

THE GOPHER GAZETTE

**Principal:
John Weed**



Rock Crusher Elementary School

814 South Rock Crusher Road
Homosassa, Florida 34448
352-795-2010

Rockcrusherelementary.com
Rock Crusher Web site

<http://www.citrus.k12.fl.us/calendars/>

To access the countywide calendar including Rock Crusher dates

**Assistant Principal:
Rene' Johnson**



Principal's Perspective

We just surpassed the 100th day of school, this means that February is upon us and we are more than half way through another school year. It always amazes me just how fast the time does go by during the school year. Our intentions are to continue to improve the teaching and learning that happens at Rock Crusher every day. I encourage all parents to have conversations with their child's teacher so that we can continue to communicate the most recent academic achievement of our students. How is your child performing and are they making the progress that is expected? Writing continues to be a critical part of our curriculum and a focal point of our academic day. Our fourth graders are fine tuning their skills in writing in preparation for the upcoming Florida Writes portion of FCAT. This year the writing test will be given on February 28. Our teachers and students are working hard to maintain high performance levels.

Let's continue to work together to ensure that all of our students are making gains. I look forward to seeing you around campus, helping to make a difference!

—John B. Weed/ Principal

February 2012



DATES TO REMEMBER

7	SAEC Meeting 4:30
14	Valentine's Day
13-16	1st Grade Art Camp
20	President's Day Student/Teacher Holiday
28	Beginning FCAT Florida Writes

Volunteer's at RCE

Volunteers are back in full swing at Rock Crusher Elementary. If you have taken the class to become a volunteer but haven't found a place to serve, please let me know. We have lots of opportunities for willing volunteers. With FCAT just around the corner, teachers really appreciate the additional support our volunteers are providing in the classroom.

To register for the Volunteer Orientation class, please call Helen Pannelli at the District Service Center (726-1931 Ext: 2233). If you want to find out more about becoming a volunteer or mentor at Rock Crusher, please contact me at 795-2010 or email me at burnsp@citrus.k12.fl.us. The next Volunteer Orientation will be Friday, February 10, 2012 from 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. at the District Service Center in Inverness. Mentor training will follow on the same date from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.
Pam Burns /Volunteer Coordinator

All Comer's Track and Field Meet

Come one; come all to the All Comer's Track and Field Meet. This meet is open to all students in grades K-8. It is being held at Lecanto High School Stadium on Friday, March 9, from 5:00 - 800 p.m.

Register now and pay later. Each event will be based on grade levels for involvement and distance of events. Events will include: sprints, relays, long jump, a throw, middle and distance running, and for 7th/8th grade - 100 meter hurdles-with 5 low hurdles. Students can participate in as many events as they choose. Cost is \$15.00 and is paid the day of the event. Participants receive: T-shirt (if registered by Feb. 28), ribbon, event card, and bib with name. For a registration form, flyer or more information, contact Dan Epstein (Crystal River Middle School) at epsteind@citrus.k12.fl.us or Colleen Epstein (Rock Crusher Elementary School) at epsteinc@citrus.k12.fl.us. Hope to see you there!!

PTO News

The PTO will be selling Wooden Roses for \$1.00 each to celebrate Valentine's Day. The sale will begin on Wednesday, February 1st and end on Tuesday, February 14th.

PTO will be selling boxed chocolates and Chocolate Easter Bunnies for \$6.00 each starting Thursday, February 16th and ending on Thursday, March 1st.

Order forms will be sent home for both items at a later date.

Our Book Fair is scheduled for Wednesday, March 21st through Wednesday, March 28th during school hours.

Family Night will be Tuesday, March 27th from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Safety Patrol is planning on selling Pizza and Ice Cream on Family Night.



Counselor's Corner

During the next few months, our 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will be faced with FCAT (Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test). While we don't want to add stress to our children's lives, we do want them to try hard and do their very best. As a parent or guardian, here are some things you can do to help your child through any testing situations.

1. Make sure your child gets a good night's sleep. 10-12 hours a night are recommended.
2. Have your child dress in layers; kids do better on tests if they don't have to think about how hot or cold they are.
3. Don't be too anxious. Your child will sense this from you and feel the need to worry. In a reassuring manner say; "This test is important and I know you will try hard and do your best". Your confidence will be contagious!
4. View only positive and happy TV shows or movies.
5. Keep activities and events at home simple and relaxed.
6. Make sure your child comes to school refreshed and on time.

Let your children know that if they begin to get nervous or overwhelmed, they can stop, take a few deep breaths and say to themselves: "I can do this".

Beth Noland
Guidance Counselor
Rock Crusher Elementary



WTI Extended Daycare News

We would like to remind you of our daycare program here at RCE. We provide a needed service to our working parents by having a safe, supervised program for their children before and after school. We are housed in the school cafeteria with time provided for homework and supervised play on the playground.

The program operates in two sessions. The morning session operates from 6:30 a.m. until students report to class. The afternoon session is from school dismissal until 6:00 p.m. Students may attend morning, afternoon or both. The program is available Monday through Friday throughout the school year and will be open on early dismissal days and teacher workdays.

The fees for two weeks of care are as follows:
Mornings - \$42.00
Afternoons - \$42.00
Both - \$84.00

Fees are payable every two weeks in advance. This program is open only to Citrus County students in grades K - 5. For more information contact Cindy Hughes at (352) 795-2010 between 6:30-9:30 a.m. or 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Ms. Cindy, Ms. Sarah & Ms. Debbie

Kiss-O-Grams

The 5th graders are selling Kiss-O-Grams for \$0.25 each to be delivered on Tuesday, February 14th! Parents can send messages to their child or students can send them to teachers and friends. Teachers will be receiving order forms for messages the week of January 30th. Kiss-O-Gram messages should be returned to the school by Monday, February 13th.

FCAT Florida Writes

The Florida Writes test for all fourth graders is scheduled for Tuesday, February 28th. The FCAT Writes is a comprehensive writing test. Students have 45 minutes to respond in writing to either a narrative or an expository prompt. Their writing is scored using 4 components; focus, organization, support and conventions. Support is weighed three times heavier than the other three elements. Students must elaborate their support in order to receive at least a 4. Please ask your child to explain what elaboration means in their writing. Students can score from a 0 to the highest score, which is a 6. The benchmark this year is at least a level 4.

Fourth grade students have been sharpening their writing skills daily in their classrooms. Please talk to your child to explain what he/she is learning in their writing class. He/she should be able to communicate to you how to address the topic, organize his/her paper, write supporting details including elaboration, and proofread/edit when finished. Please encourage, support and compliment your child regularly while developing writing skills.

Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher if you have any questions.

— Cindy Thomas/Title 1

Tech Lab Recycles

Did you know that our Tech Lab recycles printer cartridges to raise additional funds for the lab? Using the company "Funding Factory", we receive approximately \$0.50 per cartridge for something most people consider trash. We accept ink jet cartridges as well as laser and toner cartridges from office printers. The next time you get ready to toss your printer cartridge, remember you can clean up the environment and help us raise money for Rock Crusher's Tech Lab.

Mrs. Hodges and Ms. Head



Art Camp

This year in Art Camp the topic is ORIGAMI, the Japanese word for "paper folding". Mrs. Ignico is hosting 1st grade from February 13th to 16th. Don't forget that Kdg will have a chance to participate in March.

Camp time is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00 per child. This is an after-school activity. It is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation.

We would like to welcome two new staff members to RCE!





James Mills has been volunteering and substitute teaching at Rock Crusher for 2 years. Before working at Rock Crusher, Mr. Mills worked in construction. He is currently pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education. Mr. Mills has been married for 12 years and they have 5 children. Mr. Mills is happy to join the Rock Crusher staff as a Para-professional in the communication unit classroom.



Cheryl Schenck is our newest member of the RCE instructional team as the teacher of gifted students in the REACH program. She splits her time between two sites, RCE and Pleasant Grove Elementary teaching the enrichment program. Mrs. Schenck and her family recently relocated to Hernando from Hernando County, where she taught for 17 years as an elementary school teacher and REACH teacher. She is proud of all of her students' accomplishments at RCE and PGE!

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12		The Running Club SAEC Meeting 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Media Center				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	1st Grade Art Camp	1st Grade Art Camp The Running Club  Valentine's Day	1st Grade Art Camp	1st Grade Art Camp		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	President's Day Student/Teacher Holiday	The Running Club				
26	27	28	29			
		The Running Club Beginning FCAT Florida Writes				