

Tiger News

South Ward Elementary
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Area I Superintendent
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Director School Operations

Mr. Randall Rozelle
Principal

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

A heartfelt "Welcome Back" to students, parents, and staff at South Ward Elementary. I hope your holidays were special and memorable. This is a new year with new challenges and opportunities. It is a good time to resolve to get really involved in your child's education. Please make plans to attend conferences, PTA and / or SAC meetings when you can.

The end of the second grading period is Friday, February 16th. Mid-term progress reports will be sent home with each student by Friday, January 12th. This is a good time to discuss your child's progress, study habits or other issues, and review goals for the remainder of this grading period.

Remember, we welcome you and encourage you to visit our school whenever possible. Please encourage your children to stay on track, continuing to improve this year.

We value our parents and visitors. For the safety of our students please stop by our office and sign in.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, 1/9	SAC Meeting, Canceled
Monday, 1/15	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Holiday School Closed for Students and Staff
Friday, 1/19	PTA Fundraiser Limo Ride/Lunch
Thursday, 1/25	Math Family Fun Night 6-8
Wednesday, 1/31	Early Dismissal Day, Students Dismissed at 12:40
Friday, 2/2	Next Newsletter Home with Students
Tues. 2/6-Wed. 2/7	FCAT writing testing for all 4 th grade students
Wednesday, 2/7	PTA Board Mtg. 3:00 p.m. Media Center
Tuesday, 2/13	SAC Meeting, 7:35 Media Center
Monday, 2/19	Early Dismissal Day, Students dismissed at 12:40. Staff involved in school improvement training.

SAC NEWS

I hope you all had a safe and enjoyable time with your children over the holidays. The SAC meeting this month is cancelled. We're all getting back into the swing of things after Winter Break.

We desperately need members who are available to attend SAC meetings once a month. This is a great way to get involved in your child's education. If you are interested, please call me or Mr. Rozelle. Please try to come to our next meeting on Tuesday, February 13th at 7:30 a.m. in the Media Center to see what we're all about.

Chastity Apple
SAC Chair

PTA NEWS

Happy New Year, South Ward Family!

I hope you all enjoyed the blessings of fun & family that the holidays bring. Now, of course, it feels like "back to work" ... but there's plenty of fun ahead yet!

Friday, Jan. 19, our Fall Fundraiser top-sellers will receive their reward of a limo lunch with the principal. Congrats again to them and to ALL of you who made the fundraiser a success! And February means **Valentine's Day**, which means carnations! Details will follow soon, but sales will start after the first of next month so start your Sweetheart Lists now. ☺

Tiger Fun Night (in April) will be upon us before we know it. If you'd like any part of that great event, or just have some ideas to share, organizational meetings will begin soon.

As always, your PTA Board meets in the Media Center the **first Wednesday of each month at 3:00**. Don't hesitate to join us!

Wishing you all a SAFE & HAPPY 2007,
Sandi
727-215-4574, clwsandi@verizon.net

Reading First News They've Been Spotted!

"I've Been DIBELed" stickers have been spotted on the tee-shirts and tops of kindergarten through fifth grade students this week and will continue to be spotted throughout the next two weeks. The second cycle of the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS), the assessment tool used to monitor the reading progress of our students has begun. Kindergartners will be assessed in the areas of letter naming, letter sounds, and phonics. First and second graders will be assessed in the areas of phonics and oral reading. Third through fifth graders will be assessed in oral reading only. All measures are one minute tasks except for the initial sounds measure in kindergarten, which takes about three minutes. All are given one-on-one. The information obtained from DIBELS will identify students who are on grade level, who are in need of more assistance and determine if students are improving with extra assistance. All DIBELS information pertaining to your child will be shared with you during your conferences with your child's teacher, or you can just ask! You can learn more about DIBELS at the following website and link:
<http://www.justreadflorida.org/conf-03-lead/ppt-howard.pdf>
and remember...ask your child about their DIBELS experience this month and look for those stickers!!!

Fondly,

Laurel Peters

Reading Coach

South Ward Elementary would like to thank the UPS store for printing our newsletter.

Title One Update – January 2007

Welcome back and Happy New Year!! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. I am sure you spent lots of time enjoying your children. Now it is time to get back to our school routine and watch your children grow.

Title One was very busy this past semester. We have had several opportunities to work with both parents and children. Our Family Fun Reading Night was a huge success. It was great to see so many families out enjoying reading with their children. Kudos to you parents! You are giving your children the wonderful message that you value their education. As teachers we loved every minute of it from the planning to the actual activities. How lucky you are to have your children here as a part of our South Ward family with so many devoted and interested teachers. Second semester is going to be even better. On Thursday, January 25, 2007, Title One will be sponsoring a Family Fun Math Night. Outback has so generously agreed to provide dinner for two hundred participants. You will need a ticket so be sure to watch for the Math Night flyer and return your dinner reservation quickly. It will be a great night to come out with your children and have some fun playing Math games. The children won't even realize they are learning. Many of the activities are ones that you can duplicate and play at home to reinforce those math skills.

If I can ever be of any assistance to you, please call. Be sure to watch your student's bookbag for upcoming event information. Happy New Year!!

Mary Agliano
Title One Facilitator, South Ward Elementary
298-2835

" Give Kids A Smile! " Event

Friday, February 2, 2007, participating children* will be seen for a screening, x-rays, a cleaning and sealants if needed.

The following Saturday, February 10, 2007, Children* may receive follow-up care such as fillings and extractions.

*Requirements to qualify:

- Meeting income criteria (please call to discuss)
- Ages 3-18
- Parent/Guardian Consent
- Provide transportation to and from the event site

An exciting event is coming to Pinellas County in February 2007. This is a free service provided by volunteer dentists from our community. The dentists will give dental care for those who meet the requirements. Many children from Pinellas Schools were served last year and we would like to increase that number. If you are interested in this service, please call me.

Cindy Roberts
School Social Worker
727-469-5991
727-429-1605 (pager)

FCAT Writing +

All 4th graders will be taking the FCAT Writing Plus (+) on February 6th and 7th. Testing will begin each day promptly at 9:00 A.M., therefore, please make every effort to have your child at school on time each day. The FCAT writing test has been expanded and will be administered in two portions; an essay portion and a multiple choice portion. On the essay writing day students will be given 45 minutes to write to a prompt. The prompt will be expository or narrative. The purpose of expository writing is to explain, define or tell how to do something. The purpose of narrative writing is to tell a story. The multiple choice portion test items deal with grammar, mechanics, usage and spelling. To see samples of prompts and multiple choice items that have been used in the past please visit the Department of Education Website—www.fldoe.org. If you have any questions please call Miss Moore at 469-5991.