

# SHARK NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

December 1, 2014

[www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/SLK](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us/SLK)



Volume 15 Issue 4

Dear Parents,

SLWK-8 Celebrates Reading! Parents, we encourage you to support reading at home by doing the following:

- ✓ Establish a routine at home for reading
- ✓ Play games that are reading related
- ✓ Read aloud an exciting passage in a book or magazine article
- ✓ Take advantage of spur-of-the-moment opportunities for reading during the course of the day

To kick off the season, we have our Winter Band Concert on December 4th at 6:30 pm in the Cafeteria. Prior to the concert, please feel free to browse our student's Science Fair Projects on display in the Media Center beginning at 5:30. We hope you join us as we celebrate the spirit of the season.

Have a fantastic month and a wonderful Winter Break!

### Happy Holidays!



Susan Seal, Principal  
Follow me on Twitter @slwk8\_Principal



## YEARBOOKS!

Order your 2014 YEARBOOK today for the best price of the year—\$30!!

Order ONLINE with your credit or debit card at [www.jostensyearbooks.com](http://www.jostensyearbooks.com) or return the attached form to Ms. Abrahamte with cash or check payment.

Save \$10 and order your yearbook before January 2, 2014 when prices go up.

### Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up

The school day for students is from 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. Supervision is provided from 9:10 am to 4:15 pm.

If someone other than the parent/guardian is signing out a child before the end of the school day, they must be at least 18 years old and be listed on the child's emergency card. We will ask to see photo ID (driver's license).

## Student Council Giving Tree

During this holiday season, the SLWK-8 Student Council is working with the "Christmas Kids" program in conjunction with WPSL 1590 and C.A.S.T.L.E.

The program provides toys for families in need during the holidays.

From Dec. 1st to Dec. 17th there will be a "Giving Tree" located in our school's front office that has ornaments with specific age, gender and price range for toys.

We are asking the families here at SLWK-8 to help support our community's less fortunate by choosing an ornament and purchasing a toy to be donated to this worthwhile program.

A letter will be sent home to parents explaining more about this program.

## PTO Holiday Shoppe

SLWKS PTO presents our Annual Holiday Shoppe  
December 8-12  
During the school hours

Students will have the opportunity to purchase affordable gifts for loved ones during this season of giving!

Elementary students will visit the Holiday Shoppe during their Media Resource. Middle school students will visit during their Reading class.



Be sure to look for the Holiday Shoppe packet coming home soon with all of the information, including an envelope for students to keep track of their budget and their gift list. Cash and checks made payable to SLWK-S will be accepted (must have a phone number)

Your SLWKS PTO is delighted to offer this event to our school! If you would like more information or would like to volunteer your time, please contact us at [slwksptr@gmail.com](mailto:slwksptr@gmail.com).

## BUS RIDERS

Students may **not** ride the bus with another student unless it is an emergency. A note must be sent in by both parents with their name and phone number and the reason for the emergency. The notes must be turned into the Dean's Office by 10:00 am that morning.

## Important Dates

Shark Writes—Grades 4-8	Dec. 4
Science Fair Expo - Grades 3-8 - 5:30 pm (Media Center)	Dec. 4
Band Concert—Grades 6-8 - 6:30 pm (Cafeteria)	Dec. 4
SLWK-8 Night @ Stevi B's - 5:00-9:00 pm	Dec. 10
Progress Reports / Family Access	Dec. 11
SAGE Expo (Café & Media Ctr.) - 6:00-7:30 pm	Dec. 11
Semester Exams—Grades 6-8	Dec. 11-19
SAC—8:30 am (Media Center)	Dec. 16
Student / Month - 9:45 am (Cafeteria)	Dec. 16
PTO—4:20 pm (Media Center)	Dec. 17
DBIS Winter Wonderland	Dec. 18
Early Dismissal—2:00 pm	Dec. 19
Winter Break	Dec. 22-Jan. 6
Students Return	Jan. 7

## FSA Practice

[www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us)

Click on the "Parents & Students" tab  
Under "Learning Resources", click on grade level (*elementary or middle*)

Select our school name from the drop down list under "Destiny Library Resources"  
Under "Educational Links", you will find "Destination Reading & Math" and "FCAT Explorer"

*Destination Reading & Math:*

User name: 10 digit student ID #

Password: 10 digit student ID #

[FSAssessments.org](http://FSAssessments.org) has information regarding new assessments. You can register for email alerts here.

If you have questions, call 785-6630



## Family Access

For access to the Parent Portal go the School Board website at

[www.stlucie.k12.fl.us](http://www.stlucie.k12.fl.us)

- look for the "Family Access" button
- download and complete the School Family Access Form
- bring it into the office

As you will see on the instructions, you **must** bring in driver's license with the form to have your account activated, as well as have an email address.



**K**indergarten Angel Fish—First, I would like to thank all of those parents who came to the Pilgrim and Native American Celebration. Your help and support is greatly appreciated. We look forward to continued involvement from our kindergarten families. In **Reading**, we are working on identifying elements of informational text. In **Math**, continue to help your student practice writing and identifying the numerals 10-20. In class we will be learning about more and fewer. In **Writing**, we are learning basic sentence structure and using descriptive words. We are also learning to write about events. Thank you again for all your help and support!



**2**<sup>nd</sup> Grade Butterfly Fish—Second grade is measuring length in both standard and metric units. This includes measuring to the nearest foot, inch, meter and centimeter. Our focus while reading informational text will include main idea, and asking and answering questions such as **Who? What? When? Where? Why** and **How?** While reading literature we'll practice comparing and contrasting the same story by different authors. The students will also be writing informative text in which they introduce a topic, use facts and definitions to develop points and provide a concluding statement. Please make sure your child continues to read 20 minutes each night, even when there's no school.



**4**<sup>th</sup> Grade Lion Fish—Happy November all! With the holiday season in full effect our school time gets chopped up with breaks; please be sure to work with your child nightly on their reading and math skills. Most recently the 4<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed their trip to the IRSC Planetarium and have just finished up that unit. Therefore, they are well equipped to speak about Earth's place in space. Students will be moving on to discover what Matter is in **Science**. Our Lion Fish are also finishing up their dedicated multiplication work. Your child should be capable of multiplying two by two to four by one equations and decoding multi-step word problems; challenge them! Multiplication will be a useful partner for your child as they move into division. **Social Studies** has been a fascinating scene for the children. They've discovered various Native Florida tribes and discussed what it would be like to be a Native American. We are also in the process of learning a few of Florida's first explorers. The fourth graders are being given the opportunity to experience first-hand what it was like to be a settler in Florida's early days with our next field trip in January. Students will travel to the Orlando area to discover what it was like to make everything for yourself and live off the land at "Fort Christmas", and then experience some of Florida's wildlife at "Jungle Adventure." Be sure to look for the permission slip with information sheet attached to it. Contact your child's teacher with any questions. Reminder you must be a pre-approved volunteer to attend our field trips, so apply today!



**1**<sup>st</sup> Grade Tangs—1<sup>st</sup> Grade is moving right along through the year! The 1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teachers would like to thank everyone who came to our Fall Harvest Celebration. The students really enjoyed going back in time to make homemade butter and pumpkin pie in class. In Reading this month, we will continue to focus on what a good reader sounds like. Make sure to read with your child for at least 15 minutes each night to help with their fluency. In Math, the students will be working on subtraction. In Writing, we are continuing to work on Informative pieces. We are learning to add more details and go back to read our papers so that we can catch the mistakes that we may have made. Please, remember to check out a website at <http://slwk8firstgrade.weebly.com/> for additional information.



**3**<sup>rd</sup> Grade Parrot Fish—Third grade has been working hard and learning many things! In **Reading**, we have been busy reading the chapter book, *The Chocolate Touch*, and completing a unit that involves asking and answering questions as we read. In **Math**, we are continuing to learn division strategies and practicing our multiplication facts with "Kick It", which will end this month with a fun event to celebrate our successes. In **Social Studies**, we have been talking about important landmarks in North America. Students are looking forward to a culminating event to this unit in which they will showcase their chosen landmark. In **Writing**, as part of our chapter book unit, we've been writing informative and persuasive texts about chocolate. Please watch for important information about our first field trip to the IRCS Planetarium this month!



**5**<sup>th</sup> Grade Stingrays—Our students in 5<sup>th</sup> grade are so excited that our winter season is right around the corner. We are really looking forward to our first field trip to Oxbow Eco-Center December 10, 11, and 17 (2 classes a day). Last month students were very engaged and had a great time watching an educational program brought to us from FPL. Our students learned necessary information regarding conserving energy. We have had a busy autumn learning 5<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum. We will continue our learning this month. In **Math**, students will be learning about 2D and 3D shapes. In **Science**, our focus will be Earth in space and time. In **Social Studies**, our students are learning how life was for our early colonists in the New England, Middle and Southern colonies. In **Reading**, we are beginning a unit which focuses on historical fiction set in the Revolutionary war era. Students will be sequencing historical and fictional events, as well as comparing and contrasting events. They will also be drawing conclusions which revolve around this particular time in history.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**—It's the second quarter and we are off and running! Our scientists have been absorbed in lessons and lab activities about our Earth System. We just completed labs about deep ocean currents and ocean surface currents. There is nothing like hands-on learning! Ask your students about their activities in **Science** class. We are currently learning about weather and climate, and actually teaching each other! Soon we will begin investigating the way that our earth changes through weathering, erosion, and deposition. There is just so much to learn! **Language Arts** classes are learning about the new style of writing expected of students. We have to write and defend a position by citing evidence from several reading passages. It's pretty tough, but the 6th graders are up to it! Reading Counts has started over. *Please make sure to read every night and take reading counts tests.* We are traveling down the Silk Road using our Document Based Questions book. The students are analyzing documents as well as learning about the trials and tribulations of the Silk Road traveler. In the next few weeks we will begin learning about early history. The journey is hard and long, but we have a good time. **Math** students are busy learning how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. It's sooo easy!! Our next unit will be on ratios and rates. Please be sure to continue to encourage your students to study their basic facts. Also, please be sure your child is completing the re-do papers that have been sent home. It is imperative that they find their errors and correct them. We are constantly learning. Tiger Sharks have been making 'bricks' this year! Each student will get a turn to fill out a brick. The down exactly what day in every class on the brick is displayed for everyone to see! It is so amazing to see what they have already learned during the first quarter! Keep it up Tigers!



**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**—In **Civics**, students are working on Project Citizen. They have chosen a public policy issue that they will research in class. They will examine what alternative policies exist to deal with the problem, create their own class policy, and then implement an action plan to get their class policy put into place. **Math** students have been doing operations on rational numbers. They have been adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with like and unlike fractions and mixed numbers, as well as writing and solving multi-step equations and inequalities that pertain to real life situations. In **Science**, we have just started a new unit to learn more about the age of the Earth, its parts, and what causes the Earth to change over time. Our classes are currently examining fossils and have checked out multiple books from our school library on fossils to help explore our curiosity about them. We are using various techniques that scientists utilize in order to investigate Earth's history. These methods include, but are not limited to: fossil dating, and relative examinations, radioactive aging techniques. The Whale Sharks Science buddies for an exciting "Balloon-Popping" experiment to teach 5th grade more about water conduction (5th grade curriculum). **Science Fair:** Students have been diligently completing their Science Fair projects. *All projects are due on November 14th (this includes your project board, logbook, and final report).* Finally, **Language Arts** and **Reading** teachers are working collaboratively with students exploring the poetry of E.E. Cummings, John Clare, and Gary Soto, while learning about figurative language and how it conveys meaning in poetry.



**Whitetips**—Students are being exposed to different themes including heroism, justice, family, and discrimination. In order for students to take ownership in understanding this content at universal levels, students are participating in complex research in which they are required to develop their own claims and problem generated questions for further research. This information is being used to participate in Socratic Seminars, in-depth student led critical conversations in which students discuss their findings, ask further questions, and have thematic discussions. **Sixth grade students** are studying the early stone age and will be studying early human migration. They will be making story board cartoons illustrating reasons for early migrations. **Seventh grade students** are finalizing action steps needed for Project Citizen. The researched reasons for this problem was lack of sidewalks and streetlights in Port St. Lucie. Students have and are creating an action plan to help deal with the lack of sidewalks and are also beginning their study of propaganda and are analyzing political ads on TV. **Eighth grade students** are studying events of the Road to Revolution that led to the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution. They will be presenting plays and broadcasts about events in the early years of the war. In **Science**, **8<sup>th</sup> graders** will be creating Element Baby Books and hypothesizing a "new" element with its place on the periodic table along with its characteristics, and learning electron configurations using the Bohr model and Lewis Dot Diagram, **6<sup>th</sup> grade** will be creating Rain Sticks and creating weathering collages; **7<sup>th</sup> grade** will be hypothesizing ways to change human impact on our land, air and water.



**8<sup>th</sup> Grade**—Eighth grade **Science** classes have just concluded our changes in matter unit with a tasty chocolate lab. Our focus for the next several weeks will be all about atoms. The atomic theory unit will bring more lab experiences dealing with periodic table elements. We will learn about the properties of the elements and how the elements combine to form the matter all around us. *Science projects should be completed and turned in.* Our school science fair judging will be held on December 2<sup>nd</sup> with viewing on December 4<sup>th</sup>. In **Pre-Algebra**, students will be working on understanding Expressions and functions to then go into linear equations. In **Algebra**, students will be working on linear and non-linear equations. In **Reading** and **Language Arts**, students are working on being able to cite form text to support their writing.



## Looking Ahead:

- Winter Break—December 22-January 6th
- End of 2nd 9 weeks/1st Semester—January 9th
- MLK Holiday—January 19th
- Report Cards—January 26th
- Make Parents Night—January 27th
- Early Dismissal—January 28th

@ 2:00 pm



"Believe you can, and you're halfway there."

*Theodore Roosevelt*



## Counselor's Corner

Quarter 2 is in full swing and is going by quickly. Quarter 2 ends January 9<sup>th</sup>, so please remember to monitor your child's progress through Family Access on a bi-weekly basis. Students in middle school will also have mid-term exams before Winter Break. Mid-terms are factored into a student's semester grade and it is important that students do the best that they can on these exams.

Winter break begins on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please encourage your children to read and continue practicing their skills even though they are on vacation. This is also a good time to catch up on any missing assignments your child might have. We hope that everyone has a great holiday break.

## STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTION

Congratulations to our new Student Council:

President—Destiny Lerner  
 Vice President—Tim Rossman  
 Secretary—Kayla Perez  
 Treasurer—Tyler Christiansen  
 Historian—Shah Hosein



Class Representatives:

3rd Grade:

Cufo—Alexis Faulin  
 Jewel—Tyler Hayden  
 Lane—Lewis Gomez  
 Markham—Alexis Spade  
 Rovendo—Victoria Harris  
 Tucker—Marisa Nielson  
 Wekenmann—Joseph Lisboa

4th Grade:

DeMaio—Sean Minch  
 Dowdney—Ryley Heaton  
 Fryer Dommel—Miguel Genung  
 Jones—Parker Button  
 Roberts—Taylor Smith  
 Woods—Karyanna Donovan

5th Grade:

Kennedy—Matthew Coffey  
 MacDonald—Brianna Dell  
 Miller—Aidan Hawkins  
 Peters—Adam Muschweck  
 Rivas—Jordan Weston  
 Ryan—Adriana Bravo

6th Grade:

Christina DiMeo  
 Hailey Gessner

8th Grade:

Aaron Gutrie  
 Alba Macias

Whitetails:

Xavier Emma  
 Savannah Hardy

## Important Check Information

Check acceptance Policy:



Your check is welcome at *St. Lucie County Schools*. *St. Lucie County Schools* recognizes that occasionally a parent may inadvertently overdraw a checking account and a check may be returned by your bank. In order to recover these funds in a private and professional manner, *St. Lucie County Schools* has contracted with **CHECKredi of Alabama**, a company based in Huntsville, AL for collection of returned checks.

Each person writing a check to a school or the School System should write the check on a commercially printed check with your name, address and one phone number. Counter or starter checks will not be accepted. When a person writes a check to a school or the School System, the person writing the check agrees that, if the check is returned, that it may be represented electronically on the same account, and that the fee established by law, may be debited from the same account.

If the check and fee are not collected electronically, then **CHECKredi** will contact you by mail and by telephone in order for you to make arrangements to pay. Payments may be made to **CHECKredi** by mailing to 4925 Sparkman Drive or to P.O. Box 3829 Huntsville, AL 35810. Payments of the check and fee may be made electronically at [www.checkredi.com](http://www.checkredi.com) by using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check without additional fee. For a convenience fee, payments may be made over the telephone by credit or debit card or electronic check by calling toll free (877) 524-7334.

For the month of December we will be focusing on the Character Trait of—

## Generosity

Making someone's day by giving something away.  
 What does it mean to make someone's day? Has anyone ever made your day?

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver."

*Maya Angelou*

