

# Hickory Creek Elementary School HAWKS' NEST

*"First we love them, then we teach them"*

Dr. Paul Goricki, Principal



## From the Principal's Desk

### A Letter to Governor Crist about Senate Bill 6

Dear Governor Crist,

Last Thursday night I attended a first grade performance of "The Weather Show", a play in which my son had a minor role. The play, set in New York City, follows a girl's quest for an "ancient barometer". As I watched the performance I was fascinated at how the script integrated subject areas- reading, science, math and music. During rehearsals, the children had clearly learned to listen hard for cues, to focus and to participate when their turn came. All of the students projected their voices and practiced speaking in public with confidence. I was impressed with all their teachers had accomplished with them outside of the classroom.

As you consider in days to come whether to approve or veto Senate Bill 6, a bill that would tie 50 percent of a teacher's evaluation to student performance, please ask yourself how you would quantify what my son learned during his performance experience. How would you measure a growth in confidence and a desire to achieve more in the future?

In addition to being a dad, I am also the principal of Hickory Creek Elementary, a high achieving school in St. Johns County, where student learning ranks #1 in the State of Florida. St. Johns County is able to achieve much with the local control that the state provides to school boards. A "one-size-fits-all" solution is not what we need. It will lead us off the good path that we are taking in improving education in Florida.

As the "People's Governor", I urge you to veto Senate Bill 6 and protect the academic gains we are making in our state. You understand that great schools are the result of great teachers. Don't allow Florida's teachers and schools to be bound in complying with inadequate assessments that fail to measure the full worth of our teachers and students.

Parents, please let Governor Crist know your views about Senate Bill 6. His e-mail address is [Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com](mailto:Charlie.Crist@myflorida.com) Thank you!

April 12, 2010

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## Upcoming Events

April 13th

Kindergarten Field Trip  
Alhambra Dinner Theater

PTO Meeting 6:00pm

April 15th

SPMS Band Concert

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Please Remember  
Hickory Creek Elementary  
is a Peanut Allergy  
Awareness School.

## **Congratulations, Third Grade**

### ***Multiplication Masters!***

I am pleased to announce that last Friday 33 third graders earned membership into the *Principal's Multiplication Masters Club* by correctly answering at least 90 of 100 multiplication facts through the twelves. Each of the following students received medals, multiplication pencils, *Math Soars* lanyard pins and recognition in the Hawks Nest newsletter:

Ethan Bower Haden Brown Trevor Bruce  
Carey Carpenter Anna Clawson Gabrielle Cosey  
Alexander Crim Connor Eburn Torrie Ellison  
Ralph Eubanks Jake Glass Drew Goldsmith  
Alyssa Goodyear Jordan Haley Tarynn Kaelyn  
Marlin Keller Abigail Kennedy Nick McCutcheon  
Gabby Mendez Amanda Moss Shelby Page  
Jake Petlick Jacob Saarela Nicole Sowell  
Sophia Stachowiak Kinsey Strickland  
Madeline Stophel Christopher Sylvester  
Casey Trawick Ryan Thorsen Zachary Thorsen  
Rachel Turner Frederique Victor

The boys and girls feel very proud of this impressive achievement. I will look forward to honoring their classmates as they qualify for *Multiplication Masters* recognition in the weeks ahead.

### **First Graders delight Audiences with "The Weather Show"**

During two performances of "*The Weather Show: In Search of the Ancient Barometer*" first graders from Mrs. Ead's and Miss Schnepel's classes last week sang their way into the hearts of many students, parents, relatives and friends. Congratulations to the boys and girls for their strong performances, which were the result of new learning and long practice. What the first graders learned about the weather, barometric pressure, cold and warm fronts, precipitation and evaporation- was amazing. Well done, Mrs. Eads and Miss Schnepel!

Third Quarter Report Cards were sent home with students today. Please remember to spend time with your children discussing their academic progress and achievements. Be sure to offer your encouragement for the final quarter.

Sincerely, Dr. Goricki

## **School News**

### **TRUSTWORTHINESS - MARCH 2010**

#### **KINDERGARTEN**

Densmore - Connor Argott & Marshall Thomas  
Goselin- Landon Creamer & Angelina LoSchiavo  
Kruse - Riley Miller & Trae England  
Williams - Matthew Anderson & Jordon Valentine

#### **FIRST GRADE**

Eads- Sydney Rudowitz & Ryan Newman  
Isbell - Daniel Turner & Gabrielle Kourany  
Lewis - Alex Jones & Sydney Sylvester  
Richards - Haley Blair & Kellen Kovacs  
Schnepel - Colton Thomas & Kylie Myers  
Wierda - Nekaybaw Davis & Tyler Shee

#### **SECOND GRADE**

Andreoni - Emma Daley & Clayton Chambers  
Davis - Jade Owens & Alex Nieto-Thrift  
Guthmiller/Steinkamp Austin Edwards & Kayla Clarke  
Tees - Eric Urban & Payton Anderson  
Young/Slate - Grace Spence & William Blodgett

#### **THIRD GRADE**

Giuliani - Gavin Pate & Olivia McGehee  
Love - Berkeley Pillay & Easton Pillay  
Lurz - Mia Gutierrez & Breyana Duett  
Mittelstadt - Austin Fales & Samantha O'Donoghue  
Moody - Davis White & Cora Johnston  
Skinner - Sofie Dominguez & Patrick Leisten-  
schneider

#### **FOURTH GRADE**

Ford - Abby Viego & Riley Graham  
Murphy - Peter Gray & Sydney Richardson  
Naft - Faith Hinson & Michael Waters  
Neel - Dani McCarty & Chris Jones  
Swinehart - Alex Ausher & Caitlyn McQuaig

#### **FIFTH GRADE**

Benes/Brown/Itner/Mecke/Vara - Connor Dear, Kaelyn  
Hughes, David Craig, John Amell, Alex  
Morley, Ethan Thompson Adia Adoo,  
Sam Turner, Luzmaria Torres, Steven  
Holder

#### **EXT DAY**

Bright - Peter Goricki (Ms. Schnepel)  
Astrid Lim (Ms. Murphy)

## **2010 Art Attack!**

This years Art Attack! will be held May 1, 3 p.m.-9 p.m. A feast for the eyes and ears! Art Attack! showcases performing and visual art students in the St. Johns County School District. This year there will be a special performance by the St. Johns County Center for the Arts students from Murray Middle and St. Augustine High Schools. Additionally, the visual art classes are hard at work painting and designing stools/chairs that will be available for purchase. We will also have a contest for the best stool/chair! For ticket prices and additional information, please contact Donna Lueders at 547-7560 or luederd@stjohns.k12.fl.us.

## **Hawks Café Winners for March 15th**

Kindergarten: Mrs. Goselin

First Grade: Mrs. Isbell

Second Grade: Mrs. Davis

Third Grade: Mrs. Skinner

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Swinehart

Fifth Grade: Mrs. Mecke

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Hickory Creek Elementary will be having a Kindergarten registration April 22 from 9:00am to 6:00pm. Please call the school with any questions at 547-7451.

## **Goodwill "Bag -it-Up" Donation Drive**

Bag up your gently used clothing, shoes, books, toys, and household items for Goodwill! Each student that participates will receive a Good Citizen Award and a coupon for a free Kid's Meal at Firehouse Subs.

Each school that has a 60% participation rate or better will receive a 2 hour party package for the whole school from Radio Disney!

The drive will be held April 30th from 8:00am to 8:30am. Hand the donations to our students during morning drop off.

## **Hawks Café' News**

We are happy to announce some positive changes. Recently, the 4th & 5th grade classes participated in a taste test survey to see how well students would accept baked varieties of chips. The taste test revealed that certain flavors were well accepted. The favorites were the Nacho Cheese Doritos, Sour Cream & Onion Lays and the French Onion Sun Chips. These baked options contain less fat and fewer calories than regular chips and are now available at the Hawks Café'.

Another exciting change taking place within Saint Johns County School District is the addition of the Farm to School Program. This program gives our children the benefit of the freshest produce in their lunches while supporting our local farmers. Naturally ripened produce often provides higher nutrient value and richer flavor. Look for items like locally grown green beans, tomatoes and strawberries on future menus.

## **Food Lion Classroom Rewards Program**

Food Lion is proud to announce the new Classroom Rewards Program. This program will provide funds to help support local schools. Hickory Creek will earn funds based on a percentage of the overall qualified purchasers. The more you shop the more we earn.

It's easy to participate-enroll your MVP card to support HCE and Food Lion does the rest. Even if you have linked your MVP card in the past, you can re-link at [foodlion.com](http://foodlion.com) in order to earn credit for our school. Once your card is linked, every time you use your Food Lion MVP card, HCE will be automatically credited for every qualifying Food Lion Private Brand that you buy.

Food Lion is committed to being a good neighbor and to helping support the community in which we operate. Classroom Rewards is a great way to give back to support better education for our children. Thank you for supporting HCE!

### **Gifted Intent to Enroll Form Available**

All identified gifted students who declare intent to attend a cluster site program by the deadline will be admitted to the cluster site assigned to their home-zoned school. Transportation to out-of-zone schools will not be provided. Siblings of gifted students attending out-of-zone schools must apply for a waiver through the office of Student Services. The waiver application is posted on the district website and waivers are granted based on hardship. Deadline for submission of the intent form is May 7. A link to the form can be found on the home page of the school district.

### **PTO News**

This month's *April 13<sup>th</sup> General PTO meeting* will showcase HCE Student's Science interests at the 2nd Annual Science Fair Exhibit! All participants will receive a special Science Fair pin for their lanyard at Tuesday's meeting and will have an opportunity to share their process and results with those in attendance. All display boards are due to the Hawks Nest Café by 9:00am on MONDAY April 12th. All Science Fair participants should arrive at the HCE PTO General Meeting in the Hawks Nest Café no later than 6:15 pm. Feel free to check out some early class entries in the front office. We hope everyone will join us to find out what new things our students learned about our world! And in the process had FUN!

At the end of the year PTO Volunteers will be collecting & recycling gently used field trip shirts from those who would like to recycle at HCE. In the fall, as we return to school, PTO will have them organized by color and size to be chosen by those who wish to participate in the recycling drive. Of course, those who wish to purchase new shirts in the identical style from our supplier may do so online! Just a small effort to be good stewards at HCE!

HCE has many events coming up in the next 2 months including the 25 book Challenge and teacher/staff appreciation the first week in May :) Please be on the lookout for information coming from your classroom parent or contact so that we are all on the same page as we celebrate!

Sharmain Powell- HCE PTO President

**Parents and Teachers working together for our Children We are Hickory Creek**

### **Community News**

#### **2010 Pop Warner Registration**

Online registration for the 2010 Pop Warner Football and Cheer starts March 8, 2010 at [www.stjohnsbears.org](http://www.stjohnsbears.org).

Mandatory onsite registration will be held at Plantation Park Field House, Race Track Road Saturday, April 17, 2010, 9:00am - 1:00pm and payment due in full by April 17<sup>th</sup>. All players and parents are required to attend one onsite date to sign documents and meet coaches.

#### **An Earth Day Event**

You are cordially invited to the 6th Annual Bartram Bash taking place at Alpine Groves Park on Saturday, April 17th from 9:00am to 4:00pm. The event is free for the entire family. For additional information contact Beverly Fleming at 904-522-1573.

#### **North Florida All-Stars Dance Team**

Tryouts for our 2010-2011 season are coming up! All clinics and tryouts will be held at Mark Spivak's Fruit Cove location which is 445 N. State Rd 13, next door to Food Lion. Please visit our website for more details at [www.northfloridaallstars.com](http://www.northfloridaallstars.com) and to get your tryout package!

### **Passages for Fruit Cove Middle 6th Grade Girls**

Does your daughter have the middle school jitters? Tell her not to worry and plan for her to attend Passages.

Passages is a Girl Scout sponsored 2-day summer program that will introduce her to many middle school skills including changing classes, making the best use of her locker, opening her combination lock, dressing out for P.E., study and organizational strategies, peer pressure and much more.

This 2-day program is offered at their actual middle school and has 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade middle school girls to assist them during the program. Due to school closures over the summer, the only dates available are:

August 9 & 10 (Mon/Tues) 9 am-4 pm or

August 11 & 12 (Wed/Thur) 9 am-4 pm

Your daughter does not need to be a Girl Scout to attend but does have to be enrolled to begin 6<sup>th</sup> grade at Fruit Cove Middle School for 2010-2011 prior to attending the summer program. Space is limited so please do not delay in registering. The price is \$40.00.

For more information about this program and or to enroll your daughter in a session please contact Kerry Hale at [5hale@comcast.net](mailto:5hale@comcast.net).

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