

SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Owl Gazette

December 3, 2010



Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope all of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving with family and friends! Those of us who are fortunate enough to work in schools know that our blessings include the ability to come to work each day and positively impact the lives of the children you entrust to our care. Thank you for sharing your most precious possessions with us!

Mrs. Austin and I would like to invite you to meet with us during an informal **Principal's Coffee** which will be held on Thursday, December 17th, from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. in the school's media center. Please plan to visit with us while you enjoy a light continental breakfast!

We have less than three weeks of school before the winter holidays begin. Although students are excited, we are encouraging them to stay focused on their schoolwork. Thank you for reinforcing this at home!

I hope you have a safe and restful holiday season.

Sincerely,

[Claire A. Frick](#), Principal

Important Dates

Friday, Dec. 3rd - PTO - Parents Night Out (Polar Express)
Tuesday, Dec. 7th - SAC Meeting - 12:00 p.m. - guidance hallway
Tuesday, Dec. 7th - PTO Meeting - 6:00 p.m. - media center
Thursday, Dec. 9th - 7:00 p.m. - "Rhythm of the Season"
Saturday, Dec. 11th - Mini Mu Competition @ Chiles
Tuesday, Dec. 14th - 3rd Grade Spelling Bee
Tuesday, Dec. 14th - SITE Meeting - 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, Dec. 16th - Stevi B's Spirit Night - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 17th - PBS Celebration
*****NO EARLY RELEASE DAYS!**

"Tech-Ghet-ti" Dinner (Betsy Bruggner, Technology)

Please save the date for our 2nd Annual "Tech-Ghet-ti" Dinner! It will take place this year on Tuesday, January 18th in Springwood's *Ristorante Italiano* (our cafeteria!) Put it on your calendar now! Remember - proceeds for the dinner go directly towards funding technology needs for Springwood.

Event time: 6:00- 8:00 pm.

Celebrity servers, door prizes and good food will make this a fun event for you and your family to attend!

Ticket prices and information will be coming soon!

Ci vediamo lì! (Italian for "See you there!")



CELL PHONES

Thank you to those of you who are refraining from using your cell phones in our drop off & pick up lines. We appreciate it!

Springwood "Box Topics"

November was another successful month for our box tops program. I would like to remind everyone about the Box Tops Marketplace. The Marketplace offers great deals. Up to 6% of your total purchase is donated directly to our school, at no extra cost to you.

Keep up the great work. Springwood Owls!

North Florida Fair Art Competition! (Richard McDowell, Art)

Congratulations to the following Springwood artists who were in this year's North Florida Fair Art Competition - Yeah! Yeah!

Second grade:

Johnson - Andrea Lopez-Taylor, Blayden Parker (won 3rd place)
Hewett - Aubriana Mock
Smith - Luis Veleta



Third grade:

Halverson - Dylan Butterfield
Williams - Mia Collier, Kristin Fleming, Eden Deckerhoff
Owens - Mikayla Drose

Fourth grade:

Snyder - Eden Campos, Hunter Freeman
Rodriguez - Aja Jamison, JoBeth Hoover
Richardson - Stephanie Bradbury

5th grade:

Murphy-Baker - Alex Rios
Kenon - Gloria Bailey, Ben Griffith

Welcome to Erica Gramajo, our new EDEP Manager!

Mrs. Gramajo is a graduate of Leon High, Tallahassee Community College, and Florida State University. She holds a BA degree in Recreation and Leisure Services Administration from FSU where she has served for the past five years as the Student Program Coordinator at FSU's Reservation. She has worked with young students of varying ages and abilities. Her top priorities for our children are safety, positive discipline, and having fun! We are fortunate to have a person of her caliber take over as our director.

In addition to hiring Mrs. Gramajo as our new EDEP director, we are in the process of hiring an Activities Leader as well as additional staff. Matt Zadra has been selected by the district as the new EDEP manager to oversee all of the district EDEP programs. We will miss both Chris Brown and Matt Zadra and appreciate their contributions to Springwood.

LCS Grants Department

Teachers received training during our recent faculty meeting on the availability of grants thanks to Amy Bradbury, LCS Grants Coordinator (and a Springwood parent!) We congratulate Mrs. Bradbury on her new position. We also would like to thank Mrs. Shedric Triplett (SAC Chair) and Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes (Vice- Chair) for offering their support to teachers with grant writing.

PTO NEWS (Kelly Wilson, PTO President)

PTO is hosting a new "FUN"raiser this year! PTO is having a Polar Express Movie Event, Dec. 3rd. Do holiday shopping, set up a date, hang with friends or sleep. The next PTO meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on December 7th in the media center. Hope to see you there!

Springwood Parent Listserv

If you are interested in receiving school news (regular and emergency notices) via e-mail, please visit our [web page](#).

Volunteers Needed: ([Antoinette Hunter](#), Volunteer Coordinator)

- Jan. 18th- "Tech-Ghet-ti" Dinner- Help set up /clean up
- Date TBA -To help give out cookie dough

Watch D.O.G.S. - Dads of Great Students

([Gordon Sasser](#), [Paul Sweeney](#) & [Leroy Hunter](#), Coordinators)

Check us out on the school's web site or call Tina Sweeney in the front office for more information!

Business Partners (Tangi Brown, Business Partner Coordinator)

We need your help to build business partners for Springwood. Submit your business card for an opportunity to receive a gift card! Send it with your child or drop it off in the school's front office!

Tardy Bell

Please remember that school begins at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 2:50 p.m. Students are expected to be in attendance daily during these times. Thank you for ensuring that your children are here ready to learn each day!

Cold Weather Days - REMINDER

Students go outside to play unless the temperature is below 40 degrees. (Wind chill is considered.) Please dress your child appropriately! This morning we saw many students not wearing jackets! Please be sure to write your child's name on all his/her belongings. Unclaimed items from Lost & Found are periodically donated to charity.



Tutoring

We are well underway with our afterschool tutoring! We currently have 60 third, fourth and fifth graders receiving tutoring in reading and/or math Mondays through Thursdays. The tutoring program is funded by our PTO. We would like to thank the parents who have sent in juice boxes for snacks. We have 8 dedicated staff members who are providing the tutoring services. Students are selected by their teachers; a waiting list is maintained.

Grant Winners!

Congratulations to Judy Simmons and Pam Brasher for receiving a Foundation for Leon County Schools Mini-Grant Award for their project entitled *Kindle-ing a Love of Reading*. They would like to thank Robin Downing for her support.

Great American Fundraiser - Top Seller!

Congratulations to Kai Washington-Andrews for being the top seller in the Great American fundraiser. For his efforts, he was rewarded with a McDonald's Happy Meal lunch with the principal!

Mini-Mu (Erin Richardson and Brooks Sperling, Coaches)

Some of Springwood's 4th and 5th graders are gearing up for the first Mini-Mu Alpha Theta Competition at Chiles High School on Saturday, December 11th. This will be our fourth year participating and we are excited to be a part of Mini-Mu again this year. Mini-Mu is a math competition sponsored by local high schools and middle schools. Students compete twice yearly and have the opportunity to compete with other area 4th and 5th graders. To get ready for the first competition, a group of students have been meeting on Tuesday mornings to sharpen their math skills. Please help us in cheering on our Owls Mini-Mu Crew!

Welcome! (Deborah Scarborough, Kitchen Manager)

Mrs. Scarborough wants everyone to welcome back Dee Dangler to her staff. Ms. Dangler worked at Springwood in 2003. Her children are former Springwood Owls! Please help us welcome her!



Seat Belts - Please be sure all of your children are properly buckled in while your car is in motion. In addition to parents driving off before students are buckled in, we are also seeing cars approach the loading zone with younger children moving around in the car without seat belts.

Curriculum Spotlight



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is a national movement to:

- improve K-12 teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
- prepare students for higher education as well as science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers in the 21st Century
- ensure that students are taught by well-prepared, highly effective STEM teachers

The Gifted and Talented Elementary Classroom STEM Project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The following Springwood teachers are receiving training for the STEM initiative: Cindy Rodriguez, Emily Murphy-Baker, Brooks Sperling, Christin Yori, and Betsy Bruggner. With the exception of Betsy Bruggner who already holds a gifted endorsement, all of the teachers are pursuing their endorsements in gifted education!

Positive Behavior Support ([Beverley Remland](#), Guidance)

The SWES Positive Behavior Support Team is in the process of planning for the second nine-week PBS celebration. All students will be taking a PBS survey to decide the type of celebration they would like to have. This student choice celebration will take place during the week before the holiday break.

SAC (School Advisory Council) ([Shedric Triplett](#)-Chairperson)

Our annual Technology Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser is just around the corner. We are asking for support from our Springwood families, businesses and organizations to help make this event another success. The fundraiser is scheduled for January 18, 2011 from 6:00pm – 8:00pm. Tickets will be sold. Contact Mrs. Betsy Bruggner, Ms. June Watson or Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes at 488-6225 for more details.

Our next meeting is scheduled for December 7, 2010 at 12:00 p.m. in the Guidance Hallway. SAC meetings are open and subject to the Sunshine Law. All interested persons are welcome to attend. If you have any comments and/or concerns that you would like addressed, please feel free to place your comments and/or concerns in a sealed envelope addressed to the attention of "SAC Chairperson". At our next scheduled meeting, your concern will be addressed and a response sent to you.

The SAC assists in preparation and evaluation of the school improvement plan, and assists in the decision-making process at the school regarding budget, training, instructional materials, staffing, student support services and other matters of resource allocation related to the school improvement plan.

At our last meeting, we heard reports from the chairs of the math, science, and writing school improvement committees. Next month, we will hear a report from the chair of the reading committee.

Releasing Students

ALL PERSONS, PARENTS OR VOLUNTEERS, MUST ALWAYS SIGN IN AT THE MAIN OFFICE BEFORE GOING ANYWHERE ON OUR CAMPUS, EVEN DURING MORNING HOURS BEFORE SCHOOL. YOU WILL BE ISSUED A NAME TAG, WHICH WILL INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE FOLLOWED THIS PROCEDURE. ANYONE NOT WEARING A NAME TAG WILL BE DIRECTED TO THE FRONT OFFICE. PROVIDING A SAFE AND ORDERLY ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS IS A PRIORITY AT SPRINGWOOD.

Please remember that you must present identification, such as a driver's license when signing out a child early or when coming to speak to your child for any reason. We use this procedure for parents we see often, as well as for those faces that may be newer to us. Please schedule doctor's appointments after students are dismissed.

"The Leon County School District does not discriminate against any person on the basis of gender, marital status, sexual orientation, race, religion, national origin, age, color or disability."