



Home of the Wildcats

Wilkinson Bulletin



Home of the Wildcats

Empower, Engage & Innovate

March 2017 Parent Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Wildcat Families,

We kicked off March with activities that connected to "Read Across America." Over the course of the year, we have taken many opportunities to celebrate our students as readers. We believe it is one of the most important life skills. For that reason, **EVERY** Wildcat should practice reading at home for 20 minutes a night. Take this time to read with your child, ask them questions, visualize stories and share personal connections with what they are reading. Most of all cherish your time together, and let your child see how important the art of reading is in their lives.

Research indicates:

- if a student reads 20 minutes a night, they will be exposed to 1,800,000 words per year and score in the 90th percentile on standardized tests.
- If a student reads 5 minutes a night, they will have been exposed to 282,000 words per year and score in the 50th percentile on standardized tests.
- If a student reads 1 minute a night, they will have been exposed to 8,000 words per year and score in the 10th percentile on standardized tests.

This means the more your child reads the smarter they get. So, please stress the importance of a good book.

Florida Standards Assessment

In just a few weeks, our students will be taking the **Florida Standards Assessments** (FSA). Not only will the assessments affect the outcome of the school's grade, but it is a measure of students' progress throughout the year.

We must take advantage of every opportunity to ensure success. A pivotal and critical component of student achievement is parent involvement. If you are interested in learning more about the assessment, go to <http://fsassessments.org/students-and-families/>.

During the week of testing, please make sure your child is well rested, arrives early for school, eats a healthy breakfast, and leaves all electronic devices at home. Students who have in their possession an electronic device during testing will have their test invalidated, even if the device is not visible and turned off.

Please see reference to the Spring 2017 Testing calendar for important testing dates.

Thank you all for what you do to support Wilkinson Elementary.

Yours in Education,

Heather Teto, Principal



FOCUS Parent Portal

Focus is the Student Information System that includes attendance, assessment, communication, discipline, digital lesson delivery, gradebook, and progress monitoring information. Parents, please remember to register for an account at: <https://focus.oneclay.net/focus/auth/>

Spring 2017 Testing Schedule for WES

G R A D E 3	March 29, FSA ELA, Session 1, Grade 3
	March 30, FSA ELA, Session 2, Grade 3
	April 18, FSA Math, Session 1, Grade 3
	April 19, FSA Math, Session 2, Grade 3
G R A D E 4	April 10, FSA ELA, Session 1, Grade 4
	April 11, FSA ELA, Session 2, Grade 4
	April 25, FSA Math, Session 1, Grade 4
	April 26, FSA Math, Session 2, Grade 4
G R A D E 5	April 25, FSA ELA, Session 1, Grade 5
	April 26, FSA ELA, Session 2, Grade 5
	May 1, FSA Science, Session 1, Grade 5
	May 2, FSA Science, Session 2, Grade 5
	May 3, FSA Math, Session 1, Grade 5
May 4, FSA Math, Session 2, Grade 5	
G R A D E 6	May 1, FSA Math, Session 1, Grade 6
	May 2, FSA Math, Session 2, Grade 6
	May 3, FSA ELA, Session 1, Grade 6
	May 4, FSA ELA, Session 2, Grade 6



Dates to Remember



March 17, 2017, Friday, St. Patrick's Day
March 20 – March 24, 2017 Spring Break, Student/Teacher Holiday
March 27, 2017, Monday, Planning Day, Student Holiday
March 28, 2017, Tuesday, Students Return to School
March 29, 2017, Wednesday, 3rd Grade FSA Testing begins (See Testing Schedule)
March 29, 2017, Wednesday, Picture Day (both Individual and Group Pictures)
April 7, 2017, Friday, Fair Day, Student Holiday
April 14, 2017, Friday, Student/Teacher Holiday
April 16, 2017, Sunday, Easter Sunday
May 2, 2017, Tuesday, Interims
May 5 – May 12, 2017, WES Book Fair
May 11, 2017, Thursday, P.R.O.W.L. Breakfast
May 12, 2017, Friday, Early Dismissal
May 14, 2017, Sunday, Mother's Day
May 16, 2017, Tuesday, Kindergarten Reading Readiness
May 29, 2017, Monday, Memorial Day, Student/Teacher Holiday
June 7, 2017, Wednesday, Last Day Students, Early Dismissal
June 8, 2017, Thursday, Last Day Teachers
June 18, 2017, Sunday, Father's Day

Art News

Wilkinson Elementary enjoys the **Art Gala** each year. We will unfortunately have a hiatus this year. Mrs. Patton will soon be going on maternity leave for the remainder of the year. We look forward to the Art Gala resuming again in the 2017-2018 school year!

Test-Taking Tips

Tests are a fact of life for kids in school. Below are some common sense approaches to test taking that can reduce anxiety and help improve test performance.

- Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep before a test and make sure your child eats properly the day of a test.
- Maintain a pleasant home environment and avoid unnecessary conflicts. Try to make the morning of the test a pleasant one. Do not add to your child's stress.
- Make sure your child has taken any needed medication.
- Ensure that your child is present during testing (children generally perform better when taking tests in their groups rather than at a make-up time).
- Get your child to school on time the day of the test.
- Wish your child good luck each morning of the test. Tell your child that he/she is special and that you believe in him/her!
- Remind your child the test is important. Encourage him/her to do his/her best.

Clinic News

Using good health habits can help prevent the cold and flu. It's important to wash your hands frequently and cover your cough and sneezes. The best way to prevent the flu is to be vaccinated each year.

If you suspect you have the flu, stay home when you're sick to prevent spreading it to others.

Source: <http://symptoms.webmd.com/cold-flu-map/avoid-cold-flu>