

Student Hours

M-F 7:35 am -1:45 pm

Walsingham Wildcats News

Walsingham Elementary School

Quinn Williams, Principal

Meghan Massie, Assistant Principal

<http://www.walsingham-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us/>

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The Mission of Walsingham Elementary is to prepare our students to become independent learners with the desires, the skills, and the abilities necessary for lifelong learning.

Principal's News

Quinn Williams, Principal

We hope everyone has a wonderful Winter holiday! Soon we will be getting ready for the School Wide Enrichment Model (S.E.M.). Students have all been assigned to enrichment clusters. K-2 clusters include Cooking and Baking, Math Games, Coding, Fashion Design, Yoga, Architecture and Sign Language. 3-5 clusters include Cooking and Baking, Coding, Photography, Fashion Design, Save the Dolphin Society, Astronomy, Architecture, and Gardening. Students are assigned their enrichment cluster based on their interest area. Once a week beginning in February, all students in K-5 will be attending their assigned cluster.

Half of the clusters are starting right after the first bell. Students who are late will miss time in their enrichment cluster, so please be sure students are on time to school each day. All products and SEM boards will be displayed on April 25th, Academic Night. Please save the date.

5th graders came home with a spirit gear form for a "special edition" promotion shirt just for them. They are six dollars. All payments and forms are due by February 9th, Friday, for fifth graders.

Moe's Spirit Night is January 16th from 5pm-8pm! 25% of your order comes back to the school. This excludes online orders.

Celebrate Literacy Week is the last week in January. We are always sharing messages and photos with families on our Walsingham Facebook page. If you hit the "like" button on our page, you will get to see all of the great things going on in our building.

Media Center and Tech Updates

Elizabeth Bonfanti, Media Specialist

We have had our official Library Launch in October, and all classrooms were invited to visit our brand-new media center and check out their first books of the year! Third through fifth grade open check-out times, and PreK- 2nd grade began library lessons and story times biweekly. Some skills we are focusing on are: book care, fiction and nonfiction texts, comparing and contrasting texts, making text-to-text and text-to-self connections, and using Dewey Decimal Classification and our library catalog to locate books.

Thank you to all the students and families who supported our media center and classroom teachers in our book fair! We were able to immediately add over \$350 worth of books to our media center and classrooms, and when we receive the remainder of our proceeds, we will purchase additional books for our media center!

Celebrate Literacy Week, Florida! is January 22-26. Keep an eye out for some fun activities coming up!

Music Notes

Erin Kaminsky, Music Teacher

I hope you all had a wonderful break and are ready to come back and make some music! On January 16th, Steven Turner from Giving Tree Music will bring his drums and we will spend the day making music with him. All grade levels participate, even teachers! Two of our 5th grade chorus students will be participating in the All County Honors Choir at Mahaffey Theater in February. All students will be learning about beat, rhythm, and world instruments in music class. We will be rocking here at Walsingham!

PE News

Coach Fisher, Coach Gaskill, Coach Huckno

We have had several questions about the comment on the progress report of not meeting grade level expectations. This was mostly marked on our kindergarten students and few of our older students. Here are some of the kindergarten grade level expectations for gross motor/locomotor skills and suggestions of things to practice at home.

Hop – Child hops on one foot approximately 10 feet, then turns and hops back using the other foot.

Skip – Child skips approximately 20 feet. Child must skip smoothly. (There is a correlation between skipping and reading)

Balance – Child balances on one foot for 10 seconds, then repeats with other foot.

Jump Rope – Child jumps rope successfully 5 times. Child must jump smoothly.

Verbal cues – start with the rope **behind the back**, turn the rope **over the head**, when the rope comes down, **jump**.

Other suggestions:

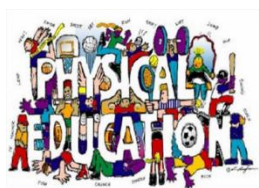
Crossing the midline of the body. Example: take right hand and touch left knee. Left hand to right foot.

- Ball skills – rolling, throwing, catching, kicking, dribbling with hands and feet. If you don't have a ball, use rolled up socks.
- Identify personal and general space. Move in a variety of ways in relation to others. Some examples are chasing, fleeing, and dodging.
- Following directions – make this a game with items found at home. Ex: pick up the sock, place it in the laundry basket then hop back to the starting point. Are they attending to your words when giving the direction? Can they do this without needing directions repeated for each step of the task?
- Our students do warm up exercises then jog a lap. Designate an area outside to practice running. If they can successfully jog 50 yards without stopping, increase it to 100 yards and so on.
- Shoelace tying and clothing– we have many students in grades K-5 who have difficulty tying their own sneakers. There are YouTube videos that can be used to help you teach your child this skill. In addition, some students have trouble putting on their jackets and using a zipper. Great skills to practice at home.

Upcoming events: Students in grades 3-5 will be participating in the Fitnessgram Physical Fitness testing again for the second semester in February. Families who gave permission will receive a final report when all the data is entered. If you are unsure, please check your child's FOCUS for the Forms Packet Fields and go to Healthcare Services Consent. Students in grades K-2 will practice the skills.

Field Day for grades K-5 will be held in April. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Walter Bottles: Please send a water bottle and sneakers in with your child on their PE days. Pants and a jacket will be needed on cooler temperature days. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask.



Success in Art

Lisa Forero, Art Teacher

Clay is The Way! We are going from painting to pottery! Students will begin with Modeling clay which is a nice clay for practicing before an actual clay project. Practice makes perfect! You can find modeling clay at your local store and have the experience in your own home! Students focus on pinch pots and coil pots to start, so they can improve their skills. Once they have mastered the techniques students will have the opportunity to create a piece of pottery that will last forever.

Title I News

Tiffany Livingston, MTSS Coach

Welcome back to a new school year! Thank you, to all the families that attended our Winter Math Night. It was a great success, and we could not have done it without you. Please be on the lookout for our next event called Reading Under the Stars. There will be flyers with RSVP's sent out closer to the event. We are very excited to see you there!

As our Progress Monitoring 2 session has come to an end, please review your child's data. There is a lot of great resources at your disposal on Clever to use at home with your child.

Some of the resources you will find in Clever are DreamBox, Istation, and MyOn. Students are expected to complete at least 5 lessons a week on DreamBox for grades K-3, and 10 lessons a week for grades 4-5. Studies show that students who meet this expectation show a year and a half worth of growth! Istation and MyOn are reading programs designed to help students in every area of literacy such as: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Spelling, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. Istation expectations is students who scored a level 1 or 2 to have 40 minutes or more a week and level 3, 4, or 5 to have 30 minutes or more a week on Istation.

Working on these programs at home is a great way for students to enrich their learning, increase their knowledge of grade level standards, and better prepare students for future assessments. Have fun on Clever!

Counselor Corner

Sarah Weber School Social Worker and Maggie Brilliant, Guidance Counselor

Welcome back and I hope everyone had a restful winter break. In the new year here is a few tips to help create a smooth morning routine for your family. Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves. Start building this habit so they learn right away that going to school on time, is important. Good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed.

- Pick out your outfit and lay it out.
- Pack your lunch.
- Get all your homework together in your backpack.
- Lay your shoes by the door.
- Double check that your alarm is set.
- Go to bed early to get as much sleep as possible.