

The Diplomat AMBASSADOR



January 24, 2018

Volume 5 Issue 4

Join Us For Conferences February 22

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 22nd, for our annual Dinner and Data, Student Led Conferences. This is a change in our original date, and gives us a little more time to gather data and prepare for this important family night.

As a Quality School, we work with students to track and understand their scores on tests and class work. These scores help the teacher and student understand how well the child is moving toward meeting the standards set by the state for their grade level. Every child at the school has a data binder which they update, as well as reflection sheets where they

review their personal progress and set future goals. The goals are individualized for the students, and help them stay motivated and on track for success. The Data night begins at 4:30 P.M. and ends at 7 P.M. parents may come any time within that window and do not need to make an appointment. A simple dinner of pizza, chips and a drink will be available in the cafeteria for \$3. We will also have an art gallery set up in the cafeteria and performances by our student musicians. We look forward to seeing you and your child on February 22nd.



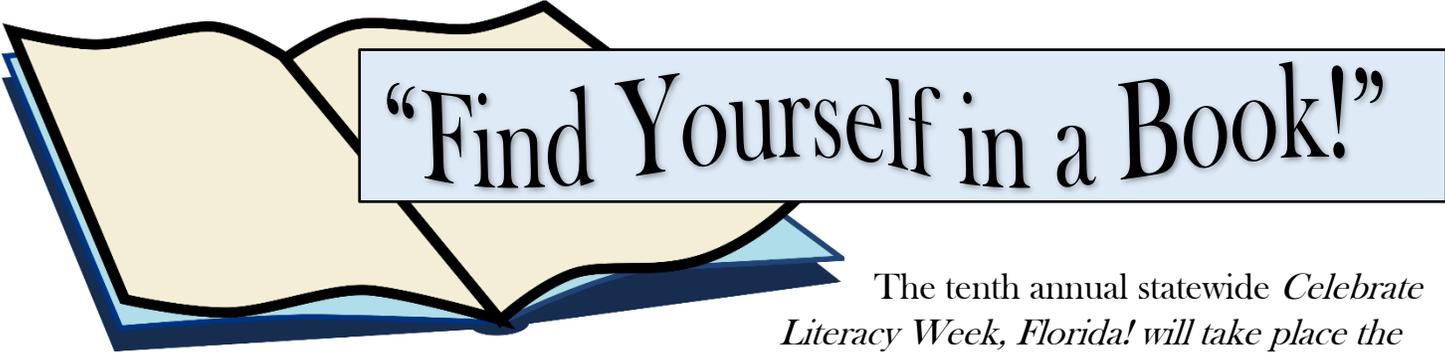
Spring Fundraiser is a Snacking Sensation

Popcorn, candy and trail mix. Yum. Those are the types of items offered in our Spring Fundraiser, *Snacking Sensations*. Hurricane Irma rolled through right at the scheduled time for our Fall Fundraiser, which is the major fundraising drive for our school each year. Since it is Spring we have offered a much smaller version of that fundraiser with a four page brochure offering treats costing from \$7 to \$10.

Snacking Sensations will kick off on February 26th. Our first turn in date will be Friday, March 2nd. Our final turn in date will be Tuesday, March 13th. That is the Tuesday before Spring Break and the first day of Field Days. There will be small prizes and opportunities to win larger items. Watch for the Fundraiser packet and flyer that will be sent home at the end of February.



Dinner and Data 2017 also featured fun events such as cup stacking, and performances by the Diplomat Choir. The main event is the information students give to parents about their academic goals and achievements.



“Find Yourself in a Book!”

The tenth annual statewide *Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida!* will take place the week of **January 22-26, 2018**.

The goal of this event is to promote literacy and excellent reading habits in the students of Florida. Below you will find a list of activities that will take place at our school during the week.

- **Reading Makes Us Winners**

On Monday, students will be encouraged to wear a team shirt and “gear up” with their favorite reading book for the day. This will kick off our Celebrate Literacy week!

- **Find Yourself in a Book**

During the week, the School News will feature photos of students who are spotted reading. Their photos will be displayed on the news and possibly “tweeted out” on the school’s Twitter site.



- **A Week in the Woods Challenge**

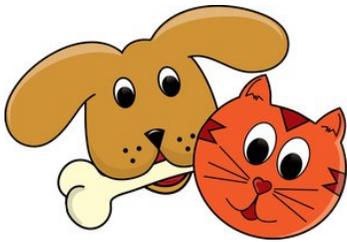
During Celebrate Literacy Week, families will be encouraged to promote reading at home by taking “A Week in the Woods” challenge. To participate, families would plan activities that involve reading instead of watching TV or using electronic devices. Activities could be playing board games, reading recipes and cooking together, reading a book, telling a story, etc. Families would then fill out the slip provided and return it to school. At the end of the week, all slips will be entered in a drawing for a prize.

- **Reading Camp-Out**

Classrooms would sign up on the Google sheet to read outside for thirty minutes in one of the courtyard areas. This might also be a great time to buddy up with another class to read.



Parcels for Paws



Parcels for Paws is an annual event which encourages our students to show compassion and caring for animal friends. By caring for animals, students build character traits such as responsibility, respect and compassion. This month long event is a project with the Gulf Coast Humane Society.

Every Friday during the month of February an animal trainer from the Humane Society will visit the school with an adoptable pet. Students will see the pets on our news show and learn about animal safety and animal care. The students will also have the opportunity to see the cat or dog in the classroom. Students are asked to help these animal friends by contributing items to the Humane Society. We make it fun by having a little competition between dogs and cats. Students put their donation on the cart near the cafeteria marked cat or dog and we count up the totals each day. We hope you will help us help our animal friends by sending in an item this month.

These are some of the needs of the Gulf Coast Humane Society:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Dog and Cat Food | Water Hoses |
| Dog Shampoo | Leashes |
| Cat & Dog Treats | Used Towels |
| Cat Litter | Grooming Supplies |
| Dish Soap | Mops & Brooms |
| Laundry Soap | Cat & Dog Toys |

**Classroom Group Pictures -
Monday, February 1st**

**Student Spring Pictures -
Friday, March 16**

Students should wear their uniforms and a smile.

Make checks payable to
Strawbridge Studios, Inc.

Fliers and Pre-Order Forms will sent home
two weeks prior to picture day

Notes from the Principals Pen

Best Wishes, Mara Vertrees, Principal



Dear Parents:

Every Spring Students in grades 3, 4 and 5 take the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). These state required tests determine whether a student is working above, below or at their grade level. The tests were originally set to begin in February with the Writing portion of the English Language Arts test. Because of the days missed due to Hurricane Irma, Lee County, along with much of South Florida has been allowed to set dates later in the school year. The Writing test is now scheduled for April 4th and is taken by students in 4th and 5th Grades. All other testing will begin in mid-April and not be completed until May 15th. Check our next newsletter or our website for a complete schedule of the testing dates by grade.

The tests assess the learning of standards that we teach every day. Students chart their learning throughout the year and know where their strengths are, and what they need to work on. We will be reviewing this information at our Dinner and Data night on February 22. Please discuss this with your child, and remind them to complete homework and ask questions in class. Together we all learn and grow in knowledge.

Yours Truly,

Mara Vertrees

Join Us for Fun Events

Spring brings Field Day fun to Diplomat Elementary. Field Days will be held on March 13, 14 & 15th . Students have a great time participating in athletic events like racing, running an obstacle course and throwing fun items like water balloons. They get a bit wet, but love the activities. Parents are always an important part of this day. Parents can volunteer for a whole or half day. Volunteers will be assigned to help run an activity and must be ready to stay with that activity. We do not allow parents to come only to observe. Everyone outside on field day has an important job to do, to offer this great day for the children.



Those interested in volunteering for Field Day please call the school at 458-0033.

Out of Field Notification

Florida State Statute 231.095 recognizes that teachers at times must be assigned duties in a class outside the field in which the teacher is certified. Florida State Board Rules require that the School Board must approve out-of-field assignments, and parents of students being taught by a teacher who is out-of-field must be notified.

At Diplomat Elementary School the following faculty members are engaged in training to add the endorsement English as a Second Language to their current certificate and are currently reported as Out of Field for ESOL: N. Dalla Costa, B. Hoskins, J. Hurrell, S. Johnston, M. Odom, N. Runyan and C. Santos.



Notificacion de Maestros Afuera de Campo

Estatuto del Estado de la Florida 231.095 reconoce que a los profesores a veces le tienen que asignarse deberes en una clase afuera de campo en cual el maestro esta certificado. Las reglas de la Junta del Estado de la Florida requieren que el comite debe de aprobar las asignaciones afuera de campo y se debe notificara a los padres de estudiantes siendo enseñados por maestros que estan afuera de campo.

En Diplomat Elementary los siguientes miembros de la facultad están comprometidos en añadir el endorso de Inglés como Segundo Idioma a sus certificado. Y actualmente estan representadas como fuera de campo de ESOL: N. Dalla Costa, B. Hoskins, J. Hurrell, S. Johnston, M. Odom, N. Runyan, y C. Santos.

Important Dates to Remember

FEBRUARY

- Feb 1 Class Pictures
- Feb 2—23 Pet Food Drive
- Feb 13 6:00 pm PTO Meeting
- Feb 15 McDonald's Spirit Night (Kismet & Del Prado)
- Feb 16 Fifth Grade Field Trip to Busch Gardens
- Feb 19 President's Day—No School
- Feb 20 Inservice Day—No School
- Feb 22 Dinner & Data—Student Led Conferences & Book Fair in Media Center
- Feb 26 Fundraiser Kick Off

MARCH

- Mar 1 7:00 pm Second Grade Performance for Parents
- Mar 13 Final Turn In for Fundraiser
- Mar 13 5:30 pm SAC Meeting
- Mar 13 6:00 pm PTO Meeting
- Mar 13—15 Field Days
- Mar 15 McDonald's Spirit Night (Kismet & Del Prado)
- Mar 16 **Regular School Day—Hurricane Make Up**
- Mar 16 Spring Pictures
- Mar 19—23 Spring Break
- Mar 30 Good Friday—No School

APRIL

- Apr 2 Regular School Day—Hurricane Make Up**
- Apr 6 Report Cards Home
- Apr 6 Spring Festival
- Apr 10 6:00 pm PTO Meeting
- Apr 19 McDonald's Spirit Night (Kismet & Del Prado)
- Apr 23—27 Earth Week

Colors to Wear for Earth Week

- Apr 23 Blue
- Apr 24 Red
- Apr 25 Yellow
- Apr 26 White
- Apr 27 Earth Day or School Shirt

MAY

- May 8 5:30 pm SAC Meeting
- May 8 6:00 pm PTO Meeting
- May 17 First Grade Awards
- May 17 McDonald's Spirit Night (Kismet & Del Prado)
- May 18 Fairy Tale Parade
- May 21 Second Grade Awards
- May 22 Third Grade Awards
- May 23 Fourth Grade Awards
- May 24 Fifth Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- May 25 Early Dismissal & Kickball Game
- May 28 Memorial Day—No School
- May 29 Early Dismissal
- May 30 Early Dismissal—Last Day of School