

OWL ORACLE



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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SCOTT MITCHELL, PRINCIPAL • LIZ BOEGER, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

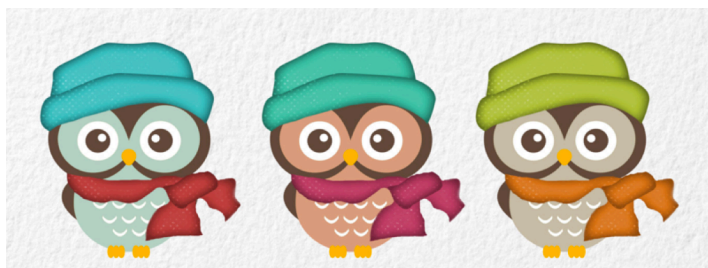
PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

As we welcome in the New Year, we ask that you continue the many ways you partner with us to help our students learn. One way is to 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!

For the safety of our students please refrain from using your cellphone while in the car loop for drop off and pick up.

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

Mr. Mitchell



CITIZENS OF THE MONTH *December*
Character Trait: "Trustworthiness". Citizens of the Month were recognized on Friday, December 19th

Burrowing Owls:	Adriana Kendrick (Smith) Xavier Hansborough (Compton)
Pygmy Owls:	Celeste Snider (Hernandez)
Eagle Owls:	Dominic Cravotta (Reidy)
Snowy Owls:	Samantha Spivey (Hallam)
Spotted Owls:	Olivia Kawalya (Preston) Megan Holleran (Gaudens)
Great Grey Owls:	Tanya Valencia (Rosekelly)
Elf Owls:	Abbott Murphy (Milligan)
Tropical Screech:	Braxton Deen (Hallam/Beaudin)

JANUARY 7, 2015

IMPORTANT DATES

1/12	REPORT CARDS HOME
1/16	PTA BINGO NIGHT
1/19	HOLIDAY-SCHOOL CLOSED
1/26	SAC MEETING
1/30	CITIZEN OF THE MONTH

UP-COMING DATES

2/7	PTA 5K RACE FOR OUR K5
2/13	PROGRESS REPORTS HOME
2/16	HOLIDAY-SCHOOL CLOSED
2/19 & 2/20	KINDERGARTEN TRIPS TO SAFETY TOWN
2/23	SAC MEETING

DECEMBER'S ATTENDANCE & TARDY NEWS:

TOTAL # OF TARDIES:	54
# OF STUDENTS WITH TWO OR MORE TARDIES:	26
TOTAL # OF ABSENCES:	143
NUMBER OF STUDENTS WITH FIVE OR MORE ABSENCES:	5

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
FOR 2015:**

**BE ON TIME FOR
SCHOOL EVERYDAY!**

CLINIC UPDATES



With over 800 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 9-10AM and 3-4PM, or, you may email our clinic assistant, Mrs. Redman, to schedule an appointment. credman@pasco.k12.fl.us

2-Please 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.

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you to the students who participated and the parents who attended our Holiday Concerts the last two weeks of December. We had four concerts in two weeks—whew!



Our Kindergarten and First grade teams will have their concert in March. More information will be sent home with those students in a few weeks.

Orff Ensemble will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, January 14th. Chorus will resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 22nd. We are ready to start the 2nd half of the year with lots of fun and learning in music class!



SCHOOL COUNSELOR CORNER

Happy New Year and Welcome back! Dr. Kelly and Mrs. Ward will be back out and about campus providing classroom lessons, running small groups, and seeing individual students. In January our school wide Character trait is Kindness. We will be looking for those Owls who are consistently sharing a kind word or a random act of kindness. Remember *Kindness Matters!*

The Owls on the Move Group will continue meeting on Thursdays after school with Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Hoffman. Our girls have been making great gains working on stamina and preparing for the Watergrass 5K race on February 7th. Have you signed up yet? We'd love to see as many Owls out there as possible.

Mrs. Ward and Dr. Kelly, School Counselors

ART PALETTE

Mrs. Roberts' Art classes are exploring a variety of topics. In PreK, we are working on painting left to right. In Kindergarten, we finished up geometric and organic shapes and are starting our "The Way Things Feel Unit" where we will explore texture in our artwork. Landscapes are the new focus in first grade, while second graders are continuing to work on their Grant Wood piece. In Third Grade, we will finish our negative/positive space piece and then begin our unit on Surrealism.

Students taking Art with Mrs. Knott are learning how to work with paint and oil pastels, so please remember to dress your children in clothes that are okay to get messy. All clay projects will be sent home by the end of this month.

If you have any questions or concerns about your *Square 1 Art* order, please send Mrs. Knott an email.

Yearbooks are currently \$18. Please make your check out to WGES. Write "Yearbook" in the note space, and please have a current phone number and address on it as well. Please put cash in a sealed envelope marked YEARBOOK. For younger students, we ask that you write a note in your child's planner to alert the teacher that a check or cash are being sent to school. Thank you.

P.E. RUNDOWN

Our Watergrass *Well-Nest Nation* will be starting a school wide, monthly pledge this month. A banner will be posted for students to sign if they wish to participate for the month. *In January, we will be encouraging students to eat more fruits and vegetables! Yum!* Please join us in our journey to a healthier lifestyle.

Exercise Logs for Quarter 3 will be due on Friday, March 6. The coaches encourage students to be active outside of school, fill out their logs and turn them in early if they are completed.

Begin 2015 healthy and active!

WGES PTA

Happy New Year from all of us on the Watergrass PTA Board!! *On your mark! Get set! GO and sign up for the 5K for our K5 to be held on February 7th.* In addition to the 5K race, there will be a 1 mile fun run, 5K/1 mile combo run, and our new Tot Trot!! *You can register online now at:*

<https://runsignup.com/Race/FL/WesleyChapel/WatergrassElementaryPTA5KforourK5>

Or you may register in the front office of the school.

Our Family Nights this year have been a raging success!! We are so excited that so many participate to support these wonderful family friendly evenings. Our next Family Night will be at PDQ in January. Please be sure to take your flyer with you so that we receive credit towards their donation to our PTA.

Come out with the family and enjoy **Bingo Night on January 16th**. Concessions will be available and presales for pizza will be sent home closer to the event! Mark your calendars and come out with the family and try and win some great prizes!

Our PTA is always looking for people to help volunteer for our various activities throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the WGES PTA. *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*

BURROWING OWLS

Do you know your child's reading level? Ask your child today! In kindergarten, we read on Yellow, Green and Blue IRLA levels.

In writing, we have been working on author's purpose 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. Next, 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. Students will exchange Valentine's Day cards in their classrooms on Friday, February 13, so be on the lookout for a class list! We will also be having our second field trip to Safety Town. Your child's teacher will be sending home information regarding this later in the month.

Congratulations to last month's Citizens of the Month, Adriana Kendrick from Mrs. Smith and Xavier Hansborough from Mrs. Compton's class. We chose these students based on their trustworthiness.



PYGMY OWLS

Congratulations to Celeste Snider, who won was our Citizenship Award last month. She models the trait of being TRUSTWORTHY.

Our students are beginning to work on understanding place value and comparing numbers. Please continue to reinforce addition and subtraction math facts at home.

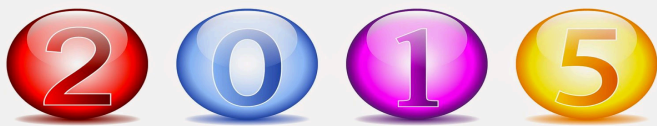
Remember to read nightly for academic success. We want to encourage our readers to ask and answer questions about what they are reading so please "book talk" at home and model good reading for your child.

EAGLE OWLS

Welcome back second graders! We have an exciting NEW year ahead of us! Throughout the month of January, we will continue to build our understanding of informational text. In our anchor text, Theodore Roosevelt the Adventurous President, we will focus on text features and author's purpose. To support your child at home, you might use magazines, newspapers, and biographies to connect to their learning at school.

Here are some of the **text features** we are learning to use as we read about Teddy Roosevelt: subheading, index, glossary, photographs, labels, captions, graphs, charts, timelines, quotes, table of contents, Q&A, and bold print.

In math, we will be working on subtracting 2 digit numbers with regrouping. Please be patient with your children as they work through understanding this challenging concept. The textbook is online on *Kids Corner* under **eBook Center**. The vocabulary, strategies, and work we do in class are available at any time to practice at home.



HAPPY NEW YEAR

SNOWY OWL NEWS

The Snowy Owls would first like to thank all the parents who helped with our Winter Celebration. Thank You—The students all enjoyed themselves.

Since this is the beginning of the New Year we are finding ourselves in need of some of the items that you were so generous in giving at the beginning of the year. This includes such items as baby wipes, paper towels, tissues, and anything that you would like to contribute.

With the start of the third quarter, the students are now working on new AR goals. Please encourage your child to read daily. It is very important for school success.

SPOTTED OWLS

We're off to a great beginning of a New Year! Welcome back everybody! Writing Boot Camp will begin this month for our Spotted Owls. Students will be concentrating on a variety of writing mini lessons including using domain specific vocabulary, paraphrasing, citing text evidence and elaboration, transitional strategies, annotating, highlighting and underlining important information in a written text or article, just to name a few. Our students will also practice developing a complete explanatory or opinion-based essay citing text evidence with purpose, focus, and organization using correct writing conventions.

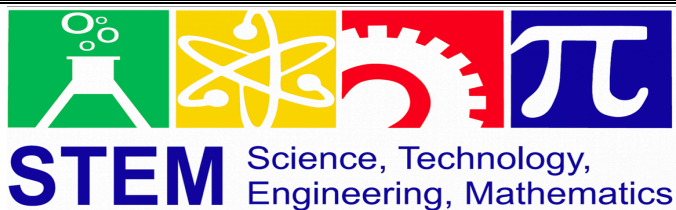
As explained in the December Owl Oracle Newsletter, our Spotted Owls will be headed out on a field trip to the Energy Marine Center in Port Richey. Ms. Gaudens' and Ms. Wohl's classes will be going on Friday, February 20th. With Mrs. Chatmon's and Ms. Preston's classes attending on Monday, February 23rd. Finally, Ms. Marsella's class will participate on Tuesday, February 24th. It will be a full day's adventure. Students will eat their lunch there and are required to bring an extra set of dry clothes. More information will be sent home about this educational field trip.

In advance of the fieldtrip, 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. If you would like a preview, feel free to check out the Marine Explorers Program for Elementary students at this link: <http://eec.pasco.k12.fl.us/EECs/EMC.html>.

We would like to remind students to continue working on their STEM Fair Projects, which are due on February 3rd.

Our December Students of the Month were Megan Holleran from Ms. Gaudens' class and Olivia Kawalya from Ms. Preston's class. They were chosen for demonstrating trustworthiness and setting a good example for others.

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



GREAT GREY OWLS

Happy New Year and welcome back! We hope everyone had a nice, relaxing Winter Break! 2015 should prove to be just as busy as 2014, if not busier! All fifth graders should be concluding their STEM Fair projects and wrapping up all aspects of their STEM packet. Many students have already begun work on their slide shows in Google Docs. Make sure your presentation 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 math class our new topic is Measurement, which includes customary and metric measurements as well as conversions. In science we are learning about Force and Motion. We also have a new unit on Space in reading class, so we can practice our reading strategies while learning about science!

Please make sure to review these concepts at home, and don't forget that you can access the math and science book, as well as additional resources, from the Think Central and Science Fusion links on Kids Corner. These 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 to help with this we have provided students with individual goals to help them succeed. You can do it Great Greys!

REMEMBER TO SNIP & CLIP:



Please continue to save *Boxtops for Education* and *Campbell's Labels for Education*. Thank you to everyone who has been snipping and sending these FREE fundraisers in for WGES



NEW STATE TESTING CALENDAR

Our students in grades 3, 4, and 5 will participate in new state testing this year. The Florida Standards in English Language Arts and Math, and the Next Generation Sunshine State Standards in Science will be assessed in separate test windows. The dates listed below are planned test dates for each test session. The windows list the last date the specific test may be taken by any student for each test.



FSA AIR TEST (Window 1 through 3/13/15)

(paper/pencil test)

Grade 4 and 5 Writing: March 2

FSA AIR TEST (Window 2 through 4/10/15)

(paper/pencil tests)

Grade 3 and 4 Reading: March 25 & 26

Grade 3 and 4 Math: April 1 & 2

FSA AIR TEST (Window 3 through 5/8/15)

(online tests)

Grade 5 Reading: April 13 & 14

Grade 5 Math: April 20 & 21

FCAT TEST (Window 3 through 5/8/15)

(paper/pencil test)

Grade 5 Science: April 27 & 28

Please mark your family calendars and avoid scheduling appointments or changing the school routines during these dates. All tests must be given in the order listed above per district and state rule. When a student is absent for one test it pushes the student into automatic make up testing for that test and any that follow. This can cause some students to test poorly due to the change in routines. Thank you!

LEARNING AHEAD--QUARTER 3!



January brings a New Year and new learning as our students enter the third quarter of instruction. Here are the topics by grade that your child will study in the coming months.

Burrowing Owls:

ELA—Unit 4: Themes; Connections; Purpose, also Narrative & Informative/Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—Needs & Wants **Math**—Unit E: Addition & Subtraction; Unit F: Numbers representing ten and some more. **Science**—Exploring Day & Night **Art**—The way things feel and Art that we can use **Music**—Melody **PE**—Throw Catch; Bounce Dribble; Dance; and Chasing, Fleeing, Dodging movements

Pygmy Owls

ELA—Units 4/5: Connections; Point of View/Purpose, also Narrative & Informative - Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—Needs & Wants **Math**—Unit E: Place Value & money to Compare Unit F: Add & Subtract 2-Digit Numbers **Science**—Unit C: Earth's Surface **Art**—Historical Art; Subjects of Art **Music**—Rhythm & Melody; Improvisation **PE**—Throw/Catch; Bounce/Dribble; Dance; and Chasing/Fleeing/Dodging movements

Eagle Owls:

ELA—Unit 4: Themes; Story Elements & Connections also Narrative & Informative-Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—Our Nation's History **Math**—Unit D: Strategies to add and subtract.... Unit E: Choosing the Best Strategy to Add/Subtract 3 digits **Science**—Units C & D: Patterns in Weather and the Sun; Energy & Forces **Art**—Space & Distance; Warm & Cool Colors; Art has Purpose **Music**—Music Presentation; Rhythm & Melody; Creation **PE**—Throw/Catch; Bounce, Dribble; Dance; and Chasing, Fleeing, Dodging movements

Snowy Owls:

ELA—Unit 3: Themes; Story Elements & Connections also Opinion & Informative-Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—Currency & Trade **Math**—Unit D: Use Operations to Measure

Unit E: Use Number Line to Represent Fractions
Unit F: Comparing Fractions **Science**—Unit D: Energy All Around **Art**—Color & Value; Complimentary Color; Graphic Design; Digital Media **Music**—Music Presentation-Collaboration; Rhythm & Melody **PE**—Throw/Catch; Bounce, Dribble; Dance; and Jumping & Landing

Spotted Owls:

ELA—Unit 3: Story Elements; Connections; & Point of View also Opinion & Informative-Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—Conflicts Over Time **Math**—Unit F: Fractions & Reasoning about their Value; Unit G: Effects of Operations on Fractions **Science**—Unit D: Rocks & Minerals Unit E: Energy & Motion **Art**—Color & Value; Graphic Design; Printmaking **Music**—Rhythm & Melody; Create **PE**—Throw-Catch; Bounce-Dribble; Dance

Great Grey Owls:

ELA—Unit 3: Text Structures & Features; Point of View also Narrative & Informative-Explanatory Writing **Social Studies**—U.S. Constitution **Math**—Unit E: Finding Equivalent Fractions to Add/Subtract Fractions Unit F: Multiply & Divide Fractions **Science**—Unit E: Force & Motion Unit F: Electricity **Art**—Color & Value; Graphic Design; Printmaking & Design **Music**—Melodies & Rhythms; Arranging **PE**—Throw-Catch; Bounce-Dribble; Dance; Jumping & Landing.



WELCOME, NEW STAFF MEMBERS

WGES has welcomed a few new faces since the start of the school year. Please say hello when you see these new Owls on campus:



Amanda Blommel, Teacher-GGO
Spencer Brush, IA-GGO, Spotted
Mary Combs-Hall, Café
Tricia Dolatowski, Teacher-Elf Owls
Carlos Flores, Custodian
Wanda Quionnes, IA-Elf Owls
Lisa Raysor, Teacher-Burrowing
Bridgett Riddling, Teacher-GGO
Julia Roberts, Art Teacher
Lauren Turner, Teacher-Burrowing