Hello Moms and Dads!

Happy November! The clocks have been moved forward, days are shorter, and the first quarter of work has been completed. Routines are set and the kids, teachers, and you all have made sure this has been an outstanding first quarter.

*PARENTS*

Thank you all for your involvement and enthusiasm this past month! The PTA took their monthly meeting to the Sacramento Center in October and we had so many parents and teachers in the room and online via UStream. Your involvement continues to make an enormous difference to the way our school looks and feels. It’s also making a difference to the resources our students have and their ability to access curriculum.

Thank you for a wonderful showing at our Fall Festival too! This year was just an absolute wonderful experience for our kids and families. The moon bounce, the cake walk, the decorations, the dancing, the food, and everything else made for the perfect evening. A positive emotional feel is an essential element to the success of our kids and you all are ensuring that our school community is strong. I can’t thank you enough for that!

*INSTRUCTION*

You need to know that teachers are working extremely hard for our kids as well. Each week teams study and implement the latest researched based instructional practices and teachers are continually increasing the level of rigor in the classrooms for students.

At the conclusion of the first quarter, upper grade students showed improvements in reading and math when compared with this same point in time last year, and teachers are now taking those results and analyzing them during dedicated planning days. In fact, all grade level teams are working to decide important next steps for students through the process of unpacking standards, writing common assessments, and analyzing student data in the next several weeks. So please thank them for their hard work and dedication when you get the chance! :)

November 12, 2015

*UPCOMING EVENTS*

Watch out for the following events in the next few weeks before Thanksgiving, and please come out and join if you can. Your presence and your voice is having an enormous impact!

*PTA Meeting—Tuesday, November 17, 7:00-8:00pm.

*Thanksgiving Luncheon—Thurs, Nov. 19, please check the schedule in the Thurs. Folder!

Administration
Brad Bennink, Principal
bbennink@fcps.edu
Michael Wilson, Assistant Principal
mjwilson@fcps.edu
Carolyn Haydon, Assistant Principal
CRHaydon@fcps.edu
Un saludo, papás, mamás! Feliz noviembre! Los relojes han sido movidos hacia adelante. Los días son más cortos y el primer trimestre de labor ha sido completado. Las rutinas ya son parte del trabajo diario en nuestros niños y maestros y Uds. Se han asegurado que sea un sobresaliente primer trimestre.

*PADRES*

Gracias a todos Uds. Por participar, y con entusiasmo, en el mes pasado! En el mes de octubre, El PTA realizó su primera reunión en Sacramento Center. Vimos a muchos padres y profesores en el salón, y también muchos pudieron participar y ver vía internet, UStream. La participación de Uds. continúa y ha hecho una enorme diferencia en la forma que luce nuestra escuela y en cómo nos sentimos en ella. Incluso está haciendo un cambio en los recursos para nuestros estudiantes y la habilidad de tener acceso a programas escolares.

Gracias a su presencia en nuestro festival de otoño; Fue otro éxito también! Este año fue un absoluto, hermosa experiencia, para nuestros niños, y padres. El juego de moon bounce, la caminata de pasteles, las decoraciones, el baile, la comida, todo! hizo que tuviésemos una noche perfecta. Un sentido emocional positivo, es un elemento esencial para el éxito de nuestros niños, y todos Uds. se están asegurando de que en nuestra escuela sea ese un elemento para el éxito de nuestros niños en su educación y ustedes se están asegurando de que nuestra escuela sea una comunidad fuerte. No puedo agradecerles lo suiciente!

*INSTRUCCION*

Uds. Deben saber que nuestros profesores están trabajando tremendamente para el rendimiento de nuestros estudiantes. Cada semana cada grupo de maestros, estudia e implementa lo último que investigaron, basado en prácticas, donde los maestros continuamente están incrementando el rigor en clases, con los estudiantes.

Al concluir el primer trimestre, los estudiantes de grados superiores mostraron mejora en su lectura y en matemáticas, cuando comparamos las calificaciones del año pasado de esta misma época y los maestros están viendo los resultados de ese trimestre, analizándolo, durante los días, dedicados a planificar sus enseñanzas. Es más, todos los maestros de todas las clases en la escuela, están trabajando para decidir importantes pasos a seguir para nuestros estudiantes durante el proceso de entender normas, tareas comunes en la escritura y esto, analizando la información acumulada de los estudiantes. Así que, por favor les pido, agradézcanles por la ardua tarea que están realizando y la dedicación que ellos tienen para con sus niños. (hágalo en cuanto le sea posible:)

*PROXIMOS EVENTOS*

Estén atentos a los siguientes eventos en las próximas semanas, antes de Thanksgiving, y por favor, si pueden vengan, únanse a nosotros. Su presencia, su voz, esta teniendo un gran impacto!

*PTA Reunión de Padres de Familia—Martes 17 de noviembre de 7:00 a 8:00 pm.*

*Almuerzo de Thanksgiving—Jueves 19 de noviembre, en el horario regular del almuerzo de sus niños.*
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Reading Rocks...

Mrs. Page, WMES Literacy Specialist

The leaves are changing color and starting to fall. I hope you all have a happy and safe holiday season.

As you enter the holiday season, please remember that your children sometimes slide academically because they are not reading and writing as often. You can help them maintain the gains that they have made so far this year by just reading to them and encouraging them to write as much as possible. Reading holiday books as a family emphasizes your dedication to literacy, your holiday beliefs and traditions and is just an enjoyable time with your child.

You can also have a good time writing with your child. You can write notes back and forth with fun holiday messages, shopping lists, list of the gifts they want or that they want to give, they can write their own holiday or winter story, or you could write one together. Keeping a journal or a diary of the holiday season can also be an enjoyable thing for them to do. You can store it with your holiday decorations and look at it the next year to remember how they thought or what you did as a family the previous year.

Whatever you choose to do this holiday season, try to make reading and writing a part of it as often as you can. You will make lasting memories.

Dawn Page

“Fill your paper with the breathings of your heart. “ ~William Wordsworth

SCA News

Spirit Day- Our first Spirit Day of the year will be held on Friday, November 20th. Please watch for the flyer in your student’s Thursday folder announcing the event.

Coffee and Cider Fundraiser - Thank you to everyone that supported our Coffee and Cider fundraiser at the Fall Festival. The SCA raised thirty-four dollars. All proceeds will benefit the family the SCA adopts during the holidays.

New SCA Treasurer- our current treasurer Jose Aleman has moved to a new school. Joseph Starnes the runner up is his replacement. Congratulations to Joseph...SCA Treasurer for the 2015-2016 school year!
Happy November!

Welcome to National Novel Writing Month. This movement, started well over a decade ago, encourages adults and students alike to take a risk and write a novel in a month. It is a daunting undertaking, but one that people around the world partake in.

Writing is certainly an important form of communication, but, even more than that, it is a way to express your thoughts and even find new ways to think about things.

Writing can also be a scary thing to do. We often feel judged and many writers are hesitant to share their work. However, we all have something important to say.

This month I am encouraging all students (and adults) to take a few minutes and write something. Know that your ideas are worth sharing. Take a risk and think outside the box. Do something outside of your comfort zone. Stretch yourself as a thinker. Try writing from a new perspective. Try writing about something that is important to you and makes you unique. Take a chance and a risk. Your voice deserves to be heard. Write a little.

STEAM

Ray Hoskie, STEAM Resource Teacher

The students have had several weeks of hands-on experiments and engineering design problems. The energy level in the science lab remains high and the students are really engaged!

The upper elementary students have worked on several engineering challenges which test not only their understanding of science concepts such as balance, simple machines, friction, and car design but also the skills of collaboration, communication, critical and creative thinking. They have worked with partners or alone to solve the challenges while meeting predetermined conditions. It has been great to watch the many different approaches the students have taken to solve the problems.

The lower elementary students have conducted several hands on experiments and activities in the lab. Having the students interact with the materials in the lab continues to be a focus and a goal. The students are learning how to act and work like scientist. The students are learning to make careful measurements and how to follow directions as we complete our experiments.

A focus in the coming weeks will be learning how to think and communicate like a scientist. We will be using sentence frames to help us to be better communicators and collaborators. We will be putting more emphasis into recording and sharing the thought process that goes into solving our design challenges as well as charting and graphing the results of experiments. This is just another step towards developing the high level critical thinking skills of a 21st Century Learner.

Please visit our Class blog: www.wmessciencelab.weebly.com
News from the PTA...

Happy Fall, WMES Parents!

October was another fabulous month for our WMES PTA! Our book-themed Fall Fest on October 22nd was a spooktacular success! We had so much fun hosting a community dinner for our awesome families and it was great to see so many children dressed up! Many thanks to our Fall Fest Committee for going above and beyond to organize this incredible event! We would also like to thank our parents, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts and 6th grade team who volunteered their time to truly make it special! You are so valuable to our PTA!

If you would like to get more involved with PTA activities, please email washingtonmillpta@yahoo.com or pick up a form in the front office. Providing us your email address will help us to better communicate information and volunteer opportunities to you. Forms and dues ($10 per individual, $15 per family, or $5 per faculty) can be returned to the front office. We are currently looking for volunteers to help us with our Art Themed "Spring Fling" event on May 5th and a few parents who would like to assist us with our community Fundraising efforts, such as Dining Out events and Sponsorship's. Other opportunities to volunteer include Teacher Appreciation, After School Activities, Beautification and Spring Running Club!

Our next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, November 17th, at 7 pm in the WMES Library. Pizza and Childcare will be provided and we hope to see you there! If you have any questions, feel free to contact us at washingtonmillpta@yahoo.com. Thank you for your support and for being a part of our wonderful Colonial Community!

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kristen Pate
PTA President

Bobbie Cunningham, Math Resource Teacher

It’s time for math homework and you want to help your child when she/he cannot work through a problem. Fight the impulse to show them what to do. Instead ask your child to share what they know about the problem.

Math Matters

One way you can do this is to ask, “Tell me what the problem is, and help me understand how you are thinking about it?” Listen to your child explain what she/he understands. In the process of giving your child a chance to explain the problem, many times your child will figure out what to do. When we do this, we empower them and their math confidence grows.

Remember to be positive about math, link math with daily life, make math fun, and support homework — don’t do it for them!
The December holidays are quickly approaching, and it is a time for joy and family togetherness. Washington Mill Elementary School is proud to work with the nonprofit organization Our Daily Bread to provide assistance for families in need during the holidays.

If your family is in need of support, please let your child’s teacher know by Friday, November 13.

It is our hope that everyone in need can receive assistance through this program; however, there are no guarantees that all requests will be granted as Our Daily Bread is in charge of determining how to fulfill the requests.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact us at the email addresses below.

Sincerely, your school counselors,

Ann Yip  
agyip@fcps.edu

Ann Miller  
ammiller@fcps.edu

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Follow us: @Washington_Mill
Thank You to our Business Partners for Supporting WMES

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks