



Wekiva Whispers



Wekiva Elementary School
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Longwood, Florida 32779
Phone: 407-746-3150 Fax: 407-746-3163
October 2007

Principal: Michael Pfeiffer

Assistant Principal: Michelle Robinson

Principal's Message

Parents, I recently have concluded my annual needs assessment of Wekiva's safety procedures and I am impressed. Fire drills have gone smoothly and I thank the students, teachers, and especially the parents when we have had to keep students inside during dismissal due to afternoon thunderstorms. Parents and Dividends are doing a great job checking in before going to the cafeteria and/or classrooms. A couple of areas that still concern me are off campus arrival and dismissal issues. Deputy Daren and I support one another and have some concerns with which we need your support. Parents and students are asked to cross only where there are crossing guards and to use the tunnel rather than crossing Wekiva Trail. **NEVER STOP ON WEKIVA TRAIL AND LET YOUR CHILDREN OUT.** Parents are also asked to follow all "road rules" including parking and speed limit postings, adhere to Wekiva's car rider procedures, and avoid cell phone use while dropping off and picking up children. I remind everyone, **NO LEFT TURNS FROM WEKIVA TRAIL ONTO HOLDERNESS AND NO CAR RIDER DROP OFF OR PICK UP ON THE BUS RAMP ON RAINY DAYS.** Lastly, I have noticed that at least half of the bikes on the bike rack are not locked up. As most of these bikes are pricey, I recommend purchasing a lock and locking up your bike everyday.

PTA Reflections

The PTA Reflections program will begin on October 5th. This program highlights various student talents including dance, video production, photography, literature, writing, and art. The 2006-07 theme is, "I can make a difference by...". The deadline for submission is November 30th. For more information, call Misa Mills at 407-834-6612.

Ice Cream Social a Smashing Hit

Wekiva would like to thank everyone, especially the PTA and teacher scoopers, for supporting Wekiva's hugely successful annual Ice Cream Social and gently used Book Sale. After general business, parents, students, and teachers enjoyed some yummy sundaes and purchased hundreds of donated books. Not only did we get to enjoy some tasty treats, Wekiva's reading program received almost \$300 in donations for gently used books.

Fall Festival

Please join us at the annual Fall Festival and Book Fair, on Saturday October 13th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. New this year are the "So You Think You Can Dunk a 5th Grader" dunk tank and tours of Seminole County emergency vehicles including a fire truck, an ambulance, and a patrol car. Kids will squirm in the Mad Science Lab, jump in the Bounce House, and climb the 24-foot rock wall. If that isn't enough, the circus-style comedy dog act of "Tricky Dogs" will amuse and amaze you and your kids. Plus your whole family can relax and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, or a Subway lunch in the picnic area near the pavilion. Get your cameras ready for the highlight of the day's festivities as Mr. Pfeiffer gets slimed by the two top student sellers in Entertainment Book

fundraiser sales. And don't forget, you can complete the day with a visit to the Book Fair in the Media Center. Tickets are \$7 for students and \$4 for pre-school age kids. Parents are free. Volunteers to help with one-hour shifts are still needed. For more information, call Tana Wash at 407-865-5868.

Book Fair Blizzard

Brrrr, it's snowing books! The Book Fair Blizzard is coming to Wekiva on October 8-12. It will also be open during the Fall Festival on Saturday October 13. Come stop by the book fair and get yourself a brand new book. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Ms. Moeser at (407) 746-3104.

Science SECME Club and Robotics

The Science SECME Club, sponsored by Mrs. Gabrovic, is proud to announce that approximately 80 students have registered for this popular, hands-on science and math based club. The Robotics Club, sponsored by Mr. Prose, is new to Wekiva this year. With the help of PTA donations and proceeds from picture money, Lego Mind Storm robotic kits and other materials were purchased totaling over \$2000.

Student Council News

The Koala Student Council will hold its first meeting on Friday, October 5th. Fourth and fifth grade students will choose two representatives from their classes to join Student Council. This group of students will not only hold leadership roles at Wekiva, but will also participate in several service projects in the school, the community, and the world. Teacher sponsors are Ms. Gonzalez and Ms. Gilfedder.

Math Club

Math Club begins Tuesday, October 2nd. More information will be sent to those students who registered. Teacher sponsors are Ms. Gonzalez, Mrs. Hull, and Mrs. Perdomo.

Jellybean Landscape Club

The Jellybean Landscape Club is an intergenerational gardening club. Their first project was to plant the vegetable garden that replaced Mrs. Altenburg's old portable. The vegetables will be harvested in late November and a big pot of soup will be made to share with families at the Christian Service Center. Their next event will be held on October 6th from 9:00 - 12:00. We hope you and your family can join them to clean up the big butterfly garden by parent pickup. For more information, call or e-mail Mrs. Prose at 407-746-1158 or allison_prose@scps.k12.fl.us.

Outstanding Teachers Win Grants

Congratulations to the following teachers who were recently awarded grants to support outstanding education at Wekiva: Mrs. Prose, for her \$475 "Peers at Your Service" (P.A.Y.S.) grant; the 4th Grade Team, for their \$1500 "Reading Roadster: Revving up Reading Skills!" grant; and Ms. Clodfelter, for her \$318 "Making Leaps in Mathematics, Reading, and Language Arts using Frog Publications Learning Games" grant. Way to go!

Helping Hands for Haiti

Last year's clothing drive was a great success! This year will be kicking off a School Supply Drive for the students of the Bryant Institute in Haiti. A flyer will be coming home with all the details. Be sure to check out the bulletin board in the hallway of photos the Haitian students took of themselves using the disposable digital cameras we sent them over the summer.

Target Support

Wekiva just received a check for \$1033 from Target. Thank you parents, for designating Wekiva as your school when you shop at Target.

Annual Recycling Contest

In October, Wekiva will hold our annual Recycling Contest. The class that earns the most points will win \$50. We collect ink cartridges, cell phones, PDAs, laptops, iPods, video games and consoles, and digital cameras. Please send those items to your child's class so they can add them to their classroom tally sheets. Help us REUSE & RECYCLE.

Energy Conservation at Wekiva!

Seminole County Public Schools has made a commitment to conserve energy in a variety of ways. Our purpose was to be smarter consumers, and by doing so, we not only saved money, but we helped save the environment. Wekiva Elementary saved over \$12,000 during the 2006-2007 school year. That is a lot of energy! In recognition, the district in turn sent \$6000 directly back to Wekiva to support its students and academic goals. We are committed to continue our conservation program this year and would like to exceed last year's savings!

Homework Tips for Success

1. Set up a regular time and quiet place for you child to work.
2. Prior to starting homework, go over the assignment with your child.
3. Always check your child's homework and remember neatness does count.
4. Read with your child every chance you get, and turn the TV off when you do so.
5. Set the example. Be sure your children see you reading.

Television Tips for Success

1. Determine how many hours your child watches TV each day and monitor what your child watches.
2. Plan activities other than TV. Avoid using TV as a "babysitter".
3. Look for programs that will stimulate your child's interests and encourage reading (wildlife, history, science).
4. Avoid using TV as a reward or punishment. It gives TV too much importance.
5. Turn off the TV during meals and homework time.

6. Help your child understand the difference between make believe and the real world, especially with younger children.
7. Remember, you are a model and your child is watching what you watch and how much time you spend doing it.

Quote of the Month

"Your actions, not just your words, make an impression that will last a lifetime."

Important Dates

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| 10/3 | SAC, 5:00 p.m.
PTA Board, 6:15 p.m. |
| 10/5 | Reflections Kick-Off
Sally Foster Fundraiser Start |
| 10/6 | Jelly Bean Landscape Club
Campus Clean-Up, 9-12 |
| 10/8-12 | Book Fair Week |
| 10/10 | Progress Reports Go Home |
| 10/11 | 3 rd Gr. Fieldtrip to Zoo |
| 10/12 | 3 rd Gr. Fieldtrip to Zoo |
| 10/13 | Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. |
| 10/17 | ABC'S Lunch |
| 10/22 | Sally Foster Fundraiser Ends |
| 10/22-26 | Red Ribbon Week |
| 10/25 | No School, Tchr. Wk. Day |
| 10/26 | Schools Closed |
| 11/2 | 2 nd Gr. Fieldtrip, Lucas
Nursery |
| 11/4 | Daylight Savings Ends |
| 11/5 | 2 nd Gr. Fieldtrip, Lucas
Nursery |
| 11/7 | SAC, 5:00 p.m.
PTA Board, 6:15 p.m. |
| 11/8 | 2 nd Gr. Fieldtrip, Lucas
Nursery |
| 11/9 | 3 rd Gr. Veterans' Day
Program, 9:00-10:15 a.m. |
| 11/12 | Fall Picture Retakes
Am. Education Week Begins |
| 11/13 | PTA General Mtg. and Scott
Humston Show, 7:00 p.m. at
Teague Middle School |
| 11/14 | ABC'S Lunch
Ed. Support Prof. Day |
| 11/15 | Trimester Ends
Chick-Fil-A Night, 5-8 p.m. |
| 11/19-23 | No School |
| 11/28 | Report Cards Go Home |
| 11/29 | 4 th Gr. Fieldtrip, Student
Museum |
| 11/30 | Reflections Projects Due |