

SPRINGWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The Owl Gazette

November 8, 2010



Dear Parents/Guardians,

It's that time of year where we begin to focus on the holidays. Thanksgiving is right around the corner! Your children are an inspiration to all of us. We are fortunate to come to work every day to a job that we love! Personally, I wanted to let you know how thankful I am to be working in such a wonderful school with such committed parents, teachers, and staff.

I would especially like to thank our PTO for sponsoring our recent Fire Safety program. We had many, many children who enjoyed seeing the fire truck and learning more about fire safety! Thanks also to our SAC members who are working hard with the teachers and staff to ensure continuous school improvement.

We couldn't do it without all of you! Remember our theme this year - *Working Together to Make a Difference!*

Sincerely,

[Claire A. Frick](#), Principal

Important Dates

Monday, Nov. 8th - Student Council Canned Food Drive begins

Tuesday, Nov. 9th - SITE Meeting - 3:30

Thursday, Nov. 11th - NO SCHOOL - Veterans Day

Monday, Nov. 15th - After School Tutoring begins

Monday, Nov. 15th - PTO Cookie Dough Sales begin

Tuesday, Nov. 16th - HONOR ROLL ASSEMBLIES

8:45 - K-1

9:15 - 2-3

9:45 - 4-5

Tuesday, Nov. 16th - Parent Math Day!

Thursday, Nov. 18th - Stevi B's Spirit Night - 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 18th - Thanksgiving Luncheon (see flyer)

Wednesday, Nov. 24th - Friday, Nov. 26th - Happy Thanksgiving!

NO SCHOOL! OFFICE CLOSED.

Tuesday, Nov. 30th - Writes-Upon-Request #2

Friday, Dec. 3rd - PTO - Parents Night Out (Polar Express)

Tuesday, Dec. 7th - SAC Meeting - 12:00 - guidance hallway

Tuesday, Dec. 7th - PTO Meeting - 6:00 - media center

CELL PHONES

Please refrain from cell phone use in our drop off & pick up lines. This morning I saw many parents on phones. This jeopardizes the safety of our precious little owls.

Springwood "Box Topics"

October was a successful month for our box tops program; we have completed our first contest and have come \$350.00 closer to our goal! November brings us into the holiday shopping season so 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.

The winners of our October contest are:

Kindergarten- Corrigan

First- Aker

Second- Hewitt

Third- Owen

Fourth- Lynch

Fifth- Baker

The traveling trophy now belongs to Mrs. Aker's first grade class! Keep up the great work, Springwood Owls!

CROSSWALK

Please walk your child all the way across the crosswalk. Do not let children out in the parking lot.



PTO NEWS (Kelly Wilson, PTO President)

November already...where does the time go? PTO is looking forward to the holiday season! We have our next PTO meeting on November 9th at 6 p.m. in the Media Center. We will have a special speaker presenting information in celebration of Aviation History Month. Bring the kids out as this will be a blast!

PTO will begin its annual cookie dough fundraiser Nov. 15th! Let's beat expectations and shoot for the sky! This is always a great fundraiser for our school. Who doesn't want cookies and perfect timing for the holidays? We appreciate all of our families and the efforts given during our fundraisers. We couldn't do it without you!!

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. ☺ It's your time! Stay tuned....more details to come!!

Hope everyone is enjoying the cool weather. We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and as always would love to hear from you; e-mail us at springwood.pto@gmail.com.

Happy Holidays,
PTO Officers

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

- Nov. 9th- PTO Mtg- to help watch children during the Veteran's Day/ Aviation History Event that PTO is hosting.
- Dec. 3rd- Parents Night Out- 6pm - 10pm- to help watch children
- Jan. 18th- Tech-Ghetti Dinner- Help set up /clean up
- Date TBA -To help give out cookie dough

Kids Voting

All students participated in Kids Voting this past week thanks to Agnes Turner, our Civics Advocate. Thanks, Mrs. Turner!

Cold Weather Days

Students go outside to play unless the temperature is below 40 degrees. (Wind chill is considered.) Please dress your child appropriately!

Winter Coats

Cold weather has arrived! If you have any winter coats you would like to donate, we would love to have them. Just drop off the clean coats in guidance and you will make a child warm and happy.

Professional Planning Days

Wow! Have our teachers ever been busy! At Springwood, each teacher is a member of a school improvement committee. Each grade level is represented on each committee. In the past few weeks, each of our committees (reading, writing, math, and science) has had a planning day to work together to align curriculum and plan parent events. Additionally, each grade level received a planning day to analyze data in reading, writing, and math. Teachers are ensuring that each student is getting the instruction that best meets his/her needs. Planning days are funded by our school improvement dollars and our sub budget.

Tutoring

PTO has once again approved a generous sum to fund our afterschool tutoring program for eligible 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We have a dedicated group of enthusiastic teachers who are ready to begin on November 15th. Thank you, PTO!

Springwood Parent Listserv

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

Student Council Canned Food Drive

Our student council will be sponsoring a canned food drive beginning November 8th and running through November 19th.

Welcome to our Newest Kindergarten Teacher

Our newest owl is Ms. Amanda Jansen who will officially take over Laurie Griffin's classroom on Monday, Nov. 8th! (Ms. Griffin is dealing with personal illness and made a decision to resign.) Ms. Jansen completed her internship right here at Springwood with Mrs. Lisa Harvey and Ms. Gwendolyn Smith last spring! She received her B.A. degree in Elementary Education from Flagler in May. We are happy to have her with us!

Flu Shots

Flu shots will not be offered through the schools this year but are available at the health department.



Curriculum Spotlight

Reading Counts

Scholastic Reading Counts is an independent reading program for students in grades K-12. Students choose a book from the library that is appropriate for their skills and matches their interests. With thousands of best loved titles to choose from, it is easy for students to find a book. Children choose books that are on their grade level and match their lexile (comprehension) level. Students read the book and take the corresponding quiz. SRC automatically generates a quiz that meets each student's reading needs. The tests consist of 10 multiple choice questions. Students must earn a 70% or higher on the test to receive their points. Teachers set a point goal at the beginning of each nine week period in grades 1-3 and 5. In grade 4, students must meet a monthly point total. Students are then rewarded and encouraged to read more and achieve more. Some of the incentives for meeting their goal include classroom and school-wide parties, an extra book at check out time, and rewards for the top readers on the morning news show.

How can you help at home? If your child has an interest in a specific hobby, encourage them to read about it. Talk about what your child is reading. Ask questions about the plot or about fun facts if it's nonfiction. Try to find a variety of reading materials for your child to experience. Read with your child. Set aside time each night for your child to read.

Congratulations to the top point scorers the first nine weeks!

5th Grade- Micah Roberts with 163 points
4th Grade- Cole Porter with 334 points
3rd Grade- Kristin Fleming with 117 points
2nd Grade- Meia Wakeley with 81 points
1st Grade- Diamond Thompson with 8 points

These students will be recognized on the morning show and will be given a prize for their achievement!

Bicycle Safety Month (Sara Gargiulo, PE Teacher)

During the month of November all students in grades 3-5 will be participating in a Bicycle Safety program during PE class. Bicycles and helmets will be provided. I encourage you to discuss with your child the importance of bicycle safety and to ask questions about what your son/daughter is learning in class.

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!

Front Office

The front desk is now a "no phone zone". This helps us help you and others in a timely manner without interference. Thank you!

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!

SITE - School-Based Decision-Making Team

Our SITE team meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 3:30 p.m. SITE addresses items that affect the entire school. Parents are invited to attend. If you have an item that you would like SITE to consider, please submit an [agenda request form](#) to the front office no later than the 1st Tuesday of each month. This form can be picked up in the front office or can be found online on our website.

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

Every child earned enough tickets to attend our first reward celebration, a dance and sing-a-long in the cafeteria on Oct. 21st!

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

Our next SAC meeting will be held Dec. 7th at 12:00 noon in the Guidance Hallway. 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. If you are interested in serving on one of our committees (Reading, Math, Science, Writing, Positive Behavior Support/Attendance, or Parent Involvement) please contact [Claire Frick](#) at 488-6225. Committees meet as necessary.

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. 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. SAC meetings are open and subject to the Sunshine Law. All interested persons are welcome to attend.

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 – 8:30pm. Tickets will be sold. Contact Mrs. Betsy Bruggner, Ms. June Watson or Mrs. Angela McKenzie-Jakes at 488-6225 for more details.

We appreciate your continued support.

Springwood SAC members

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."