



PANTHER POST

“WE’RE ON A SAFARI OF LEARNING”



everychild. one voice.



Volume 5, Issue 7

March 2010

Collins Elementary
12424 Summerfield Blvd.
Riverview, FL 33579
(813) 672-5400

Ellen Cyr, Principal
Steve Sims, Asst. Principal
Sue Chapin, Guidance
David Kincaide, Social Worker

Helpful Information

- To report your child’s absence please call 672-5400 X 1.
- No student can be signed out after 1:30 pm.
- The Panther Post is published in 9 issues (Sept–May). It is a publication of Collins PTA.
- Email submissions and advertisements to pta@collinspta.net by the 3rd Friday of each month.

PTA Executive Board
2009-2010

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Website: www.collinspta.net
Email: pta@collinspta.net

Newsletter Editors:
Christine Lynch & Maria Egal
Publisher: Post & Pack

PTA Corner

By: Christine Lynch, Collins Elementary PTA President

Can you believe that March is here already? Spring is just around the corner. There are lots of events planned throughout the rest of the year so be sure to read the newsletter and check out the website at www.collinspta.net.

It is FCAT and Stanford Testing time here at Collins. In preparation of testing, be sure to have your student(s) eat a good healthy breakfast, get a good night’s sleep, and dress comfortably. It is VERY important to have your child here on time and reserve all nonessential early checkouts until after testing is over. We are certain that our Collins students will do their very best. WE are proud of our Panthers!

Are you interested in joining a team of parents to help beautify the grounds of Collins? We are looking for volunteers to help freshen up the paint and flower beds around the campus. If you are available on March 20th at 9:00am, please come assist our custodial staff in making Collins look fresh and new again! If you are interested, or have any questions, please send me an email at president@collinspta.net. Lunch will be provided. Thank you for helping to make Collins a well-maintained facility in the heart of Panther Trace.

Again, we THANK YOU for your support to Collins. We are proud of our parents, students and teachers. Please do not forget to log in all of your volunteer hours whether it is spent at school or at home assisting in a classroom project for the teachers. We value every minute of your time.

Kindest Regards,

Christine Lynch, PTA President



HELP WANTED!!

Do you like to paint?? Collins is looking for some community volunteers to help freshen up the paint and flower beds around the campus of Collins Elementary!

DATE: March 20, 2010

TIME: 9:00 am to ???

LUNCH: Provided

LOCATION: Collins Cafeteria

Contact front office or Christine Lynch at president@collinspta.net for more information or to sign up.



PARENT TIPS to help your student prepare for the FCAT’S....



~Remind your student to listen to or read test directions carefully.

~Ensure that your student gets proper sleep the night before and has a balanced breakfast each morning.

~Eat a healthy dinner each evening and encourage low-fat snacks in between.

~Help your student feel upbeat about doing his/her best.

~Make sure your student is on time to school each day to lessen stress.



Guidance Corner

By: Sue Chapin, Counselor



February was another exciting month for our students at Collins Elementary. Our K Kids have been busy reinforcing good work with special stickers for their buddies, along with other worthwhile endeavors. Some worthwhile endeavors that you can do with your child(ren) before it warms up, is visit the TECO Manatee Viewing Center by Apollo Beach. It is free and one may see so much more than manatees. You could also pack a picnic and visit one of our great county parks. This helps to build lifelong memories.

A great game that you can play with your child that will help reading comprehension is to read a book without letting them see it. Then, ask them to guess what the illustrations – characters, setting, etc. - look like. A good reader forms mental pictures while reading.

The word for March is *Great Citizen!* At Collins, we want our students to practice *being law-abiding and involved in service to school, community, and country!* We are striving to help our students to become *great citizens* in tomorrow’s world. Please discuss with your child/children what being a *Great Citizen* means throughout the month of March. Feel free to use your Great Citizen ideas from the monthly calendar.

It is never too early for our students to begin creating their career path starting with career awareness. Talk with your child about family careers – create a career family tree. This will share family values, personal abilities, skills, interests, and other fascinating information. You might want to share about any stereotyping that was involved in your career path. Discuss with them the requirements necessary for and on the job. It is important for our students to learn how to make decisions, set goals, understand planning, and develop interests. This will help make the path to the world of work smoother. They might even want to create a community out of bags, boxes, etc. for fun on a rainy day. Have them share what jobs are needed to make their town work!

Our new mediators are still busy training - mediation is such a great way to solve conflicts. We are truly sad when we lose our 5th grade mediators to middle school each year. They have developed fantastic mediation skills, useful throughout life!

Don’t forget to check our local Observer News for our award winning students. Sweetbay also recognizes our Terrific Kids, Citizens of the Month, and Character Ed. Students monthly on our bulletin board at our neighborhood Sweetbay! Remember to thank Sweetbay, Mimi’s, McDonald’s (Casper’s Corp), Outback in Brandon, and the SCC Pizza Hut for the many great things they do for our children!

We are so glad that you are part of our school. You are the Best!!!!
Sue Chapin, Counselor

January Self-Discipline

Students at Collins Elementary
sponsored by MiMi’s Café, Casper’s
McDonald’s, and Chick-fil-A

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Monique Alicia | Alexa Melendez |
| Samantha Allen | Treasure Mulkey |
| Gabriella Arias | Hailey Murphy |
| Megan Bodine | Brantley Neer |
| Abigain Brown | Emily Noe |
| Matthew Ciccone | Brayden Paredes |
| Zackary Crouse | Ryan Paredes |
| Sean Dawkins | Tatiana Perry |
| Giana Devoe | Noah Powlett |
| Madison DiCesare | Taylor Randall |
| Jason Dinh | Vincent Reggi |
| Mia Drago | Rylee Roberts |
| Ryan Draper | Jack Romano |
| Sophia Fosteris | Emily Schneller |
| Tyler Frock | Xavier Shumpert |
| Imani Givens | Alexis Smith |
| Janelle Inoa | Evelyn Staubitz |
| Lindsay Jackson | Uyen Tran |
| Elias Jeffries | Marielle Ulan |
| Drew Johnson | Audrey Wilson |
| Alyssa King | Hunter Works |
| Benjamin Kyker | |
| Mekhi LaPointe | |
| Emma Levitt | |
| Linda Lowery | |
| Ethan Lyons | |
| Abigail McColgan | |
| Ryan McIntosh | |
| Nicole Mathias | |



January Terrific Kids

at Collins Elementary sponsored by the SCC Kiwanis Club, Casper's McDonald's, Ruby Tuesday and SweetBay

David Ambrosino	Manny Martinez
Marc Arias	Abby McBride
Alec Bahr	Chris McCleary
Oliver Bahr	Nicholas Messina
Roberto Bruni	James Miller
Devan Burke	Angel Muniz
Ramey Caez	Dylan Northrop
Selena Cafaro	Diamond-Pearl Ogletree
Xavier Campbell	Nathan Olds
Shayna Cooper	Aditi Parashar
Adiela Cucalon	Samaarth Patel
Joshua Edgar	Alyssa Proctor
Pierce Eitel	Dylan Radley
Justin Farmer	Veerali Rana
Hailey Fiske	Braham Raso
Daniel Gonitski	Noah Reid
Rhianna Guess	Koen Reimert
Kaya Hall	Lavian Robinson
Jose Iturralde	Frida Rodill
Kevis Jones	Jenna Samudio
Pierce Klieger	Colby Shrader
Madison Long	MiKayla Stark
Chloe Lu	Kylee Suralis
Andrea Martinez	Jack Walzer
Christina Martinez	Landon Williams
	James Yambo

Greetings from Collins Café,

We are all anxiously awaiting Spring and the return of warmer weather.

We had a lot of fun with our students Feb 10-12. We gave out stickers at Breakfast, which were than redeemed at lunch for prizes, ranging from pencils, cookies, fruit snacks, even slices of Big Daddy Pizza. Our staff really enjoyed seeing how happy the kids were.

We also had our first Muffins with Mom on Friday Feb. 19. All Moms were sent invitations to join their child for Breakfast. We served homemade Blueberry Muffins; coffee was also provided. Parents were also able to purchase other items on the menu for Breakfast that day. Breakfast for students as always is free.

During the month of March, we will be sending out invitations to Dine with Dad. (more info will follow)

The month of March also brings National School Breakfast Week March 8-12. We will also be having our gold coin promotion during the days of March 17-19.

So you see, there are all kinds of reasons to try Breakfast and Lunch with us!

Till next time.

Always,

Susan Paszkowski, SNS Manager, Collins Elementary School



January Kindergarten Citizens of the Month at Collins Elementary

Sponsored by the SCC Pizza Hut

Alex Davies	Ariana Keister	Diego Torres
Nick Fleck	Lamaya McFadden	Jessica Wilson
Levi Hanto	Alexa Rangel	Ariah Woods

SHOW COLLINS SPIRIT! COME EAT PIZZA!

EAST COAST PIZZA SPIRIT NIGHT




Why cook when you can have pizza? Show your school spirit and come to East Coast Pizza the SECOND Tuesday of every month. They have been gracious enough to donate 20% of ALL COLLINS SALES. This money will go directly to support our efforts in providing a sunshade over the PE Courts. Don't forget to mention you are from Collins and you'll be entered into a drawing to win something special!

Look for the signs in front of the school as a reminder to treat yourself to pizza!

Character Counts at Collins!

_____ is amazing because

 Sincerely, _____

Character Counts!!

Ask your student fill this Character form out to tell an amazing person at Collins how important they are and **WHY!!**

Simply turn this form in to Ms. Chapin.

Our students are the **BEST** at Collins Elementary School!!!

Would you like to go out to lunch or dinner? Shopping? Do you have a special event to attend? Are you in need of someone to watch the children?

Call Mrs. Esther Guerrero

Phone: 813-892-1479

Available: Monday thru Friday with occasional Sat/Sun.



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Marsha Odor
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MARCH 2010

WORD OF THE MONTH: GREAT CITIZEN

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
IMPORTANT REMINDER to sign the Agenda DAILY...	1 KCOTM	2 5 Guys Spirit Night	3	4 Terrific Kids 8:30	5 Perseverance Awards 8:30	6 Discuss with your child(ren) what Great Citizen means.	
7	8	9 FCAT begins grades 3, 4, 5 East Coast Pizza Spirit Night	10	11	12	13 Explore the public library for books about Great Citizens in our country.	
14 	15	16 FCAT ends	17 	18	19 Would you like to help paint Saturday the 20th? Collins needs a fresh coat!	20 Identify Great Citizens in your newspapers and on the television.	
21	22 Stanford Testing begins grades 1, 2	23	24	25	26 End of 3rd grading period. Hat Day!	27 Ask your child who they feel are Great Citizens and why. Relay for Life in Riverview! Go Team!	
28	29	30 Kindergarten Roundup in Cafeteria	31 Stanford Testing ends Early Release Day			Did you ask the teacher if the classroom needs anything?	
		Thank you to ALL our Collins Volunteers! You are the BEST!					

Home & School Connection

Working Together for School Success
March 2010
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SHORT NOTES
Have courage

When your child is nervous about a class play or a doctor's appointment, remind her how she handled past situations bravely. You might say, "Remember when you were afraid to read in front of the class, and then your teacher said you did a great job?" Taking pride in her courage will help her deal with new challenges.

Homework helper

Help your youngster make an instant homework station by folding a piece of poster board into thirds. He can set it up around him to block out distractions when he works. He can also tape handy information to it, like a multiplication table or a United States map.

Which way?

Use everyday conversations to improve your child's sense of direction. During an after-dinner walk, point out the sunset in the west. On the highway, show her road signs (Route 1 South). *Idea:* Have her make north, south, east, and west signs. Help her hang them on the correct walls in her bedroom.

Worth quoting

"Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path, and leave a trail."

Ralph Waldo Emerson

JUST FOR FUN

Q: Why did the dinosaur paint her toenails red?

A: So she could hide in the strawberry patch.



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Guidance Services
Rhonda Harris, Guidance Services

Superintendent of Schools
MaryEllen Elia

Deputy Superintendents
Kenneth R. Otero
Daniel J. Valdez

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction
Wynne A. Tye

Sue Chapin, Counselor

Discipline solutions

Does your child sometimes test the limits you set for him? It's easy to get frustrated when he doesn't listen to you. But having a clear plan for handling misbehavior can help you stay calm and get him back on track more quickly. Try these suggestions.

Communicate clearly.

If you find yourself repeating instructions several times before your youngster "hears" you, try getting his attention first. You might gently touch him on the shoulder and say his name. When he makes eye contact, state exactly what you need him to do ("Please walk—don't run—in the house").

Explain rules. Your child will be more likely to follow rules if he understands the reasons for them. But trying to explain while he's misbehaving can lead to an argument. Instead, wait until he's calm. Then say, for instance, "You have to ask permission before you go outside so I know where you are." Also, let him



know the consequence of breaking a rule (staying inside for 30 minutes).

Look for reasons. When your youngster has a day where he keeps getting into trouble, find out if something is bothering him. *Example:* "You seem out of sorts today. Do you want to talk about it?" Perhaps he argued with a friend or got a low grade on a book report. Talking about his problems lets him see that you care—and may help break the cycle of misbehavior. ♥

Test tips

Spring is the time for standardized tests at many schools. If your youngster is taking one soon, share these tips:

- For multiple-choice items, suggest that she try to answer the question without looking at the responses first. Then, she can check to see if her choice is among the answers. If it is, it's probably correct. If she doesn't know an answer, she should guess. Chances are her first instinct will be right.
- On reading-comprehension sections (a passage followed by questions), suggest that she read the questions first. That way, she'll know what she's looking for when she reads the paragraph.

Tip: Encourage your youngster to try her best, but remind her that it's okay if she doesn't know all the answers. ♥



Home & School CONNECTION®

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Wonderful words

A good vocabulary will help your youngster do better in all subjects. You can play these games to increase the number of words she knows and uses:

- Teach your child to find words inside words. On separate sheets of paper, have each family member write his or her full name (first, middle, last). Set a timer for five minutes. See how many words players can make using the letters in their own names.
- Stretch your youngster's thinking while teaching her about letter patterns. The first player says a word with four letters (*late*). The



next person changes just one letter to make a new word (*date*). Continue playing as long as possible.

- Help your child find interesting words in stories. Secretly choose a book she knows, write down 5–10 favorite words from the pages, and read the list to her. Can she guess the book? Talk about why you liked each word (“*Suspect* sounds sneaky, and the suspect in a mystery is

sneaky”) and what it means (someone accused of doing something). Then, let her select words from a book for you. ♥

ACTIVITY CORNER

Musical glasses

Your child will have fun making music—and learn about sound—with this experiment.

Materials: 3 identical glasses, water, spoon

Let your youngster fill three drinking glasses with different amounts of water. He can fill one glass three-quarters full, another half full, and a third glass one-quarter full.



Then, have him tap on the side of each glass with a spoon. What happens? They each make a slightly different sound. Water makes the glass vibrate faster, causing a higher-pitched sound. Less water causes slower vibrations and a lower-pitched sound.

Next, give your child more glasses, and encourage him to experiment with different amounts of water to create more sounds. He might even play a simple tune like “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star” or “Row, Row, Row Your Boat.” ♥

OUR PURPOSE

To provide busy parents with practical ideas that promote school success, parent involvement, and more effective parenting.

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PARENT TO PARENT

Family field day

Our daughter Molly looks forward to field day in school every year. Last year, she came up with the idea of starting our own family field day. It turned out to be a great workout—and an ideal way to spend time together.

Molly chose a few of her favorite events, including the three-legged race, the sack race, and the egg-and-spoon relay. Then, on a warm spring afternoon, I invited my sister and her kids over for our field day.

We divided into teams and did relays at a field in our neighborhood. We used pillowcases for sacks and golf balls as eggs. Molly even taught us the sponge relay. We soaked up water from a bucket with sponges and then ran across the field to squeeze the sponges into another bucket. Our family field day was so much fun that we're planning another one this year! ♥



Q & A

Looking beyond stereotypes

Q: My son Dylan told me that he doesn't like a boy in his class because he's from a different country. What should I say?

A: This is a good time to discuss stereotypes and try to teach your child about tolerance and diversity. You can explain that a stereotype is a judgment made about a member of a particular group without really knowing the person. And since each person is an individual, stereotypes are unfair. For example, you

could say, he wouldn't want people making an assumption about him based on his appearance or background.

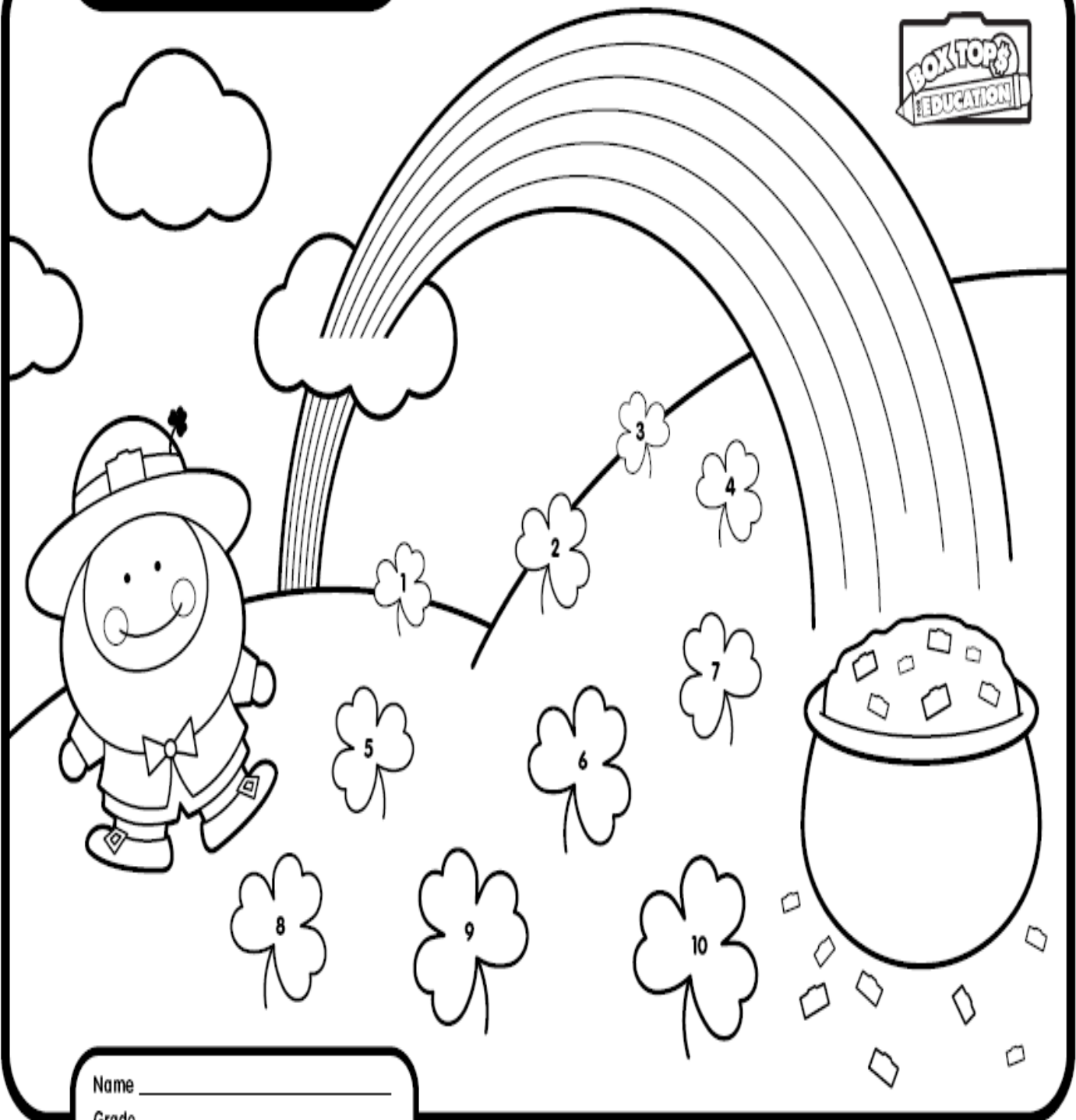
Encourage Dylan to tell you how he feels about his classmate. He might say, “He's not like me.” Then, suggest that he try playing with him at recess or invite him over to work on a school project. Once your son spends a little time with him, he may discover that they're more alike than he thought. ♥



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