

Lone Star Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Fourth Grade has got the
FCAT BEAT!!!



is for TESTING.

We all know test results are important. They are important because they help us measure the impact of our instruction. To encourage kids to do their best on a test, we can...

- ✚ Encourage a positive attitude: It may be tough, but you can do it!
- ✚ Be sure they eat a good breakfast. Kids think better on a full stomach.
- ✚ Tell them not to worry if a question seems tricky: reread it. Answer the best you can.
- ✚ Remind them to go back to make sure they didn't make careless mistakes.

Children need to hear their parents say that making an effort, working hard and planning ahead are important. We need to encourage children to set reasonable goals, and celebrate with them when they make progress toward their goals. Struggling with learning tasks is a part of a student's "job." In the end, the feeling of accomplishment they get will lead to bigger accomplishments in the future!

In February, things move in high speed and we are pressing to make every minute count. Our teachers and staff are incredible and it is a privilege to be a part of such a dedicated team of individuals.

The FCAT is knocking at our heels and teachers and students have put forth great effort since we returned from winter break to continue to work hard each day leading up to test time. LSE's administrators have been in our fourth grade classrooms conferencing and helping students revise their writing and we are excited by what we have observed.

We appreciate your efforts in making Lone Star a great place for students to learn. Please keep in mind that the first bell rings at 8:25 and school officially begins at 8:30 a.m. Missing part of the small group instruction time is extremely detrimental to the success of your child's progress.

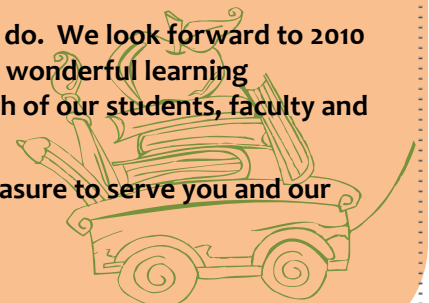
This is the part of the day where each student receives very individualized instruction and missing any part of it leaves gaps that are difficult to fill in at other times during the day. Please continue to make every effort to be on time. We will be tracking attendance and late arrivals. Once a student reaches 6 tardies (unexcused) we will write discipline referrals for tardiness (see p. 42 in Code of Conduct handbook). We appreciate your support in this effort to maximize learning time.

I would like to give a huge thank you to our P.T.A. for a great Family Night last month. The turn-out was fantastic and the feed-back from our parents was overwhelmingly positive. Parents gained valuable information in our FCAT workshops and walked away a little more at ease about the test.

Thank you for all you do. We look forward to 2010 with bright hope and wonderful learning opportunities for each of our students, faculty and staff.

As always it is my pleasure to serve you and our community.

Mrs. Kavanagh



IMPORTANT DATES FOR FEBRUARY

- February 1 - Fifth Grade Student Led Conferences
- 7:30 – 8:15 a.m.
- 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
- P.T.A. Spring Fundraiser Begins
- February 2 – Report Cards go Home
- P.T.A. Board Meeting @ 6:15 p.m.
- February 3 and 17 – Early Release Days
- February 9 – FCAT Writes (4th Grade Only)
- February 10 & 11 – Make-up days for FCAT Writes
- February 14 – Happy Valentine’s Day



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- February 15 – President’s Day – No School
- February 18 – SAC Meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- P.T.A. Program @ 7:00 p.m.
- Second Grade Performs
- February 19 – Flag Raising Ceremony @ 9:00 a.m.
- February 23 – Kindergarten Field Trip to MOCA
- February 24 – Spring Picture Day



- February 25 – Kindergarten Field Trip to MOCA



OVERCOME TEST ANXIETY

Nobody likes to take tests. And some kids get what’s called “**test anxiety.**” They are so worried about taking the test that they can’t show what they know.

Telling your child, “Just relax” won’t work. Instead, share these tips:

- **Don’t cram.** A good night’s sleep is more important than an extra hour of studying. Studies show that last-minute cramming does not work.
- **Read the directions- carefully!**
- **Look the test over quickly.** Before answering any questions, skim quickly through the test. Figure out how much time to spend on each section.
- **Don’t be afraid to skip a question.** Don’t waste time worrying about questions you can’t answer. Instead go on to questions you know. If there is time, go back to the items you skipped.
- **Remember past tests** where you did well. You can do well again!

