



# Savanna Ridge Elementary

## Parent Newsletter

### Principal's message

March 1, 2017

Dear Parents,

Spring time is a time of “RE-.” Teachers are taking time to re-engage, re-inspire, renew, refine, revive, review, rejuvenate and refresh. As the Spring Break allows all of us to relax and reignite the passion that fuels us, remember to regroup and have students ready to learn each and every day!

Students in grades 3-5 will soon encounter the testing season. Be reassured that students are well prepared to encounter the Standards Mastery required for promotion. Please visit <http://www.fldoe.org/> under the accountability tab (assessments) to gain insight into grade level resources and practice exams. With the [Florida standards](#) in place to help Florida students succeed, the Florida Standards Assessments (FSA) in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and science for 5th grade students serve Florida students by measuring education gains and progress. Students, parents/guardians, and educators are encouraged to check the [FSA Portal](#) often to access important information and resources as they are available.

Mrs. Melrose, the faculty, staff and I would like to thank all of our families for continuously supporting the academic success of our students. We could not do it without you! We are looking forward to meeting our vision and mission of success at Savanna Ridge Elementary. Please help us choose our vision statement by completing the online survey on our school's website. We know at SRE our students will Soar to Success!

Sincerely,

Mrs. D'Gion Jackson-Harris  
Principal

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### OUR MISSION

*All students will learn at Savanna Ridge Elementary. Through a nurturing environment, which supports quality and equitable*

# Media Center News - Ms. Lecce

Our students have been busy learning about computer coding in the media center. Our students helped write over “21 Billion lines of code around the world” and joining “17 Million students “around the world. SRE students alone have written tens of thousands of JavaScript code lines using block coding. Code.org has developed student

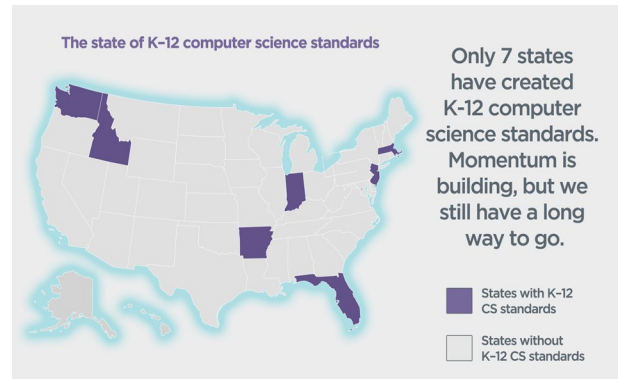


coders all over the world. SRE students have joined this computer science movement by joining more than 100 million students who have now discovered how accessible and fun computer science can. I introduced K– 5 students to the Hour of Code in November. I am so proud of the accomplishments our students have made. With technology changing every industry on the planet, computing knowledge has become part of a well-rounded skillset.

I am pleased to be a part of our state, Florida, as only 7 states have written computer

science standards. I exposed our students to Hour of Code. Students then made their free accounts with their parents.

The goal of the Hour of Code is not to teach anybody to become an expert computer scientist in one hour. One hour is only enough to learn that computer science is fun and creative, that it is accessible at all ages, for all students, regardless of background. The measure of



## The diversity problem starts in K-12



High school computer science



University computer science



Software workforce

Women who try AP Computer Science in high school are ten times more likely to major in it in college, and Black and Hispanic students are seven times more likely.

success of this campaign is not in how much CS students learn - the success is reflected in broad participation across gender and ethnic and socioeconomic groups, and the resulting increase in enrollment and participation we see in CS courses at all grade levels. Millions of the participating teachers and students have decided to go beyond one hour.

We have several students who have completed the K—8 Computer Science course on coding. Please visit the link below to learn more and to try an Hour of Code. <https://code.org/learn>

Calling all Students:

**St. Lucie County Reading Council's 2017 Young Author's Celebration is May 6, 2017.**

**I am encouraging our students to use their talents to create amazing writing.**

**Please submit original writing to me by April 18, 2017.**

*The only requirement is that books be original text and artwork. Writing can be fiction or non-fiction: a picture book, a report, poetry, a short story... the sky's the limit! Take advantage students to share your talents with us all!*



# Parent News

Each year parents of students enrolled in Exceptional Student Education Programs are afforded the opportunity to participate in a survey to provide information back to the state on how well schools are supporting parental involvement in their child's education. The information will help guide school and district improvement efforts. The individual responses are confidential, and no personally identifiable information will be included in data or reports provided to the FDOE or districts. The FDOE has contracted with Piedra Data Services to receive the completed survey and compile the data. The survey window opened on February 1, 2017 and will close on May 31, 2017. This year the FLDOE and the Bureau of Exceptional Student Education and Student Services has made the survey available in paper format as well as electronically. The electronic version of the survey can be completed at [www.esesurvey.com](http://www.esesurvey.com).

**Please read the information below about our school's Grace Packs program.**

**Did you know?**

On the Treasure Coast, 25.7% of our children are food insecure; this translates to 31,300 kids not knowing from where their next meal will come.

In St. Lucie County, 26.1% of children are considered food insecure. These 15,970 children represent the largest number of children in need on the Treasure Coast.

Research is based on "Map the Meal Gap 2016: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level", supported by the Howard G. Buffett Foundation and The Nielsen Company.



**GRACE PACKS...**  
LOVE PROVIDES

*The mission and joy of Grace Packs Inc. is to provide weekly weekend food for students who lack an ample food supply, relieving the burden many of these children endure by being hungry.*



Our goal is to furnish breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items at the end of each school week to students who may be suffering from food insecurity.

**Suggested non-expired food items:**

- Granola bars/cereal bars
- Oatmeal packs
- Applesauce or fruit cups
- Canned vegetables
- Soups, stews or canned meats
- Pastas (spaghetti, ravioli, mac and cheese)
- Ramen noodles/rice
- Peanut butter
- Crackers with cheese or peanut butter
- Juice pouches

Grace Packs Inc. is recognized as a 501(c)(3) public charity.



*"Seeing the pride, happiness, and compassion in my students eyes as they pack the bags for the families brings joy to my heart!"*

JC, Teacher Volunteer



[www.gracepacks.org](http://www.gracepacks.org)

Visit our website to learn how you can support Grace Packs or contact us at [info@gracepacks.org](mailto:info@gracepacks.org)



## MUSIC ROOM NEWS



Our Savanna Ridge form at the SLC Night standing Educators. did an amazing job all of St. Lucie County! Justice, Musical Direc-



Cranes were invited to perform at the Stars honoring Outstanding Educators. The Wind Chime Ensemble practicing and performing for Thank you students and Mrs. Justice...



# Center Field News

## Back on the field for more action!

By

Coach Eshleman



Hello again! First, I would like to thank our 50 cranes that were able to participate in “Jump Rope for Heart” and help collect funds for the American Heart Association. This year we are able to give the organization \$2,700.00.

The weather should be warming as the older Cranes get busy with manipulative activities and continuing their daily exercises that promote physical fitness. They will also be given the opportunity to practice a golf and tennis swing.

The younger Cranes will be working on how to be a good teammate and participant in large group activities. This is sometimes mistaken by many to be a naturally learned trait. However, the environments we grow up in and the experiences we are exposed to weigh heavily in the attitudes and behaviors expressed in larger group games and activities. They will get to demonstrate their teamwork traits in May on their field day. We will also be reviewing locomotor skills as well as giving them a chance to swing a tennis racket.

Creating confidence in our Cranes is a key to their viewing their experiences as successful. Confident people are more apt to allow themselves to experience new challenges especially when it is in front of others. I continually attempt to create an environment where the students are willing to give it a 100% while seeking to improve. Instead of “I can’t” I like to hear “I’ll try my best.” It is always a great thrill to witness students putting themselves on the line by taking a risk knowing there is a chance they won’t succeed. So often our roadblocks in life are made to seem larger than they are by the lack of confidence we have in our abilities. I try to provide opportunities for the children to be successful within the framework of their abilities while making it challenging.

Please continue to play with your children. These will be some of their most vivid memories as they get older. An active lifestyle begins when we’re young.

Play hard, be safe,  
Coach Eshleman





## Technology News

Students have been working hard on mastering skills necessary to be successful on the Computer-Based Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). All students should practice keyboarding skills, using hardware, and internet safety. We are proud of the digital natives that Savanna Ridge produces. Please continue to work with your child on these skills.

## PBIS NEWS

### PBIS upcoming events

**April 5th Hat Day (10 Cranes)**

**May 26th PBIS/PTO Carnival**

**May 31st Animal Land build your own stuffed animal!**



**Our March PBIS Event was a dance off between teachers and students. We had a blast and definitely learned to JuJu on that Beat!**

# Kindergarten News

This year began with lots of new concepts for Kindergarten and the students handled the challenges very well. The Kindergarten teachers are very proud of our students!

January 31st was the 100th day of school.

The students celebrated 100 days of school on February 1st to honor the students accomplishments and growth, so far this year. Every content area was based around the number 100, which was a lot of fun for the students! In addition, students learned about maps and globes, addition and subtraction, and continued working towards proficiency in sight words, reading, and writing.

This month, we are learning about Measurement in the content area of math and Earth, Space and Time in the content of Science. Students should continue practicing all sight words, reading for 15 minutes each night and complete any additional homework which is assigned.



# First Grade News



March 6th, our first graders will be performing their rendition of "Chicken Big", a Reader's Theater adaptation of a story written by Keith Graves. They have been working very hard in conjunction with Port St. Lucie High School's Drama Department to learn how to follow a script, learn their lines, and project their voices to prepare for their performance. We are all very excited to share what we have worked so hard on with our families and friends!

In math, we are working on fractions and time. We are learning about partitioning

circles and rectangles into quarters

and halves, as well as how to tell time to the hour and half hour using both analog and digital clocks. Following this, we will be exploring addition and subtraction within 20, specifically focusing on unknowns in all positions. We will move into using and interpreting data at the end of April.



## Second Grade News

It's hard to believe that we have passed the midway point of the school year and are closing in on Spring Break! We have continued to expect great things from our second graders. They are working hard.

### Here is just a sampling of what they've learned:

#### \*Explanatory and Opinion Writing:

Students have responded to a variety of prompts and are beginning to take ownership of their ideas.

#### \*Science: We've looked at force and motion, the Earth's surface, and are currently learning about weather.

#### \*Reading: We have really begun to emphasize fluency as we read both literary and informational pieces of text.

#### \*Math: After a review of place value, we moved on to 3-digit numbers. Now we are learning how to add and subtract up to 1,000.



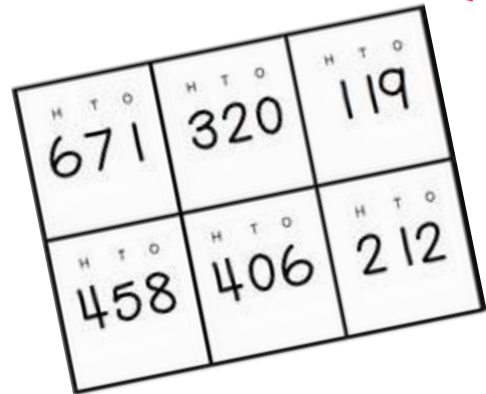
### 100 Book Challenge News:

\*It is exciting to see more and more students reaching their 100 Book Challenge goals. Our bulletin board is filled with names of students who have reached 100 steps or more.

\*Keep reading at home each day and remember to record one title every time you read for 15 minutes.

### As we approach Spring Break:

\*Now is a good time to check with your children to see if their classroom supplies need to be replenished. Many classroom supplies such as tissues, pencils, erasers, and paper are in short supply.



Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

-The Second Grade Fantastic Four

*Ms. Compton, Ms. Marciano,*

*Mrs. Petrie, and Mrs. Struble*



## Third Grade News

In the month of February, we wrapped up our math unit on representing/ interpreting data and solving problems involving the four operations, and identifying and explaining patterns in arithmetic.



In Science the third graders worked on understanding that stars can be different and able to demonstrate the law of gravity. We wrapped up unit with a wonderful field to the Planetarium at Indian River State College.

In reading literature, we focused on describing character traits and distinguishing point of view. And while working with informational text, we covered describing relationships between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts and comparing and contrasting the most important points and key details presented in two texts.

Starting in March, we will begin working on time, then move into measuring and estimating volume and mass.

We are also working hard during this "crunch" time to prepare for FSA. At this point, we are reteaching standards that have already been taught.

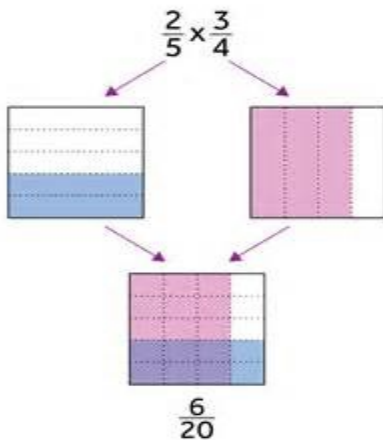


In science, we will be covering living organisms (plants) as well as interdependence. Once that unit comes to a close, we will be taking an unforgettable, hands-on field trip to Busch Wildlife Sanctuary, in Jupiter on May 2nd. This field trip will allow our third-graders to actually see first hand how animals are classified.



# Fourth Grade News

Writing FSA is took place for fourth grade at the end of February. We are reading, text marking, planning, writing and revising essays on informational or opinion prompts. Fourth grade is learning about rocks and minerals. Students are classifying minerals based on their observations of their properties. Soon after, students will be identifying the three categories of rocks: igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic based on how each is formed. Afterwards, students will be discussing the causes of weathering and erosion. Further down the road, students will classify renewable and non-renewable resources.

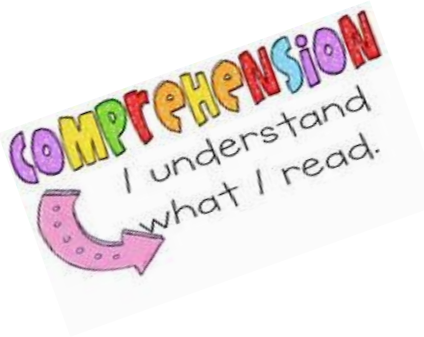


In math students have been multiplying fractions and showing comprehension through pictorial representation.

The Fourth Grade Team

# Fifth Grade News

Fifth grade is continuing to prepare for the Florida State Assessment.



In Reading, we are review skills that will be tested.

Questions like: What happened and why did it happen are great for review cause and effect. “What evidence from the text supports your thinking?” is a great way to build understanding of text. I

n Math, we will begin our Conversion unit. Then move into review standards that will be tested. One of the best ways to help your child is to practice basic facts. Our study of Life Science is

off and running. We will complete our study of ecosystems and begin learning about the human body systems.

Attendance on the FSA testing days is of the utmost importance. Fifth grade testing schedule is as follows:

April 12	April 13	April 24	April 25	May 1	May 2
Reading	Reading	Math	Math	Science	Science
Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2	Session 1	Session 2

Our end of the year field trip is in the final stages of planning. The destination will be The Kennedy Space Center on Tuesday, May 23, 2017. Permission Slips and other important information will be sent home after Spring Break. The 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion Celebration Ceremony and class picnic will be held June 1, 2017. Please be on the lookout a letter with more details. Please continue to ner each night. This is a tact with the 5<sup>th</sup> grade



check your child’s plan-  
great way to stay in con-  
teachers.

# The Speech Corner

This month I would like to provide information respective to speech and language. All communication has two aspects of language: receptive language and expressive language. Receptive language is the understanding of language “input. It is what we hear and understand of both words and gestures. Receptive language goes beyond just vocabulary skills. It also involves the ability to interpret simple and complex grammatical forms in gestural, spoken and written form.

Expressive language, is the “output” of language, how one expresses his or her wants and needs as well as what we say to others. This includes not only words, but also the grammar rules that dictate how words are combined into phrases, sentences and paragraphs as well as the use of gestures and facial expressions.

These two facets of language are very different but equally important. Good oral language development, both receptive and expressive, is a good predictor of later ability to read and write well. Receptive language is the ability to listen and understand language. Expressive language is the ability to communicate with others using language. When children begin to talk, their receptive language skills are usually much more advanced than their expressive language skills. At about four years old, most children have a speaking vocabulary of about 2,300 words but a receptive language vocabulary of about 8,000 words. Receptive vocabulary plays a big part in listening comprehension, which is related to later literacy skills. It is necessary for understanding directions which is essential for academic success as well as for age appropriate social interaction skills. It is also important to make the distinction between expressive language and speech production. Speech production relates to the formulation of individual speech sounds using one’s lips, teeth, and tongue. It also entails vocal quality, rate of verbal output or fluency. This is separate from one’s ability to formulate thoughts that are expressed using the appropriate word or combination of words (expressive language). Below you will see a list of sounds that most children should be producing by the end of the year noted. This is a typical developmental profile of the phonemes that children between the ages of 4.0 to 8 years articulate with minimal difficulty.

By 4.0 years—p,b,m,n,w,h,f

By 4.6 years—k,g,t,d

By 5.6 years—y

By 6.0 years—v, consonant blends

By 7.0 years—l,sh,ch,j,th(voiced:that)

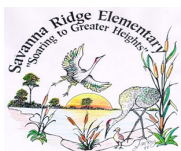
By 8.0 years—r,s,z,zh,ing,th(voiceless:thumb)

Please remember that acquisition of sounds is variable from child to child. Pre-K children should be 90% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners and kindergarten children should be 90-95% intelligible to unfamiliar listeners. Some children may acquire their sounds a bit later than other age appropriate peers. If your child’s speech does not adversely impact intelligibility, their educational performance or their social interactive skills, allow him or her time to produce the sounds accordingly.

Always feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding your child’s communication skills. I will be happy to address your concerns to the best of my professional abilities.

Mrs.Lorraine MA-SLP/CCC





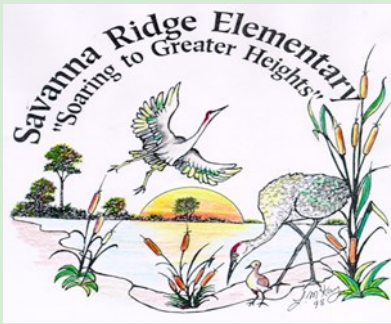
## STUDENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

We need your help! Our School Advisory Council is in need of volunteers for membership. The School Advisory Council (SAC) is a school-based group intended to represent the school, the community, and those persons closest to the students. The group shares responsibility for guiding the school toward continuous improvement.

**The meeting dates are as follows:** 3/7/17, 4/11/17, 5/9/17 (2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays of each month, unless agreed to by School Advisory Council Membership. 7:30-8:30 a.m., PD Room). Please come out and support our school to reach our vision and mission. Please come out to our school to help. Parents who attend meets will get a free dress code pass for their child to be used on the designated days.

## March 2017

	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7 SAC Meeting PTO Exec. Bd. (4:00)	8 Publix Math Night	9	10 PBIS Event Early Dismissal End of 3rd nine	11
12	13 Spring Break	14 Spring Break	15 Spring Break	16 Spring Break	17 Spring Break	18
19	20 Students re- turn	21 Citizen of the Month (2:30)	22	23	24 Fire Drill	25
26	27	28 FSA (3rd Gr.) ELA Test	29 FSA (3rd Gr.) ELA Test	30	31 Report Card Day	



# April 2017

Sun.	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat
2	3	4	5 Early Release PBIS Crazy Socks	6 Honor Roll (Kg.—2nd)	7 Honor Roll (3rd—5th) Kg. Walking Field Trip	8
9	10	11 SAC Mtg. (7:30) PTO Board Meeting	12	13	14 Spring Holiday for All	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 5th Gr. Science Trivia Night (5:30)	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

## FSA Testing News

4th and 5th grade Students take the Computer-Based ELA Assessment beginning April 11th. 3rd—5th Graders begin the Computer-Based assessments during that April Assessment Window. Please ensure your child gets rest, has a healthy breakfast and arrives to school on time