

Butler's Blog

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Dear Families,

Without a doubt the start of the school year has literally been a whirlwind with Irma disrupting lives. As I ran upstairs a few times to look out over the neighborhood around 12:30 a.m., the palm trees were tipping to the ground while swaying back and forth as the wind whipped through air and rain pouring down. I am truly very thankful that our children and families were unharmed. Yes, all of us have been touched in various ways with damages, no power, loss of food, and lots of clean-up. However, we will recover with time as we support and assist one another. Stay strong for each other and reach out if we can be of help.

As the leader of Spessard L. Holland Elementary, I want to express my dedication to the mission and vision of the school. Our mission is to create *a place where students are eager to learn, willing to serve, and preparing to lead*. Year after year, I am privileged to see students return with eagerness and over the years develop into young people who serve and lead on campus, as well as, in the community. As educators, we all strive to model this mindset and demonstrate these qualities daily.

Thank you for sharing your children with us as we work together during the elementary school years.

Wishing you well,

Melody Butler - Principal

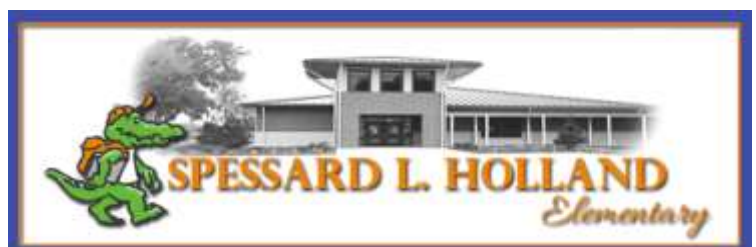
Jeske's Journal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It has been both an honor and privilege to serve as the new Assistant Principal of Spessard L. Holland Elementary as we embarked on the 2017-2018 school year. Thus far, I have thoroughly enjoyed the transition into this new role and feel blessed to further immerse myself into such a wonderful school culture. If there is help support you or your child and to ensure all receive the best public school experience possible, please do not hesitate to reach out via email or phone. I am first and foremost here to serve in this capacity!

Sincerely,

Mr. Ross D. Jeske - Assistant Principal



Upcoming Events

September 28

Open House/Title 1 Night

October 6

Fall Pictures (School Uniform)

October 16

Teacher Work Day – No School for Students

October 24

Family Literacy & Book Fair Night

Media Center

Book Fair will be hosted in the Media Center during the week of October 23rd – 27th from 8:00am to 2:00pm. It will also be open the night of October 24th during Family Literacy & Book Fair Night.

Be on the lookout for information regarding an upcoming Family Literacy & Book Fair night! It will be a fun-filled, Fall themed family outing!

More Important News

ELA Updates

Within all classrooms from Kindergarten to 5th grade, students are being fully immersed in rigorous, engaging, and varied reading and writing activities, tasks, discussions, and assessments. Your children's teachers are challenging their students to read and comprehend the literature that is presented to them on a daily basis. Writing to inform or state an opinion using details of passages paired with a given prompt is also occurring campus-wide. All students are working through the completion of the writing process weekly.

Math Updates

Rigorous mathematical activities are taking place across campus every day. While our kindergarteners focus on counting and identifying the number of items in a group, first graders are learning addition and subtraction strategies. In our second grade classrooms, students are mastering place value and studying basic facts and relationships between addition and subtraction. For our third, fourth and fifth graders, multiplication and division are in the spotlight with varying degrees of complexity. Our fifth graders will soon begin to work with fractions as they add, subtract, multiply and divide to solve problems. At home, parents can help build number sense with students of all ages with just a pair of dice. Check out the link here, for some fun suggestions: <http://zenomath.org/toolbox/dice-games/>.

Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) Updates

If you have not already signed up for ClassDojo, please reach out to the classroom teacher for directions on how to access this wonderful software. Using this tool, you can track the status of your child's behavior throughout the day and easily communicate with the classroom teacher regarding concerns and upcoming events that will be held at the school. We hope your child is excited about the upcoming events and that you'll encourage them to keep earning Dojo's to ultimately receive their GATOR stamp of approval at the end of each day. Our next incentive will be grade level celebrations on September 29th with Kona Ice also visiting the campus on this day. More information to come regarding this on ClassDojo from the teacher!

PTA:

Thank you to the families who have joined PTA for this school year. Please look for the PTA membership form in your child's Tuesday folder if you are interested in joining. she.pta@gmail.com

October PTA Events:

- *3rd: America's Fundraising Services Kick-Off. All Orders and Monies Due on October 17th
- *4th & 5th: Spirit Stick Sales for the BRAND NEW HALLOWEEN Spirit Sticks (4 designs to choose from) – 7:30-8:00am in the Cafeteria
- *19th: McDonald's Spirit Night from 4-6pm – 4420 Clubhouse Road, Lakeland, FL 33812 *Dress in your Halloween best*
- *26th: Bartow Halloween Parade...Be on the look-out for some SPOOKY Spessard Teacher's walking in the parade!
- *27th: Kona Ice



Students of the Month - AUGUST

Ahmaya Rogers, Juan Sanchez, Bryce Hall, Kendra Chambers, Jayden Feist, Jayda Oaks, Neer Patel, Jocelyn Betancourt-Sanchez, Katie Cummings, Ayden Yeanuzzi, Kennedy Samuel, Quinn Dominique, Trinity Forbes, Maranda Ghent, Aiden Allgood, Kelly Tolson, Te'Quasha Hogan, Jayden Hall, Amberly Daywitt, Josiah Haggins, DeAndrew Smith, Christian Bell, Caylee O'Keeffe, Campbell McCroskey, Eduardo Marrero, Caylee O'Keeffe, Kimari Williams, Malachi Leiser, Tavares Murray, Alyssa Valdez, Hannah Quarles, Reese Lassiter, Julia Odermatt, Kelly Sanchez, Brayden Gonzalez, Tegan Mano, Brantley Leaders, Harlow Hughes, Mason Snow, Jackson Smith

Grade Level Spotlight

Our grade level spotlight this month goes to KINDERGARTEN! We already have more than a handful of students who have mastered their Kindergarten sight words which truly deserves a round of applause! Shout out to:

Noah Abrahams, Mason Snow, Gavin Hay, Mason Fowler, Tyler Lukac