

OWL ORACLE



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL • LIZ BOEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 7, 2014

Take time every day to read to your child, read with your child, and listen to your child read. Parental involvement in children's reading is one of the highest predictors of reading achievement. Read! Read! Read!

Please remember to have your car rider name tag 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 name tag with you. If needed, you can pick up an extra one in our office.

With a rather chilly winter so far, your child may be missing a coat, jacket, or gloves. Remind them to check our Lost and Found in the clinic.

Please help us keep our students safe. If you pick your children up from school in the afternoon please be aware of our pedestrian traffic out near our school sign at the entrance. There is a stop sign for traffic leaving campus and pulling onto Overpass Rd. We have recently had a few instances where cars rolled through the stop sign and this creates a dangerous situation for our students walking home. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

As always, if Mrs. Boeger or I can be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr. Mitchell

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

LOST AND FOUND

If your child has misplaced a jacket or coat, please check in the lost and found located in the clinic in the front office. **Articles not claimed by February 14, will be donated to charity.**

Also, An Origami Owl necklace was found recently and turned in to the main office. If you've lost one, please contact the Mrs. Causey in the main office.

IMPORTANT DATES:

2/07 Q3 Progress Reports sent home
2/14 Parents' Night Out ☺
2/17 Holiday for students
2/25-2/26 FCAT WRITES in Grade 4
2/26 Family Dine Out @ Texas RoadHouse
2/28 Movie Night

UPCOMING:

3/13 Picture Day
3/14 Planning Day-No school for students
3/17-21 Spring Break - school closed
3/31 Q3 Report Cards sent home

JANUARY ATTENDANCE & TARDY NUMBERS

Total number of tardies: 176

Number of students with two or more tardies: 48

Total number of absences: 314

Number of students with five or more absences: 22



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



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

GUIDANCE NEWS

Have you heard? 2014 is "Owl About Kindness"! Check out the bulletin board in the Guidance hallway to see what kind acts are reported to be happening around our campus.

Classroom lessons have been focused on kindness and empathy. Be sure to tune in to the morning news shows to see video clips made by our very own 3rd Grade Snowy Owls. Also, the 5th graders have really gotten into displaying Random Acts of Kindness.

Upcoming lessons this Spring will focus on Safety. These lessons will touch on several hot topics like Abuse Prevention, Bullying, and Internet Safety. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mrs. Ward, School Counselor

Citizens of the Month for December

These students are **TRUSTWORTHY** Owls:

Burrowing Owls: Karolinne Davila (Cabral)
Pygmy Owls: Jacob Sheldon (Camunas)
Eagle Owls: Isabella Erazo (Hughes) and
Aramina Mendoza (Johnson)
Snowy Owls: Hannah Balderas (Pickard) and
Ella Chappie (LeClair)
Spotted Owls: Logan Hester (Preston)
GGO: Madison Ward (Boria)
Elf Owls: Khaleb Davis (Russell)

Citizens of the Month for January

Congratulations to our **Kind** Citizens of the Month who celebrated at an ice cream social on Jan. 31st.

Burrowing Owls: Elizabeth Jauss (Perez) and
London Pilcher (Barinas)
Pygmy Owls: India Taylor (Armstrong)
Eagle Owls: Joshua Forrester (Horrigan) and
Faith McCurdy (Goldstone)
Snowy Owls: Haley Drake (Hoffman)
Spotted Owls: Dabria Negrón (Gaudens)
GGO: Cameron Williams (Howard)
Elf Owls: Logan Griffith (Anderson)

MEDIA / TECHNOLOGY NEWS

The results of our recent MEDIA CENTER INVENTORY are in! Our report indicated that we have about 250 missing books at a cost of around \$4,000.00. Please check with your child to make sure all borrowed books are returned. Thank you!

SCHOOL CHOICE OPEN ENROLLMENT

The District School Board of Pasco County is committed to providing students with educational options that support learning that is rigorous and relevant to their world and that prepares them for the future. If you have school-age children, you can apply for the best educational option for them between February 1st and March 1st by completing a School Choice Open Enrollment application on the district web site: www.Pascoschools.org.

MUSIC NOTES

Wednesday, February 5, all of our students enjoyed a real treat! Thanks to our PTA and the Music Department, our students participated in drum circles during their specials time. There were approximately 120 drums set up in the music room for this event. The beat was unbelievable!!!

Our 4th & 5th grade musical, "Dig It", will be performed on Tuesday, April 1, at 7:00 PM at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School. All 4th & 5th graders will be bringing home a note about participating in this concert. We hope you can join us.

Auditions for special parts took place on Tuesday, Jan. 21. We have some very talented students who are ready to begin their rehearsals!

Our Kindergarten – 3rd grade classes are doing a lot of comparing and contrasting in music this quarter. We are learning about music from other countries and musical elements.

Our next Movie Night is Friday, February 28, at 7:00 PM in our cafeteria. Our first one this year was a huge success! We will be showing "Despicable Me 2".



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 an issue regarding your child's health or a clinic emergency.



P.E. RUNDOWN

Exercise Logs for Quarter 3 have been handed out and are **due by March 7**. We encourage students to turn them in early if completed.

Thanks to all the **volunteers** and **PTA** for helping to make our **Field Day** fun for the students! The inflatable Bounce House and Obstacle Course, both provided by our **PTA** were as usual, the most popular events of field day.

Everyone keep moving!



ART NEWS

The artists in Mrs. McAvey's classes have been finishing up their clay pieces. Students learned how to use clay to form art. The artists worked hard and did a wonderful job on all their pieces!

The 5th grade artists from Ms. Howard's and Ms. Rosekelly's classes have been working on Still Life art. 'Still Life' art is the theme for this year's Pasco County Fair and five artists were chosen to participate in this year's theme. Student's artwork was chosen based on craftsmanship, neatness, and their ability to follow the criteria of the assignment. Please congratulate Tyra Stewart and Alexis Sheehan from Ms. Howard's class, and Rachel Riccardo, Victoria Gonzalez, and Stephen Sands from Ms. Rosekelly's class. Congratulations to our chosen artists who will represent Watergrass Elementary!

Mrs. McAvey will be on maternity leave starting in February and will be back at the beginning of May. She will miss all of her students but will check in often.

BURROWING OWLS

Kindergarteners have been working on an author's reason for writing. Is the author trying to persuade, inform or entertain us? This makes for a good discussion after reading with your child at home. Since we are also authors, we began sharing and supporting our own opinions in writing. Now we will begin making connections between events and ideas in text.

Please practice math facts (addition and subtraction) at least to five. Kindergarteners are expected to know math facts fluently by the end of the year.

Several special events are happening in February. Tommy Toothbrush will visit to explain the importance of good dental hygiene. Students will exchange Valentine's Day cards in their classrooms on Friday, February 14, so be on the lookout for a class list!

PYGMY OWLS

The Pygmy Owl team would like to congratulate, Kyle Kartel, for being an exemplary student. He will be representing our team at the Pride breakfast. We would also like to congratulate India Taylor for being our Citizen of the Month.

We had almost 30 students who attended the AR Celebration for Quarter 2! We would like to encourage all of our students to continue to read at school and at home. Don't forget that AR tests can be taken at home.

We are in need of the following supplies: wet wipes, gallon Ziplock bags, glue sticks, and crayons. Please send in any of the items to your child's teacher. Thank you in advance!

SNAKES & FRIENDS

Fourth grader, Josh Heffelfinger, pictured right, is in Ms. Preston's class. His mom provides rescue services for a variety of reptiles. On January 24th, she was kind



enough to visit us, with a few of her scaly friends, to talk about the animals in her care. The students were thrilled to interact with a ball python, sand boa, bearded dragon and leopard gecko. See More photos on our WGES Facebook page.

EAGLE OWLS

The Watergrass Elementary 5K and Resolution Run were a lot of fun! It was so great to see so many Eagle Owl students and parents volunteering and getting some exercise! Thanks for supporting our school and our PTA!

Mrs. Hughes' class entered the Race to the Touch contest and won 10 iPods for their classroom. They created a video explaining why they should win and sent persuasive letters. Congratulations, Mrs. Hughes' class!

Our students enjoyed the 100th Day of School! Thank you to those parents and students who brought in things to share to help make our day memorable!



Valentine's Day is quickly approaching! Each class will be celebrating in their own classrooms! If your child would like to share Valentine's Day cards and/or treats, he or she will need to bring in enough for

everyone in their class! Class lists will be coming home soon!

Lastly, our Eagle Owl pod January Students of the Month were Faith McCurdy and Joshua Forrester. These two students are always kind and respectful to others! Way to go! We are so proud of you!

SNOWY OWL NEWS

The Snowy Owls have been hard at work in the New Year. Students are beginning to learn about fractions in math! Though we are moving away from multiplication and division, students still need to practice and review these skills each day. We are also working hard on science projects with Mrs. Welling and Mr. LeClair! Students should be almost finished conducting their experiments and will be starting on their electronic presentations soon!

With Valentines day approaching, please remember that if you send in treats or card for the classroom exchange on 2/14, please send something in for EVERY student to avoid anyone feeling left out. We appreciate your understanding about this. Teachers will be sending home class lists soon!

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.

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 learn 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

FIFTH GRADE PEER MENTORS

Ms. Pascarella's class continues to enjoy their fifth grade reading buddies. Keep up the good work mentors!

P.T.A.

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.

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.



SPOTTED OWLS

Just a few notes from the Spotted Owls! We are continuing to prepare for the FCAT 2.0 Writing Test. The test date is February 25th. February 26, is the make-up day. *It is important that your child get a good plenty of rest, eat a nutritious breakfast, and arrive at school on time.* Positive encouragement from a parent on the morning of the test is important! Testing begins at 10:00 AM.

We want to send a special thanks to our students' parents who have been editing and revising their children's essays. Thank you for going the extra mile to support your child. If you have any questions about this writing exam, please feel free to contact your child's teacher.

ACHOO! Time to replenish some of our team supplies! Tissues and hand sanitizer are in very short supply, as allergies and the cold season have depleted our supply. We could also use some new pencils and notebook paper. Your donation of any of these items is greatly appreciated!



How are those STEM Fair Science Fair Projects coming along, Spotted Owls? Just a friendly reminder that the final project, *completed as an electronic presentation*, is due by February 14th. We are excited to see what our students have learned from their science investigations!

Our 4th graders will not be having a Valentine's Day party, however, they can bring Valentines to share at the end of the day on Friday, February 14th. You will be getting a short note about this very soon from your child's teacher. If they choose to bring Valentines, we ask that they bring one for everyone in their class to avoid anyone feeling left out. Thank you!

Lastly, Logan Hester, from Ms. Preston's class was chosen as our Spotted Owl Citizen of the Month for December. She exemplifies the character trait of "Trustworthiness". Dabria Negrón, from Ms. Gaudens', class was chosen for January's Citizen of the Month. Showing "Kindness" was the character trait for January. Speaking kind words and showing kind actions is so important. Keep up the good work boys and girls!

GREAT GREY OWLS

Greetings Great Greys! January has quickly passed, and we wanted to bring your attention to some exciting things we have coming up in February for the fifth graders.

First, all fifth graders should be working on the STEM Fair. The students should be wrapping up all aspects of their project and working on their slide shows in Google Docs. Make sure your presentation represents all of the time and effort you put into your project. The slide shows are due February 14th. We know we'll have a tough competition!

Speaking of STEM, in math class our new topic is Geo-Measurement, which includes geometry, area and volume. In science we are learning about Earth Patterns and the water cycle. Please make sure to review these concepts at home, and don't forget that you can access the math and science books, as well as additional resources, from the *Think Central and Science Fusion links on Kids Corner*. These will prove very helpful resources for studying at home.

Toward the end of the month fifth graders will begin work on their Tropicana Speeches. We are excited to get this started and hear all the interesting topics that our students will be writing on and presenting to us. In reading and writing, this unit, students will be doing a little friendly debating! We will be focused on Author's Point of View and Opinion/Argument writing. Students will be asked to take a stance on a variety of topics and be able to defend their points of view with evidence, just like authors do!



Finally, we'd like to remind students to continue to work to their full potential in all areas. In order to help with this we are excited about a new challenge we have presented to the students. Each student has an individual reading and math goal to help them track their success. Students who meet their goals will get to enjoy a movie during class with a drink and snack! We are thrilled to see the excitement this challenge has created, and are anxious to give out some movie tickets! Remember to give your best effort all of the time. Good Luck!

PRE-K ELF OWLS

The students in Ms. Bade's and Ms. Concepcion's Pre-K ASD classes are off to a great start to the New Year! We concluded our multi-week unit on "The Five Senses," which we began before Winter Break and included many fun and exciting learning activities. We explored themes on "Winter," "What's the Weather?," "Pets," and "Outer Space." Our students have been spending extra time working on self-help skills, and many of our students are making great progress increasing their independence with these important skills. We continue practicing our social skills and using PECS-picture exchange throughout the day to communicate and expand our vocabulary.

And speaking of vocabulary, this semester, in cooperation with our Speech Pathologist, Christy Torres, we will begin to implement and emphasize CORE Vocabulary, which refers to a small number of words that make up much of what people say on a daily basis. We will be focusing on a set number of CORE words each month. You will get a list of these words to practice at home. It is important to be practicing these words, as well as all communication skills, at home on a consistent basis.

Parents and caregivers of our Elf Owl students with Autism who are interested in networking with each other please visit our Facebook page, which is designed for you to interact, share stories and information, and celebrate achievements with others, as well as gain access to information about the agencies and resources in our community that may be available to you and your child.

<https://www.facebook.com/wgesautism>

Please be sure your child has an extra set of cold-weather clothes at school in the event they have an accident or a spill. As always, please check your child's backpack for daily home note, projects, and other important school information.

ELF OWLS

Since the *Florida Alternative Assessment* is quickly approaching, Ms. Pascarella's class will discontinue our weekly spelling tests for the time being. Likewise, homework that will be sent home will be geared toward practicing for this important

assessment. Please be sure to continue working on homework with your child to help in preparation for the assessment. As always, contact me with any questions or concerns!

Mrs. Russell's class is working on telling time to the hour and half hour. We are also starting to use a new program called *Core Vocabulary* to communicate our wants and needs throughout the day. We also love using the iPad that was funded on **Donors Choose** during our choice time!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WGES wants to recognize and thank these local businesses for their generous contributions to our school programs:



**MORE OWL NEWS and
PHOTOS are on our
WGES Facebook page:**

<https://www.facebook.com/wa-tergrasselementaryschool>