W. W. Irby Elementary
13505 N.W. 140th Street · Alachua, Florida 32615 · (386) 462-5002 · (386) 462-5731 Fax

November 5, 2018

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Welcome to Fall…..Our boys and girls have fallen into good habits at school. Students are having breakfast before going to Morning Mile, are getting to school on time and are reading regularly. In addition, they have learned about how we are all different and how to best deal with those differences.

To help support our families who are in need this holiday season, we are starting a Toy Drive. Please bring in new toys in their original packaging. We ask that they not be wrapped in wrapping paper. There is a donation box in the front office. In addition, we will be doing a coin drive to buy necessities such as clothing, shoes, and jackets for needy families. The deadline for toy donations will be **December 14th.** Your child will bring home more information about the coin drive as we get closer. Thanks for all you do to support our boys and girls!

We're looking forward to a great time together as we celebrate fall and the many wonderful events that come with that.

Please mark your calendars with the following dates in November:

1. 4th Character Trait – Gratefulness
2. 9th Veteran's Day Assembly 8:15am
3. 11th Character Trait – Thankfulness
4. 12th No School – Veteran's Day Observed
5. 14th PTA Mtg. 7:45am
   2nd Gr. Thanksgiving Breakfast
6. 15th 1st Gr. Field Trip – Coon Hollo 9-1
   Kdg. Feast
7. 19th-23rd Student/Teacher Holidays
8. 25th Character Trait - Hopefulness

Until next time…..

Mrs. Fortner

Mrs. Fortner
Principal

News from the Media center

Book check-out for Parents

Parents, did you know that you can check out up to five books for your child to read at home? Stop by the media center before school between 7:15-7:40am. In a rush in the morning? No worries! You can come by the media center after school as well. Hope to see you soon!

Over the River and Through the Woods...

Are you headed on a road trip for the Thanksgiving holiday? If so, consider going to the public library and checking out books on CD for the car ride. Our public library in Alachua County is one of the best in the country, and they have a huge selection of books on CD. Try books by Eric Carle like *From Head to Toe* and *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* The children also love any of the Pete the Cat books. Have your child follow along in the books, tracking the words with their fingers as they listen. Know that repeated readings are an excellent way to help your child develop reading fluency (the ability to recognize words instantly and accurately), so find some great books that your child likes to listen to and read over and over again.

Ready for some longer books? Try the Henry and Mudge or Mr. Putter and Tabby series. Let your child's interests guide you, and turn your road trip into an educational adventure!

Quick Tip

When you allow your child to watch TV, turn on the closed captioning. Research shows that it can help children with their reading skills! Who knew?

Bedtime Math

A friend of mine introduced me to a website called Bedtime Math. I encourage you to check it out: www.bedtimemath.org.

Once on the home page, click on "For Families," then click on "Fun Nightly Math" to see an interesting story to read to your child followed by questions to ask by age level (i.e. Wee Ones, Little Kids, Big Kids). You can even sign up to have the daily problem emailed to you!

My friend's grandchildren love these math stories so much that my friend has incorporated them as part of the children's nightly routine: a book AND a bedtime math story. If you don't have that much time, think about adding a daily math story to your routine once or twice a week, or even instead of a book.

Have a happy Thanksgiving!

Ms. Cook and Mrs. Imler
Library Media Specialist and Media Aide