

The Owl Oracle

Watergrass Elementary • 32750 Overpass Rd • Wesley Chapel • (813) 346-0600

October Events

- 10/10 Disney – The Movies, The Music”
at WCHS Center of the Arts, 7 PM
- 10/11 Elf Owls to WCHS Center of the
Arts
- 10/12 PTA Family Night at PDQ
- 10/13 Quarter 1 Ends
- 10/16 Teacher Planning- No School
for Students
- 10/19 Grades 4 & 5 to WCHS
Performing Arts Center
- 10/20 PTA Fun Run (during school
day)
- 10/23 Citizen of the Month 3:00 PM

November Events

- 11/3 Fall Festival 4 PM
- 11/10 Movie Night 6 PM
- 11/15 Great American Teach-In
- 11/17 Citizen of the month 3:00 PM
- 11/17 Progress Reports go home
- 11/20-24 Thanksgiving Break- School
Closed

Specialists and Masked Owls Citizen of the Month

Darian S.
Xol A.

Julius D.

From the desk of Mr. Mitchell

We had a very successful Eureka Parent Night session on Thursday, October 6. The focus was on a general overview with parent resources shared. If you were not able to attend, please check Curriculum Resources in the Parent section of our website. We will be offering more Eureka nights to dig into the individual modules so watch for announcements.



*Outstanding Owl
Winning Row
celebration*

This time of year brings thoughts of costumes. While we appreciate the fun that this can be, it can be quite a distraction at school, causing the loss of instructional time. Therefore, just as in years past, we will not be dressing in costumes for any activities during the month of October. Thank you for your understanding.

As always, if Mrs. Felice and I can be of any assistance, let us know.

September Citizens of the Month

Burrowing Owls

Lynnea P.

Pygmy Owls

Ashlyn W. &
Gabrielle J.

Eagle Owls

Landon B. &
Omar A.

Snowy Owls

Darian B.

Spotted Owls

Karolinne D. &
Madisyn J.

Great Gray Owls

Adriana F.

PTA News & Events

WGES PTA

Please take a moment to complete [the parent survey](#). The results are used for accreditation as a *School of Excellence* based on National PTA Standards for Family-School partnerships.

We are really excited to begin collecting donations for the Fun Run that will benefit our STEM programs at Watergrass. Parents need to ensure that all information in the fundraising packet is filled out legibly and any money or checks are turned in to the teacher in the designated envelope by October 20th.

PayPal is also an accepted form of donation. Please list the child's name in notes if paying online.



Like WGES PTA on Facebook for frequent updates!

Family Night

Family Night at PDQ on 54 and Bruce B Downs is Thursday, October 12th, from 5-9pm. Just remember to mention the school when placing an order inside or in the drive-thru. Please share this information with your friends and family in the area.

Fun Run

The Fun Run will be Friday, October 20th during the school day. Children are allowed to dress in Hawaiian or Luau themed apparel for the event. Please remember sneakers and to apply sunscreen at home.

Coming Up

Coming up: Please look out for Fall Festival flyers! The event will be Friday, November 3rd from 4-7pm.

Thank you Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel for your generous donation towards this year's Fun Run! We truly appreciate your commitment to the local community and positive impact on children's health and well-being!



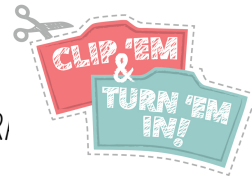
**FLORIDA HOSPITAL
WESLEY CHAPEL**

Media Center News

Remember to send in your Box Tops!

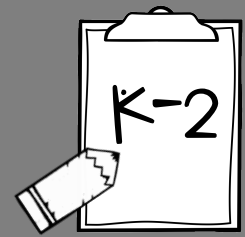
Thank you WGES families for participating in our Box Top collection! We collected \$1,553. The funds are going towards reading incentives and new iPad cases.

This year, we purchased student incentives for SSYR reading challenge and for counting Reading Steps in first grade. Please send Box Tops to school by October 31. Thank you again for your continued support!



See the page 5 for information on this year's SSYRA Challenge!

Team News



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY

(813) 346- 0600

Burrowing Owls- Kindergarten



Kindergarten students building reading stamina.

October is a busy month of learning for kindergarten. Students are actively engaging in reading activities through the IRLA reading program as well as our Pearson ReadyGen reading series. As our first reading unit comes to an end, the students will present their animal research projects in class. Thank you, families, for your participation with the shoebox dioramas. Our next unit of study in reading comes alive with our first field trip. We are headed to Harvest Moon Farm on October 24. Please be sure to submit your volunteer application if you would like to help chaperone this trip or any future field trips. Our first unit in math will draw to a close this month. Students have worked extensively with numbers to 10 to establish the foundation of mathematics. We have also enjoyed learning about how to change matter and use our skills of observation, recording and collaborating to create our first STEM project. The students built "homes" out of different materials as inspired by the story The Three Little Pigs. Our first reporting period ends on October 13th. Kindergarten report cards will be sent home on Monday, October 23rd. If you have any questions about your child's progress, please contact the teacher for a conference. We are happy to meet with you or speak with you over the phone.

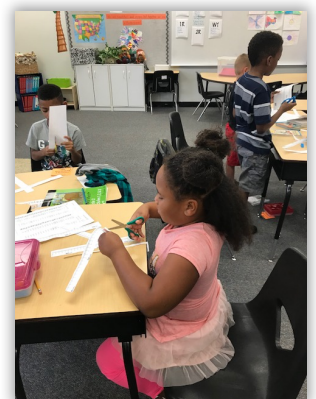
Pygmy Owls- 1st Grade

Can you believe we're almost through the first nine weeks? Report cards will be coming home soon. To help your students grow in reading they are assigned Power Goals which are the one thing students should be working on to help them get to the next level quickly. Ask your child what their power goal is and help them master it. Also, your child is responsible for weekly reading minutes. We suggest 15-30 minutes nightly depending on their reading stamina. By the end of the year, we want them reading 30 minutes independently at home and 30 minutes at school. Every 15 min. of reading on their homework log earns them 1 Step. They will earn beads for their backpack for each step. Reading options include library books, book in a bag books, books from home, books from the Bookshelf app, RAZ kids, etc.

In math, we are using the Eureka program. Students participate in math sprints and challenging math lessons but aren't always required to do every problem on a page. If you find pages that are incomplete, they are free to finish them at home but are not required to do so unless noted by the teacher.

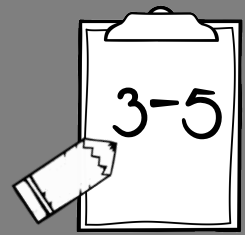
Eagle Owls- 2nd Grade

Things are FALLING into place on the Eagle Owls team! Routines have been established for independent reading in class. Reading every night with your child will be a great benefit to them. We appreciate your involvement. Looking back in the text to find answers to questions has been a focus during reading. Our Eureka math lessons have been about understanding place value units of one, ten, and a hundred. We will move forward by counting within 1,000; skip counting by fives, tens, and 100s. During science, lessons have been centered around the human body systems and their function. Thank you for all you do to support us at school!



Ms. Preston's class working on Eureka math module 1.

Team News



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY

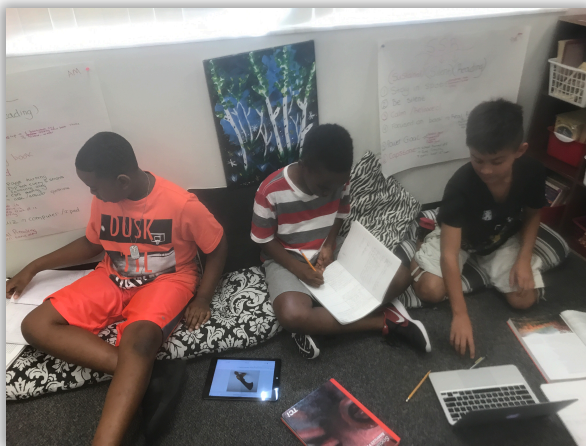
(813) 346- 0600

Snowy Owls- Third Grade

Wow! Can you believe we are just about done with the whole first quarter of school?! This month we have moved into Module 2 for math. This module incorporates measuring time, weight and liquids, rounding, and 3-digit addition and subtraction. You should continue to work on your multiplication facts too!

In science we are learning about plants and in Social Studies we are studying landforms and bodies of water. All of our books in Reading this month have to do with observing the world around us, including the moon and plant roots. These are great subjects to explore and discuss at home. We look forward to seeing everybody at our 3rd grade Music Concert on October 10th!

Great Grey Owls- 5th Grade



Fifth grade students working on their ELA unit tasks.

Spotted Owls- 4th Grade

Happy Fall Y' all!

In 4th grade we are preparing for Quarterly tests. This is a great tool for teachers to use to guide our instruction for the remainder of the year.



Fourth grade students constructing a model.

There is a teacher planning day (no school for students) on October 16th. On October 19th there is a field trip to see the Florida Orchestra at Wesley Chapel High School. We have our Spotted Owl Fall celebration on November 3rd as well as the school's Fall Festival that same evening. We will be going to the Environmental Marine Center on December 5th.

As Quarter 1 is quickly coming to an end, we want to remind you of a few important things. 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.

Remember to have your child 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. Please make sure that your child is practicing their math facts. Multiplication is key to being a successful 5th grader! Students do have math homework every night unless they are studying for a test.



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY SSYRA CHALLENGE

SUNSHINE STATE YOUNG READER AWARD BOOKS

4TH AND 5TH GRADE STUDENTS

WGES media center is offering a **WONDERFUL** opportunity to our “older” readers in 4th and 5th grade. The *Sunshine State Young Reader Award* is a selection of 15 books. SSYRA titles are selected by media specialists from all around the state of Florida.

The books deal with themes like adventure, overcoming adversity, sibling rivalry, having a pet, fitting in with peers, and the challenges of a broken home. The real-life characters represented in this year’s selections come from all different walks of life, mirroring the diversity children see around them. The far-out fictional characters are a robot who uncovers the natural world on a deserted island and a dragon, who is learning how to “train” his human!

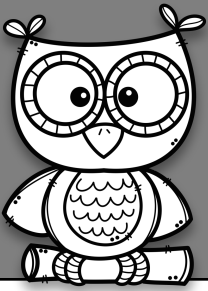
Parents, please encourage your child to participate. Bookmarks are available in the Media Center to help students keep track of the books they have read. Whenever your child reads a book, they need to take a quiz *OR* conference with their teacher to show comprehension of the story. They will then earn a custom *Brag-Tag* for each title to show their LOVE of reading!

More information can be found on the SSYRA titles on our website:
<http://wges.pasco.k12.fl.us/ssyra-2017-2018/>

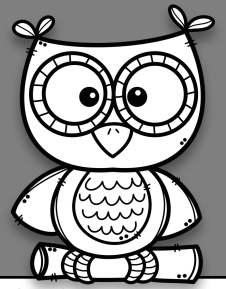
Please contact Mrs. Saez or Ms. Cozart in the media center if you have any questions about the SSYRA reading challenge. We hope to see students checking out these books soon!

jsaez@pasco.k12.fl.us

mcozart@pasco.k12.fl.us



Specialists News



WATERGRASS ELEMENTARY

(813) 346- 0600

Art- Mrs. Cerino-Knott

Students are currently working on their Square 1 Art pictures. The information for the Square 1 Art fundraiser should be coming home early November. If you have any questions regarding the fundraiser, please email acerino@pasco.k12.fl.us.

Students are also working on or finishing up their first project. Intermediate students are learning about Movement in Art. Primary students are learning about lines, shapes, and patterns.

Though I provide aprons for painting days, please remember to dress your child appropriately for Art days. Accidents can happen.

Please find me on the Class Dojo app. You can see how many points your child has received that day in Art, or you can see why they earned those points.

Music Notes

We are very excited to present "Disney – The Movies, The Music" with our 2nd and 3rd Grade Teams Tuesday, October 10 at 7:00 PM at the Center for the Arts at Wesley Chapel. Our students have been working hard to learn some great songs from Disney movies. Come on out and join us!

We will be having our Annual Family Movie Night on Nov. 10 at 7:00 PM in our cafeteria. More information will be coming home soon about this event.

Our chorus will be performing at the Fall Festival on Nov. 3.

Please go to Mrs. Reinhold's website for more information on the music department.

<http://connectplus.pasco.k12.fl.us/kreinhol/>

2017-2018 chorus members wearing PINK to support Breast Cancer awareness!



Counselor's Corner



Mrs. Ward serving ice cream to September Citizens of the Month.

Counselor's Corner

All of our Kindergarten students were introduced to Buddy the Dog in our first Safer Smarter Kids lesson. The students did a great job learning to use their "I Mean Business Voices" and Safety Stop Signs anytime a situation makes them feel unsafe. A parent letter with more information will be sent home with your child each time I visit their classroom.

I will continue to visit all grade levels this month for classroom lessons, and will be reinforcing our character trait of the month which is RESPECT.

We will celebrate making healthy choices with Red Ribbon Week the week of October 23-27. Stay tuned for more information about theme days.

Meredith Ward, School Counselor