



# February '09 Newsletter

*Crawfordville Elementary School*

Angie Walker, Principal      February 1, 2009

## The Principal's Page

As the calendar rolls to the month of February and inches closer to the month of March, our school rolls into a heightened time for learning as we continue to prepare for FCAT. The purpose of this test is to measure student learning in reading and math (and science for 5th graders) as well as to look at mastery of grade level standards. While our curriculum is much broader than tested standards, we take this time to scrutinize our teaching timelines to be sure that children have had adequate preparation for skills prior to being tested. Parents across the district have shared comments and concerns about "teaching the test." At Crawfordville Elementary, we teach the curriculum which has tested standards embedded in it. And, we do not stop teaching those standards with FCAT—

learning continues through May!

Log-in information regarding the District's annual survey was sent home with report cards. If you have not had an opportunity to complete the on-line survey, please take a few minutes to share your compliments, concerns and suggestions. If online access is not convenient for you, you may request a paper copy from your child's teacher or from the school office. The survey will be active through February 28. Your insights and perspectives are important to us and helps determine areas of need in our school.

FTE is the acronym for Full Time Equivalency, the means by which school districts obtain financial support from the state. February 9-13 is the second FTE week for Wakulla County schools. During

this week, a student count will be taken in classes and on buses and the count will determine the amount of funding received. During this day of budget cuts, the financial support at stake is great for the Wakulla County School system. We would like to ask for your help. Attendance in school each and every day is important. It is especially important that your child be in attendance and accounted for during FTE. We are also asking your cooperation in seeking that your child rides the school bus, either to or from school ( a round trip is not necessary) at least once during the FTE period. If you need information about bus routes, please call the bus garage at 926-7550.

Safety continues to be an area of emphasis at our school. During the month of January, students participated in a bus evacuation drill and a fire drill. Afternoon dismissal procedures were "tweaked" and a flyer, "Safety Procedures," was sent home to parents. If you did not receive a copy of the bright yellow Safety Procedures flyer, please contact the school office and we will be happy to provide a copy to you. February is Hazardous Weather Month and students will have the opportunity to participate in a tornado drill. I encourage you to talk with your children about safety drills and develop and practice emergency plans at home as well.

The month of February is dedicated to the celebration of diversity and Black History. Each grade level will be doing special projects focused on multiculturalism, learning about diversity and the importance of respecting and appreciating differences. You are invited to come and be a part of the excitement of our diverse population at CES and not just during the month of February—our doors are always open!

### Special points of interest:

- PTA Council Meeting, February 5 at 4:00 PM in the school cafeteria.
- Friday, February 6 is Spirit Day. Wear your school shirt and show your Cougar pride!
- School Advisory Council meeting, Thursday, February 12 at 7:00 PM.
- Progress Reports for the third nine-week grading period go home on Friday, February 13.
- Book Fair, February 23 through February 27.
- Family Fun Night at the Book Fair, Tuesday, February 24, 6:30 PM-8:00 PM.
- Our school ORFF Band under the direction of Mr. Walter Cooper will perform on Tuesday evening, February 24 at 7:00 PM in the school cafeteria.



*Announcing!  
Presidents' Day  
Monday, February 16.  
School will be closed*

## Valentine Day Activities and Deliveries

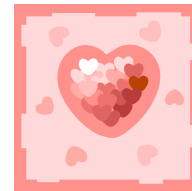
Some of our classes in the lower grade levels will be planning Valentine's Day activities and as that special day approaches, teachers will be sending home more details. During the past several years, numerous deliveries have been made at school for our students, causing disruption in the academic day as well as transportation issues. Deliveries for our students are not encouraged but if you feel it necessary to have a delivery made to your child from one of our local florists, please remember the following.

- Students are not permitted to

ride the bus with glass containers and certainly not with helium balloons! Please make arrangements to pick your child up from school if he/she receives a delivery.

- Inform the florist of your child's first and last name as well as his/her teacher's name.

Deliveries that are made at school are kept in the front office until 2:00 at which time students are called up.



**Valentine's Day Deliveries are not encouraged but will be accepted.**

## FCAT Writes!

All fourth, eighth and tenth grade students throughout the Wakulla County School District will be taking the FCAT Writes on Tuesday, February 10. This is no surprise to our fourth graders as they have made their preparations and are ready for the day! However, there are some ways YOU can help on testing days.

- Don't stay up late the night before and maintain a relaxed schedule in the morning.
- Arrive to school on time.
- Eat a healthy meal. Healthy is the key word. A large, unhealthy meal right before a test is risky. Students need

their bodies to focus on thinking, not digesting!

- Wear a favorite outfit. Your child should pick one that makes him/her feel comfortable (within school dress codes, of course).
- Be positive. Your kids should know that you expect them to do their best—but that doesn't mean they have to BE the best on every test. Make sure your kids know that no matter what tests grades are received, your love will never fail!