



THE WASHINGTON POST

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PTA President

Jen West

PTA Vice President

Sara Austin

Principal's Message

Dear Washington Families:

I am hopeful that we are rounding the corner and heading towards spring, but while it remains so bitter cold please don't forget those hats, gloves and warm coats. If you are in need of a donation of warm outerwear, please see the nurse or social workers; we always want to find a way to help.

February will bring great events to Washington including Lunch Bunches, PTA meetings with events, visits from the Lutz Museum and a special evening with Len Cabral, an exceptional storyteller. Please look for the dates in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at the school with your child.

As always, we welcome your feedback and comments. Please never hesitate to contact your child's teacher or an administrator if you have any questions. Communication between the families and the school is the backbone to your child's academic and behavioral success because every child deserves every chance.

Fondly,

Mrs. Karen Gray

Principal

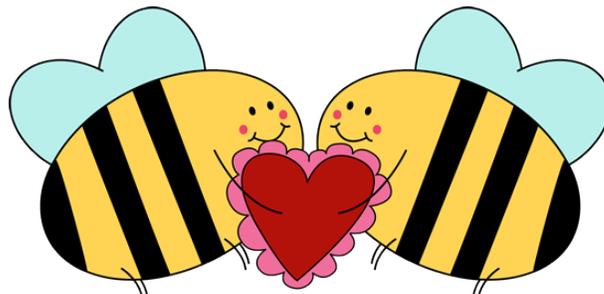


February Good Deed Doers



Skyla Gabourel, Nyiasia Thoms, Celiani Gonzalez, Natalie Bones, Tayshawn Parkman, Caytlyn McLaughlin, Jayden Collier, Jarus Philippe-Cole, Rozlynn Egbula & Carlee Warren

This month's art kit was presented to Skyla Gabourel! Congratulations to you all! Keep up the good work and remember YOU can get caught doing the right thing too!



Students of the Month

Kindergarten ~ Jackson Case, Chloe Carlow, Surhyell Hinojosa & Nana Osei Duah

1st Grade ~ D'Janay Timber, Jorhden Ingles & Makayla Rivera

2nd Grade ~ Codey Hodge, Nevaeh Nieves, Princessilla Peprah & Jaylah Robinson

3rd Grade ~ Adrien Figueroa, Aidan Nieves & Grayson Edwards

4th Grade ~ Brenda Cortes, Janiya Allen & Christopher Haviland

5th Grade ~ Chavika Lopez, Nathalie Hernandez & Anthony Callahan

Remember, YOU can be Student of the Month in your classroom too! Washington Scholars who are Safe, Smart and Respectful are always eligible to be Student of the Month.

Congratulations to all of January honorees and good luck in February!



Developing Your Child's Writing Skills Writing: A Window on Reading



Writing is a part of our everyday lives, whether we are making a grocery list, writing a note to a child's teacher, or filling out a form at the doctor's office. These tasks require us to write clearly and organize information effectively. Encouraging your child to develop strong writing skills at a young age, and to become a better writer as he gets older, can have a lifelong positive impact on his writing, and may make writing an easier and more enjoyable activity.

What parents can do to nurture writing development at home:

- **Provide a place:** It's important for your child to have a good place to write, such as a desk or table with a smooth, flat surface, the area should have good lighting.
- **Provide materials:** Provide plenty of paper (lined and unlined) and things to write with, including pencils, pens, and crayons; allow your child to write on the computer.
- **Brainstorm:** Talk with your child as much as possible about his ideas and thoughts, and encourage him to describe people, places, and events to you.

For Younger Children

- **Encourage your child to write, even if he's scribbling.** Opportunities are important, it's still "writing"
- **Encourage your child to draw and to discuss his drawings.** Ask your child questions about the drawings such as: "Can you tell a story about this picture?" "Who is in the picture?"
- **Allow time.** Be patient, give your child plenty of time to think about what he wants to write
- **Praise your child's writing.** Be positive and comment about what your child is doing well
- **Avoid writing for your child.** Encourage your child to take ownership and to be a risk-taker
- **Help your child with her writing as she gets older.** Talk about the topic and ask questions for clarity
- **Provide your child with spelling help.** The focus is writing thoughts down, not on spelling all words correctly
- **Practice, practice, practice**
- **Read together.** Reading & writing are connected; the more your child does of each, the better he will be at both.

Activities That Help All Children

- **Make sure your child sees you writing.**
- **Hang a family message board in the kitchen.**
- **Have your child write out a daily schedule or help with the shopping list.**
- **Help your child write letters and emails to relatives and friends.**
- **Encourage keeping a journal.**
- **Respond to your child's writing.**

Remember that promoting a relaxing and enjoyable atmosphere is key to helping your child become a successful learner.

Next month I'll share tips on keeping your child interested and motivated to read.

Happy Reading (& Writing)!
Dr. Fiano

Martin Luther King, Jr. Award

Congratulations to our outstanding 5th grade student leaders from our school who received the award on January 13, 2015.

Congratulations to Cassandra Alicia, Daunte Ayala, Emily Caceres, Zayda-Lyn Downes, Arion Hayes and Daisean Outlaw!



F.R.C. Program Dates

Infant/Toddler – Wednesdays 2/04, 2/11, 2/25

Preschool – Thursdays 2/05, 2/12, 2/26

Girls Circle – Tuesdays 2/10, 2/24

Boys Club – Thursdays 2/12, 2/26



Attention Washington Families!

**Come one Come All to the
Washington School Science Fair Night!**

March 11, 2015

5:30PM to 7:00 PM

Washington School Cafeteria

From experiments to inventions we have it all!

Come explore our students creative and out of this world projects!

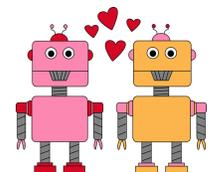
More information to follow!



Second Grade News

In second grade, the students are learning a variety of skills and concepts. They have begun to add and subtract 2-digit and 3-digit numbers with regrouping using a multitude of strategies to solve the problems. For instance, the students have been working with manipulatives and pictures, using mathematician vocabulary to explain their thinking. In writing, the second graders are finishing up the Opinion unit and are very excited to begin the informational writing unit. In the next unit, they will be writing their own non-fiction texts, such as how-to books. This ties into the reading lessons where the students are beginning to study a variety of non-fiction texts. Specifically, they will determine the purpose of different non-fiction texts, as well as the main idea and supporting details. Lastly, in science, the second graders are starting to learn about plants. The second grade teachers are working closing with Jean Dehm, our library media specialist, to incorporate a variety of resources into the lessons. The second grade students and teachers are looking forward to the upcoming weeks and are ready to dive right in to the new units!

~Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Farrell, Mrs. English & Mrs. Frosti



Washington School Presents
Storyteller Len Cabral



You are invited to come and hear internationally acclaimed storyteller, Len Cabral, share his Cape Verdean ancestry in his exuberant retellings of African, Cape Verdean, and Caribbean folktales as well as original stories and tales from around the world. Students in grades 4 & 5 who have been working with Len have also been invited to share their original stories that evening.

Where: Washington Elementary School
When: Evening of Thursday, March 5, 2015
Time: 6:00 - 7:00
Who: All Washington Families

 **Important Dates To Remember** 

February 4th – Early Dismissal 1:17 pm – Prof. Development

February 6th – 100th Day of School Dance 6pm-9pm

February 11 – School Governance – Library 6-7 pm
PTA Meeting 7 pm

February 17 – Support Washington @ Red Robin

February 16 & 17 – No School – Vacation

February 20 – Grade 4 – Science Center

