



The Bulldog Bulletin

May 1, 2019

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

Principal's Pen

Dear Families,

We can hardly believe that yet another school year is coming to an end! We are looking forward to spending these last few weeks of school continuing to learn and grow with one another, while also celebrating the amazing accomplishments our students have made. Our 5th graders have been working towards earning some exciting opportunities to celebrate moving on to middle school: a catered luncheon, staff vs. students kickball game, and field trip to Busch Gardens. This is a special time for for them and we enjoy watching them engage in these fun activities!

Next year, all schools in Pasco County will have early release days one Wednesday each month. Please keep the following dates in mind so that you can make plans in advance for daycare, PLACE, early pick-up, etc.:

September 11, 2019	January 15, 2020
October 9, 2019	February 12, 2020
November 13, 2019	March 11, 2020
December 11, 2019	April 8, 2020

The next couple of weeks also brings our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders their last sessions of the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) for the year. We know they have been working hard this year, and appreciate all the support you have provided them at home to assist teachers in preparing them for this busy time of year!

As always, please reach out to your child's teacher or an administrator if you have any questions or need support.

Sincerely,

Peggy Gilbert, Assistant Principal

STEM News

On Saturday, April 27th, our STEM Fair Winners represented our school at the District Competition. I am so proud of all the effort that these students put into their projects and their presentations.

Jayden Griffis placed second in the 8-year-old division

Ian Martell placed 3rd in the 9-year-old division

Mia Capriglione placed 3rd in the 9-year-old division

Nicholas Purcell placed 2nd in the 9-year-old division

Ayden Tirado placed 2nd in the 10-year-old division

Natasha Wallinger placed 1st in the 10-year-old division

Savannah Best placed 3rd in the 11-year-old division

Two of our third grade students were unable to make it, but had amazing projects: Landon Connell and Zavion Brown.

It is my joy to watch students improve from year to year as they compete. Next year, STEM Fair will be held on February 1, 2020 at Weightman Middle School. Elementary, Middle and High School will compete on the same day so that students, parents, and educators can see the progression all the way to State and International competitions. The day will be set up more like an Expo with activities for families to participate in. Awards ceremonies will be held on different nights.

Please encourage your children to do their best each year! You never know where it could lead to in the future. Many students are graduating from college each year with degrees in science. My hope is that many of our West students are part of that group. 😊

Important Dates

- 5/1 & 5/2 FSA Reading - 4th & 5th grade
- 5/6 & 5/7 FSA Math - 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade
- 5/9 & 5/10 5th grade FCAT Science
- 5/27 Memorial Day - No School
- 5/29 Last day of school for students

Have a great



Counselors' Corner

At WZES students are involved in learning activities designed to develop good character and empower them to make good choices for themselves. Your cooperation with these activities will support our overall Character Education program.

This month we will be talking about COOPERATION. Here are some things you can do to support the idea that COOPERATION is an important life skill and that the rewards outweigh the sacrifices.

- Initiate a fun project that involves all family members (a garden, jigsaw puzzle, homemade pizza, etc.)
- "Catch" your child cooperating (or attempting to cooperate) and offer your encouragement by verbally showing your appreciation; material rewards are not necessary.

Building time to enjoy each other can keep a relationship strong. Research indicates that positive experiences with parents enable children to better handle stress and negative emotions. These components can help us nurture an emotional atmosphere where cooperation can grow.

Reading/Writing News

Summer Reading Fast Facts for Parents Reading over the summer really does make a difference!

Many students and families regard the summer break as just that – a break from school and other “requirements.” However, research shows that kids who never open a book during the summer fall behind in reading, while kids who do read maintain or even excel in their reading skills.

What do researchers have to say about the importance of summer reading?

“... the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. And the best predictor of whether a child reads is whether or not he or she has access to books.”

- Allington, Richard L. and McGill-Franzen, Anne. “Bridging the Summer Reading Gap,” Scholastic Instructor (2003, May/June).

“Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.”

- Kim, Jimmy. “Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap,” The Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (2004).

“Students with access to books and other reading material over the summer have a the following school year, when they showed a 35 to 40 percent grade-level increase in reading achievement.”

- Allington, Richard L., & McGill-Franzen, Anne (2013). Summer reading: Closing the rich/poor reading achievement gap. New York: Teachers College Press.

Art News

In Mrs. Collins art class, Kindergarten has been busy with learning about symmetry, dry brushing techniques and creating patterns using colors. 1st grade has been busy talking about warm and cool colors by creating a warm sun and a cool moon. 2nd grade is learning about collaborative art and how we can work together with other artists to create pieces of artwork that come together as a whole. In 3rd grade we are talking about the artist Henri Rousseau and creating a collage that uses the same characteristics of his artwork. 4th Grade students are learning about water color resist techniques by creating their very own still life.

5th grade students are also learning about collaborating with fellow artists. They are using pattern and design to put together a Hollywood star for their fifth grade ceremony.

In Mrs. Brown's Art class, Kindergarten students have been using a variety of painting techniques and reinforcing their knowledge of color families. 1st grade students are creating an owl using mixed media techniques. 2nd grade Students finished an abstract portrait while learning about the artist, Paul Klee, and are now finishing a paper mola design while we look at cultural art. 3rd grade students created an abstract portrait inspired by the artist, Sandra Silberzweig and are currently finishing a radial design inspired by cultural dresses related to Cinco de Mayo. 4th grade artists have been mixing color tints in a robot painting and the use of positive and negative space in designs. 5th grade artists have created bowls from ceramic earthenware clay and are designing a Star project for their fifth grade ceremony.

Students will be reviewing for the upcoming End-of-Course exams in Art at the end of May, that are administered to all grade levels.

PTA

It's hard to believe this school year is almost over but there is still time for you to become a PTA member. Volunteering for the PTA is a great way for you to help your child's school.

Fill out a volunteer application at <http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/comm/volunteer/> and then request a PTA membership form from wzespta@gmail.com.

Please consider becoming a PTA member.

Math News

It's official! Summer break is coming soon, but learning doesn't have to stop just because school is on summer break. When students are on summer break, they tend to forget some of the things they have learned over the school year. As a result, teachers have to spend time at the beginning of the school year reviewing some of the skills that were taught the year before. Luckily, there are some fun and simple things you can do with your students over the summer to prevent some of this “summer slide” from occurring.

Summer learning can be fun and exciting! It can also take place outside with outdoor math games and activities. There are many ways you could use sidewalk chalk to practice math skills and have fun. You can play hopscotch and practice skip counting, adding, subtracting, multiplication, etc. Have your student collect rocks, flowers, or acorns and use the chalk to draw a number sentence with the objects. Practice math skills while baking in the kitchen. When baking, your student must learn how to follow a recipe (directions), units of measure and conversions, fractions, volume and temperature! You could play simple card games and cover a multitude of math skills by having them keep score or count as you teach them a new card game. If you go to the beach this summer, you could challenge your student to make different shapes in the sand and practice how they know what each shape is. There are tons of ways to keep math learning fun and exciting this summer and prevent some of that summer slide from happening! If you need any help with things you can do to help your student this summer, please contact your child's teacher or the school math coach.

P.E. News

Thank you to all of the families that joined us for C.A.M.P. night and helped make it a success. Everyone appeared to have a great time participating in an activity with their family.

Coming up in the month of May, we are reviewing the standards that will be tested on the Physical Education EOC. The skills we are working on are Striking with a Body Part; Striking with a long handed implement; Basketball Skills; and Fitness activities.

We have had a great year in PE! Enjoy your summer!

Music News

In music we have just finished up our musical elements unit and we are super excited to be in the home stretch of the year! These next few weeks our WZES musicians will be reviewing and getting ready to take our music end of course exam. This exam covers most of the things we have been working on during the year and will even include a listening portion so we will be practicing our listening skills! We will be having review activities on instruments, reading music and similarities/differences between two different performances just to name a few!



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