

THE GOPHER GAZETTE

**Principal:
John Weed**



Rock Crusher Elementary School

814 South Rock Crusher Road
Homosassa, Florida 34448
352-795-2010

Rockcrusherelementary.com
Rock Crusher Web site

<http://www.citrus.k12.fl.us/calendars/>

To access the countywide calendar including Rock Crusher dates

**Assistant Principal:
Rene' Johnson**



Principal's Perspective

Happy New Year! I hope that this time of the year is filled with many blessings for you and your families. Rock Crusher Elementary is continually striving to become better in everything we do. The New Year provides opportunities for us to reflect on what we have done and plan for the remainder of the academic school year. I would like to encourage you to take some time and have conversations with your children to discuss where they are academically. Talk with them about things at school that they enjoy or perhaps areas that create struggles for them. Let's keep working to improve communication with home and school so that our students have the greatest opportunity to be successful.

January means we are starting the second portion of the year and we are focusing on maintaining our achievement of being an A+ school and meeting adequate yearly progress once again. These are ambitious goals and our students and staff are working relentlessly to continue them. We are blessed to have such a dedicated staff that works so hard to help all of our students achieve beyond what they thought possible. Historically, Rock Crusher has always maintained high expectations in a loving, caring environment; I am positive that 2012 will not be any different. Everywhere I go I witness teachers that are creating a love for learning and setting more strenuous expectations. Great things are happening every day.

Also, we are continuing to increase our volunteer and mentor hours every month. It is wonderful to see people volunteering their time and helping our students improve their academic skills. I hope we are able to continue the momentum of participation as the school year progresses. I appreciate your influence on our students and if I haven't had the pleasure of meeting you I look forward to the opportunity. Isn't making a difference in the life of a child the way you want to start this New Year? Let's make it happen together.

—John B. Weed/ Principal

January 2012



DATES TO REMEMBER

- 4 Students Return to School
- 16 Martin Luther King Day/
Student Holiday
- 23-26 2nd Grade Art Camp
- 24 Spring School Pictures/
Individuals & Group
- *Students Return on Jan. 4th

Volunteer's at RCE

Rock Crusher would like to thank all the volunteers who helped make 2011 a successful year! Here are some of the things volunteers helped us do this year; they helped with small groups, centers, folders, production work, copies, offered additional math help, listened to children read, tore out workbook pages, manned the book fair, cut and counted box tops, shelved library books, helped with Fall Fest, served Thanksgiving lunch, worked at Breakfast with Santa and they did so much more!

If you want to find out more about becoming a volunteer or mentor at Rock Crusher, contact Pam Burns at 795-2010 or burns@citrus.k12.fl.us.

The next Volunteer Orientation will be Friday, January 13, 2012 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. at the District Service Center in Inverness. Mentor training will follow on the same date from 10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. Please call Helen Pannelli at the District Service Center at 726-1931 ext: 2233 to register.

Time to Teach

What a great time of year to revisit "Time to Teach" with your children. Take time with them to talk about why education is important, and why they must follow rules so that teachers can teach and students can learn. Encourage your children to reflect upon their behaviors (good or bad) to determine their own level of engagement in the classroom and at home. We at Rock Crusher love to empower our students; it gives them a level of confidence that can only come from success and determination. Rock Crusher wants to thank all of you for your support of "Time to Teach" and a successful 2011. We look forward to 2012 and more "Time to Teach". If you need any information please contact Beth Noland or Rene' Johnson.



PTO News

A great big thank you to all our volunteers and staff for making "Breakfast with Santa" a huge success! We couldn't have done it without you!

Counselor's Corner

I know many of you wonder how you might help your child adopt more positive behaviors. By answering the questions listed below you will find proactive and highly effective steps to take:

- *Consider what you do when you get angry. How do you behave? Are you a good role model?
- *Do you use physical force to solve problems or manage your anger?
- *Do you limit your child's TV, movie and video time? Are they watching anything of a violent nature? Do you want your child to use the language they are observing?
- *Does your child eat a well-balanced, nutritious diet?
- *Do you encourage your child to put angry feelings into words not fists?
- *Do you teach your child to respect others and their feelings?
- *Do you show them other positive activities they can do when they get angry?
- *If you do get upset, do you apologize and talk things over later?

Yes, most of the questions center on you. You are the most important role model to your child, even more than their teachers and coaches. If you believe you have followed the above guidelines and still observe bullying behavior, please feel free to call me.

— Beth Noland /Guidance



WTI Extended Daycare News

Here's hoping that all of you had a wonderful holiday season. As we say goodbye to a successful 2011, we are very excited to ring in 2012 with many activities, a lot of fun and a wealth of learning.

Everyone here at Extended Daycare wants to thank all of you for your contributions in helping us to have a memorable holiday party with our children!

For more information on our program, please feel free to stop by and see us in the cafeteria or call 795-2548 between the hours of 6:30-9:30 a.m. or 3:00-6:00 p.m.

Ms. Cindy, Ms. Sarah & Ms. Debbie

Art Camp

This year in Art Camp the topic is ORIGAMI, the Japanese word for "paper folding". Mrs. Ignico is hosting 2nd grade from January 23rd to 26th. Don't forget that 1st and Kdg will have a chance to participate in the coming months.

Camp time is from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and the cost is \$10.00 per child. This is an after-school activity. It is the parent's responsibility to provide transportation.

Student Supplies

As students head back to school, take a few minutes to check on their classroom supplies. By January crayons tend to be broken, pencils are down to the nub and boxes of tissues have been consumed. Some items you might want to consider replenishing are:

- Crayons
- Glue Sticks
- Tissues (for the classroom)
- Pencils & Erasers Dry Erase Markers
- Folders (plastic last longer)
- Hand Soap (for the classroom)



Communication Checklist

Teachers at Rock Crusher Elementary provide daily and weekly communication opportunities for parents to check on student progress and discuss any questions or concerns. Make sure you are checking for these items on a daily/weekly basis.

Pre-School - Daily Log, to be signed by a parent or guardian.

Kindergarten - Daily homework folder provided, parent signature required depending on the assignment or teacher.

1st Grade - Daily homework folder, to be signed by a parent or Guardian.

2nd Grade - Daily homework folder, to be signed by a parent or Guardian.

3rd Grade - S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Awesome Responsibility) notebooks, go home daily to be signed by a parent or guardian.

4th Grade - F.R.O.G. (Fully Responsible Organized and Growing) notebooks, go home daily to be signed by a parent or guardian.

5th Grade - T.U.R.T.L.E (Teaching Us Responsibility to Learn Everyday) notebooks, go home daily to be signed by a parent or guardian.

School Store

In Art this year 2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th grade learned how to Sumi-e paint with a bamboo brush. Since then parents and students have asked where can you buy a Sumi-e paint brush? Mrs. Ignico is now selling them at the School Store for \$3.00 each.

Tech Lab

We are continuing to collect "BIG G" Box Tops and recycle your used printer cartridges. For a complete list of products that include a Box Top, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com>. We will make another submission in March of 2012, so keep looking for "Big G" Box Tops and help Rock Crusher earn money for our school. Happy Holidays!

Mrs. Hodges & Ms. Head



January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Students Return to School			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		The Running Club				
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	Martin Luther King Day/ Student and Teacher Holiday	The Running Club				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	2nd Grade Art Camp	2nd Grade Art Camp The Running Club Spring Pictures / Individual and Group	2nd Grade Art Camp	2nd Grade Art Camp		
29	30	31				
		The Running Club				