



THE BARB

Fleming Island Elementary
PFA Newsletter Nov-Dec 2016

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From the Principal

Dear Parents,

As the weather gets chilly please be sure students label hats, jackets, etc. During these "peel off" days items are accumulating on our playgrounds. A reminder; that students are unsupervised outside the gates in the morning until 8:10. It is best if they arrive after 8:10 unless they are having breakfast.

Don't forget to plan to attend our first FIE Art Show on the evening of December 8th. I have seen previews and it looks to be fantastic.

Our School Improvement plan is complete and will be finalized by the Board this month. Our goals this year include increasing student engagement by using strategic activities and increasing writing in all curriculum areas. We will also be working on increasing achievement in math. The document will eventually be available on line next month.

Although much needed, the break pulls our students away from their studies for over two weeks at a crucial time in the year. I would encourage you to work with your child over the vacation to keep him/her fresh and ready to roll in the New Year.

During this season of giving I would like to recognize a couple of individuals who give of themselves to F.I.E. Our Teacher of the Year: Mrs. Karkkainen and our Support Employee of the Year, Mr. Columbano. In November we also welcomed our new Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Addison Davis.

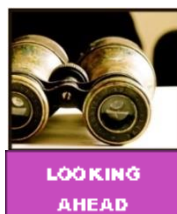
Have a safe and restful holiday season, we look forward to seeing you and your children in 2017.

Dana L. Archibald, Principal



FIE Stingray T-Shirts

The FIE School shirts are finally here! If you did not get one, we will do one more order the first week of December. Get them while you can. Look for order forms in Tuesday folders.



Dec 3 – FIE Clean Up Day

Dec 8 – Art Gala

Dec 16 – Early Dismissal

Dec 19 – Jan 4 – Christmas Break

Jan 11 – Report Cards on Portal

Jan 16 – No School

What are those white bins?

Have you ever noticed that there are white donation bins by the cafeteria loop? They are fundraising collection bins with a purpose. Go Green Charity Recyclers is a nonprofit organization that raises recycling awareness through hands-on programs and converts textiles into a charitable asset.

They promote education and support at-risk children and their families around the world. Our school receives pennies on the pound but we earned a little over \$300 last year.

That's a lot of pennies! We want you to continue to support this program as well as raise money for FIE. Items that can be donated are shoes (in plastic bags), clothing, belts, stuffed animals, linens, towels, etc. Thank you to all who have donated items this year!

Technology

Greetings! I am happy to report that many of our Fleming Island Stingrays are involved in exploring, researching and creating some sort of project using technology.

It is that time of year when our Students' passwords need to be changed. As they come to my class I will be assisting them in the change process. However, if you have set up a password recovery feature in the One Clay Portal to make that change, and not wait to do at school, then all is well. In my website I will have a link on how to set up this password recovery feature.

<http://flemingislandcomputerlab.weebly.com/>

The Hour of Code is coming during Computer Science Education Week: December 5-11! All grade levels will be doing some Code activity. Some of the upper grades or students that want a challenge will be introduced to Scratch, through CS first Gumball Coding Adventure. Others will be doing Run Marco, which is a fun coding adventure. Our littlest Stingrays will experience Kodable.com.

Over the last three years the Hour of Code has reached more than 100 million students in over 180 countries. Last year, Fleming Island Elementary helped make this the largest learning event in history. Computers are changing every industry on the planet, and coding has become relevant to a wide range of high-paying jobs—even those outside the technology and engineering fields. For millions of students, the Hour of Code will be an inspiring introduction to this crucial 21st century skill.

Art

All of FIE artists have been working hard getting ready for the first art show of the year. Please stop by and see creativity framed! The first annual Arts Gala will take place on December 8th at 5-7pm in the FIE cafeteria. Please look in the Tuesday folders for more information! Watch us working hard on Instagram @ StingrayArtStudio

Musical Notes

We are very excited about our Art and Music Gala that is on Thursday, December 8th from 5 - 7 p.m. Come enjoy your child's art and listen to the music of the season. The first grade classes will be singing in the following manner. Mrs. Doane's, Mrs. Harrell's and Mrs. Hamilton's at 5:55 to 6:10 p.m. at the flagpole or if inclement weather it will be in the music room. Then from 6:15 to 6:30 Mrs. Ramirez's, Mrs. Wells' and Mrs. Morgan's classes will perform.

The FIE Stingray Chorus will finish the night with their songs of the season from 6:40 to 7 p.m. at the flagpole

Drama Club

Drama Club is off to an exciting start. The Lion King Jr. cast has been selected and we will begin working on preparing for the show after Christmas Break. Mark your calendars Friday, April 21st & Saturday, April 22nd are the dates for the show. Have a Very Happy Hakuna Matata Holiday Season!!!!

Reading Resource

November is off to a busy and "thank-filled" month in Reading Resource. Fifth grade has been engaged in discussions about character as we read *The Sweetest Fig* a short story fantasy written by Chris Van Allsburg. They have also enjoyed practicing their French accents as the setting of the book is Paris. Parents of Kindergarten and First grade students: Be prepared for your Stingray to stump you with some turkey trivia over the break. We've had some fun with comparing fiction *'Twas the Night Before Thanksgiving* and non-fiction *All About Turkeys*. I'm pretty sure we all know more about turkeys than we ever cared to, but...we're having a lot of fun. Happy Thanksgiving!

Jennifer Sherman
Reading Resource

VOLUNTEERS!

Log your hours from home anytime. Go to fiepa.org under Volunteers and submit hours. It's that easy! Help us maintain our Golden Apple Award for excellence in volunteering.

Fall Spruce Up Landscaping Day

Saturday, December 3rd

Time: 9 a.m. to 12 noon

Roll up your sleeves, bring your garden gloves and any garden tools you want to help us clean our campus and landscaping. Tools can include: pressure washer, weed eater, trimming tools, garbage/lawn bags, rakes, hedge trimmers, weed killer spray, and more! Teen volunteers will receive double hours, so bring them, too!

Pre K Notes

Pre K is so much fun during the holidays! Thank you to all the parents who sent in food for our Favorite Foods Feast. The kids love having family come in and sharing some of their favorite things to eat with their friends.

The Pre K Christmas program will be on Wednesday, December 14th at 10am in the cafeteria. Please join us for holiday songs and a special slideshow. After the program each class will enjoy pizza and crafts in their classroom

Kindergarten Notes

Kindergarten welcomed Ms. Tisdelle to FIE in September. She is a great addition and we are fortunate to have her as part of our team. Kindergarten is getting ready for our annual pumpkin carving event and storybook character parade. Please watch for information in your child's folder.

Kindergarten Notes

Kindergarten is excited for the arrival of the Polar Express trains! We enjoy seeing this family project each year. Kindergarten teachers are contacting room parents regarding holiday festivities. Keep watch for information via Tuesday folders or email.

Please continue reading with your child in his/her reading binder. The children are working on blending phonemes (sounds) to read words, as well as sight words.

1st Grade Notes

First grade thoroughly enjoyed presenting the ABCs of Thanksgiving to our families. We enjoyed the show and the time spent together before the holiday break. Thank you so much to all those who came to celebrate with us. We are very excited to be providing music during the Art & Music Gala on December 8th. Be on the lookout for more information on this exciting event from your child's teacher. Heading into this busy time of year, we ask that you continue to have your child read nightly. As in many things, practice makes perfect. Thank you so much for your continuous support.

3rd Grade Notes

The students in third grade had a very busy November. They have been working hard, and we are proud of their accomplishments. Students are getting excited as we head into December. We would like to keep our focus on learning as well as enjoying this festive time of year. Students are well into learning and mastering multiplication and division facts now. You might want to encourage them to practice Moby Max fact master, use flashcards, or ask them to teach you to play a game of Circles and Stars as a way to master those facts. Because December is a short month for school, it will also really help if your child is encouraged to keep reading over the holidays. The transition back into school in January will be smoother if your child is reading and practicing those math facts. It is that time of year when students begin to run out of supplies. They run low on crayons, glue sticks, and pencils. These items make great stocking stuffers. Finally, the third grade teachers would like to wish you and your families a wonderful, restful, and safe holiday season, and we will see you again in January. Happy Holidays!

5th Grade Notes

Fifth grade remains busy as we complete the first half of the school year. A big thank you to the students and parental support on the FABULOUS Native American projects! The projects were very impressive and informative. Please use the Christmas break as a time to maintain IDR and math fact reinforcement. Moby Max is a great way to maintain skills as well. When we return from break, we will be working on intensive FSA writing practice. Also, ELA and Math FSA computer practice will be in full swing. If you'd like to go ahead and preview the state's website for FSA practice, please visit: <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/practice-tests/>. Thank you for your amazing support and have a safe and joyful holiday season!

6th Grade Notes

The first annual 6th grade service project was a success. F.I.E. collected 463 pounds of food to donate to the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs. Thank you Mrs. Michaels for organizing this event. The Salvation Army of Clay County and JP Hall Charities are collecting items for needy children this Christmas season. Many thanks to the sixth grade students for their contributions. Please continue to check FOCUS for assignments and test dates. If students are absent, they can find their make-up work on FOCUS. In addition, interim grades and report cards are now available through the portal.