



Wekiva Whispers



Wekiva Elementary School
1450 East Wekiva Trail
Longwood, Florida 32779
Phone: 407-746-3150 Fax: 407-746-3163
September 2007

Principal: Michael Pfeiffer

Assistant Principal: Michelle Robinson

Principal's Message

As always, reading is the centerpiece for all that happens at Wekiva. All of our success, regardless of what subject, is dependent on our students' ability to read. That being said, I am proud to state that on the 2007 Reading FCAT, 91% of Wekiva's students scored at or above grade level, 84% made Annual Learning Gains, and MOST IMPRESSIVE, 94% of our lowest quartile students made Annual Learning Gains. This success can be directly attributed to two factors. The first factor is Wekiva's outstanding teachers and their ability to teach ALL students. The second factor is the support our students receive from home. When we combine both factors, we get SUCCESS! The perfect examples of this teamwork were the summer reading programs "Let's Read, Seminole" and Wekiva's Summer AR Nights. I was amazed at the participation and I thank all our parents for supporting reading over the summer. Remember, the more you read, the more fluent you become, the more vocabulary you learn, and the smarter you get.

Meet Wekiva's New AP

I am very excited to be at Wekiva this year! I look forward to meeting more new faces and getting to know all the people who make Wekiva such a wonderful place to learn. I am a graduate of the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida. To further my passion for education, I am currently pursuing my doctoral degree from UCF. From 2001-2007, I taught second and third grades at Evans Elementary in Oviedo. I was recently honored as Evans' Teacher of the Year and was selected as a Top 10 Teacher of the Year for Seminole County. I am an active leader in

SCPS serving on several district level committees, focusing on curricular and instructional excellence. I feel privileged to be a part of the Wekiva community, and look forward to working together toward another rewarding educational year. I believe it is important to set and help each student achieve new levels of academic excellence each year, foster a sense of personal responsibility within each child, as well as optimize learning opportunities for all. Working together will help us achieve our goals. I'm very pleased to be part of the Wekiva family, and am looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

--Ms. Robinson , Assistant Principal

PTA

If you have not yet joined PTA, Wekiva again encourages all parents, **THIS INCLUDES DADS**, to join and invites you to become involved as a volunteer. Let me clarify, being a PTA member is very different from being a PTA volunteer. Many times, parents avoid joining PTA for fear that this means they will have to volunteer for various things. While we encourage you to volunteer, you can be a member of PTA without having to volunteer. Your membership alone greatly supports Wekiva and your children. For more information, please call Mary DeBonville, PTA President, at 746-3173 (PTA Voicemail).

General PTA Meeting

On September 11th, at 7:00 p.m., the PTA will be holding its first General Meeting of the year by hosting Wekiva's annual Ice Cream Social and gently used Book Sale. After general business, parents, students, and teachers are invited to "Get the Scoop on Wekiva". This is a great opportunity to enjoy a tasty treat

served by the Wekiva teachers and administration, and to enjoy time with your family, as well as the Wekiva family.

Fall Festival

The Wekiva Elementary Fall Festival will be held on Saturday, October 13th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this year. There will be fun for every member of the family. Your kids won't want to miss all of the fun that is planned. There will be a rock wall, the bounce house, Science Lab, and games of skill and chance. Meanwhile, mom and dad can taste test some of the best chili in Central Florida at the Chili Cook-off or win a delicious dessert in the Cake Walk. If that isn't enough, a special show featuring the "Tricky Dogs" will entertain the entire family, and in what's become one of the area's most anticipated traditions, everyone will get to witness the annual "Sliming of Mr. Pfeiffer!" Volunteers to help with one-hour shifts are still needed. For more information, call Tana Wash at 407-865-5868.

D÷v÷dend Volunteers

Wekiva loves D÷v÷dends, our school volunteers. Volunteers truly make a difference in the quality of education and children receive a powerful message when parents are involved in school. Moms, dads, grandparents, and community members are welcome! We have something to fit everyone's interests and schedule. All D÷v÷dends must renew their registration each year online at (www.scps.k12.fl.us).

D÷v÷dends and Visitors

Just a reminder to our Dividends and visitors, please make sure to always sign in at the front office and to wear a visitor sticker at all times. Parents

eating lunch with children must sign in every time. If choosing to eat outside, please use the picnic tables on the patio. The wooden picnic tables behind the cafeteria are reserved for “outside classroom” use.

Honoring Mrs. Lopez

It is with deepest sympathy and fondest memories that we honor Nancy Lopez, a Wekiva 4th grade teacher. Nancy, who served Wekiva’s students for twenty-eight fun-filled years, will forever be remembered in our new patio dining area. With the financial support of PTA and as a tribute to Nancy’s dedication to Wekiva students throughout the years, new picnic tables have been purchased and will be installed creating a wonderful, relaxing area for families to enjoy.

Perfect FCAT Scores

Wekiva is proud to honor last year’s students who received **PERFECT** scores on the FCAT! These students are in the upper one half of one percent of the students who took the test. **Simply outstanding!!!** Each of the following students will receive a personal letter from Dr. Vogel, Superintendent, and will be honored on KNN: Marshall Cain, James Graber, Amber Mercer, Darragh Reilly, Tatiana Rincon, Bradley Schmidt, Timothy Sullivan, Devon Hoffman, Jeremy Bocquet, and Nancy Penaranda.

Car and Bus Ramp Safety Issues

Parents are asked to strictly adhere to the arrival and dismissal rules at Wekiva Elementary. These rules are found in the Parent Handbook and have been put in place for the safety of all students that attend Wekiva.

- Car riders are to use the car ramp to drop their children off in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon.
- Car riders, please **DO NOT** use the bus ramp. The bus ramp is reserved for public school buses and day care buses. Although this may be convenient and save a few minutes in the morning, it puts students’ safety at risk. Also, it is unfair to those

parents who patiently wait in the car line each morning and afternoon. The only exceptions to this rule are when a parent must park and come into the office on official business or when a parent has access to the handicapped parking space.

- **Cars are not permitted to make a left from Wekiva Trail onto Holderness.** This cuts people in line, causes a traffic jam, but most alarming, blocks line of sight creating a substantial hazardous situation.
- Never stop on Wekiva Trail and let your children out.
- Students will only be released to those cars with an official blue 2007-08 Wekiva Car Sign. Those without a car sign will have to go to the front office and follow the office checkout procedures.

School Hours

School hours are 8:30 a.m. to 3:05 p.m. **Students should not arrive on campus before 8:05 a.m. There is no student supervision provided before this time.** The tardy bell rings at 8:40 a.m. **Please make sure your child arrives on time each day and attends school every day.** Students are dismissed at 2:05 p.m. on Wednesdays. Avoid early dismissal by scheduling appointments and vacations around the school schedule.

Support Wekiva

You can help Wekiva and its students by collecting and turning in the following product items: Tyson Chicken Boxtops, Campbell Soup labels, and Boxtops for Education. Wekiva redeems these labels and boxtops for money, which is used to support students directly. Don’t forget to shop at Office Depot and Target. Be sure to designate Wekiva Elementary as your school to support.

Report Card Changes

Please be aware of the following report card changes: In grades K-2, there will be no “O’s” for outstanding, only “S’s” for satisfactory. In grades K-5, there will be no Writing Prompt scores. All writing grades will now be

incorporated into Language Arts grades.

New Phone Numbers

IMPORTANT! Wekiva Elementary School’s phone numbers have changed. **The previous exchange of “320” has been changed to “746”.**

Important Dates

9/3	No School, Labor Day
9/4	Math Super Stars Training, 9:00 a.m. Girl Scout Round-Up, 6:30 p.m.
9/5	Kindergarten Grandparents Day, 12:45-1:30 p.m. SAC, 5:00 p.m. PTA Board, 6:15 p.m.
9/7	RAP Training, 9:00 a.m.
9/10	Pod Parent Training, 9:00 a.m.
9/11	General PTA Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Ice Cream Social
9/12	ABC’S Lunch
9/13	No School
9/14	Phonographix Training
9/20	Fall Pictures K-2, ESE
9/21	Fall Pictures 3-5
9/27	Chick-fil-A Night, 5-8 p.m.
10/3	SAC, 5:00 p.m. PTA Board, 6:15 p.m.
10/8-12	Book Fair Week
10/10	Progress Reports Go Home
10/13	Fall Festival, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
10/17	ABC’S Lunch
10/25	No School
10/26	Schools Closed

