



# Deer Park News

“Where All Students are Awesome”

## A Message from the Principal, Margie Polen

Dear Families,

As you know, FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) testing is right around the corner. Our teachers and students have been working very hard all year to make sure that everyone is as prepared for these assessments as possible.

**Fourth and fifth grade** students will take the FSA Writing Assessment on Monday, Feb. 27th. This will be a paper-based assessment and students will have 120 minutes to complete the test. This Writing Assessment score will be part of the ELA (English Language Arts) Score for these students.

**Third grade** students will be tested next. Third grade students will take the FSA reading, Tues. and Weds., March 28th & 29th. These tests last 80 minutes. This closely follows Spring Break, so it is recommended that you make sure students are back from Spring Break on Mon. so that they are prepared for the testing on Tues. The third grade reading assessment is the assessment that determines promotion to fourth grade. According to Florida State Law, a student must be retained in third grade if he/she does not score above a Level 1 in Reading. The reading assessment for third grade will also be a paper-based test. Third grade students will also be assessed on the FSA Math on April 12th & 13th.

**Fourth grade** students will be assessed with the FSA ELA & Math tests in April.

**Fifth grade** students will be assessed with the FSA ELA & Math but also a Science FCAT in April & early May. More information will be published in our next newsletter.

**Deer Park will have a “closed campus” on each of the testing dates listed above. This means that our campus will not be open for parents to have lunch with students and we will not be able to have volunteers on campus.**

## Excellence in Attendance

We are pleased to announce that Deer Park Elementary received recognition from the District School Board of Pasco County for "Treading up with Attendance" in quarter one. This award has identified our school with having overall excellent attendance. Thank you parents/guardians for ensuring that your children attend school daily and arrive on time!

We are recognizing all students who **have achieved less than three absences and two tardies from semester one**. These students will receive a recognition sticker on their report card. Our DPES Attendance Committee will also be giving out Attendance Spirit Sticks in the classroom following report card distribution.

We will continue this new tradition second semester! Make sure your student **arrives on time - every day** (no more than three absences and two tardies during second semester), so they can receive recognition in May!

EVERY CHILD, EVERY SEAT, EVERYDAY, ON TIME!  
Lisa Jennings, School Counselor

## Dates to Remember:

### January 2017

- 11** McBuck Night  
5-7pm  
for Talented Turtles
- 16** Dr. Martin Luther King Day - *No School*
- 19** Skating Party  
Grades 2-5 3-6pm
- 20** SAC Mtg. 7:45am
- 24** PTA Movie Night & General Mtg. 6:15pm
- 17** Report Card
- 31** 100th Day of School

### February 2017

- 8** FireHouse Subs Night  
5-8pm  
for Creative Coyotes
- 10** Progress Reports
- 10** Valentine's Dance  
6-8pm
- 17** SAC Mtg. 7:45am
- 22** Skating Party  
Grades 2-5 3-6pm
- 27** FSA Writing Test  
4th and 5th Grade

Don't Forget..Every Friday is **SCHOOL SPIRIT DAY!** Wear **BLUE** or a **SPIRIT SHIRT** for a chance for your class to earn an **EXTRA RECESS!**

Follow us on facebook, twitter and on our homepage at [www.dpes.pasco.k12.fl.us](http://www.dpes.pasco.k12.fl.us)



*“WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING A LOVE OF MATH WITH OUR STUDENTS AND YOUR CHILDREN!” MS. SUTULA*

Here are the mathematical practices for the month of January and February:

**January:** Attend to precision.

**February:** Reason abstractly and quantitatively

**Math Practices**

This year we are continuing to work on the 8 mathematical practices. Each month, we have a different focus. Students have the opportunity to earn a Mathlete Certificate for displaying the specific practice during math instruction. One student per class is picked and celebrated on the morning news show. Be sure to ask your child what they are learning in math and what mathematical practice they are focused on each month.

Our students enjoy being on the news each month. They love being recognized for their math effort. Click the YouTube link on our school webpage to see your “Mathlete”.

Please encourage your child to work hard every day!

**Awesome Authors**

We will be celebrating Awesome Authors in January and February. Teachers may select a student whose writing has improved, a student who was reluctant to write, but now writes or a student who excels in writing.

Students who are selected are invited to share their writing with the rest of the students that were chosen from other classrooms.

DPES students keep writing! You might be selected next time; so, do your best!!

Ms. Sutula  
Asst. Principal

**ABSENCE / TARDY**

Reminder: If your child is absent from school, please turn in an excused note to their teacher. Please include your child’s first and last name along with student # on the note.

For students who arrive late to school, please have an adult bring them in to the office to be marked tardy. If they were late due to an appointment, please have a note from the appointment provider. The data entry office keeps these notes attached to the tardy slip.



**Megan Ferro - “Teacher of the Year”**  
**Frank Vanderhoef - “SRP of the Year”**

Please join us in congratulating Megan Ferro, a second grade teacher, and Frank Vanderhoef, our school custodian!

They were chosen by their peers for excellence in their respective roles at Deer Park Elementary and outstanding commitment to our students and staff!

**BELL SCHEDULE****ARRIVAL**

**8:20** *No bell - Students are unloaded from cars and may wait in covered entryway where adult supervision is available.*

**8:20** *Breakfast is available in our cafeteria.*

**8:30** *First bell rings. Students should be going to their classrooms.*

**8:40** *Tardy bell rings. After this bell, students need to enter office to get a tardy pass.*

**DISMISSAL**

**2:50 P.L.A.C.E.** *Students will be escorted to the cafeteria.*

**2:50 Car Riders** *are brought out to the car loop (east side).*

**2:50 Bus Riders** *are escorted out to the bus loop located (west side) Day Care Vans and the YMCA Bus will also be in this area.*

**2:55 All Walkers and Bike Riders** *are escorted to the designated east or west bike rack, whichever is closest to home.*

**2:55 All Park and Pick-Up** *students are escorted to front gazebo.*

**(Cars are not permitted in the bus loop.)**

**School Choice Enrollment**

School Choice Open Enrollment Applications for the following school year (2017-2018) will be accepted February 1 - March 1, 2017. Applications must be received electronically no later than March 1st. Applications for multiple children, multiple schools, or incomplete applications will *not* be considered.

If you have a student **currently** on School Choice, you do not need to reapply UNLESS:

1. Your address changed after initial approval.
2. You reside outside of Pasco County.
3. If the student will be moving to the next school level (Elementary to Middle OR Middle to High), OR
4. Your school was impacted by a boundary change.

Visit the website below for more information and to apply:

[http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ed\\_choice/school\\_choice/registration](http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/ed_choice/school_choice/registration)

**“STAR BUCK” of the Month**

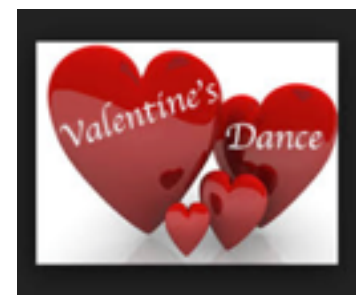
On the last Friday of each month, Deer Park will be celebrating our “**STAR BUCKS**”!

The students chosen for the month’s Star Buck Spotlight (one from each classroom) will exemplify one or more of Deer Park’s expectations:

- **Be** responsible
- **Use** respect
- **Convey** confidence
- **Keep** engaged
- **Safety** first

They come to school each day with a positive attitude and are committed to doing their best.

They work together with their teachers and classmates showing kindness and being helpful. They display good citizenship, are honest and

**Valentine’s Day Dance  
February 10th**

PTA will be sponsoring our annual Valentine’s Day Dance on **Friday, February 10th** from **6-8pm** in the cafeteria. Flyers will be coming home with more details. This is a parent chaperoned event..no drop offs please.



Our Fall Carnival and Holiday Sing-A-Long were a HUGE success!  
We couldn't have done it without the support of our hardworking volunteers!

Thank you to our vendors, Coldstone, Kona Ice, Pit Boss BBQ and Xtreme Jumpers for supporting our carnival.  
Special thanks to our business sponsors, Century 21, Cornerstone and Mathnasium.

Our community Service project in association with "Volunteer Way" collected 600 lbs of clothing, shoes, jackets, toys and books for families in our community who are in need.

Two Men and a Truck assisted us in our effort and a big Thank You to them for their help!

**Lastly a big Thank You in advance to our families for volunteering and supporting PTA events!**



We have many volunteer opportunities at Deer Park! Volunteers are needed to help out in the classrooms and media center, chaperone field trips and work at our fundraiser and family events. Your efforts and support make Deer Park Elementary AWESOME! Please remember to renew your volunteer application each year after **July 1st**.

Volunteer applications can be found at

<http://www.pasco.k12.fl.us/communications/volunteer/>

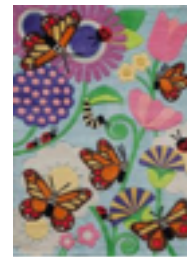


Our Boxtops Collection Drive is in full swing! We have collected and submitted over 3700 boxtops so far. Funds we receive are used to replenish our Peaceful Playground and recess equipment.

The winner of a popcorn party for most boxtops collected during our first contest was Mrs. Hager's first grade class!

For your convenience, a new collection sheet is attached.

Thank you for your support!



## Habitat & Recycling

Happy 2017! The Habitat and Outdoor Classroom (Butterfly Garden) is in its winter time mode. When Spring comes, most of the plants will begin to grow again. You are welcome to have lunch with your child if no teacher is using the classroom area for a class lesson.

Art teacher, Mrs. Kurasz and the students in grades 1-5 are beginning to work on their art designs for the 2017 theme. It is "Protect Our Planet--Reuse". A lesson will be taught about the theme. Student designs that best follow the theme will be selected. From those designs, 12 designs will be selected. The faculty and staff will vote on the final 12, and there will be a winner selected.

The winning button will be sold for \$1.00 in the cafeteria in Earth Month--April.

Please support this school wide effort to help maintain the Habitat and Outdoor Classroom. It has grown into a beautiful park inside of Deer Park. I know because in 1989 when Deer Park opened, I started to plan it with Mrs. Pratt. Mrs. Pratt is still teaching at DPES as a substitute teacher. Mr. Pratt helps her maintain this incredible piece of peaceful environment.

Please also send in any A, AA, AAA, C & D batteries, and deposit your newspapers and broken down boxes in the Green Fiber bins.

"Keep a smile on your face and a song in your heart, and I will see you again real soon.

Mother Earth

