Principal’s Note

Our school family has made it through another quarter successfully. The month of March was quite eventful with FSA exams, school outings, and lots of engaging learning activities.

Students’ performance has been observed and grades recorded. Reports for the third quarter will come home this week. Parents please review your children’s performance and discuss your concerns with their teachers. Our goal is facilitate the educational growth of all our students. Therefore, I urge you to encourage your children to always try their best on every assignment and test.

Please be reminded that Friday, April 3rd will be a Non-Student day.

FSA exams will continue in the month of April. Although we are confident that our students are adequately prepared, please encourage them to do well. You can also help them by insuring that they eat healthy and get adequate rest.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of staff, and parent volunteers who continue to work hard to make our school a success. As we move on to the last quarter of this school year, I trust that we will all continue to give of our best and help our students shine!

Yunus Aksu - Principal
**Ms. Lee’s Kindergarten Report**

In Ms. Lee’s Kindergarten class, we have been promoting literacy, writing, and mathematical skills to get our primary learners ready for first grade! We practice these sets of skills through various hands on activities, such as ‘Spaghetti Spelling’ (building sight words with yarn), ‘Wipe-Off Words’ (writing sight words on white boards), and practicing phonemic awareness at our Listening Center. It is important to learn our sight words, so that it enhances our writing and helps us grow into more fluent readers! Currently, we are doing activities surrounding Dr. Seuss, whose birthday was March 2\textsuperscript{nd}.

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**Ms. Maysonet’s 1\textsuperscript{st} Grade Report**

Ms. Maysonet's class we have been learning all about the butterfly life cycle. The students got the opportunity to observe 15 caterpillars evolve into butterflies. It was great to see how excited the children got throughout this process. In Math, students were introduced to quarters and are becoming great at counting coin amounts altogether. This past Friday they even played a scavenger hunt with a partner in discovering money totals!
Ms. Spear’s 2nd Grade Report

We are finishing up our study of the butterfly life cycle this month, including our butterfly habitat project. Although the adult butterflies formed while we were away for spring break, the students were able to learn about what happens at each stage of the butterfly life cycle, as well as take their time to look at the formation happening in our own classroom habitat. The best part of our life cycle unit was when we went outside and released almost a dozen of the butterflies we had grown over the past few weeks! It was exciting to see how anxious the butterflies were when we let them go into their natural habitat.

In math, we have been solving 2-digit subtraction problems. It has been hard work but the students have been doing great and continue to practice their basic math facts! Don’t forget to check your child’s agenda every night as well as their Friday Folders!

Mrs. Lewis’ 2nd Grade Report

Our class was very busy during the month of March. We observed our caterpillars change into little pupas and later into beautiful butterflies. It broke our heart to set them free. Nonetheless, we continued to get closer to nature, transplanting our lima beans seedlings to our outside garden.

We look forward to nurturing them so that we can see the continuous life cycle of plants.
Ms. Giddings’s 4th Grade Report

We survived our FSA English Language Arts Test! Our 4th graders did their best. They tried their hardest and gave their best effort! We have been preparing as hard as we can to prepare for the test. I have pushed them very hard.

Thanks to all the parents who helped their child out with all the extra homework. All our hard work paid off. We will continue to work hard during the last 11 weeks of school.

Ms. McMackin’s 5th Grade Report

This month 5th grade has been studying poetry. The students have been learning about the different elements of poetry and have even written their own poems. The students have enjoyed being creative with their writing skills. The 5th graders also got a chance to visit the courthouse. We took a tour of all the facilities and even got to witness some real court cases in action. The students learned a lot about how the law works and enjoyed the field trip.
Mock Trial at NSS

UNITED STATES vs. PAUL BUNYON

Is he guilty or innocent?

The third and fourth graders got to enjoy a mock trial this past Tuesday. A lawyer and a judge came to our school and did a play of sorts with fourth grade actors. They got to play Paul, Babe the ox, a witness, the judge, and we had a third and fourth grade jury! The students got to see a trial acted out. It was interesting. Paul Bunyan was put on trial to see if he should pay to have the forests, waterways, and roads fixed that he changed. He said that it was for the better of the local people, and that he did not harm the environment.

The plaintiff (U.S government) said that he straightened out a road, created new waterways, eliminated others, and killed innocent animals. Both lawyers, and their witnesses defended their cases, but the jury found in favor of the government, and Bunyan was found guilty. What do you think? Guilty or not guilty?

-Mrs. Giddings
USF Riverfront Park – Field Trip

The 7th & 8th grade students traveled to the USF Riverfront Park to take on the challenging High Ropes Course. The high ropes experience offered students unique opportunities to enhance communication, teamwork, and leadership skills as well as risk-taking strategies. The high ropes course is approximately 55 feet high and consists of 3 levels of challenges; the higher you climb the harder the elements become. For the grand finale, the students rode the zip line to the ground or took a plunge off of the giant swing!

-Mr. Jeter
Last Saturday, members of Garden club and their families went out to Favorite Farms in Dover. There, the students experienced the beauty of picking fresh ripe strawberries on a farm. They were also educated about the financial benefits of growing their own food and also of buying their foods straight from the farm. At an unbelievable price of 50 cents per quart, we all loaded up on delicious strawberries. Thanks to all the parents, relatives, and friends who took the time out to spend the afternoon with us. I am sure the students really enjoyed picking and eating the strawberries. **Special thanks to Ms. Mary** who has been diligent in helping me with our activities and was very instrumental in organizing this family fun activity.

-Mrs. Lewis
Parents, we encourage you to take advantage of an **upcoming open house at nearby Nature’s Classroom**. Nature’s Classroom is a 365-acre environmental studies program and learning laboratory set in the real Florida environment along the Hillsborough River.

Students will get a real opportunity to interact and learn from the natural environment. Go on out and make this a family learning event!

**NSS Open House**

The last 3 open houses for this year will be on: Saturday, **April 25, 2015** @10am-12pm, Saturday, **May 16, 2015** @10am-12pm, and Saturday, **May 23, 2015** @10am-12pm.

So far we have had many families come in and tour our school. If you know anyone who may need an exciting hands-on learning environment for their children, please invite them to come in and meet with us.
Monday-Friday, November 24-28

**Students Return to School**

Monday, December 1

**2nd Quarter Progress Report Card**

Friday, December 5

**2nd Quarter Parent Teacher Conference**

Wednesday, December 10 @4-6pm

**Winter Break/ Schools Closed**

Monday-Friday, December 22-January 2

**Students Return to School**

Monday, January 5

**End of Second Grading Period (1st Semester)**

Friday, January 16

**Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday/ Schools Closed**

Monday, January 19

**Non-Student Day**

Tuesday, January 20

**2nd Quarter Report Card**

Friday, January 23

**Florida State Fair Day/ Non-Student Day**

Friday, February 6

**3rd Quarter Progress Report Card**

Friday, February 20

**3rd Quarter Parent Teacher Conference**

Wednesday, February 25 @4-6pm

**Spring Break/ Schools Closed**

Monday-Friday, March 9-13

**Students Return to School**

Monday, March 16

**End of 3rd Grading period**

Friday, March 27

**3rd Quarter Report Card**

Wednesday, April 1

**Non-Student Day**

Friday, April 3

**4th Quarter Progress Report Card**

Friday, May 1

**4th Quarter Parent Teacher Conference**

Wednesday, May 6 @4-6pm

**Memorial Day Holiday/ Schools Closed**

Monday, May 25

**4th Quarter Report Card**

Thursday, June 4

**Last Day of School/ End of 4th Grading period (2nd Semester)**

Friday, June 5
Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter. We hope that you found our school news useful and interesting.

Please email questions, comments, or concerns to info@newspringsschools.org

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