



Leopard Spots

Jan/Feb 2019

A Message from the Principal....

Dear Longwood Families,

Happy New Year to everyone! I hope everyone had a restful holiday with family and friends. The students and teachers are hard at work again. Second semester offers some very exciting events. In January we will have Literacy Night and in March we will have our Read-a-

Thon. We hope to see lots of Leopards, so look for more information on both events. MAP assessments for reading, math and science will be given in January. Your child's teacher will send home the results early February. Please encourage your child to do their very best on all assessments. The teachers use these assessments to identify your child's strengths and weaknesses in order to guide instruction. If you have questions, do not hesitate to call. Once again, thank you for your support and especially for sharing your children with us!~Sincerely, Yvonne Michna, Principal

KINDERGARTEN NEWS

Reading at home makes a difference! What you can do at home.....

Reading Ideas: • Read bedtime stories... You read to your child and your child reads to you. • Have your child read the grocery list to you as you shop. • Write down a recipe for your child's favorite food. Then, read it together as you make it. • Get excited to check out your local library. • Play a board game... Have your child read all the playing cards to you.

Reading Tips: • Don't leave home without it! Always have reading materials available to read in the car, or if your child has to wait for an appointment. • Once is not enough; encourage your child to re-read favorite stories. This helps to build fluency, speed and accuracy. • Dig deeper! Ask your child questions about what they just read. Why do they think something happened? What else might have happened? • Encourage your beginning reader to follow along with his/her finger on the words while reading and to sound out unfamiliar words. *Allow your child to select some reading materials that interest them. • Be patient, correct gently and praise with enthusiasm!

1st GRADE NEWS

Welcome back from the Christmas Break! We hope you and your family enjoyed your time together making new memories over the holidays. As we return for the 2nd Semester, all of us in 1st grade are motivated to get your children working hard on picking up the pace. We were able to complete the 2nd iReady Diagnostic before the holidays. We will now be getting ready to do the 2nd MAP Assessment the 2nd week of January. Results will be sent home soon.

In January and February we will be focusing on the following:

Reading/ELA: We are taking a turn in our reading towards long vowel words. This is tricky for many 1st graders as there are a lot of "rules" to learn along with the transition. Please encourage your child to continue reading for at least 20 minutes every night. This helps tremendously with reading ability and fluency. Students become more confident in their reading and they begin to enjoy their books more.

Writing: 3rd Quarter focus is on Opinion Writing. Students are learning to state their opinions and list three reasons to back up their opinion. You can encourage this by giving them choices and asking them the "why's" and "how's" about their choices. Example: Do you prefer dogs or cats? Tell me three reasons why you chose your answer.

Math: Base Ten Operations (tens and ones, place value); Number Comparison (34<43); and Adding and Subtracting 2-digit numbers without regrouping.

Science: Matter (solids, liquids, gas) and Motion (speed, force, and friction).

Social Studies: Responsibility, Martin Luther King, Jr., American Symbols

Just a reminder: Please dress your child appropriately for the weather. Even when they wear jackets for outdoor weather, some of our rooms are still cool inside, especially the cafeteria. Layers are best, so they can add or remove as needed. Please be sure to label all outerwear with your child's name.

2nd GRADE NEWS

Second grade has had a wonderful first semester! We're looking forward to the New Year! In math, we just finished two-digit subtraction and addition. We are beginning three digit addition and subtraction. In science, we are entering the properties of matter! For Writing, we are beginning opinion writing. In reading, we are reviewing skills to prepare for the MAP assessment, which will occur January 9-29. Check with your child's teacher for the exact dates.

We are improving our vocabulary, sight words and high frequency words. Please be on the look out to practice those words at home. As always please continue to read each night for 20 minutes, record those pages read in the agenda books and return that to the homeroom teachers! We are competing between houses. Also remember to practice math facts to help with fluency! Second grade team- Byrd, Connally, McBride, Ogilvie, Taylor

3rd GRADE NEWS

Please be sure you are working with your student on "no excuse words". They are found in the agendas and need to be practiced in sentences and spelling. It is important that students can name off these words, use them in a sentence, and spell them correctly. Students benefit greatly from reading 20 minutes every night. Record their pages read every night and total them at the end. The classes with the most pages read get noticed! We are going to work on the reading celebration book reports in class. Math facts and math fluency are important to practice every day. We encourage students to come up with word problems and to practice solving them on their own. It is important that they can read and visualize the problems instead of just taking numbers out and not reading. Practicing reading and math 20 minutes a day can really improve their learning and growing in 3rd grade.

4th GRADE NEWS

Good-Bye 2018 / Hello 2019!!!

This January we are MAPS assessing (2nd this school year). This data will be compared to the first assessment, so we are asking for your help. For the following testing days, please provide enough sleep, healthy breakfasts, and ensure on-time arrivals at school for your child's success.

4th Grade MAPS Schedule

- January 10, Thursday: All classes Science
- January 14, Monday: Orschell's Math
- January 15, Tuesday: Olson's Math
- January 16, Wednesday: Cunningham's ELA
- January 17, Thursday: DeVarona's ELA

4th Grade Field Trip: Diamond Del Gem Mining of Florida on campus at Longwood Elementary

Coming this January or February :

This is a mobile gem mining experience. Your child will mine for their very own gem collection and learn about rock and mineral classifications and identification.

4th Grade Field Trip: Tallahassee

Save the date for Wednesday, April 17, 2019

Literacy Night is January 24th so let's participate!!!

Remember to read at home, takes pictures of you reading at home for your teacher, and write down the amount of pages you read at home on your log.

5th GRADE NEWS

Attention, Attention Parents! It is now operation get your child ready for the FSA tests! In preparations for the upcoming Reading, Writing, Math, and Science tests, please expect your student to bring home more homework to help practice on the skills learned in class. If you have any questions or concerns regarding homework, please email or call your child's teacher.

NEWS FROM TITLE I MATH AND READING

January is an exciting month for literacy! Please mark your calendar for Literacy Night, Thursday, January 24, from 5:00 to 6:30 PM. Students will be working on book projects this month, and the class projects will be on display in the Media Center that night. There will be a contest for the best displays. Students may compete for individual projects, however, these projects must be done at home. Ms. Thompson will provide the tri-fold board needed for the home project. Also, feel free to ask her for any other supplies you may need at home to complete the project. A flyer about the project went home December 20, 2018.

Our school will celebrate Literacy week January 28-February 1. Our theme for both Literacy Night and Literacy is Fairy Tales! We encourage parents to get involved with their child's classroom.

So...let's get reading all those "Once upon time..." stories each night.

GUIDANCE NEWS

We are always looking for adult volunteers. If you are interested in helping at Longwood in any capacity, (reading to student, mentoring, classroom helper, etc.) please contact our Guidance Counselor, Ms. Roe. The OCSD requires an online volunteer application be completed by every volunteer. If you go to the OCSD webpage you will see the Volunteer icon on the right hand side of the page. The School District will perform an FDLE sexual predator/offender background check on all volunteer applicants. The Office of Community Affairs will also run a criminal background search on all mentors and volunteers. You must attend a volunteer training to review the procedures and guidelines. If you did not attend our Open House and complete one of the trainings during that time, Ms. Roe will conduct trainings on the following dates and times:

January 16 9:00

February 6 3:00

Help us Stop Bullying! Parents, we want to do everything we can to assure the safety of all our students. Please take the time to view the "STOP BULLYING" video and discuss with your child. You can access the video at our district website under the "STOP BULLYING" link located near the bottom of the front page or by going to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GvmsRi8kXYQ&feature=youtu.be>

PRINCIPAL/PARENT CHATS

I will host Principal & Parent Chats each quarter. All parents are invited to attend. This is a very informal meet and greet. Parents are welcome to ask questions and make

suggestions. I look forward to meeting everyone at some point throughout the year. Dates are:

February 12 @ 9:30

April 2 @ 4:00

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

End of 2nd Quarter January 9th

SAC Meeting @ 3:45 January 15th

Progress Reports go home January 18th

Student Holiday/Teacher Workday January 21st

Literacy Night @5:00 January 24th

Progress Reports go home February 11th

Principal/Parent Chat @9:30 February 12th

Student Holiday/Teacher Workday February 18th

SAC Meeting @ 3:45 February 20th

Read Across America, Longwood Read-a-thon March 1st

TURN MARKERS INTO ENERGY!

The ColorCycle program has repurposed more than 70 tons of expended markers in the United States and Canada since 2013. This program uses the most advanced plastic conversion technologies available today to make wax compounds for asphalt and roofing shingles as well as generating electricity that can be used to heat homes, cook food, and power vehicles.

All around Longwood Elementary, students and teachers will be collecting used markers that are ready to be discarded. Please help support our efforts by sending your kids in with any used markers you may have around the house, even non-Crayola brands! Highlighters and dry erase markers can also be included. A drop-off box will be located in the library for your child to deposit the markers.

Thank you in advance for participating.

We Are Connected!

As many of you know, our classrooms are divided into Houses to help bring the students together and to motivate each other. We had several friendly competitions among the four Houses - House of Arabians, House of Japonesis, House of Snow and House of Fusca. Ask your child which House their class is in! The House of Arabians won the Home Reading Award for November, reading 6,423 pages and the Cafeteria Contest week 1. The House of Fusca won the iReady Reading Outstanding Growth Award and the Cafeteria Contest week 2, the House of Snow won the Cafeteria Contest week 4 and the iReady Math Outstanding Growth Award and the House of Japonesis won the Cafeteria Contest week 3. **WAY TO GO LEOPARDS**

PTO NOTES

2019 is gearing up to be a busy time for PTO!

***Coupon Book sales will start at the beginning of February**

***Yearbooks will also go on sale in February**

***Our annual Read-a-thon is Friday, March 1st**

Please keep collecting and sending in those Box Tops!

Your student will be bringing home more information on

how to get involved with saving Box Tops.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 18,

2019 at 8:15 in the Media Center.

TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

In keeping with school district policy, changes to your child's regular transportation must be submitted in writing. Transportation changes will not be taken over the phone.

Also, due to the busy dismissal time, the office cannot change transportation requests after 2:30 p.m. A note can be sent with your child and delivered to the office requesting a change in transportation. You may also fax a change to (850) 833-4336. Any note sent in or faxed must have the following information:

- 1. Parent/guardian signature**
- 2. The day's date**
- 3. Child's name**
- 4. Address and phone number of destination**

