

From the desk of Mr. Mitchell

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year. We are off to a great start! We are excited to welcome Mrs. Felice as our new Assistant Principal! I know many of you have already met her. We are very fortunate to have her working with us.

How can you be involved with Watergrass Elementary this year? Please consider joining our PTA and signing up to be a volunteer. Information is available on our website. We are always looking for PTA supporters. We are also happy to have volunteers in the pods and for field trips. Check our website for online registration.

Also, we have a School Advisory Council that meets monthly. Meetings are open to everyone. We will be meeting on the second Monday of each month at 4:00 PM in the media center. The focus of the meetings will be on our School Success Plan and strategies we are implementing. Join us when you can.

Our website will be another source of information. Be sure to visit regularly for current dates and events. We also have a Facebook page, an Instagram account, and a Twitter feed. If you want information about WGES you will have no problem staying current.

In the mornings feel free to walk your children to their classrooms. Once at the door of the pod, we ask that you allow them to enter the classrooms on their own to get ready for their day. This is an important step in their independence. Also, teachers need to get their morning activities started. Conferences are always welcome and teachers will be happy to meet with you. Please schedule an appointment ahead of time and give the teacher an opportunity to prepare and make the conference as productive as possible.

When picking up students in the afternoon we prefer that you stay in your car and pull through the line. However, if you do park and walk up, remember to bring your hang-tag with you. Also, to keep all pedestrians as safe as possible, please use the crosswalk at the front of the car line.

Thank you for your support! If Mrs. Felice or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.



**32750 Overpass Rd.
Wesley Chapel, FL 33545**

wges.pasco.k12.fl.us

T: 813-346-0600

Upcoming Events

September

9/07 PTA Family Night

9/11- 9/13

WGES Celebrates Grandparents Day

Please join your grandchild for LUNCH on these following dates:

- 9/11 Grades K and 4th
- 9/12 Grades 1 and 3rd
- 9/13 Grades 2nd and 5th

9/15 Progress Reports go home

9/27 Picture Day

October

10/13 Quarter 1 Ends

10/16 Teacher Planning- No School for Students

10/23 Report Cards go home

PTA Updates

wgespta@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/WatergrassElementary



This month, PTA is sponsoring a Family Night at Chuck-E-Cheese. Come meet your fellow owl families on Thursday, September 7 from 3:00-9:00. Hope to see you there!

Remember to keep in touch by following PTA on Facebook. You will find year-round event updates, photos and family news.

Next month we will be having our annual Fun Run. This year's event will be sponsored by Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel.

Be on the lookout for your membership cards! They will be issued this month.

PTA is still accepting orders for children's small t-shirts. All other sizes are available NOW!

- Children sizes \$5.
- Adult sizes \$10.

Burrowing Owls- Kindergarten

The kindergarten Burrowing Owls would like to thank all our families for sending in supplies and snacks to help our day run smoother. It was nice to meet so many of you at Open House. If you would like to conference with your child's teacher, please let them know. We are more than happy to set up a time to go over any questions you have.

Our students are learning so many things during the school day. It is important to be sure everyone arrives on time. Please plan for your child to arrive at school at 9:30. The tardy bell rings at 9:45. Our students are learning the routines to help them be responsible citizens at school. Please allow them the opportunity to shine by dropping them off at the car rider line or outside the pod doors instead of

Soaring into Academics

We will continue to use IRLA, but no longer have access to AR. This leaves more room for students to choose books on their level based on their interests and their Power Goal. We want all students to focus on the LOVE of reading. Below you will see the IRLA level progression through grades K-5.

- K RTM- 1,2,3 Yellow- 1 Green**
- 1 2Green-1Blue-2Blue-1Red**
- 2 1 Red-2Red-White**
- 3 White**
- 4 Black**
- 5 Orange**

Helpful Hints for Homework

How you can help: Children should read 30 minutes nightly. The on-going goal is to read a chapter book a week.

How you can help: Review ELA topics with your child. Ask questions about the texts they read in school that day.

How you can help: Ask your child's teacher for assistance with the language in Eureka math. They can direct you to online resources.

walking them inside the classroom. However, if your child is sick with a fever or diarrhea, please keep them home for 24 hours after to prevent the illness spreading to others.

Pygmy Owls- First Grade

Want to help at home with math? Invite your child to show you how to count the Math Way (counting from left to right starting with the pinky of the left hand).

■ Play “Math Way” Fingers Flash: Partner A quickly flashes a number (from 1 to 10) the Math Way with his fingers, and then hides them behind his back. Partner B says the number she saw. For a challenge, Partner B tells how many more Partner A needs to make ten.

■ Play “Penny Parts”: Invite your child to organize a group of 6–10 pennies into two groups, placing five pennies in one group. Then ask your child to draw a number bond that shows how the pennies are grouped. For example, if the total is 8 pennies, then the parts are 5 and 3. For an added challenge, separate the pennies two different ways with the same total, and draw a number bond to match each way; for example, 5 and 3, and 4 and 4.

Eagle Owls- Second Grade

Need support with math homework? Here’s how you can help support your child at home with Eureka Math:

■ If your child would benefit from using concrete objects for support, provide pennies (or other counters) to help him break apart numbers into two parts. The use of fingers is also encouraged!

■ Encourage your child to explain how she knows the correct answer. For example, “I know that $10 - 7 = 3$, so that means $10 - 3 = 7$. Three and seven are parts and 10 is the total.

■ Practice counting the Say Ten way. Say a two-digit number (e.g., 23 or 37), and ask your child to repeat it the Say Ten way (2 tens 3; 3 tens 7). For fun, invite your child to say some numbers for you to repeat the Say Ten way.

Snowy Owls- Third Grade

Welcome to a fantastic year with the Snowy Owls! In class, our students have been reading The Case of the Gasping Garbage and analyzing character traits, actions, and motivations. This scientific mystery book goes right along with our first science unit which focuses on the scientific method and tools. In Social Studies, students are starting out learning Geography. Finally, in Math we are getting accustomed to all the fun, new routines of Eureka Math including sprints and whiteboard problems. Our first module is understanding multiplication and

What is Eureka Math?

- Cohesive math curriculum for grades Pre-K through 12th Grade.
- Comprehensive curriculum aligned to Common Core Standards at every grade.
- Created by classroom teachers and mathematicians from around the country during a two-year collaboration with New York State led by Great Minds.
- Great Minds is a non-profit organization founded by a group of education leaders
- Eureka Math is available online and can be downloaded by anyone for free.
- www.greatminds.org

5 Daily Components

- Fluency Practice
- Application Problem
- Concept Development
- Student Debrief
- Exit Tickets

**Whoooo Loves Eureka Math?
WGES Owls do!**



division concepts including equal groups, arrays, and factors. Keep up all the hard work we have seen so far and you will succeed in third grade!

Spotted Owls- Fourth Grade

We are off to a great start in 4th grade. Our students have been getting to know each other and their teachers. They have been learning and practicing how to be ready, responsible and respectful. Please check your child's planner daily or connect on Class Dojo.

Mark your calendars for the Marine Explorers Field Experience

- 12/5 Cusmano/Holbrook
- 12/6 Chatmon/Gaudens
- 12/7 Hoffman/Pierce

Great Gray Owls- Fifth Grade

Welcome to the 5th grade and to the Great Grey Owls! We are excited to start the year and look forward to working with you to make this year memorable for your child. We have a lot planned for Quarter 1 and need your help to make it a success. Please make sure you are signing your child's planner nightly and checking their Boomerang Folder daily for important papers and work that goes home.

Our Fifth graders are "Owl About Reading" this year! Power Goals will be assigned to target specific skills within their reading level. We will be using the Boomerang Folder to communicate levels and Power Goals with you. Power Goals can be expected to change at least every 2 weeks. Be on the look-out for these goals to help your child reach their fullest potential. Good readers read every night for 30 minutes and complete a reading log, which is due every Friday. Please make sure you are signing this nightly for your child.

Our Fifth Graders are also using a new math series this year called Eureka Math which we are all excited about! Students will participate in daily sprints and challenging math lessons. Encourage your child to complete their daily homework. Students will be bringing home their math book to help with homework assignments.

Music Notes

The Music Department is off to a great start!!! Students are learning to keep a steady beat along with being introduced to some instruments!

Chorus and Orff Ensemble Auditions have been completed during 4th & 5th grade music classes for all of those interested. Those chosen have been given an invitation and rehearsals are beginning the week of Labor Day.

Stay Connected

Watergrass has a very active social media presence. Please like, follow and share with us!



[facebook.com/
watergrasselementaryschool](https://facebook.com/watergrasselementaryschool)



[twitter.com/
watergrasselem](https://twitter.com/watergrasselem)



[instagram.com/
watergrasselementary](https://instagram.com/watergrasselementary)

Our 2nd & 3rd graders are busy working on songs from our Disney Musical. This concert will be Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School. Don't forget to send in your permission slips if your child will be participating.

For music updates and upcoming events, visit our Music website at <http://connectplus.pasco.k12.fl.us/kreinhol/>

Counselor's Corner

I am enjoying getting to visit all of the classrooms to introduce or reintroduce myself to students and make them aware of the role of the School Counselor. In Kindergarten and 1st grades we have explored our Feelings with the help of our Inside Out characters, and Feelings Flashcards. Ask your child about what they learned!

I am available to all students, and spend time with students individually, in groups, or in classrooms. I am also available for consultation with parents. I welcome the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have about your child. Feel free to call or email me at mward@pasco.k12.fl.us. I look forward to a great school year!

Mrs. Ward, School Counselor

A Bag's Life- Plastic Bag Recycling Contest

Watergrass will be collecting all sorts of plastic bags for recycling for the months of September and October. There will be recycling bags placed in every pod for collection. Please feel free to contribute your plastic bags. Here are some examples of what to send in for recycling:

- fruit/vegetable bags
- storage bags
- retail/grocery bags
- electronics/packing wrap

All bags must be clean and free of any food residue and water. For more information on recycling plastic bags, please go to www.abagslife.com.



Citizen of the Month

Starting in September, teachers will be nominating students to receive a Citizen of the Month Award. These students are recognized for displaying outstanding character. They will be honored with an ice-cream celebration hosted by Mrs. Ward. The Character Trait for September is Citizenship.

Special thanks to **Chick-Fil-A at Cypress Creek Town Center** for sponsoring our Citizen of the Month program.



reduce . recycle . reuse

NOTICE TO BUILDING OCCUPANTS
AND PARENTS

**NOTIFICATION OF INSPECTION FOR ASBESTOS CONTAINING
MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a final rule, 40 CFR Part 763, Asbestos Containing Material in schools, commonly referred to as AHERA. This rule requires all Local Education Agencies (LEA's) to identify asbestos containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers.

All inspections for *Watergrass Elementary* have been completed and a Management Plan describing the results of the inspection and the action plan to control any asbestos found during the inspection, where applicable, has been submitted to the governor for approval. A copy of this plan is located in the administrative office of this school and at the Pasco County Schools Maintenance & Facility Services Department and is available for review upon request.