



Wekiva Whispers



Wekiva Elementary School
1450 East Wekiva Trail
Longwood, Florida 32779
Phone: 407-746-3150 Fax: 407-746-3163
September 2008

Principal: Michael Pfeiffer

Assistant Principal: Michelle Robinson

Principal's Message

As the road to success is always under construction, Wekiva is proud of our efforts to build upon excellence. On the 2008 Reading FCAT, 94% of Wekiva's students scored at or above grade level (+3 from 06-07). Equally as impressive, on the 2008 Math FCAT, 94% of Wekiva's students scored at or above grade level (+4 from 06-07). 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!

On another note, I would like to personally thank all staff, parents, and students for their patience and understanding while dealing with Fay. Her impact to our calendar, our dismissal and arrival procedures, and to our facility was huge. Your support did not go unnoticed.

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 Damarys Melendez, PTA President, at 746-3173 (PTA Voicemail).

General PTA Meeting

On September 16th, 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. Wekiva will collect used books from September 2-15. A collection box will be in the media center for anyone donating books (children's books only). All proceeds will go directly to support reading at our school. Wekiva raised over \$400 last year! 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 18th, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. this year. There will be fun for every member of the family with great activities for the kids. Meanwhile, mom and dad can taste test some of the best chili in Central Florida at the Chili Cook-off. And in what's become one of the area's most anticipated traditions, everyone will get to witness the annual "Sliming of Mr. Pfeiffer"!

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.

D÷v÷dend Volunteers

Wekiva loves D÷v÷dends, our school volunteers, as they truly make a difference in the quality of education our children receive. Remember, all volunteers in the classroom, attending classroom parties, and chaperoning fieldtrips must be registered D÷v÷dends. 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).

Thank You PTA and Hospitality

The Wekiva staff would like to extend a warm thank you to the PTA and the PTA Hospitality Committee. Their generosity and hard work welcomed Wekiva staff back to school with a breakfast and fiesta lunch, supported by our business partner, Tijuana Flats. PTA and the PTA Hospitality Committee also sponsored the Kindergarten Coffee and Kleenex for our new kindergarten parents. The PTA Hospitality Committee consists of these wonderful ladies: Fiona Patel, Joy Kurtz, Connie Laurie, Kerry Greenberg, Mary DeBonville, and Dana Whitekus.

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 note there will be significant changes to report cards and progress reports for the 2008-09 school year. Report cards will follow the same grading scale, yet will be presented in a different format on a new form. Progress reports will no longer use the old progress report forms. Instead, progress reports will now be printouts of each student's specific grades in each subject area using the computerized grading program IG-Pro. If there is a concern regarding grades and/or behavior, an additional form will come home noting the area of concern and if a teacher conference is requested.

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.

Dismissal Time

Parents are reminded that dismissal begins at 3:05 p.m. All students should be picked up no later than 3:30 p.m., 2:30 p.m. on Wednesdays. When students are not picked up on time, Wekiva staff often has to work past their normal working hours in excessive heat, and many have their own children they need to pick up after work. Wekiva asks that you please be courteous and adhere to our dismissal times.

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 pink 2008-09 Wekiva Car Sign. Those without a car sign will have to go to the front office and follow the office checkout procedures.

Fay Information

Hurricane Make-Up Days:

Due to the cancellation of school on Aug. 19th, 20th, and 22nd the following days have been designated as

Student Make-up Days:

Thursday, October 23, 2008
Monday, November 24, 2008
Tuesday, November 25, 2008

Specials Schedule:

Please note that the Specials Schedule has not changed. Those specials classes missed due to hurricane days will be made up on the corresponding student make-up days listed above.

Student Absences on Aug. 21:

Dr. Vogel has deemed that all student absences on Aug. 21 will be considered excused and will not count against perfect attendance.

PTA Magnet:

Please note that due to Hurricane Days, the PTA Magnet is not 100% correct. Dates listed reflect the calendar prior to Hurricane Days.

RAP and Phonographix Training

Dividend training for Wekiva's RAP and Phonographix reading support programs will be held on October 1st in the media center at the following times:

RAP (9:00-10:15 a.m.)

Phonographix (10:30-11:45 a.m.)

Important Dates

9/1	No School, Labor Day
9/2	Math Super Star Training, 9:00 a.m. Boy Scout Round-Up, 6:30 p.m.
9/3	SAC, 5:00 p.m. PTA Board, 6:15 p.m.
9/4	Girl Scout Round-Up, 7:00 p.m.
9/5	Dividend Coffee, 9:00 a.m. Super Scientist Training, 9:30 a.m.
9/8	Pod Parent Training, 9:00 a.m.
9/10	Kindergarten Grandparents Day, 12:45-1:15 p.m.
9/12	Room Parent Training, 9:00 a.m.
9/16	General PTA Meeting- Ice Cream Social, 7:00 p.m.
9/17	ABCS Lunch
9/19	T-Shirt Orders Due
9/25	Fall Enrichment Begins
9/30	No School
10/1	RAP and Phonographix Training (see above for time) SAC, 5:00 p.m. PTA Board, 6:15 p.m.
10/2	Fall Pictures K-2, ESE, Pre-K
10/3	Fall Pictures 3-5 Progress Reports Go Home
10/7	Papa John's Pizza Night
10/9	Schools Closed
10/13	Book Fair Begins Middle School Magnet Presentation
10/15	ABCS Lunch Chick-fil-A Night
10/18	Fall Festival
10/23	Hurricane Make-Up Day
10/24	Teacher Work Day
10/27-31	Red Ribbon Week
10/30	Super Scientist Begins
10/31	Kindergarten Pajama Day