



SNIVELY ELEMENTARY TIGER TALK NEWSLETTER

March 2014

Important Dates in March

**Coffee with the
Principal 19th**

SAC Meeting 21st

**Chic-Fil-A
Spirit Night 21st
5PM—8PM**

Spring BREAK 24th -28th

From The Principal's Desk!

Administrators and teachers everywhere recognize the important contributions parents make toward a child's success in school. There is no question about it - success at school begins at home. Parents are the single most important variable in a child's schooling. Parents model both a silent and spoken language in front of their children daily.

One of the most important components of a good school is the partnership between the school and parents who work together for the best interest of children. The close partnership between home and school is an area that I will work to strengthen at Snively Elementary School.

Snively Elementary School has a strong tradition of supportive, hard-working parents.

Further, throughout the year parents have the opportunity to volunteer on campus in variety of ways. With being said, **I'd like to formally extend the invitation for you to please join me on campus in the Media Center on Wednesday March 19th from 7:30AM – 8:15AM for coffee with the Principal.**

My intent is to share some of my ideas with you and hear your voices as well. It is critical to your child that you are involved in some way at school. Your involvement is a way to let your child know that you think his or her school is important.

Last but not least, schools across the district will close down for Spring Break on March 24th – 28th. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy more quality time with your little ones. This time can also be used to reinforce and review skills that your child has been taught. Please contact your child's teacher for ways that you get the most out of this time off not only leisurely but academically too.

Coming Up:

Our 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will be FCAT tested in the month of April.

Quote:

Our children are counting on us to provide two things: consistency and structure. Children need adults in their lives (i.e. parents and educators) who say what they mean, mean what they say, and do what they say they are going to do. ~Barbara Coloroso

Educationally yours,
Dr. Markeishia Smith
Principal

General Strategies Your Child Can Use During Any Test

While there are specific ways to approach specific kinds of tests (i.e. standardized tests, true-false tests and essay tests), there are some general strategies that will help your child do their best on any test. Make sure your child knows what they are and how to use them. They include:

- Reading the instructions carefully. Re-reading them again to make sure he/she knows exactly what they are supposed to do.
- Looking for direction words that tell your child what he/she is supposed to do. Direction words are words such as compare, list, describe, define and summarize.
- Reading through all the questions quickly before he/she starts. they should think about how much time they have and decide how much time he/she can spend on each question.
- Reading each question carefully as he/she begins the test. They should understand exactly what the statement or question says. Then they should determine what he/she thinks the answer is before reading any choices provided.
- Skipping a question if he/she isn't sure of the answer and re-visiting it
- Checking their work once they have completed it

TITLE I NEWS



~Johnnie Thomas
Program Facilitator

*Snively's has a new sidewalk
in the car rider zone!*



FIFTH GRADE MARCH NEWS

Reading/Language Arts

During the month of March, we will be working on reading comprehension skills. Students have been learning to determine the meaning of unknown words by prefixes, suffixes and context clues. They will also continue to learn about fact and opinion, main idea and details, and author's perspective.

Making sure that your child reads every night will help them become a better reader. They are expected to complete Accelerated Reader tests on the books that they are reading and summarize in the home work folder.

Math

In math, we are working on Geometry and Measurement. Please make sure your child is doing their homework so they can get extra practice. Students should be reviewing math facts daily!!!!

Science

In science, we will be studying Life Science. We have been reviewing Science concepts by using FCAT Explorer during our computer lab times.

General Information

If you have computer access available at home, your child should be going online to FCAT Explorer, Think Central and EPAT to give them further practice on what they are learning in class and to help prepare them for the FCAT.



Snively Head Start

During the month of March, the Head Start Program here at Snively Elementary will be accepting new applications for 2014-2015 school year.

Contact: **Mildred Morales**

863-291-5226 Mildred.morales@polk-fl.net

We'd like to welcome our newest Head Start staff member – Annette Portalatin. She is our new Para for Head Start. Bianca Carrizales was our Para but has taken over the classroom position when

Sabrina Clark-Williams left. Congratulations to both Bianca and Annette!

Through our continued partnership with Jane Waters-Thomas and the Eloise Arts Ensemble, our Head Start classes are taking a monthly field trip to the Eloise Resource Center for a variety of art activities. Our students' art work will also soon be on display on a county public transportation bus. Their art work is being converted to a "wrap" for a bus and will be unveiled soon.

The **Winter Haven Garden Club** has worked with Snively Elementary students for several years, but now they are expanding their program to work with our Head Start children as well. Each child will soon have his/her own little bucket garden.

~Lisa Y. Williams , Preschool Support Teacher



KINDERGARTEN NEWS

The K-Team

Happy Spring from Kindergarten.

We are studying 2-Dimensional Shapes in Math and Animals in Reading. Keep practicing the High Frequency Words and numbers 1-100. Also, keep reading with your child. Ask who, what, where, when and how questions while you are reading and at the end of the story.

Mrs. McKinney (center), Snively's Music Teacher, escort Snively's student from 50 years ago to the much updated Snively of 2014!



My best friend, Nancy, from elementary, middle and high school married a former Snively Elementary student!!! John Finnerty and Nancy visited me yesterday and received a world class tour of our wonderful school. **When John went to school here 50 years ago, the only building was the main front building.** They were building the kindergarten wing when he was leaving. The area where the offices are today were classrooms and their small library was in the teacher lounge. He remembers being a library helper! He said he was amazed at how beautiful the campus is now and that he has many great memories from his days here at Snively!!



Happy St. Patrick's Day from your third grade teachers!

Reading

The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test is right around the corner. Time is running out for your child to be serious about their study habits and behavior in school. It is imperative you make sure your child is reading every night at home. Please check over any reading passages they bring home. Have them read and reread the passage to a grown-up to help with fluency. Check to see if your child answered the questions correctly as well as check for correct spelling. Encourage him/her to read non-fiction books/passages to boost their thinking.

All About Math

It's all about geometry and reviewing previously taught skills. For those of you with Internet access check out this website: <http://www.kidsmathgamesonline.com/facts/geometry.html>



Make sure your child knows the names of these polygons. They also need to recognize how many sides and the angle shapes each contains: acute, obtuse, right, or straight.

Science & Social Studies: We will be describing plant structures and functions. Map Skills include labeling the continents, oceans, and knowing cardinal directions.

SNIVELY'S SUNSHINE CLUB



"Fake Mustache" by Tom Angleberger is the book that they will be turning into a play for competition.

Mrs. Stephen s, Media Specialist



With the FCAT Writes Assessment finally behind us, the 4th grade is looking forward to their trip to the Agri-Fest on March 14th. It will be a day filled with hands-on learning about agriculture in Central Florida. In addition, be on the lookout for news about an upcoming field trip in May. In class, comprehension skills will be the focus as we prepare for the FCAT Reading Test in late April. The 4th grade teachers cannot stress enough how important home reading practice will impact our students' success on this state assessment. The more your child reads, the better prepared they will be. Likewise, we are also spending more time on the math standards that will be tested this spring. We have just finished learning about fractions and decimals. Our next math focus will be on two-dimensional shapes and angles, along with reviewing math skills. Please encourage your child to continue practicing their basic math facts. Knowing their basic facts makes it easier to work through the multi-step problems we will see on the FCAT Math Test. From your 4th Grade Teachers, let's have a Marvelous March!

Fourth Grade Team

We're on the Web
<http://schools.polk-fl.net/snively>

Together we will educate and motivate our students to be the best that they can be!!



Our second graders are working hard to become experts at telling time! Please try to incorporate time telling skills at home, going over routines and schedules, and noting the times that they occur. Our current Reading Wonders unit is all about nature! We are learning so much through studying folk tales, plays, and poems. We are excited to have planted new seeds in our garden! Be sure to ask your child how their flowers and peas are growing. Continue to make sure your child is reading at home each night! Thanks for all you do!



News from ART

Mrs. Harper

Oscar Cruz becomes a human clock in Mrs. Mendez's class.

Art students have been focusing on balance and texture in their art work. They have incorporated these elements into art that mimics the style of Vincent Van Gogh, so their works include sunflowers, cypress trees, and irises. Fourth and fifth graders have been working with acrylics and watercolor paint. Two of our fifth grade students, Samantha Martinez and Alixia Fenelus, have been selected for a very special award recognizing their creative artwork as part of the Polk County Tax Collector's Kids Tag Art Awards of Distinction. There will be a recognition ceremony and reception on March 4th.



What do you think?

Parents, please take a moment to share any comments with us on areas of concern or what you like about our awesome administrators and teachers.

Please return to Mrs. Thomas by your child.

Each child that returns the signed form will have their name placed in a drawing to receive a special prize.



Signature (optional) _____

Calling ALL parents and community members! We need you to fill an important positions, volunteers! Please join us by becoming a school volunteer.