

# OWL ORACLE



## WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL • LIZ BOEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

**JANUARY 11, 2013**

I trust everyone had a restful and relaxing break. We are looking forward to a busy and productive second semester.

Please remember to have your car rider nametag hanging in your car when you drive through the car pickup area. Also, if you are walking up to the car pickup area you will need to bring your car rider nametag with you. If needed, you can pick up an extra one in our office.

Although it has been a relatively mild winter so far, your child may be missing a coat, jacket, or gloves. Remind him or her to check our Lost and Found in the clinic.

If Mrs. Boeger or I can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr. Mitchell

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

### GUIDANCE

Happy 2013! I am happy to be back in the Owl's Nest as your WGES Guidance Counselor. I took time off to spend with my baby, now 8 months old, and my 3 year old. I am thankful for the great support provided by Ms. Nicholas and our Guidance Secretary, Mrs. Brown. I am enjoying being able to reconnect with all the students I knew from last year, meet students who are new to our school, and of course get to know our Kindergarteners.

I look forward to seeing many parents around campus in the upcoming weeks. I will be once again visiting all classrooms to teach Guidance Lessons, running small groups, and providing individual counseling. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about your child.

Mrs. Ward

### IMPORTANT DATES

01/14 Q2 REPORT CARDS GO HOME  
01/15 GR 3 FAMILY FCAT NIGHT  
01/21 HOLIDAY FOR STUDENTS & STAFF  
01/24 FAMILY MATH NIGHT  
01/28 SAC MEETING  
01/28 WINTER BOOK FAIR THROUGH 2/1

### UP-COMING

02/13 SPRING PICTURES  
02/18 HOLIDAY FOR STUDENTS / STAFF  
02/25 SAC MEETING

**FAMILY MATH NIGHT**  
JANUARY 24<sup>TH</sup> ——— GRADES K-5  
6:30-8:00PM

### WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY ATTENDANCE NEWS DECEMBER 2012



**TOTAL NUMBER OF TARDIES: 132**

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH  
TWO OR MORE TARDIES: 39**

**TOTAL NUMBER OF ABSENCES: 372**

**NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH  
FIVE OR MORE ABSENCES: 26**

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION:  
COME TO SCHOOL ON TIME EVERYDAY.**

## **MUSIC NOTES**



Mrs. Reinhold and Mrs. Nickerson attended music in-services this week and are excited to share many new and fun musical activities with all of the Watergrass students! The next concert will be presented by our Kindergarten and 1st grade on **April 4th** at 7:00 PM in our cafeteria. They will be presenting a musical called, "*Sunny Day, Come and Play*". Kindergarten and 1st grade parents will be getting more information on this event in February.

## **ART**

Parents, if you have not received your Square One Art orders, or are missing an item, please contact me.

Most of our artists are finishing their Oil Pastel masterpieces. Our Fifth graders are working on their masks, and the Elf Owls are working hard on their alphabet book.



Since we will be working with Clay and Paint in the near future, please remember to dress your children appropriately on Art Days. Aprons will be provided, although accidents can happen.

## **BURROWING OWLS**

The Burrowing Owls are ready for 2013! Kindergarten students make tremendous gains this time of year. It is important to keep up with homework and to read EVERY night. As with any skill, practice is the key to success!

Izzy Rice was our December Citizen of the Month. She was chosen for her caring disposition toward others. Congratulations!

On Tuesday, January 22, we are going to a live musical performance at the WCHS Center for the Arts. Please return signed forms and \$5 by January 16th.

We are in need of baby wipes and washable markers. If you are able to send either of these it would be greatly appreciated. Happy New Year!

## **MILITARY KIDS**

Our Military Kids group will meet the first Wednesday of the month. We look forward to seeing our group again and discussing the events in the lives of our Military families.

## **FIFTH GRADE PEER MENTORS**

Our Fifth Grade mentors have already made a wonderful impact on our Elf Owl students. They helped us during our Winter Concert in such a positive manner. During the second semester they will have the opportunity to work within our classrooms in order to be social role models and peer reading buddies.

## **SPOTTED OWLS**

We're off to the beginning of a New Year! Welcome back everybody! Parent Writing Night on January 10<sup>th</sup> was a success. If you were able to attend, we hope that the information you received was helpful to you, in helping your child with writing skills and supporting them before they take the FCAT Writes Test. The state writing test will be on Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Our Spotted Owls will be headed out on a field trip to the Energy Marine Center in Port Richey, FL on January 17<sup>th</sup> or January 18<sup>th</sup>. It will be a full day adventure. Students will be eating their lunch there and be required to bring an extra set of dry clothes. Two fourth grade classes will attend each day. Look for more information to come home very soon. If you would like a preview, feel free to check out the *Marine Explorers Program for Elementary Students*. The link can be found at: [eec@pasco.k12.fl.us](mailto:eec@pasco.k12.fl.us). Before we go, the students will complete science lessons on how we impact our environment, why protecting it is important., and how we can help preserve Florida's natural resources.

Speaking of science, the Invention Convention projects are looking good! Looking ahead, our Pod Invention Fair will be January 25<sup>th</sup>. Keep up the good work!

Our December Student of the Month was Madison Ward from Miss Rosekelly's class. She was chosen for demonstrating good citizenship and setting a good example for others.

Lastly, the Spotted Owl Pod is in need of boxes of tissues, pencils, pencil top erasers, and notebook paper. The supply we had at the beginning of the year is all but gone. We again thank you for your support. If you are able to donate these items, we would be greatly appreciative!

## **ELF OWLS**

We were very pleased that many of our parents could attend our Elf Owl Winter Concert! We know that our parents and the rest of our Watergrass Owl family enjoyed the beautiful program. Our thanks to the Music Department for showcasing our Elf Owls.

Ms. Torres, Speech-Language: Our Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) continues to gain momentum. Many students have been working hard and progressing through the phases systematically. We are excited about the addition of our new Pre-K classroom and look forward to an exciting new year filled with communication.

Ms. Anderson's class: Our class did a wonderful job during our Winter Concert. We are so very proud of all of them. It was a pleasure to have so many of our parents join us. This semester we would like to welcome two new students who have moved from another classroom to join us. Quyntin and Tanner have joined our group of boys. A new semester brings new units in all of our subject areas and we are ready for a wonderful semester. We are hopeful that our Donors Chose Project will be funded soon.

Ms. Pascarella's class: We enjoyed seeing our parents during our Winter Concert. We hope you enjoyed your Winter Break. We would like to welcome our new students who have moved from another classroom to join us. Welcome Jason and Eric. We are beginning new units in all of our subject areas. We are also beginning to prepare for our Alternative Assessment. We look forward to a wonderful 2013!

Ms. Poe's class: We will have some changes this semester as we welcome William and Victor to our room. We will also be saying goodbye to Alex who will be moving to one of our other wonderful teachers. We will be learning about magnets and motion! We will continue to work on our "WH" questions and enjoy pattern fun in Math. In the area of Writing we will begin to trace and copy some of our frequently used words.

Ms. Eikeland's Class: Due to the growth in our Pre-K unit, I have accepted a position as the new teacher. While I look forward to teaching my new Pre-K students, I will miss my previous students who have been dispersed throughout our team to other wonderful teachers. I wish them all the best of luck and I know that they will have a

wonderful education experience.

Ms. Milligan's Pre-K class: We are so very pleased that so many of our parents and students could join our Winter program. They were wonderful little singers. We are so very proud of them all. We will continue to work very hard on communication skills this month as we learn and talk about snow and Winter.

Ms. Stockelman's Pre-K class: We are excited to announce that our Donors Chose project has been funded and this month we will be writing thank you notes. We welcome Parker, Jayla, and Miguel who have all joined us over the past three months. This month we will be exploring colors and it will be exciting to learn each student's favorite color. We are also looking forward to learning about winter and weather. Please remember to check your child's backpack for any important news or requests from your teacher.

Ms. Bade's Pre-K class: Our Pre-K unit has been growing by leaps and bounds since the beginning of the school year. We have grown so much that we will be opening another classroom in order to best meet the needs of our students. Mrs. Eikland will become our second ASD Pre-K teacher. Ms. Bade and Ms. O will be saying goodbye to some of our students who will be moving into our new Pre-K classroom. We know that they will have a wonderful educational experience in their new classroom and we also know that we will see them often as they will be right across the pod. Our Ms. Krista will be spending her time in the new classroom as well as helping with Ms. Stockelman's classroom.

**FIVE STAR PARTNER** ★★★★★



## **TROPICAL SCREECH OWLS**

The ESE department has once again become recipient of two Pasco Education Foundation Teacher Grants. These grants of \$300.00, each allowed for the purchase of two additional iPod Touch systems to supplement the two received last year. Along with the iPod Touch is the funding for software applications for math and reading. The use of this equipment allows for further reinforcement of numerous math and reading skills.

## PYGMY OWLS

Happy New Year! We want to wish a big Pygmy Owl welcome to the new students who are joining us from other schools and welcome back to all of our returning owls. Congratulations to Marc Teano, for being our December Citizen of the Month.

Please be sure to check your child's pencil box to see if it needs replenishing. As a team we are very low on glue sticks and would greatly appreciate any donations that are sent in.

We will continue participating in the *Book It* reading incentive program through March. Make sure to have your child read nightly and fill out their reading log so that they can earn their free pizza from Pizza Hut.

As a school we are beginning a new focus on addition and subtraction fact fluency. We are using a program called FASTT Math to help the students practice their facts. They may use the program twice each day. There is or soon will be an information sheet in their homework folder with their individual username and password so that they may log onto the program from home. We will also be tracking their progress and testing them with one minute timed tests of facts 0-12. Later in the year we will have rewards that the students will earn as they successfully progress in mastering their facts.

## DONATION TO WGES PTA

On December 13, Mr. Tony Crimi and Ms. Beverly Telemaque-Reuten, representatives of Ryland Homes of Tampa presented a check of \$500.00, to the PTA of Watergrass Elementary School. This money will be used to help fund the cost of a shade cover for the playground. Ryland Homes is one of several homebuilders within the Watergrass development.



**THANK YOU RYLAND HOMES AT WG!**

## SNOWY OWL NEWS

Snowy Owls are excited to announce that Jenna Cooper, from Mrs. Hoffman's class is our December Citizen of the Month! Jenna is respectful of her peers as well as school staff. She puts her best foot forward while being positive. Congratulations Jenna!

Thank you to all the volunteers who made our Winter Celebration a success! The students really enjoyed having you help with the activities. Once again, thank you!

Half of the school year has gone by and before you know it FCAT will be here. Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts to 12 with flash cards or online with Fastt Math. Also, continue discussing math vocabulary terms at home to help your child remember and maintain all this information. In addition, students can do FCAT Explorer at home online for extra reading skills practice.

Our pod is still in desperate need of **tissues** and **wet wipes** to make it through the cold season. We are also in need of snack and sandwich-sized baggies. Thank you, in advance, for sending those in with your child.

Thank you to those parents who are reading and signing your child's planner each evening. These are being checked by your child's teacher and are a great communication tool.

As always, thank you for sending your child to us rested and ready to learn.

## P.T.A.

PTA would like to welcome everyone back to school. We hope all had a safe and healthy Winter Break. December's Family Night at Woody's Pizza brought us in \$50. Thank you to everyone who participated. January's Family Night is January 30 at Dairy Queen. This is an all-day event with 20% of the proceeds going to the school. Dairy Queen is located in the Sweetbay shopping plaza.

It's time for the Winter Book Fair. The PTA is looking for volunteers to help. The Book Fair is going to be January 28<sup>th</sup> to February 1<sup>st</sup>. Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering.

The PTA is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering please do not hesitate to contact us. You can email us at [wgesptavolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:wgesptavolunteers@gmail.com) for volunteer opportunities.

## **GREAT GREY OWLS**

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope everyone had a nice, relaxing Winter Break! The Winter Celebration was a huge success! We appreciate the generosity of those who donated goodies!

2013 should prove to be just as busy as 2012, if not busier! All fifth graders should be working on the Invention Convention. The POD Contest is at the end of this month, so students should be wrapping up all aspects of their project and putting the final touches on their boards. If you still need a display board, we have them on sale in our pod. Make sure your board represents all of the time and effort you put into your project. We know we'll have a tough competition!

The Great Greys have also begun new content units of study. In Social Studies our new topic is "The American Revolution," and in Science we are learning about energy. Please make sure to review these concepts at home, and don't forget that you can access the science book, as well as additional resources, from the Science Fusion link on Kids Corner. This will prove very helpful for studying at home.

Finally, we'd like to remind students to continue to work to their full potential in all areas. Remember to give your best effort all of the time, and that means reading daily! Let's try and get all of the Great Grey students to earn the AR Celebration for Quarter 3. We can do it!



## **NEWS FROM OUR LITERACY COACH**



An informational meeting for families of 3rd graders will be held on Tuesday, January 15, from 6:00 pm to 6:45pm, in the Media Center. Parents will learn about the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test and the state requirements for being promoted to 4th grade.

### **Free Reading Activities:**

The Florida Center for Reading Research offers free downloadable activities for children in grades K-5 at <http://www.frr.org/>. Click on the *Student Center Activities* section. The activities are organized by grade level and include phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary and comprehension.

Mrs. Hughes



**BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION:** We received a check for \$872.00 for the collected Boxtops. Please continue to save Boxtops for Education and turn them in to your child's teacher.

## **EAGLE OWLS**

We hope everyone had a safe and relaxing Winter Break with friends and family! Now let's get ready to have a great second half of the year! We would like to take this opportunity to thank our many parents who volunteered their time to come in and help out with our PTA Holiday Shop and Carols and Cocoa. Events like these are what our students look forward to each year and it takes wonderful volunteers like you to make it happen! Thank you!

Don't forget that our second graders will be going to the Performing Arts Center at Wesley Chapel High School to see the musical performance "Hop To It" by the amazing Jack Hartmann on Tuesday, January 22nd! Permission slips and the fees are due now, as seating is limited! Thanks in advance!

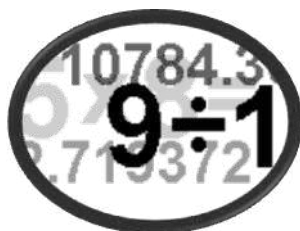
This quarter, our students will continue to work on retelling stories and articles that they have read with details and answering questions using textual evidence. Our primary focus in math, this quarter, is adding and subtracting two and three-digit numbers using various strategies including regrouping. Please make sure to look over homework assignments that are coming home to support your child's growth!

## **STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING**

In conjunction with reading the story "Stone Soup," students in Mrs. Hoffman's third grade class developed a service project for the Toys for Tots campaign. Posters and fliers were created to show to family, friends and neighbors to solicit toys for children in need. The class would like to thank everyone for the generous donations. The efforts of the students helped to fill the donation box in the front office!

Please Join Us!

# Watergrass Elementary Family Math Night



**PASSPORT to Math Excellence**



**Thursday, January 24th**

**6:30-8:00p.m.**

Please join us for a variety of family-friendly,  
**FUN**, take-home math activities, strategies, & information!

**Learn about the Common Core State Standards  
at your child's grade level.**



(Parent & Children must attend together)