



From Principal Kelley

Staff Appreciation Week

This week is Staff Appreciation week. It is the one week of the year when we take the time to recognize the outstanding work of our teachers and support staff. Due to your help this year, our PTO will be recognizing our staff by washing their cars on Monday and Tuesday, providing breakfast on Wednesday and a Cinco de Mayo lunch on Friday.

Please take the time to encourage your child to write a letter of thanks, draw a picture, or bring a flower to the members of our staff who have made a difference in their life.

Lemonade War

Did you know our third grade students are participating in a community service activity this week? Students from each class will take turns selling lemonade during recess for 50 cents a glass (limit 2 per person). The funds raised will be donated to the St. Johns County School District Assist Program for the homeless.

This project entails much more than raising money for a worthy cause. Students are learning the value of community service and helping others. Also, third graders are building reading skills as they read the book Lemonade War and utilizing math skills by graphing the results of their sales. Please encourage your child to support this hands-on learning experience.

Library Books

With the school year quickly coming to a close, we need to make sure we have all of our media center books returned. Check with your child to make sure they have turned in their library books.

Book Swap

Once again this year our students will have the opportunity to participate in a book swap. Over the next two weeks, students may bring in books for the book swap. During the last week of school students will have the opportunity to pick out books to have for summer reading.

K-3 DE Assessment and Resource End of Course Exam

Over the next couple of weeks our Kindergarten, first, second and third grade students will have their last opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on the DE assessment. Students in second through fifth grade will also take the End of Course (EOC) Resource exam for art, music and PE. Please encourage your child to do his or her personal best. The results of these assessments will be used as a guide to help determine the support your child will receive moving into the next school year.

Upcoming Events

- May 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup>  
NGSS Science test 5<sup>th</sup> grade
- May 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>  
DE testing 1<sup>st</sup> grade
- May 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>  
DE testing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade
- May 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>  
DE testing 3<sup>rd</sup> grade
- May 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>  
DE testing Kindergarten
- May 18<sup>th</sup>  
PE, Art, Music EOC 2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grades
- May 18<sup>th</sup>  
PTO Movie Night 6pm
- May 22<sup>nd</sup>  
5<sup>th</sup> grade to Sea World
- May 24<sup>th</sup>  
Last Day of School

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### School Tardy Policy to Change in 2017-2018

Did you know that tardiness has a negative impact on student performance? In fact, many of our students that are performing below level have been tardy five or more time this school year. Tardiness not only negatively impacts the late student, but it also has a negative impact on all students in the classroom. Each time a student who is tardy enters the classroom, the teacher must stop instruction to address the student which decreases the amount of valuable instruction time.

To address this concern, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, students who are tardy more than once a quarter will be required to serve lunch detention. If a parent feels it is his or her fault a student is tardy, the parent is welcome to serve the detention in place of his or her child. Remember, students who ride the bus to school every day will never be marked tardy.

Thank you for your understanding as we make every effort to ensure the best learning environment for all of our students.

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### South Woods Involved Parents

We are now recruiting parents interested in making a difference at South Woods Elementary (Working parent friendly). Our PTO is looking for parents interested in serving on an event committees. These committees usually meet several times to plan, prepare and then put on an event. No experience is required.

Additionally, we are looking for parents who would like to be part of our school improvement process. Interested parents are invited to join us for our last School Advisory Council (SAC) meeting of the year on Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. No experience is required and SAC meetings occur once a month for one hour. To learn more about SAC, please contact Ashely Cousins or Christine Hodges, SAC Co-Chairs, at [Ashley.cousins@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Ashley.cousins@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or [Christine.hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Christine.hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

Thank you for stepping up and supporting our students.

### DE Testing

Computer based DE testing starts this week for Kindergarten through third grade students. Testing will begin at 9am and last approximately 1 ½ hrs. To ensure your child is ready to do their best please:

- Make sure your child is well rested
  - They eat a good breakfast
- Encourage your child to do his or her best
  - Arrive to school **on time**

Students who are absent will take a make-up test later in the week but we know that students perform better when they are testing in their classroom with their classmates and teacher.

### FOOD THAT’S IN WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT!



**Any student who is 18 years of age or younger may receive free, nutritious meals at SOUTH WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL from June 5<sup>th</sup> until July 12<sup>th</sup>. W.E. HARRIS COMMUNITY CULTURAL ARTS CENTER or THE TEEN CENTER in Hastings will also be serving meals during the summer months beginning June 5<sup>th</sup>-July 21<sup>st</sup>. Please call 904-547-8932 or 211 to inquire about the serving times or any additional locations serving meals.**

**PTO News**

Contact PTO at: [southwoodspto@gmail.com](mailto:southwoodspto@gmail.com) and like our Facebook page “South Woods Elementary PTO” to stay up to date with Events and Info for our school!

**PTO Events**

**MOVIE NIGHT!**

Join us for a fun night of pizza, popcorn, and a movie! Movie Night will be held in the cafeteria on May 18 at 6pm. We will have pizza for \$1 per slice and free popcorn and drink. Hope to see you there!



The April Box Tops winner is Mrs. Smith's second grade. We need for all Box Tops for May to be turned in by Monday, May 15.

**Many Thanks!**

South Woods PTO would like to send out a big thank you to the business sponsors that have partnered up with us for the current schoolyear!

**Barnes Farms-** Golden Eagle Sponsor

**Tater Farms-** Golden Eagle Sponsor

**Seaside Children’s Dentistry-** Silver Eagle Sponsor

We appreciate everything from all of sponsors! It’s because of you that we are able to help our school do great things!

A special thanks to Subway for teaming up with PTO by putting a coupon for a free cookie on the back of the PTO membership cards. The coupon can be used with each visit and is good for the entire current school year! PTO membership is \$5 and helps us put on events and help teachers make purchased for great things for our students! **If you would like to support PTO with your \$5 donation and receive a membership card, please contact your child’s teacher or go to the school website to access the PTO Membership application.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

**Tardy Students**

We are continuing to experience a large number of tardy (late) students on a regular basis. Please make every effort to have your student to school on time as instruction begins at 8:30am. Any missed instructional time (no matter how small) can have a negative effect on student achievement.

**Transportation Changes**

Transportation changes must be received in the front office by 2:15pm (1:15pm on Wednesday). This will ensure a safe and timely dismissal for all students. Thank you for your cooperation!

**Volunteers**

As the schoolyear comes to a close and there are many opportunities to be on campus, please remember that any adult entering the building during school hours must have an approved School Access form on file in the office. You can access the on line form on the St. Johns County School District website.