

Reptile Review

January 2015

Issue 8 Volume 5

Important Dates

January 8
STEM Parent Night
4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

January 9
iMOM's Meeting
8:45 a.m.

January 12
Report Cards



January 12
McDonald's Night
5-7 p.m.

January 15
Yearbook Presale
Begins

January 15
School Advisory
Council 7:30 a.m.

Attendance is Key!

We encourage all students to arrive to school on time as learning takes place as soon as school starts each day. Daily attendance is very important to your child's academic achievement. The teachers and staff of our school work very hard every day to ensure that your child receives the best educational experience possible!

January 19
Martin Luther King,
Jr. Day
No School

January 21
4th and 5th Grade
Writing Camp
Begins 8 a.m.



January 22
Pizza Dinner
5:00 p.m.
PTA Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Academic Showcase
6:00-7:30 p.m.

January 30
Doughnuts with Dad
8:45-9:20 a.m.

Principal's Message

Happy 2015! The beginning of a new year is a great time to set new goals. Please make one of your family's goals to have your child attend school every day and be on time. In December, we were having close to 60 students tardy to school per day.

During the first minutes of the day, routines are established and learning can start right away. We know that when students are at school, their academic growth significantly improves.

Please be sure to attend the Academic Excellence Showcase on January 22nd. The evening will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a short presentation, and then it is off to the classroom to see your child's work. Worried about dinner? No worries! Pizza will be sold by the slice beginning at 5:00 p.m.

Happy New Year!
Lynn Pabst



Doughnuts With Dad!



Bring your dad (or uncle, older brother/cousin, grandfather, etc.) to eat a doughnut at school on **Friday, January 30th** from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. in the NRES cafeteria.

It is right before the Super Bowl, so wear your football shirt and come join the fun!

Writing Camp for our 4th and 5th Grade Students!

Wednesday mornings on
January 21, 28, February 4, 11, 18 & 25
Who: All 4th and 5th graders at NRES
When: 8:00 to 9:30 a.m.
Cost: No Charge

Come and work with our NRES writing experts to enhance your writing and feel even more prepared for the FSA Writing Assessment. Parents, please see the note sent home this week or contact your child's teacher. See you there!

Art News

In art class, students have been working hard while learning about collage, and the famous author and illustrator, Eric Carle. Students are creating a picture that has 3-D effects and experimenting with how to change the shape of the paper to create textures.

During the month of January, students will be starting a new project using paint. A sampling of pictures will be selected to be displayed at the Pasco County Fair in February. The Pasco Fair theme this year is "Country Roots and Cowboy Boots". More information will be going home at the end of January.

We are excited that there will be more opportunities for students to display their work at the district office and those pictures will remain on display until May. All artwork will be returned to students before the end of the school year.

Thank you for supporting our art program and your student's art talents.

Important Lunch Visitor Information

We encourage you to eat lunch with your child! When meeting your child for lunch, please wait in the front office until it is time for your child's class to go to lunch. At that time, you may walk to the cafeteria to meet your child. Some of our students have food allergies. If you are bringing in outside food, please use the designated family table in the cafeteria or use an outside table to eat lunch with your child.

At the end of lunch, please sign out at the front office, and your child will walk back to class with his/her teacher. We ask that unless you have previously arranged to volunteer with the classroom teacher, please do not go to your child's classroom. We are glad you are here, and we want to ensure the safety of our students. Please contact us with any questions or concerns at (813) 346-0500. Thank you!



P.E. News

February will be the start of our track and field unit. This will include relays, running long jump, hurdles and sprints. Running club is in full swing, with some members already finishing thirty miles. We know the students are working hard in Reptile Run, also. Our middle schools are very excited about the future distance runners we will be sending them for their track team! Our Fuel Up to Play 60 team has been busy advocating for health and wellness here at NRES. They are on the morning news show and running the free taste tests at the school malls. Remember to fill out your exercise log and log onto www.Fueluptoplay60.com to become part of our school goal to eat healthy and exercise 60 minutes every day.

As always, students should dress for success on their P.E. days. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Coach Mitchell, Coach Ketterer or Coach Gillooly.



STEM Fair and Technology Information Night

January 8, 2015 in NRES Media Center

This year, our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students are required to complete a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) project and present their project using technology instead of a backboard. (All 3rd grade students will create their PowerPoint presentations in class with their teacher.)

On that night, our expert teachers will be on hand to answer your questions about STEM and the scientific method, logs; and how to create a presentation using technology such as PowerPoint, Google Slides, and Prezi. We will be available to work with you and answer questions if you come by anytime between 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the NRES Media center.

For more information, please call (813) 346-0500.

Thank you, and we hope to see you there!

Garden Report *Shared by Mrs. Dinwiddie*

Reading, Writing, Arithmetic. . . and Composting

By Raneitra Grover, MPH, Team Nutrition Coordinator, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Subjects in elementary school generally cover the three R's: reading, writing and arithmetic. But last Friday at New River Elementary School, one group of students learned quite a bit on the subject of composting. Ms. Dinwiddie and Ms. Sellers, who are both first grade teachers, hosted the Garden STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts & math) club which allows the students to have a hand in the school garden. Ms. Dinwiddie has overseen the garden since it was started six years ago and had a desire for the students to learn about composting. Jim Moll who serves as the Florida-Friendly Landscape Program Coordinator for the UF IFAS Extension office gave the composting talk to the group of students. Although Moll typically speaks before adult audiences, the students were captivated and engaged from beginning to end by Moll's use of pictures, composting food scraps, dirt and worms!

The discussion began with a question that stumped the group which included students from first through fifth grade. "I'm a horticulturist, does anyone know what that is?" Moll asked. "Maybe it's like a journalist" one student thought. "Not exactly, but that's a good guess. It really just means that I work with plants," Moll explained and adding that he had an interest in plants since the age of 3. His next question the students were evidently prepared for, "Can anyone tell me what composting is?" As one girl put it in an insightful manner, "It's better soil than regular soil because it has people food in it to feed the plants." Moll brought along pictures to illustrate examples of things that are ideal for a compost pile and things that are not. For example, items such as egg shells, grass clippings, an apple core or a banana peel are all things that would be suitable for a compost pile. These items could easily break down and provide nutrients to the soil. On the other hand, items such as a leftover steak, chicken bones, car oil and cat litter would not be suitable for a compost pile. In the case of the steak, it would rot before it could decompose and would likely attract rodents.

The students also learned about the relationship between rabbit manure and a species of reddish-brown worms and the benefit they provide to a compost pile. Moll explained that from rabbit manure, the worms are able to produce a very nutrient rich product. The end of the learning experience concluded outside in the garden where the students took part in some hands-on composting but not before Moll stressed the need for each student to wash their hands once they returned to the classroom. So with a container of food scraps and another container of dirt and worms in hand, Moll dispensed out pieces of food scraps for each student to place in the composting bin. The dirt and worms were not welcomed by all, but many of the students wanted a chance to place them in the composting bin too.

To learn more about the Pasco County UF IFAS Extension office, you can visit: <http://pasco.ifas.ufl.edu/index.shtml>

Guest Blogger: Raneitra Grover, MPH, Team Nutrition Coordinator, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services



Remember: Be Respectful,
Be Safe, and Be Responsible

Thank You For Supporting ABC!

We would like to thank our NRES families and staff for their generous contributions for the holiday food baskets and Angel Tree to assist our NRES families.



Traffic



Safety

Reminders

For the safety of our students:

- The speed limit on school property is 15 mph at all times.
 - Please no drop-offs before 9:20 a.m.
- Your patience is appreciated as we work together to make our campus safe for all students!

Cozy Quilts for our Early Head Start Students!

A BIG thank you to the Sewing Ministry at FUMC of Land O' Lakes for making 40 "kid sized" quilts for our Early Head Start students. The colorful quilts are just the right size for our littlest students to use during nap time. We appreciate it!

All Pro Dad and iMom News

If you have joined us at one of our breakfasts this year, we want to thank you and your child for attending and spending a morning together. The purpose of these two organizations is to take the time to continue building a bond between yourself and your child(ren). It is a great opportunity for your child(ren) to hear you brag about them to others in attendance, too.

We have been informed that the iMom website is down. The next breakfast will be January 9th at 8:45 for iMom, and February 6th for All Pro Dad. You can send us an email (llacycar@pasco.k12.fl.us) to RSVP or please call the school. It is important to RSVP so we can plan for the amount of food needed for the breakfast.

We look forward to seeing you at the next breakfast!

Laura and Scott Carlson



Let's Keep Learning!

Please talk with your child about his/her power goals for reading and about the importance of completing their "good fit" book. We look forward to all of our students making higher achievements in reading and earning another exciting Reading Counts Celebration this Spring!

We also encourage all students to sharpen their math skills by participating in First in Math online at <http://www.firstinmath.com>

Please contact your child's teacher for student passwords and more information.



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of Pasco County

Kurt S. Browning
Superintendent

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- Joanne Hurley - District 2
- Cynthia Armstrong- District 3
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