



# The Bulldog Bulletin



December 3, 2018

<https://wzes.pasco.k12.fl.us>

## Principal's Pen

Dear Parent(s),

The holiday season is upon us and I hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday and a Happy New Year! The student's last day at school before winter break will be Friday, December 21, 2018 and they return to campus on Tuesday, January 8, 2019. I shared information about Conscious Discipline in last month's newsletter focusing on the three states of the brain: survival, emotional, and executive states. This month's edition is going to focus on creating a "school family".

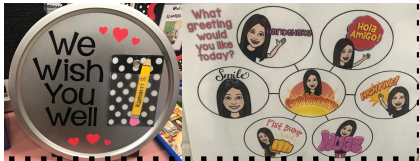
The "school family" is built on a healthy family model. The goal of a healthy family is the optimal development of all members. Our goal as parents is to raise healthy, self-reliant children. We want our children to have better lives than we have and for them to become productive members of society. This work starts at home and continues when your children begin attending school. The "school family" is created through rituals, routines, and structures.

Our classroom teachers and staff received training this year on how to incorporate various rituals, routines, and structures into their classrooms to create a positive school climate. For example, several staff members have started a morning greeting ritual in their rooms. The teacher started by asking the students how they would like to be greeted each day. Some students chose a handshake, fist bump, and a high five. What does this look like each day? The teacher meets his/her students at the door in the morning and asks them how they would like to be greeted. For example, if the student says they would like to be greeted by a high five then the teacher gives the child a high five. This routine helps each student start their day on a positive note and they feel valued and welcomed by their classroom teacher.

Some of our teachers have also started a ritual to welcome students back into their classrooms when they are absent. The teachers use a pizza pan and place a picture or the name of the student who is absent on the pan. The pan is used as a visual and the teacher holds it up and verbally welcomes the student back to school. The other students also tell the student that they missed him/her. This is another example of a school ritual that helps our students feel valued as a member of our "school family". I am going to share more rituals, routines, and structures in our next newsletter that is helping us create a positive school culture. Once again, I hope all of our families and students have a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely,

Scott Atkins  
Principal



## STEM News

In the STEM Lab this month are K-2 students have been learning all about force and motion. We learned all about pushes and pulls with marshmallow experiments and we observed how changes in variables could effect the distance a car is able to travel down a ramp. Kindergarten is currently studying all about weather. In the month of December we will review our current units and spend some time with STEM activities: Rigamajig, Dash Robot, Lego, and Merge Cube to name a few. Your students are going to love it.

Our intermediate grades have begun their STEM Fair Projects. By now students should have a testable question (pg. 4-5), completed background research (top of page 6 + two full pages of written notes in their journal) identified independent/ dependent variables and constructed a hypothesis (pages 6-8). Each section was thoroughly taught in the lab and students were given time to work on it. We are even doing a hot chocolate experiment to model the process. Please make sure students are meeting their deadlines each week and come to school prepared with their science notebook. During the week of the 10th, students will start working on their power point in the lab if they are up to date in their notebooks. Thank you for all of your support on these projects!

Deb Torres

## Important Dates

12/11 Headstart - Conscious Discipline Parent Training  
(1-2:30 PM)

12/18 Student Flu Shots  
(with consent forms that were sent home)

12/21 End of 2nd Quarter

12/24 - 1/4 Winter Break

1/7/2019 Teacher Planning Day - No School for Students



## Counselors' Corner

Hello, WZES family!

This is Ms. Cruz Rios, your School Counselor, wishing you a happy December. In this month of giving, we continue our Character Education by learning about gratitude. The ability to show gratitude and express thankfulness and appreciation for the things that we have is not an instinct; it has to be taught. That is why we invite you to talk to your child about showing appreciation for the people in his or her life and the importance of being content with the current possessions that he or she has. Use any opportunity to discuss with your child how to communicate gratitude. For instance, he or she can write a "thank you" note to the people who give him or her a gift during this season. During this holiday celebration, along with his or her "wishlist", encourage your child to write a "thankful for" list. Lastly, try to take the emphasis off of the gifts and put it on the experiences they are having (celebrating with family, decorating the home, etc.). By placing the emphasis elsewhere, our children learn that gifts are not the most important part of the festivities.

Our Safer, Smarter Kids monthly lessons are going great! We are learning about the right to our identity, our privacy, and the right to use our own voice to communicate any situation that we experience to any of our trusted adults. Lastly, our Small Group Counseling sessions are teaching our WZES students the study skills and social skills that they need to succeed in and out of the classroom.

Looking forward to a great month! Thanks for letting us work with your child!

Happy Holidays!

Ms. Cruz Rios, School Counselor

### **Reading/Writing News**

Hello WZES Families,

I am Lyna Correa the Learning Design Coach here at WZES! I am so excited to have the opportunity to provide you with a monthly tip on how to support our growing readers at home.

Start a Family Book Club.

Is there a new title that your son or daughter wants to read? Why not read it together as a family? Be sure to choose a book that appeals to the whole family. This is a great way to share books and read with the people closest to you.

The following is a link to resources available to parents on Canvas:  
<https://pasco.instructure.com/courses/5537/pages/at-home-support>

### **P.E. News**

In PE, we have been enjoying the cooler weather. It is important with the cooler weather students remember to wear a jacket since PE will still take place outdoors. During second Quarter the Coaches have been teaching a variety of standards. These standards include: Chasing and Fleeing; Components of Fitness; and Striking with Body Parts. Each class is learning through play as well as taught the curriculum for each standard.

As a reminder, please make sure your student is dressed appropriately on PE days in closed toed shoes and comfortable clothing for safe play.

### **Art News**

This quarter in Mrs. Brown's Art classes students in Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade are creating an art piece using earthenware clay. Students experience the sequence and processes of clay construction. 4th grade students are learning how to create depth and distance in their artwork by using a vanishing point in a one point perspective landscape. 5th grade students are creating masks using plaster gauze and studying artist, Pablo Picasso and the Cubism style to apply in their mask design.

In Ms. White's Art class, kindergarten is learning about texture after reading the book "Splat the Cat". 1st graders created a scarecrow collage for Thanksgiving and 2nd graders have drawn landscapes in the colorful Pop Art style of Romero Britto. 3rd grade learned how to weave paper to create a patriotic artwork. 4th grade students have been drawing landscapes using perspective to show depth, and 5th grade incorporated other languages in their Thankful tree artworks.

### **Math News**

Grade	Required Fluency
K	Add/subtract within 5 (MAFS.K.OA.1.5)
1	Add/subtract within 10 (MAFS.1.OA.3.6)
2	Add/subtract within 20 (MAFS.2.OA.2.2) Add/subtract within 100 (pencil and paper)
3	Multiply/divide within 100 (MAFS.3.OA.3.7) Add/subtract within 1,000 (MAFS.3.NBT.1.2)
4	Add/subtract within 1,000,000 (MAFS.4.NBT.1.2)
5	Multi-digit multiplication (MAFS.5.NBT.2.5)

The chart shows required grade level fluencies for each grade. The students are working hard on these fluency standards all year and should be fluent in their grade level standard by the end of the school year.

Only two fluency standards (3rd grade multiply/divide within 100 and 2nd grade add/subtract within 20) should have facts known by memory by the END of the school year.

The other required grade level fluencies should be fluent (finding answers quickly) with an appropriate grade level strategy. For example, the first grade fluency of adding/subtracting within 10 should be fluently done with a strategy such as counting on or making 10.

If you have any questions with how to help your student at home with fluency, please reach out to Kendra Daughtery the math coach for resources.

### **Music News**

As primary grades finish their unit on patterns and form, December music classes will be focusing on multicultural music! Students will learn about music and instruments from different countries in order to play and sing songs from other cultures. Our unit will wrap up with a look at winter holidays around the world and how music is used in different celebrations!



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