

CELEBRATING 80 YEARS! 1938-2018



# JOSEPH WILLIAMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Principal: Mrs. Anyana Stokes

October & November 2018 Issue

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



With the start of the second nine weeks grading period beginning October 16, we have noticed that important student learning and engagement are occurring each day, field trips and class events are starting to pick up, parent conferences and phone calls are happening regularly, and we are preparing for PTA and other school events. Additionally, Williams Elementary School will soon have two imperative initiatives occurring in the next few months.

The first initiative is the Half Cents Sales Tax to Improve School Facilities, which is a ballot item for the November 6 general election. The average classroom at Williams Elementary School is about 48 years old, with minimal to no modifications being done in the last several decades. Additionally, we have five classrooms that are portables and have been placed directly on the students' playground. As such, we face many challenges within our buildings, such as outdated classroom learning structures, poor lighting, inconsistent air conditioning, and inadequate safety components.

If the school district had more money and funds dedicated to school facilities, then **Williams would be eligible to receive upgrades** towards demolishing old buildings and constructing new classrooms, as well as potential improvements for a number of current classrooms, the cafeteria and kitchen, media center, and school security features. Please go to our school website for more information.

Secondly, the school administration and staff is making **extensive enhancements on campus**. With the support of our PTA, we will be purchasing a digital marquee for the front of the school. Moreover, and with the help of GRU, we will be getting brand new cafeteria seating and tables for all students, as well as developing our school grounds and garden. We are also in the process of beginning a long-term plan to replace playground equipment with new slides, swings, and other structures for our Wildcat students.

Mrs. Anyana Stokes  
Principal

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/12 SWI Picture Day
- 10/15 PTA Meeting (6:00)
- 10/15 End of 1<sup>st</sup> Nine Weeks
- 10/18 Wear PINK – Family Health Awareness
- 10/19 Pupil Holiday
- 10/24 Flu Mist Day
- 10/24 Wear ORANGE – Unity Day
- 10/26 Report Cards go Home
- 10/26 Wear RED – Red Ribbon Week
- 10/30 Trick or Treat on Williams Street
- 11/2 UF Homecoming
- 11/9 Movie Night
- 11/12 Veterans Day
- 11/15 Family Math Night



*We are committed to the success of every student!*



**Williams PTA – Join today by going to our website**  
[www.williams.sbac.edu](http://www.williams.sbac.edu)



**EduTone:** Online resource portal for students.



Email [hartsamsb@gm.sbac.edu](mailto:hartsamsb@gm.sbac.edu) if you would like to set up Skyward.



**Istation:** Contact your teacher on how to do Reading & Math practice at home.

## FALL PTA UPDATE BY HOLLY BLUMENTHAL

Your PTA has scheduled three opportunities for you to connect with the Williams community over the next five weeks.

**PTA meetings** are the third Monday of each month at 6:00. The Oct. 15 meeting will feature a presentation on the Half-Cent for Schools initiative on the Nov. 6 ballot. Our guest presenters are Alachua County Council PTA President Pam Korithoski and previous ACCPTA President Khahn-Lien Banko. This month's PTA meeting presentations will help you make an informed choice regarding the Half Cents Sales Tax.

On November 9, we'll have **Movie Night** at Williams in the cafeteria. Look for information on the website or in your child's take-home folders for more information. You can expect a family-friendly movie, refreshments, and a night of fun with your classmates and neighbors.

**Not a member of the PTA?** Join by Nov. 1 to give your child's class a chance to win a pizza party. PTA will buy the pizzas for the non-magnet class and the magnet class with the most PTA members at the conclusion of our fall membership drive at the end of this month.

**Contact:** [ptawilliams elementary@gmail.com](mailto:ptawilliams elementary@gmail.com)

## SCHOOL BEAUTIFICATION DAY BY CHRIS MORAN

A lot changed at Williams in four hours on Sept. 29. The teachers' lounge gleamed with a new coat of paint. We reclaimed a garden lost to weeds and overgrown vegetation and laid the dirt bare for replanting. We broke the stranglehold vines had held on the perimeter fence. We reorganized a closetful of teaching materials rendered inaccessible by the clutter and restored it to a resource for our teachers and students.

Our first school beautification day in recent memory also restored some luster to the sense of community that characterizes successful schools. Parents, teachers, administrators, students, alumni, GRU volunteers, and others came together in common purpose, sweaty and smiling. It was a great start to putting the best face on the school and to uniting folks who care deeply about Williams. Please go to our school website for more information and photos.

## 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FIELD TRIP BY FRED ASHFORD

On Saturday, September 15, we had 70 fifth graders attend the University of Florida football game where they played Colorado State University. This provided students an opportunity to experience a college football game and see what a university campus looks like. It was sponsored by the University Athletic Association and Florida Credit Union.

Many students stated it was the first time doing something like this. Kamarion Mack, a fifth grade student, said afterwards, "I loved it! My favorite part was watching the defense." Other students enjoyed being able to spend time with their friends outside school. Josie Mir, a fifth grade student, exclaimed, "It was a lot of fun because I've never been to a game before. I cheered and danced with my friends the whole time."