

Gator Gazette

From the Principal.....

Can you believe it is already February? Time is moving fast and we still have a lot yet to do! Please continue helping us help your child. Our home and school connection is critical to the academic success of every student at Spring Creek Elementary! We are 'rounding up for success'! In addition to a great education, a safe and orderly daily operation is important. Here are a few reminders to help keep us all safe.

1. No children should be dropped off before **8:05** in the morning. Sending your child into the building prior to this time could pose a danger because not all staff members are in place before this time to ensure proper monitoring. Car rider drop off begins at 8:05 when staff are visible and unloading cars. No drop-offs or walk-ins in the front bus parking lot.
2. Please do not take valuable teaching time away from your child. Each student needs to be here the full day! If you must pick your child up early in an emergency situation please do so before **3:00**. The end of the day is reserved for preparing staff and students to depart for the day. Late arrival and early departure tardies add up quickly.
3. Please limit phone call requests to your child's teacher during the hours of 8:05 – 3:45 to an emergency situation only. Instructional time is crucial! General questions and/or concerns should be reserved for after school hours.
4. Parents/guardians should remain in their cars in the car rider line to receive their child at dismissal. No walk-ups will be allowed. Please have your car tag visible. Remember- Bring your patience with you!
5. When bringing students to school or picking them up it is required that you follow the traffic pattern and remain in designated driving areas. Do not drive around the building to drop off or pick up students unless you have special medical permission to do so. Please help us maintain a safe campus for all foot traffic.

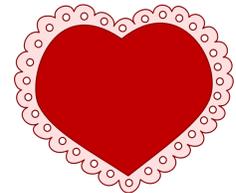
Following these safe practices will help us all be danger free! I look forward to working with you to make our little 'GATORS' the best ever!

Lori Goodman
Principal

Upcoming Dates/Events

January

- Jan. 1—Holiday
- Jan. 25—Movie Night
- Jan. 25—End of 2nd Grading Period
- Jan. 30—Early Dismissal



February

- Feb. 1—Report Cards
- Feb. 15—Jump Rope for Heart
- Feb. 18—Workday—No School for students
- Feb. 21—STEAM Night

March

- March 6—Early Dismissal
- March 28—End of 3rd Grading Period
- March 29—Schools Closed



Greetings from Title 1

It is hard to believe we are already in the second half of the school year. How time flies! Title 1 continues to encourage a positive home/school connection. The partnership between home and school is very important to the success of our children. It is evident through the outpouring of participation in our Title 1 engagement opportunities so far this year. So again, we say thank you!

We have many exciting and engaging events to look forward to in the coming months. We would like to invite you to the following family engagement activities: On January 25, 2019, we will enjoy "SCE Movie Night." This promises to be a fun and engaging night for the entire family. The movie is free however, you will have an opportunity to purchase refreshments. Our school's Title 1 team is hosting a parent workshop on January 28, 2019. Parents will have an opportunity to learn ways to help their child prepare for Standardized Tests. We are very excited about this upcoming workshop and look forward to seeing you! Our Family S.T.E.A.M. Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) will be held on February 21st beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for a night of discovery based learning, student led activities, and engaging S.T.E.A.M. activities that can also be done at home. We will also have a plethora of project based-learning exhibits for you to explore and discover new concepts.

Our District Title 1 Spring Seminar will be held in March. More details to follow. Please remember to visit our "Parent Resource Center" located in rooms 804-806 in the Title 1 trailer. It has a variety of games and activities you can check out to enhance your child's learning experience. We have a plethora of engaging games that the entire family can play and learn. In order to take advantage of this great opportunity, you must have a prescription form filled out by your child's teacher outlining their needs. The hours of operation are from 8:30-9:00 a.m and 3:00-4:15 p.m. If you need to come at a different time, please call Mrs. Thomas@919-751-7155 to set up an appointment.



Art News

This semester our Spring Creek artists have been busy creating fall scenes with paint and oil pastels, weaving Native American projects, designing holiday decorations, painting snow globes and many other creative projects. This fall, our school had 20 entries to participate in The Wayne County Agricultural Fair with several students receiving 1st , 2nd and 3rd place ribbons. We frequently have student art exhibits featured at the 3 State Employee Credit Unions in town. Your child will receive notification when his/her artwork is displayed. Our artists are preparing for our annual Berkeley Mall exhibit to be held in the spring.

Kindergarten News

Our Kinder Gators are working so hard this year! They are becoming more independent learners and can follow classroom routines and expectations. We are amazed at the progress each child has made so far and we look forward to watching your child grow even more from now until the end of the school year. We are reading and working on sight words to get ready for first grade!! In Math, we are adding and subtracting and writing numbers from 0-20. We have learned all the 2d and 3d shapes and how to measure objects by length, height, and weight. In Science, we have studied weather, rainbows, plants, and are currently learning the life cycles of insects and other animals. Please make sure you are working with your child each day reviewing letters and sounds, sight words, and reading (15-20 minutes). Search for letters/words in books and magazines and use them to write words and simple sentences. Thank you for all that you do to help your child succeed!

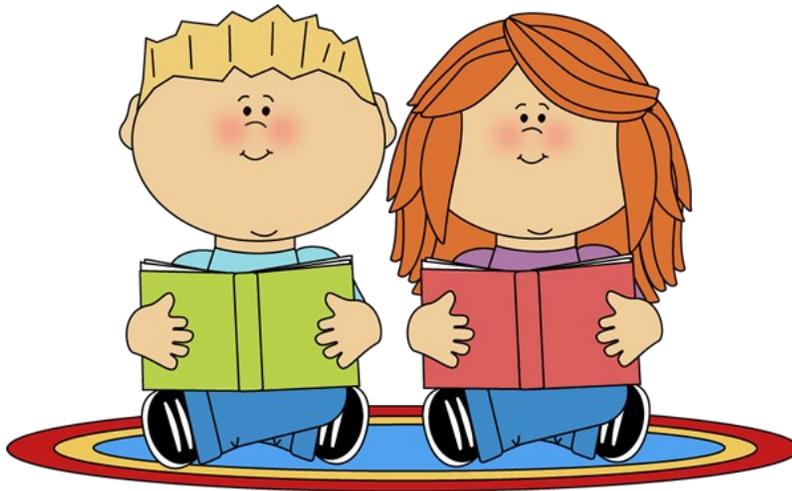


First Grade News

Welcome to a new year, 2019, and the second half of first grade! The children have recently completed their mid-year assessments in reading and comprehension.

They are in process of completing their math assessments. The "DATA" from these evaluations will show the progress the students have made from the beginning of the school year. Teachers will review the progress with parents during "Data Chat" conferences. Parents, if you have not met with your child's teacher, please schedule a meeting as soon as possible. In our school subjects, we recently began reading our third Language Arts anthology, *Here and There*. This book contains many adventure stories about people and animals. In math, we are counting to 120, extending number patterns, reviewing place value (tens and ones), finding ten more and ten less, adding and subtracting to 18, and solving word problems. We are also planning a field trip for the month of March! Parents, we always need your help with reading homework. Please practice reading with your child everyday for 15-20 minutes.

Please ask your child questions about what they read. Help them retell the story - naming the characters, the setting, identifying the problem and the solution in every story. The children should be able to read and answer who, what, where, when, why and how question stems for every story they read. They also should be able to tell the main idea and give details from the story, as well as tell the beginning, middle, and end events. Please review all papers that are sent home in your child's homework folder. Working together, we can help the children become successful in first grade.



Second Grade News

What a great start to 2 nd grade we have had! We have hit the ground running and have learned so much already. In reading, we have been working on reading various passages and answering different types of questions. In math, we are working on writing numbers in different forms and adding 2 digit numbers. In December, we studied Christmas around the world and took our first field trip to Disney on Ice in Fayetteville. This was a wonderful time for all of us.

As we look ahead, we are looking forward to all that we will be doing to finish out the year. We will be having our STEAM night in February, which is always a great time here at school. We will also be going to Odom farms in April for their AG day to learn about how agriculture affects our everyday lives. Moving ahead in math, we will be talking more about time and money. We will also continue working on our reading strategies to become better readers as we move into 3 rd grade.

We are so excited to have Mrs. Howard, Ms. Lowery, Mrs. Hairston, and Mrs. Jones on our team this year. We hope for a great and successful 2nd half of the year full of fun and learning!

Third Grade News

Wow, that was a quick semester!! It's difficult to believe that we are now in the last semester of the school year. With that being said, we still have quite a bit of work to do and many more skills to teach your student.

In **English Language Arts**, we still have to discuss **CENTRAL MESSAGE, CONTEXT CLUES, FABLES, and SEQUENCE**. All of these skills will be tested on the EOG in May. We are working diligently to help your student succeed on this test! We would like to ask that you urge your student to read each night in order to help develop the stamina needed to take this test.

In **Math**, we will be learning **DIVISION, AREA and PERIMETER, and FRACTIONS**. We will continue to study **MULTI-STEP WORD PROBLEMS**. Please practice multiplication each night. It is crucial to your student's success.

SCIENCE and **SOCIAL STUDIES** will focus on **COMMUNITIES, MAP SKILLS, LANDFORMS, and SPACE**.

We had an absolute blast on our field trip to see It's a Wonderful Life and are looking forward to going to see a Down East Wood Ducks baseball game in the spring.

Finally, we would like to remind you that your child should bring a sweater or sweatshirt to school as the temperatures in the building fluctuate daily.

Thank you again for all that you do to help us help your student succeed!

3rd GRADE TEAM

Fourth Grade News

Happy New Year from the Fourth Grade Team! We hope everyone had a very enjoyable and Restful holiday break! May this year bring about miracles that will enhance your life and inspire you to pay it forward by helping to enhance the lives of others. In December, the fourth graders had the opportunity to visit the History and Natural Science Museums as well as the Research Center in Raleigh. Students were able to view a variety of artifacts pertaining to the history of our state and our growth as a part of this nation. They were also able to see a variety of animals native and imported to our state. The Research Center afforded the students the opportunity to handle and observe animals in their habitat and identify animals by their sound, skins, teeth, and droppings. Many left with thoughts of research being a part of their career goal. In March, all fourth graders will be provided an opportunity to go to the YMCA and participate in Water Safety classes. These classes are not designed as swimming lessons, many leave as more advanced or beginning swimmers because of the lessons and activities taught to educate students on how they can be safe around and in the water. Students learn what they should and should not do in and around bodies of water as well as how to help rescue someone in trouble in the water without putting their own lives in jeopardy. Certified lifeguards conduct these lessons and are in the water to ensure the students' safety every time students are in the pool. All teachers encourage all students to participate in these lessons because we live in an area surrounded by water and is often prone to flooding. Information about this event will be sent home the first week in February. In April, fourth graders will visit the Charles B. Aycock Birthplace in Fremont. This is a county-sponsored trip so there will be no charge for the students. This visit provides students the opportunity to see and experience life in the nineteenth century as our "Education Governor" lived it. Permission forms will be sent home at the end of March. May is an exciting month for us because of what has become our annual trip to Kinston to enjoy a Wood Ducks game during Education week. Students will leave after the school buses arrive in the morning and will be back in time to ride the buses back home at the end of the day. By now, your child should have mastered all of the basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. This mastery is necessary so students can be proficient in division, fractions, geometry, algebraic thinking, and multistep problem solving. You can help your child become proficient by drilling him/her each night for five minutes. It will amaze you at how quickly she/he will master those facts by completing this quick task nightly! Your child should be reading every night, including weekends and holidays, for a minimum of twenty minutes. Read with your child. Read to your child. Allow your child to read to you. Let your child catch you reading. Remember that the only way your child can grow in reading is by reading. We ask that you remind your child of the importance of being safe, respectful, and responsible. Shoe laces should be tied and not just tucked inside of the shoes. Running in the hallways is prohibited. Respond to teachers and all other adults in a pleasant and polite manner. Complete all assignments, including homework, daily. Be prepared for school each dress, Dress appropriately for the weather and abide by the dress code. Develop a positive attitude and trust that your teachers are only here to help you to become a productive citizen of our county, our state, our nation, and our world. Together, we can help your child have a successful school year.

Music Notes

Music is part of our everyday lives, and we are so blessed to have it as part of our elementary school curriculum. Music is not just something we listen to for fun. Learning to listen to music for analysis involves our higher thinking skills. Learning to read musical rhythms and melodies enhances our brain development. Learning to play music on an instrument or sing accurately on pitch with our voices is a skill that will stay with us our entire life. Here at SCE, we try to involve all the modes of learning in music: listening, moving, singing, playing instruments, and more! Students can be successful in music class by following our 5 simple rules: Pay attention, Follow directions, Raise your hand, Show respect, and Do your best! These help us follow our PBIS behaviors: Be Safe. Be Respectful. Be Responsible. And our students here at SCE are wonderful!! I am so proud to work in this school and tell people about our great kids, their families, and our great staff! Young children's vocal development needs to be developed by listening to children's singing—be sure to let your child listen to music sung by children, not only music sung by adults. They need proper vocal models in order to train both their ears to hear the right pitches and their voices to sing the right pitches. Encourage your child to keep the steady beat with the music. Patting, clapping, and marching are all fun ways to move to the beat! Think of some other fun ways to move! In class, we develop skills to enable children to listen and analyze the FORM of the music (how the sections are arranged). They can also listen to identify the Melodic Direction (whether the melody gets higher, lower, or stays the same). Allow your child to share what he/she is learning in music! We also study the elements of music including Dynamics, Tempo, Time Signature, and more! First through Fourth grade classes have been reviewing their knowledge of music notes and rests. We are also practicing reading these notes and rests in musical rhythms. Over the next few weeks, they will be creating and writing their own rhythms! Fourth grade classes are practicing reading rhythms and are incorporating advanced rhythms, including syncopation and unequal sounds in a beat. As we finish out this year, we will also be learning songs that focus on the many celebrations during the year! Thank you for all your support of the music program here at SCE! This is such a GREAT school, and we LOVE YOUR CHILDREN and want the best for them! Keep singing, moving, and playing music!

SPECIAL EVENTS:

- ⇒ A group of select Fourth Grade students will be chosen to represent our school as part of the Wayne County Elementary All-County Chorus on Tuesday, April 16!
- ⇒ Our 2nd Grade classes will present the Spring program on Thursday, May 24, at times that will be scheduled during the day for the school to attend and then again at 7:00 p.m. at the PTA meeting. Make plans now to attend this last performance of the year! We are so happy to be able to work with your children!

Thank you for your support of music here at SCE!!



Physical Education Department

Gator Families,

The Physical Education department is completing our Basketball unit and moving into our Jump Rope Unit in preparation for Jump Rope for Heart. Our BIG event is February 15th to Celebrate all the students who raise AT LEAST \$5.00 for the American Heart Association! Raising money online for "Kids Heart Challenge" (the new name given to Jump Rope for Heart), is quick and easy. Students will receive more "Thank You" gifts for raising money online! Simply go to Heart.org/kidsheartchallenge and register online! We are still taking money in collection envelopes if you prefer that method of fundraising. We have students coming from Spring Creek High School to help with our event, but would love to have you here at Spring Creek Elementary cheering on our Little Gators. **The Celebration is on February 15th**

9:00-10:00 (Kindergarten)

10:10-11:10(Second Grade)

11:45-12:45 (Third Grade)

12:55-1:55 (First Grade)

2:10-3:10 (Fourth Grade)

ALL MONEY RAISED is due by FEBRUARY 5th in order to attend the celebration on the 15th!

Also, mark your calendars for our **FIELD DAY that will be on APRIL 18th!**

Media Center News

Please check with your child on any overdue books or fines that may be owed to the Media Center. If you are unsure about your child's account feel free to call the Media Center. We are available from 8:15—3:30 p.m.



ESL News

New students, new teachers, and a new year! Although 2019 has brought many new challenges, we are determined to make it the best year yet! We are happy to introduce three new ESL teachers to the Creek! Ingrid Ruiz, Rhea Tan and Nora Morton all have diverse backgrounds that make them great assets to Spring Creek Elementary. We are so happy to have them working with our English Learners. During ESL classes, FIRST grade, students are working on a unit about animals and their coverings. Students will discover new vocabulary for animals with feathers, fur and scales. Our SECOND grade students have completed a study about celebrations around the world. Our first reading selection was titled, "This Next New Year" where students experienced the Chinese New Year holiday. THIRD graders worked diligently on a unit about their community and the workers that make laws for our safety. We read a fiction selection titled "James Ale". Students were asked to write about character traits. In the next selection "Central Park", students discovered a famous park in New York City. Many students are now eager to visit this popular public park. FOURTH grade students are working in a unit titled "Native Land". Within the unit, students will read about Native American homes and the kinds of natural resources within each region. They will finish the unit with a fictional play titled "Pushing up the Sky". Students will continue to practice in reading, writing, listening and speaking domains. Through the month of February and March the ESL department will conduct our annual ACCESS for ELs Proficiency Test. This is a test for all EL students that measures their English proficiency to ensure they are given the individualized instruction they need. Students are tested in the areas of listening, reading, speaking and writing. This school year, grades 1-4 will be taking this test on the computer. Fourth grade students will be expected to type their response on the writing portion on the computer as well. Please help your student understand that this test is very important! We want to know how much language your student has learned. The results from this exam will be sent home at the end of the school year with the final report card. Be on the lookout to see how your student performed. Administering this test is a very tedious job. Please be patient as we have a very LARGE population of EL students at Spring Creek!

Sincerely,

Amber Duke, Susan Leigh, Rhea Tan, Nora Morton and Ingrid Ruiz

Engage In Some Fun With Title One

Greetings from Title I,

It is hard to believe we are now in the month of November. Leaves are falling, temperatures are changing, and holidays are quickly approaching. Title I wishes to take this opportunity to say thank you for all you do to support our school and your children. The partnership between home and school is very important to the success of our children. It is evident through the outpouring of participation in our Title I engagement opportunities so far this year. So again, we say thank you!

*Please remember to visit our “**Parent Resource Center**” located in room 103. It has a variety of games and activities you can check out to enhance your child’s learning experience. We have a plethora of engaging games that the entire family can play and learn. In order to take advantage of this great opportunity, you must have a prescription form filled out by your child’s teacher outlining their needs. The hours of operation are from 8:15-9:00 a.m and 3:00-4:15 p.m. If you need to come at a different time, please call Mrs. Thomas@919-751-7155 to set up an appointment.*

We have many exciting engaging events to look forward to in the coming months. We would like to invite you to our “**First Annual Data Chat Night**” on November 15th beginning at 5:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:00 p.m. You will have an opportunity to discuss your child’s data and overall academic growth. Please bring your concerns and praises to make this experience a success.

Looking Ahead.....

3rd grade will be performing in “**Christmas Around the World**”, a winter musical, on December 14th at 7:00 p.m.

Our school’s Title I team is hosting a parent workshop on January 11th. Parents will have an opportunity to learn ways to help their child prepare for Standardized Tests. Parents will also enjoy finger foods with our principal, Mrs. Nicole Barrett! An invitation will be sent home closer to time. At the bottom of the invitation, there will be an RSVP slip. We ask that you return this RSVP slip to school by January 5th. We are very excited about this upcoming workshop and look forward to seeing you!

On February 2, 2018, we will enjoy our second “**SCE Movie Night.**” This promises to be a fun and engaging night for the entire family. The movie is free however, you will have an opportunity to purchase refreshments.

Our Family S.T.E.A.M. Night (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) will be held on February 22nd beginning at 6:00 p.m. and concluding at 7:30 p.m. We hope you can join us for a night of discovery based learning, student led activities, and engaging S.T.E.A.M. activities that can also be done at home. We will also have a plethora of project based-learning exhibits for you to explore and discover new concepts.

Our District Title I Spring Seminar will be held on March 15th. More details to follow.

PBIS News

PBIS is in full swing and happy to announce that we qualified to apply for recognition as a PBIS school through our TFI (Tiered Fidelity Inventory) assessment performed by Darlene Hodges, our Wayne County PBIS coordinator.

Students are receiving daily "DOJO" points in 5 areas/time frames throughout the day. These points are being recorded on a weekly spreadsheet to assure students are accountable for their expected behaviors at SCE! A PBIS Gator is going to BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL and they will BE RESPONSIBLE! Students can receive up to 5 points a day. One for ELA time, one for Math, one for their cafeteria and recess behavior as well as one for each of their 2 specials times. These points will be scaled and students will be classified in tiers based on this data. WE will have our Final Jungle JAM PBIS Celebration on June 6th that students will attend in Tiers based on this data.

We look forward to continue to improve academic learning time through improved behavior and school wide expectations throughout the school.

We are so thankful to each and everyone of you who have attended our PBIS Family Movie Nights! Our team has generated funds solely from the movie nights to fund the Gator Bucks Store and the Jungle Jam each quarter. WE are planning one more movie night to assure funds for our Gator Bucks Store and to have funds to kick off next years PBIS system at SCE!