Capital letters and punctuation
- Complete sentences (proofreading)
- Practice handwriting (letters need to be legible and accurate spacing between words)
Write! It can be about anything as long as they practice writing longer pieces.
- Basic grammar skills (nouns, verbs)
- Read! Read! Read! (nonfiction books and chapter books)
- Answering questions about their reading (characters, setting, plot)



Fourth grade is a year of challenging but fun educational milestones, including the well-known field trip to St. Augustine where you'll get to learn the history of the oldest city in the United States since Florida History is the topic of Social Studies this year.

While preparing to get ready for math in fourth grade, focus on mastering your multiplication facts- this means you know them in five seconds or less. Knowing these facts will ease you into multiplication of four digit by one-digit numbers and two digit by two digit numbers. It will also help you master skills such as division of four-digit dividends by one digit divisors, equivalent fractions, and finding the combined area and perimeter of a rectangle.

In Science, fourth graders have the privilege of learning about the Florida Everglades, rocks and minerals, and completing many experiments to study the nature of science. Students can best prepare for fourth grade science standards by practicing investigations, completing many trials during an experiment, and comparing data from one experiment to another.

Fourth grade ELA focuses on strengthening the comprehension skills and strategies from previous years but now also includes an emphasis on writing. This is a big year for learning, practicing, and writing informational and opinion essays. We encourage you to be reading and writing over the summer in preparation for 4th grade. Some ideas for practicing writing include journal writing with at least two paragraphs and including details to support and elaborate on the topic. Students should be coming in being able to write a solid paragraph with punctuation, capitalization, and strong sentences. Regarding reading, "read widely and wildly" in Gary Paulson's words. Share and discuss your reading with friends and family members.



We are so excited to welcome you to your "senior year" of elementary school. Fifth grade is a lot of fun, we participate in patrolling, go on the mud walk, and also have an exclusive end of the year Fifth Grade Glow Out. With all of the cool things we do there is also some balance. We provide learning experiences that are challenging and hands on. Here are some things to know as you meditate on the upcoming school year:

Responsibility is SO MUCH a part of what we require in Fifth Grade. You should be responsible for your self and your learning! If you own your learning experience and apply yourself, you get the most out of every activity and project.

Study habits! Studying is real homework, we mean it! It is so essential going forward that you build good study habits at home, these will carry you through Fifth Grade and into middle school.

Homework is assigned throughout the school year. It is used in a meaningful way to correspond with what you are learning in class. This is your responsibility and ties in to building good study habits.

Working with peers and collaborative learning is a big thing that we focus on in Fifth Grade. It is essential that you know the difference between leadership and just being bossy. It is also important to understand how differences ideas can be valuable and informative tools in working on a team.

Organization! Being organized is important in so many ways. If you start your year out organized by being responsible for your planner, checking dates on E- campus and submitting work on time you will have a very successful year.

Growth Mindset! Learning new content can be challenging! It is so important however to persevere through the problem whether it be in ELA, Math, Science, or Social Studies. Growth Mindset is the belief that you can improve and become better through dedication, handwork, and positive attitude.



Dividend Volunteers

Volunteers truly make a difference in the quality of education at Walker elementary and children receive a powerful message when parents are involved in their child's school. All dividends must renew their registration EACH YEAR online:

www.scps.k12.fl.us/communityinvolvement

Read, Read, Read

Reading is FUN and can be FUNNY. Spending time reading with children helps to build a solid foundation of reading skills. Reading aloud and listening to children read aloud builds comprehension, vocabulary, and listening skills.

The Sunshine State Young Readers Award (SSYRA) Program is a statewide reading motivational program for students in grades K-2, 3 through 8. The purpose of the SSYRA Program is to encourage students to read independently for pleasure and to read books that are on, above, and below their reading level in order to improve their reading fluency. Sunshine State books are selected for their wide appeal, literary value, varied genres, curriculum connections, and/or multicultural representation. The SSYRA committee is composed of 20 qualified school librarians located throughout the state of Florida, subdivided into three committees-K-2, grades 3-5 and grades 6-8.

Read books, talk about books be excited and the books will do the rest!

The Research Says That Summer Reading is Important

Despite conventional wisdom, six in 10 children ages 6–17 agree “I really enjoy reading books over the summer” (62%), with the main reasons being “I just enjoy reading” and “It’s a fun way to pass the time.”

On average, kids read eight books over the summer; however, one in five 12–17-year-olds and one in five kids in lower-income families did not read any books at all last summer.

Nearly half of parents with children ages 6–17 (48%) have heard of the “summer slide,” with lower-income parents far less likely to have heard of this (38%).

An overwhelming nine in ten kids say they are more likely to finish a book they picked out themselves.

Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.

Teachers typically spend between four to six weeks reteaching material that students have forgotten over the summer.

It's estimated that the summer slide accounts for as much as 85% of the reading achievement gap between lower-income students and their middle- and upper-income peers.

Third-graders who can't read on grade level are four times less likely to graduate by age 18 than a proficient reader.

Have a great summer and don't forget to READ, READ, READ!

Mrs. Neal

 Accelerated
Reader



AR will be available throughout
the summer until July 17th

 i-Ready™

iReady will be available through-
out the summer until July 26th

Kindergarten Registration Open NOW!

Kindergarten Registration– ON LINE ENROLL-
MENT Beginning April 7th

If you are enrolling your student at Walker,
gather the required documentation (digitally)
and visit the online enrollment information
page to begin the online enrollment process.

Below are a few helpful links:

[https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/parents/enrolling-
your-student/online-enrollment.shtml](https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/parents/enrolling-your-student/online-enrollment.shtml)

[https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/parents/enrolling-
your-student/](https://www.scps.k12.fl.us/parents/enrolling-your-student/)


gearing up for
Kindergarten


speakout
800.423.TIPS
www.speakouthotline.org