



# EAGLE'S EYE



## SKYCREST ELEMENTARY NEWS

January 2021

727- 469-5987

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Skycrest Web site - <http://www.skycrest-es.pinellas.k12.fl.us>

### *Mission*

Educate and prepare students for college, career and life.

### A Message from Administration

Dear Skycrest Families,

Happy 2021! Do you believe we are already half-way through the school year? It has been amazing to see all the learning that has taken place as teachers and students accept the challenge of high expectations and learning at the level of complexity of the Florida Standards. Students have taken the MAP test and continue to grow academically and emotionally every day.

"Skycrest Superheros - Being Laser Focused" is our theme this year. It is evident all staff and students are on the right track to success. Continue to support this work at home by making sure your child is reading and doing his/her homework and participating in online programs such as IStation, MyOn and Dreambox.

Thank you to the Skycrest Community for supporting the Book Fair and Food Drive. They were a great success. We collected 861 food items and had almost \$300 of online Book Fair sales. Thank you to all the families who participated in our Virtual Math Night in December as well.

The second period report card of the school year will be sent home on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. Report cards are one measurement/feedback tool for how children are doing in regard to daily classroom instruction. If you have any questions regarding report cards, please contact your children's teachers.

We are looking forward to a GREAT 2021! A year where each child is a "Skycrest Superhero" and every child is a successful learner.

With children in mind,  
Mrs. Pier  
Assistant Principal

### Dates to Remember

- 01/04 Students Return to School
- 01/12 Ready, Set... Kindergarten, See Skycrest Website
- 01/15 End of grading period
- 01/18 No School, Martin Luther King Day
- 01/19 No School for Students

### School Guidelines

Remember Skycrest School-wide expectations is S.A.R.R.

- Be Safe
- Be an Active Learner
- Be Respectful
- Be Responsible

### Dismissal Tip

Parents please place your dashboard identification card in your vehicle. It will help the car circle dismissal run smoother. Thank you.

### Ready Set...Kindergarten

Learn about Skycrest Elementary's Kindergarten Program on Tuesday, January 12, 2021

- ZOOM Meeting @ 4:00PM with Principal Defant (see Skycrest website for link)
- Then drive through Lollipop Circle (Orion Ave.) from 5-6:00PM to see the Kindergarten and Administration Staff and receive a goodie bag of items and information about registration.

Kindergarten registration begins January 11, 2021. Call the front office to make an appointment at 727-469-5987 or go online to Skycrest website: [pcsb.org/Skycrest-es](http://pcsb.org/Skycrest-es)

### Partnership Recognition

Last year, Lu Cushing and the Kiwanis Club of Springtime City gave a huge donation of clothing and monies for field trip support. Her club fills the food box in front of the school on a weekly basis and they recently donated several boxes of books for our students to take home.

We are very thankful for their partnership with Skycrest!

## A Note to Parents: Developing Fact Fluency in Elementary School (Part 2)

### What do we mean by math fact fluency?

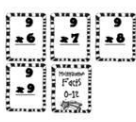
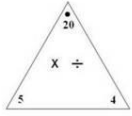




Math facts fluency refers to the ability to recall the basic facts in all four operations **accurately, quickly and effortlessly**. When students achieve automaticity with these facts, they have attained a level of mastery that enables them to retrieve them for long-term memory without conscious effort or attention. Brain imaging studies have shown how the progression from effortful processes, such as finger counting, to automatic retrieval is associated with actual changes in the regions of the brain involved in mathematical computation (Rivera, Reiss, Eckert and Menon, 2005).

### So why focus on math facts?

*Math facts fluency leads to higher order mathematics.*

Through automaticity students free up their working memory and can devote it to problem solving and learning new concepts and skills (Geary, 1994). Quite simply, a lack of fluency in basic math fact recall significantly hinders a child's subsequent progress with problem-solving, algebra and higher-order math concept. Instant knowledge of these facts is key as your child moves on in mathematics and learns multistep-computation, fractions, and decimals.

### Ways to Practice Math Facts at Home!

<p><b>Traditional Flashcards</b> You can make your own, buy them, or download online.... <a href="http://www.mathaids.com/Flash_Cards/">http://www.mathaids.com/Flash_Cards/</a></p> 	<p><b>Fact Family Triangles</b> For all operations</p> 	<p><b>Dice games</b></p> 
<p><b>Math War</b></p>  <p>Flip cards. The player with the greater number says the equation. If the player is correct, they keep the cards. If they are incorrect, the opponent takes them. You can make <b>K, J, A, Q</b> any numbers. Works best with addition or multiplication.</p>	<p><b>Dominoes</b></p> 	<p><b>Fact Ball Pass/Fact Hoops</b> Pass a ball while shouting out fact tables. Or shoot hoops while practicing facts. Make practicing more "active" and fun!</p> 

## Seatbelt Safety

### SEATBELTS SAVE LIVES!

Motor vehicle injuries are a leading cause of death among children in the United States. However, many of these deaths can be prevented!!! Seat belt use reduces the risk for death and serious injury by approximately 50%. Please buckle children in car seats, booster seats, or seat belts on every trip, no matter how short the trip is!

**Rear-facing car seat:** Birth until age 2-4.

**Forward-facing car seat:** After outgrowing rear-facing seat and until at least age 5.

**Booster seat:** After outgrowing forward-facing seat and until seat belts fit properly.

**Seat belts** fit properly when the lap belt lays across the upper thighs (not the stomach) and the shoulder belt lays across the chest (not the neck). Proper seat belt fit usually occurs when children are about 4 feet 9 inches tall and 9-12 years old. **Seat children in the back-middle seat not in front of an airbag.**

**Parents and caregivers: Always wear a seat belt.** Set a good example by always using a seat belt yourself!

## Skycrest Protocols: MASKS

We wanted to highlight our COVID safety protocols at Skycrest, which have been in place since school began in August. These protocols were created and implemented following guidance issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Florida Department of Health, and local healthcare and public health providers. These include:

1. Mandatory masks/face coverings for all staff and students, with opportunities for short mask breaks throughout the day - **students will be reminded and notes home if face covering is not worn. If masks are not worn after several warnings, a call from the principal will be made.**
2. Limited visitors and volunteers in our schools, who must adhere to all district health and safety protocols
3. School Clinic Procedures that quickly identify students with concerning symptoms, and a separate room for them to wait for parent pick-up
4. Daily Self-Screening Procedures for staff, and information provided to families on the importance of keeping ill students home
5. Upgraded air filtration that meets or exceeds the standards put forth by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers Epidemic Task Force
6. Enhanced Cleaning Protocols including nightly sanitation of the school and more frequent surface cleaning throughout the school day
7. Wellness Education for Staff and Students on topics such as how to wear a face covering effectively, proper handwashing, and the importance of social distancing

**With these measures in place - it is important for students to come to school with a mask or keep one in your child's backpack. If this is a reoccurrence of not having a mask when coming to school, the parent will be called and will need to bring one to the front office.**



[www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern](http://www.pcsb.org/safetyconcern)

