



Williams Elementary News



1245 S.E. 7th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32601

955-6719

www.williamspta.org

September/October 2008

From the Principal

Dear Families,

Thank you for sending your wonderful children to us this year. We have grown to 570 students, up from 500 in May! We have had a fantastic school opening. Remember to check your child's planner or home folder (in kindergarten) each night and initial that you saw the assignments and notes from the teacher. Home and school communication is a necessity and we have a goal of 100% of our families participating in signing the planners nightly!

Our PTA will be hosting a community meeting at Williams Elementary on Tuesday, September 23, and we hope you can attend. Mark McGriff, Citizens for Strong Schools, Jackie Johnson, Alachua County School Board Information Officer, and Sue Johnson, Friends of Alachua County Elementary Arts Programs, will be the speakers. We need your input into ideas on ways to save our school's programs for your children. Plan on attending this very important meeting on September 23 from 6:30-7:30. The PTA will also have a general membership meeting at 5:30 to vote on this year's budget.

We welcome all families into our school. We have an Open Door policy and encourage you to sign in at the front office and then visit your child at lunch or in the classroom. Do remember that teachers cannot conference with you during class time. We are, however, available after school to meet with you. Our first conference night will be Monday, November 3 (report card day) and we expect ALL families to come in for a conference!

Check out the new web page at www.williamspta.org. We also have a Williams Family calendar of all our events linked to this page. In addition, many of our teachers already have classroom web pages up and available for you to view assignments and activities. We want everyone informed of all the wonderful things that happen at Williams Elementary School!

If you have any ideas or concerns to share, please email or call me anytime. Also, we do need more volunteers, so check out the "Help Wanted" ad in this newsletter. Because of budget cutbacks, we will be printing the PTA newsletter at the end of each grading period (instead of monthly). It will go home in each report card beginning on November 3. But you can stay updated by going to the calendar on the web site.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Dixon, Principal

What's Happening Around Our School

- ☺ Every **Wednesday** is **School Spirit Day** at Williams! Be sure to wear your Wildcat t-shirt and show your school pride!
- ☺ **Thursday, September 18**—Fifth Grade Magnet to Doyle Connor Building
- ☺ **Monday and Tuesday, September 22nd & 23rd**—Third Grade to Santa Fe CC Planetarium and Zoo
- ☺ **Tuesday, September 23**—PTA Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- ☺ **Tuesday, October 14**—Cookie Dough Sale begins
- ☺ **Friday, October 24**—UF Homecoming, No School





Resource Classes



Media Center

Hours

Monday – Friday from 7:15 A.M.– 2:45 P.M.

The Williams Media Center is in a temporary facility (Music Room) awaiting the renovation which is expected to be completed January 2009! Due to the renovation, the students will be allowed to check-out only **one book at a time for one week**. This year we have placed a due date card in their book to remind them of the date the book is due back in the media center so please help us to encourage your student to return their book on time. If your student needs the book longer they need to bring the book in and we will renew it. And of course, please encourage your student to READ, READ, READ!

I look forward to working with you and your student and if you have any questions or concerns please call Mrs. Skotko, Media Specialist at 352-955-6719.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”
Dr. Seuss

Art

The Art Program is in full swing and our student artists are creating high quality projects. Second through fifth graders began the year with lessons on reading the *credit line* (the information that accompanies a piece of art). They learned how to identify the artist, the artist’s nationality, date of production, title of piece, medium and size. They learned the various mediums artists use for visual creative expression and practiced analyzing pieces from a variety of perspectives.

First through fifth graders all recently completed “Name Plate” designs. They learned basic graphic design principles of spacing, balance, symmetry, positive/negative space and warm and cool colors. Completed pieces are on exhibit in the art building foyer gallery. Kindergarteners are now completing self-portrait paintings – to be on display soon.

New projects are beginning this week.

First grade – “People in Action”

Second Grade – “Amate Bark Paintings”

Third Grade – “Georgia O’Keefe Flowers”

Fourth Grade – “Mona Lisa/American Gothic Parodies”

Fifth Grade – “City Street - Linear Perspective”

Keep up the good work!

P.E.

Williams is excited to welcome Coach Jossi to our school, and he has hit the ground running, teaching students valuable lessons in sports and fitness.

Kindergarten through second grades are currently working on becoming familiar with their bodies and spatial awareness, and the basics of physical fitness.

Grades three through five are learning the basics of playing Ultimate Frisbee.

All students are participating in the **Prudential Fitnessgram**. This is a series of fitness assessments that evaluate each student’s aerobic and muscular endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength.





Wildcats of the Week



Congratulations to the following students who were selected by their teachers to be “Wildcat of the Week” for the weeks of 9/2 and 9/8:

Kindergarten: Rodricka Cook, Jan’ia Jackson, Sannalynn Bethea, August Herrman, Kaetiona Wilson, Deonte Latson, Richard Smith, Christian Norman

First Grade: Keden Wallace, Jalani Davis, Curteanna Jackson, Naqeeb Mohammed, Destiny McCullough, Jasmine Boyd, Jermaine Williams, Corinne Talham

Second Grade: Jarkiera Smith, Emory MacPhaul, David Dunaway, Demond O’Neal, Tanisha Smith, Hezekiah Coar, Williams Rutherford, Di’Shon McGlon, Lila Collings, Daja McDaniels, Sa’Mya Harrell, Whitney Watson

Third Grade: Samantha Hand, Natanee Roper, Elijah Hinde, Rachel Driver, Juston Harbilas, Timani Rowe, Catherine Bichier, Chanel Lord, Janiya White, Janayshia Harrison, Thomas McInnes

Fourth Grade: DeAvion Williams, Malik Powers, Makalla Phelps, Sahar Kaleem, Kalissa Jackson, Brooklyn Kelly, Mikeisha Rivers, Jamari Ross, Elijah Killingsworth, Deiontae Jackson

Fifth Grade: Marcus Peterson, Wilson Peter, Dylan Probert, Eric Lee, Niya Buchanon, Keonis Markham, Jackson Jost, Seth Giles, Deiondryia Cofield, Tysheria Smalls

A Note from Your CRT

Welcome!

We are Wild about ALL of our returning and new Wildcats! The year is well on its way with On track Testing for third-fifth grades, Million Minutes of Reading, DIBELS, a new reading series, technology everywhere, special projects, field trips, after school tutoring preparations, new friends, and much, much, more. I hope that you can already tell how excitingly powerful this school year will prove to be for all of us.

Million Minutes of Reading logs should have been received home no later than Monday, September 8th. Our students are reading twenty minutes every night for homework, so please be sure to have them log their minutes and return their forms signed to school no later than _____. Let’s show what great readers we truly are. Escape into a book and rack up those minutes!

Do you find that you have a few extra minutes once a week to work on building a meaningful relationship with a child? Do you know someone who is a person of great influence, who might also be interested? Please let us know. There is incredible power in positive relationships and the rewards are beyond any you could imagine!

Are you interested in details on any of the above? Please always feel free to call me, catch me around school, or email me, Mrs. Fortner, at 955-6719 or fortnev@gm.sbac.edu.

As always, thanks for entrusting your child’s education to us and for partnering with Williams as we continue to prepare students for a successful life ahead.

Until next time,

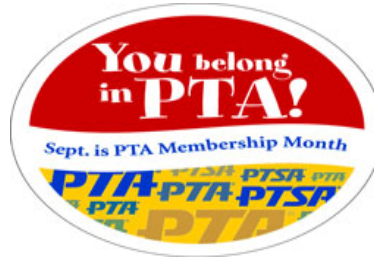
Mrs. Fortner, CRT



PTA News and Announcements



A Word From Your PTA Co-Presidents



Dear Williams Elementary Families-

We would like to begin by welcoming ALL families to another great year here at Williams Elementary. Over the past few years PTA has developed into a strong force which has been very successful at bringing materials such as Smart Boards, picnic tables and a covered awning to our school. Completing a PTA membership form is a great way to show your support for Williams and to allow PTA to continue to provide these valuable materials. If you are also able to take the next step and be able to share your time, even if it is only an hour, we would love that too! We are hoping to reach 100% participation in PTA this year and we are confident that we will be able to reach that goal. To register, simply complete and return the membership form in this newsletter, copy one from our website or come and visit the table at our next PTA meeting.

Our first PTA General Assembly meeting will be held on Tuesday September 23 at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. We are looking forward to a strong turnout for the meeting, where we will outline our proposed PTA budget for this school year and elect PTA officers. This important meeting will be followed by a special PTA sponsored presentation regarding the "Save Our Schools" initiative. Mark McGriff, chairperson for Citizens for Strong Schools will present important information about items in the upcoming November election that stands to have a drastic impact upon our schools. Please plan on attending, your child's education will be affected by this outcome. We need all of the parental support we can get during these difficult financial times.

PTA is already active in continuing to bring money into Williams through the fundraisers we sponsor. Entertainment books have gone home, and are a good way to generate money for Williams. Please return the book or money to your child's teacher. Other upcoming fundraisers include Holiday cookie dough sale, a GRU light bulb sale, and a catalog sale. We encourage families to participate in support of Williams. Thank you all very much and we look forward to a great year together!

Thank you-

Melissa McCallister & Wendy Rosche Smith, PTA co-Presidents



PTA News and Announcements



The Latest BUZZ from the Williams PTA...

We are proud to be able to sell our own Wicked Wildcat Coffee. It is organic and locally roasted by Gainesville's own Sweetwater Organic Coffee Company.

You can purchase regular or decaf coffee that is either whole bean or ground.

The cost is \$11.00 for 1 pound or \$10.50 if you purchase 2 or more pounds at a time.

Please complete the following order and submit with a check payable to Williams PTA by **Friday, September 26**. All coffee orders will be delivered on Monday, October 6.

Wicked Wildcat Coffee Order Form

Regular Decaf.

_____ lbs. ground _____ lbs. ground

_____ lbs. whole bean _____ lbs. whole bean

Name of student: _____

Name of parent: _____

Parent phone number or email address: _____

Teacher and Grade: _____

If you are interested in ordering coffee for more than one month at a time contact Cyndi Reneke at (386) 462-1254 or ccreneke@windstream.net