



JOSEPH A. WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Mrs. Anyana Stokes

December 2018/January 2019 Issue

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mr. Joseph A. Williams fought for this school to be built 80 years ago, with the conviction that children in southeast Gainesville deserved to have a school in their community. His love for the community led him to donate the very land our school stands on today. Mr. Williams's idea of providing a positive, reputable, and flourishing school have not been lost on the thousands of students, faculty, and staff that have walked the halls and contributed to the school's legacy. For the past 80 years Williams Elementary School has provided a remarkable educational experience for countless students, including the 560 students we are lucky enough to serve this year.

In celebration of our 80th year, on the 80th day of classes (Thurs. Dec. 13th) we held a school-wide celebration that included a vocabulary parade and staff reunion. We are proud of our rich legacy at Williams and plan to not only celebrate it, but to continue to build upon it.

We invite you to join us in supporting and cultivating our students. We have volunteer as well as mentor opportunities available. We welcome you and want you to partner with us to impact our students and foster their success. Our school is only as great as our school community. Thank you for your continued support.

What a GREAT year so far! Wishing you a safe and happy holiday.

Mrs. Anyana Stokes, Principal

PTA UPDATE BY HOLLY BLUMENTHAL

Just a few ways your PTA has been able to support the Williams community lately:

- **Movie Night:** everyone enjoyed How to Train Your Dragon, pizza, and popcorn! Look for another movie night next semester.
- A question and answer session was held on the 1/2 cent sales tax.
- New chairs were purchased for the teacher's lounge.
- Thanks to a PTA teacher grant, each teacher has received needed classroom supplies.
- Holiday Breakfast for teachers and staff provided by parents.

It's not too late to show your support by joining the PTA! Memberships are only \$5.00 a person. Contact the PTA at ptawilliamselementary@gmail.com for more information. **Carnival Update:** The annual Williams Carnival will take place March 21st. If you are interested in helping plan this great event please contact the PTA at ptawilliamselementary@gmail.com.



UPCOMING EVENTS

12/13	80 th Day of School
12/12 - 12/14	Camp Crystal Field Trip - 5 th Grade
12/20	Winter Holidays Begin
1/7	School/classes Resume
1/10	Junior Achievement, 3 rd -5 th Grades
1/11	End of 1 st Semester
1/18	Pupil Holiday, No School
1/21	Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - No School
1/24	Report Cards Go Home
1/29	100 th Day of School
2/1	Character Trait Celebration

**Williams Fourth and Fifth Graders
Dominate State Math Competition**
Rickards Math Championions



CHESS AT WILLIAMS

The Williams chess team meets after school each week, providing our students the opportunity to learn chess skills and have fun with friends.

Erick Zhao (4th Grade) and Bach Ngo (5th Grade) recently played in the Under 10 Chess World Championship in Spain. Bach finished 24th out of over 200 players. Erick tied for First Place and brought home a World Championship.

These two extraordinary players have turned Williams Elementary into a chess powerhouse on the world stage. Go Wildcats!

For more information, please contact Don Pyne, donaldpayne@yahoo.com.



MATH CLUB BY HENRY TAKSIER

Saturday, November 10th, nine fifth graders and seven fourth graders represented our school at the James S. Rickards Fall Invitational, a prestigious math competition for elementary, middle, and high schools at Rickards High School in Tallahassee. With approximately 700 students from over 35 schools last year, the Rickards Invitational is one of the largest math competitions in Florida.

Both of our teams dominated the competition—our fourth grade team won first place among all fourth grade teams, and our fifth grade team won first place among all fifth grade teams. Of 73 individual competitors, four of our fifth graders placed in the top ten. Of 54 competitors, two of our fourth graders placed in the top ten.

The Rickards Fall Invitational was only the start of a season filled with exciting math competitions. On November 13th, over 50 fourth and fifth graders at Williams Elementary participated in the Math Olympiad. Of those students, eight received a perfect score. Between now and April, there will be four more Olympiads, and at the end of the season, a small collection of top-scoring competitors will advance to the district championships at Buchholz High School.

Every fourth and fifth grade student at Williams Elementary is welcome to participate in these competitions and to train for them (and have fun along the way) at our math club, which meets in the Media Center on Fridays. To learn more, email Mr. Taksier at taksierh@gm.sbac.edu.

TITLE I BY KAREN MELVIN

Greetings from Title 1! Williams Elementary School participates in a school wide Title 1 program. This means that our Title 1 money can be used to upgrade the educational program in ways that impact every student in the school.

Currently, our after school tutoring program EDI (Extended Day Intervention) is up and running. Students are recommended for this program by their homeroom teacher. Students meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2pm-3pm to receive tutoring intervention from our own staff members. This tutoring is provided free to students. If you are interested and wanting more information, please see your child's teacher OR you may email me at melvinkm@gm.sbac.edu. I can also be reached at 352-955-6719 ext. 4006.

We will have a community Math Night at Tiger Bay Apartments on December 18 from 5-7 pm. We also have several FSA nights planned after the winter break for parents. Finally, after spring break we will have a Science night!

Please check out the Title 1 link on our school's website and our parent resource table located in the front office for more information.