

OWL ORACLE



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL • LIZ BOEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Do you have a career or hobby of interest to our students? Would you be willing and available to share? **Wednesday, November 19**, is our **Great American Teach-In**. This is a day for parents, family members, and community members to come into our schools and share information about their careers or hobbies. We would love to have you join us. If you are interested please contact your child's teacher.

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

Mr. Mitchell



CITIZENS OF THE MONTH

October Character Trait: "Respect". These Citizens of the Month were recognized on October 24th:

Burrowing Owls: Karianna Torres-(Perez)
Kyle Brest (Compton)
Pygmy Owls: Melani Ruiz-Vieyra (Armstrong)
Kyndell Edge (Hust)
Eagle Owls: Mariana Roza (Goldstone)
Jalissa James (Harden)
Kyle Kartel (Horrigan)
Snowy Owls: Shawn Rodeffer (Welling)
Janellie Cornier (Ruday)
Spotted Owls: Mallory Carter (Wohl)
Conner Maddox (Gaudens)
Great Grey Owls: Jason Rodriguez (Howard)
Elf Owls: Hugo Gabriel Aguilar (Powell)
Phys. Ed: Ximena Garcia (Gilbert-5th)

NOVEMBER 3, 2014

IMPORTANT DATES

11/04 GRADE 4/5 CONCERT WCHS
11/05 PICTURE RE-TAKES
COOKIE DOUGH DELIVERED
11/07 PTA FALL FESTIVAL
11/11 VETERANS DAY
-SCHOOL IS OPEN!
11/14 FLU MIST CLINIC DAY
MOVIE NIGHT
11/17 Q2 PROGRESS REPORTS
SAC MEETING
11/19 GREAT AMERICAN TEACH IN
11/21 CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
11/24-28 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY
-SCHOOL CLOSED ALL WEEK

UP-COMING DATES

12/02 CHORUS/ORFF CONCERT
12/04 GRADE 2/3 CONCERT
12/15 SAC MEETING
12/19 CITIZEN OF THE MONTH
END OF QUARTER 2
12/22-01/05 WINTER HOLIDAY
01/06/15 STUDENTS RETURN

OCTOBER'S ATTENDANCE & TARDY NEWS-MUCH BETTER!



TOTAL # OF TARDIES: 97
OF STUDENTS WITH TWO OR MORE TARDIES: 24
TOTAL # OF ABSENCES: 188
NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH FIVE OR MORE ABSENCES: 23



MOVIE NIGHT

Our first Movie Night of the year is Friday, November 14, at 7:00 PM, in our cafeteria. We will be showing **"Planes-Fire and Rescue"** for FREE! Music Boosters will be selling pizza, popcorn, candy, soda and water. All proceeds go to our Music Department. Bring your lawn chairs and blankets and enjoy this indoor family event!

CLINIC UPDATES

With 780 students on campus this year our clinic gets very busy during the school day. We want to be able to give every student in the clinic our full attention. Here are some ways parents may assist us in meeting this goal:

1-Prescription medication check in or check out is best done during our non-busy times between 9:00-10:00AM and 3:00-4:00PM, or, you may email our clinic assistant, Mrs. Redman, to schedule an appointment.

2-Send a full change of clothing with your K-2 grade student for those occasional spills. Keeping this in the backpack or classroom saves a trip to the clinic to borrow clothing. All borrowed clothing needs to be returned once laundered.

3-Keep your child home from school if he or she has a fever or has been vomiting in the past 24 hours.

4-Some students with significant daily treatment needs are seen in the clinic. Other students visiting during this time will have to wait in the lobby, which causes a loss of instructional time. Help your child understand the difference between events that warrant an immediate clinic visit, a brief rest in the classroom, or if it is something that can wait until they get home.

credman@pasco.k12.fl.us

P.E. RUNDOWN

Coach Barthle, Coach Satinoff, and Coach McDougall have been busy invigorating our P.E. program. Encourage your child to stay healthy and active at home through our exercise log program.

Exercise Logs for Quarter 2 have been distributed. Completed logs are due by December 12. We encourage students to turn them in early if completed. *Be active for active learning!*

GUIDANCE GREETINGS

All kindergarten classes have completed six lessons from the *Ready to Learn* program with Dr. Kelly. The program emphasizes four concepts. *Pay attention:* Look at the person who is talking and stay still. *Listen and understand:* Ears open, eyes closed, and repeat the ideas you have heard. *Ask a question:* When you don't understand, always ask a question. *Don't give up:* Stick to it, Owls!

In fourth grade we have completed about half of the lessons from the *Student Success Skills* program focusing on five areas: Goal setting and progress monitoring; creating a caring, supportive, and encouraging classroom; improving cognitive and/or memory skills; performing under pressure - managing test anxiety; and building healthy optimism.

Guidance Groups are underway and others are beginning to form. Students may be referred to a group by a teacher, parent, counselor, and sometimes on their own. Please contact the Guidance Department if you feel your child could benefit from group or individual support. Sample group topics are Changing Families, Study Skills, Social Skills, and Managing Anxiety.

Mrs. Ward is excited to announce a first time after school running group at WGES! The "Owls on the Move" girls' group meets Thursday afternoons. We had a large response to the program and all spots are filled at this time. A second group will be formed later in the school year. Our girls are improving emotional, social, mental, and physical health while getting moving and working toward a goal of running the Watergrass 5K on February 7th! Kudos to our *SuperGirls* and thanks to Mrs. Hoffman for being a positive influence and co-leader of the group!

Mrs. Ward and Dr. Kelly School Counselors

MUSIC NOTES



We have been very busy in the music department the first nine weeks! Our kindergarten and first grade students have been learning about different sounds, keeping a steady beat, and clapping to identify rhythm patterns.

Our second and third graders are working on our holiday musical, "A Penguin Christmas", which will be presented **December 4, at 7:00 PM**, at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Permission slips have been sent home for this concert. Make sure you return yours!

Fourth and fifth graders are ready to perform "A Kid's Life" on **November 4, at 7:00 PM**, at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. They will do an outstanding job.

The Chorus and Orff Ensemble are busy working on music for their Holiday Concert **December 2, at 7:00 PM**, in our cafeteria. Chorus will also be performing at our Fall Festival November 7.

ART PALETTE

Don't forget to order your Square One Art products. You can order online, or give your order form to Mrs. Cerino-Knott.

Yearbooks are still \$15 if you pre-order. Checks printed with a current address and phone number may be made out to WGES.

Mrs. Cerino-Knott wants to remind you that we are using clay and paint this month. Be sure you are not wearing your best outfits on Art Days. Even with aprons, things can get messy!

Artists of the Week:

Week 2: **Madison Miller** (4th Grade)

Week 3: **Riley Semanka** (3rd Grade)

Week 4: **Julissa James** (2nd Grade)



GREAT AMERICAN TEACH-IN

The Great American Teach-In will be held at our school on **Wednesday, November 19**. Please contact your child's teacher to participate. This event is an exciting time for the students because they have the opportunity to learn about many different interests and careers—FROM YOU!



BURROWING OWLS

Our Kindergarteners loved our field trip to Granma's Hug-N-Farm. Check out the pictures on our school Facebook account. Thank you to all of the chaperones who attended the field trip. Extra hands are always appreciated and we couldn't do it without you! We have three more field trips planned later in the school year.

We are going to be changing our procedure for selecting chaperones on field trips. If you are interested, you will return the bottom portion of the field trip form and your child's teacher will select chaperones based upon availability. This will ensure that everyone has the opportunity to chaperone on at least one of their child's field trips.

Thank you for all of the donations for our Fall Celebration. The students enjoyed making their owl craft, eating an owl snack, and having a pumpkin rolling race!

The winter season is approaching. Please make sure that your child's jacket is labeled with his/her name. This will help ensure that lost jackets are returned to their owners promptly.

Congratulations to our November Citizens of the Month, Karianna Torres (Perez) and Kyle Brest (Compton). The character trait was RESPECT. Way to Go!

PYGMY OWLS

Happy fall from the Pygmy Owls! Congratulations to Melani Ruiz-Vieyra and Kyndell Edge, who won the Citizenship Award this month. Both students are models of RESPECT.

Our students worked hard in October and we look forward to more fun learning this month! The students have been busy with many math concepts using addition and subtraction skills and strategies. Continue to practice your Power Words nightly for reading success!

Remember that attendance is a vital factor in academic success. We hope you will be in attendance for our Pygmy Owl Fall Celebration on Friday, November 21.

EAGLE OWL NEWS

Throughout the month of November we will be reading texts focused on the concept of *needs and wants*. We will be building our reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through the content area of economics.

Vocabulary development is a great way to GROW knowledge and skills in reading and speaking. *Wordsmyth* is an excellent online kids' dictionary to use at home to look up new words.

<http://www.wordsmyth.net/school/watergrass/>

Here are some KEY VOCABULARY words you can use at home to reinforce our learning at school: savings, bargain, exchanged, budget, allowance, earns, expensive, and afford.



MILITARY KIDS

We offer a group for our students who have parents who are in the Military. The intent of the group is to help the children understand the role of the military as well as learning 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

SNOWY OWL NEWS

The Snowy Owls' October field trip to see *Flat Stanley* was fantastic! Students are in the process of completing a letter-writing project based on the book *Flat Stanley*. We would like to thank the volunteers who were able to join us on this trip. Anyone interested in helping on future field trips will need to fill out the volunteer application in advance.

Congratulations to all students who attended our schools' quarter 1 AR celebration in October. Please encourage your child to keep reading!

Students enjoyed the October STEM centers that included Pumpkin Math Discovery, Pilgrim Gardening Snack, and Apple Pumpkin Paper Mosaic. The Snowy Owls would like to thank all the parents who assisted and donated items to make this an engaging learning experience!

In mathematics, students are learning multiplication and division. Be sure to ask your child the different strategies he or she has practiced in class. Thank you again to all parents who attended Math Night at WGES. We appreciate your support in helping us guide your children to success.

We want to recognize the third grade Citizens of the Month, Janiellie Cornier from Mrs. Ruday's class and Shawn Rodeffer from Mrs. Welling's class.

SPOTTED OWLS

Fall is in the air! We are very excited about our Spotted Owl Fall Celebration! Great snacks and fun activities for all! Thank you to all who were able to donate items for this event. In addition, several Spotted Owl families donated items for our Relay for Life basket with the theme of "Let's Go to the Beach!" Your thoughtfulness is appreciated. Monies collected from the gift basket raffle will go to a good cause—finding a cure for cancer.

We have a fabulous evening planned at the WGES Fall Festival on November 7. It will be great to see our fourth grade families there!

Our Spotted Owl October Citizens of the Month were Mallory Carter from Ms. Wohl's class and Connor Maddox from Mrs. Gaudens' class,

who exemplify the character trait of RESPECT!

The fourth and fifth graders will participate in the Fall music concert, "A Kid's Life!", at the Wesley Chapel Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel High School on Tuesday, November 4. We anticipate an awesome performance! Thank you to our wonderful music teachers, Mrs. Reinhold and Mrs. Nickerson, for your leadership.

Lastly, many fourth graders earned enough points to go to the first quarter AR Reward on October 22. They were able to attend a fabulous magic show! Keep up the good work! We would like to see more students participate in the AR Reward at the end of the 2nd Quarter. Let's go Spotted Owls!

SNIP & CLIP:



Please continue to save **Boxtops for Education and Campbell's Labels for Education.** Mrs. Jennison is

sending away our first collection this week. Thank you to everyone who has been snipping and sending these FREE fundraisers for WGES!



GREAT GREY OWLS

Greetings Great Greys! Quarter two has just begun, and we are off to a running start! In math, we are working on operations with decimals. With tutorials and games, Think Central is the perfect place to study. Also, don't forget to keep up with your math facts by practicing daily on Fastt Math.

We are currently studying the water cycle in science, so be sure to take notice of the types of clouds in the sky, and see what weather they coincide with.

In reading, we have been spending our time reading informational text – continuing our theme of environments and how they are impacted – and we are working to identify relationships and interactions in texts. Further, we are in the midst of writing a research-based essay on how ecosystems in Florida are changing, and the effects those changes can have on plants, animals, and people. Lots of exciting work happening here!

Lastly, this gorgeous fall weather often coincides with flu season. We would be very grateful for any donations of paper towels, wet wipes, and facial tissues to keep the germs away. We appreciate those who continue to donate materials to our classes.

And finally, our thanks to those parents who chaperoned our field trip to MOSI: Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Kane, Mrs. Cooper, Mr. Houg, Mrs. McCurdy, Mrs. Volkman, and Mrs. Battle.

AR STATS, Q1 & GET READY, Q2!

Below are the final numbers for Q1 on Accelerated Reader. We're off to a good start, but there is room for growth. Let's try to get our non-fiction percentage up to 20% and our percent non-participation down to 10% (or lower).

AR Quarter 1 stats:

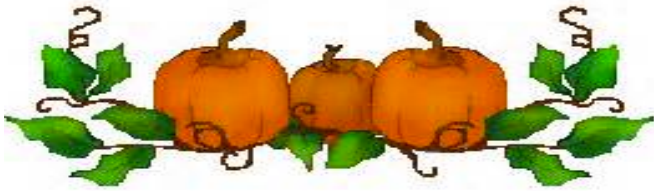
- ✓ # of books read/quizzes taken: 6,348
- ✓ # of quizzes passed: 7,359
- ✓ Fiction percentage: 86%
- ✓ Non-fiction percentage: 14%
- ✓ Average book level: 3.3
- ✓ Number of enrolled students who did not take a quiz: 101 / 16%

Once you know your child's Q2 goal, please visit our Accelerated Reader Home Connect Site to check on your child's progress. The site provides real-time updates of all students' progress toward their goals. Parents can sign into the site using their child's AR username and password.
<https://hosted160.renlearn.com/2640498/HomeConnect/>

BUSINESS PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Watergrass Elementary would like to recognize and thank our new WALMART Superstore! At the grand opening, Mrs. Rutz, in our Elf Owl program was awarded \$1,500.00, for important materials and supplies. Just last month, twenty lucky teachers each won \$50.00 gift cards when Assistant Manager, Tiffany Chatmon, made a visit to Watergrass. Do the math-that is another \$1,000.00, in support of our school. Thank you WALMART!





WGES PTA

We are already through the first quarter of school and PTA activities are well underway. We are SO excited about the many happenings here at Watergrass!!!

Our first WGES Family Night was hosted at **Texas Roadhouse** on September 25th. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our school. Texas Roadhouse donated 10% of all WGES sales back to the school and that amounted to \$75.21. We are hoping that our next Texas Roadhouse night will be a bigger success! Come on out and SADDLE UP with us in December!!

Our second WGES Family Night was hosted at the **McDonalds** in Wesley Chapel on SR54. We had a great turnout and enjoyed seeing staff members serve up a smile with those fries!

The third WGES Family Night of the year will be at **Dickey's BBQ** on November 20th from 5-9 pm. Dickey's is located on Bruce B. Downs Boulevard across from Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel! Hope to see you there!!

We have wrapped up our **cookie dough sales** for another year and we are looking forward to getting out all the yummy cookie dough to our families who ordered. **Orders may be picked up on Wednesday, November 5.**

We will be hosting our annual **Fall Festival** on Friday, November 7, from 4-7PM. It is a great family event! We will have a bouncy house, snow cones, food, entertainment and a place for a fall photo! Come on out, and **be sure to preorder your food and bracelets.**

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up and break down our Fall Festival. If you are interested and can help with one or both, please email us as soon as possible. That means you Dads, too!! Our PTA is always looking for people to volunteer for our various activities throughout the year. If you are interested in helping, please contact the WGES PTA at wgespta@gmail.com



We invite all VETERANS to join is on November 11 to participate in our **Veteran Reader** program. On this national day of honor we would be honored to have you read to our students from your favorite children's book. Please contact your child's teacher or the front office to sign up! We look forward to the honor of welcoming you to our campus. Thank You!

