



Important DATES:

- Dec 18-Jan 2**
Winter Vacation No School
- Jan 15**
No School
- Jan 24**
Staff Luncheon Sponsored by the PTA
- Jan 25**
Coffee with the Principal
- Feb 19**
No School
- Mar 9-16**
Spring Break No School

Happy Holidays from your PTA President

This is my favorite time of the year. I am thankful to live in Florida during the fall and winter when the weather is perfect! We get to pull out those cute sweaters and jackets that we only get to show off for a short time. I am thankful to have family and friends around to share this time with. I am also thankful for the many accomplishments we have achieved so far this year. Our fall fundraiser went well, the sale of T-shirts and Memberships was great and we are on track with the budget.

I am most thankful for our wonderful Windy Ridge families. The Donuts for Dad's event in October was huge! We had close to 100 dads! WOW! Thank you all so much for coming. Your children loved having you with them for the morning!

The PTA meeting last month was the biggest event we've seen in quite a while. No less than 200 people came to hear our Guest Speaker, Mr. Chuck Tompkins from Sea World! It was a fabulous event and he was an incredible speaker!

Sea World brought several animals for everyone to meet as well. There was a scarlet macaw, a hawk, an anteater and a sloth. Everyone had a great time learning about them.

Thank you to all who came out and "packed the house"! Thank you also to Sally Sawyer and the PTA Hospitality committee for providing those great snacks! Congratulations to the family who won the 27" color television and everyone who entered the drawings. The proceeds went to the Health Central Nurses' Fund to support our school nurse.

Keep reading your teacher's weekly newsletter and check out the PTA website at www.windyridgepta.org for current information and dates.

Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday season!

Sincerely,
Mindy Bender
 PTA President 2006-2007
 Lorminno@aol.com | 407-522-2689



| Windy Ridge PTA 2006-2007 Executive Board | |
|--|----------------|
| President | Mindy Bender |
| 1st Vice President | Karyn Phillips |
| 2nd Vice President | Sherita Teti |
| 3rd Vice President | Amy DuRose |
| Treasurer | Susan Mishriki |
| Recording Secretary | Tina Newell |
| Corresponding Secretary | Sally Sawyer |

Curious about an open PTA position?
 Contact Mindy Bender for more details! It's never too late to get involved.

OPEN PTA POSITIONS

- Beautification
- Dad's Committee
- Health Central Nurses Fund
- Spring Fling



A Note from the Principal

Dear Windy Ridge Parents,

On behalf of the Windy Ridge Administration, Faculty and Staff I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season. This is a time of year for family rest and relaxation and a chance to spend some quality time with our loved ones. I would like to express my gratitude for all you do to make Windy Ridge a caring and cooperative environment. As a parent and educator, I know the importance of team work to make each school day one in which all students LEARN & KARE. Thank you for the fabulous turn out for our latest PTA meeting and for such a terrific TEACH IN for 2006.

Respectfully,
Sarah Concepcion
Principal



Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening with the Windy Ridge Website?

The School Advisory Council Communications Committee Chair is redesigning and updating the layout of our website. We will have the skeleton complete by December 1, 2006. We will continue to enhance the site and our goal for providing a more informative, current and accessible website is January 2007. **We welcome assistance from parents who are proficient in DreamWeaver Studio MX.**

What's our plan to make Windy Ridge Spic "n" Span?

We have an administrator specifically assigned to custodial issues. The following are steps that have been taken. A meeting was held with the custodians. They were given a copy of their job description, handbook and administration expectations. The Custodial Technician for the West Learning Community has provided detailed feedback and administered training. An additional custodian has been hired and will be on board by the end of November. Equipment required to clean and maintain a facility of this size has been ordered. The district has secured a subcontractor to restrip, reclean and re wax the entire tile surface at our school as the original work was not satisfactory. We encourage all at our school to K.A.R.E. (Keep A Respectful Environment!)

Why is there no crossing guard on Beech Tree Street?

The guards are placed at locations based on speed limit, width of crossing, number of vehicles and numbers of students crossing. We have applied for a crossing guard on the street this year but were denied. We are asking that this decision be reviewed.

Will the cross walk be moved again?

Orange County Government will move the cross walk back to the Cypress Landing end of the bus loop. Students from Willow Wood will walk down and cross at the new cross walk and access the bike racks located there. This will be complete before winter break.

When will the second phase buildings be ready for occupation?

The date given by our project manager is the end of November. Students will be moved to new classrooms as soon as we have been notified all inspections have been completed satisfactorily.

Thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have any questions.



UPDATE FROM THE TREASURER

We are off to a wonderful start with our fundraising efforts. While our Sally Foster fundraiser fell a little short of what we anticipated, our PTA membership and Tee-shirts sales have soared. There are still opportunities for you to help us raise money for the school. There are notepads on sale in the front office and beautiful bricks for the front entrance way. We have purchased some large folding tables to assist the school with outdoor food activities. Our next big fundraising event will be Spring Fling, which always is such fun for young and old alike.

Wishes to you and yours for a wonderful healthy holiday season.

Susan Mishriki
PTA Treasurer

PTA Membership - Join Today!



everychild.one voice.®

Thank you to everyone who has joined the Windy Ridge PTA. **We are happy to announce that we have 100% participation from**

our teachers. But we always need more members so that we can continue to support and sponsor all the wonderful programs that benefit every child at Windy Ridge!

It's as easy as signing up with a Single Membership for only \$5. Just imagine the things we could do for our school if EVERY parent at Windy Ridge purchased a single membership.

If you need a sign-up sheet, please email Katrina Ruiz at kruiz@cfl.rr.com or go to www.windyridgepta.org to download a membership form.

Katrina Ruiz - kruiz@cfl.rr.com
Denise Groux - dgroux@aol.com
PTA Membership Co-Chairs

Help Support *Kids Can!* and Help Sick and Injured Animals

Hello Family and Friends!

We started a t-shirt company, the Kids Can! Company, to help animals. We love the idea of helping animals. By getting money for the t-shirts, which we designed and drew ourselves, we help raise money because we will donate what we earn to the Busch Wildlife Sanctuary. This sanctuary helps sick and injured animals such as panthers, birds, snakes, foxes, skunks, deer, and all other types of animals. We will split the profits from the shirts between this sanctuary and our PTA. Starting a company is a lot of fun. Please help us protect animals. Place your order today. Order forms and a picture of the shirt are available at the front desk. Thank you!

Sophia and Rachel DuRose
Windy Ridge 2nd Grade Students

School Nurse Fund

Thank you to all who came out for Parent's Night at Dottie's Comedy Theater. This event raised several hundred dollars for our School Nurse program.



It's never too late to make a donation to this crucial cause. **If you wish to make a donation to our School Nurse program, please make your tax deductible check payable to "Health Central Foundation."**

We are very grateful for the wonderful support of the students, parents, teachers and community here at Windy Ridge School. Let's reach our goal of \$15,000!

Engraved Bricks for Sale

Help Support Windy Ridge School by ordering your engraved brick today!

Engraved bricks are \$40 each or 3 bricks for \$100. Proceeds will be used to "beautify" our new school! All brick messages can have 3 three lines of text with a maximum of 13 characters on each line.

Please make checks payable to: Windy Ridge PTA

Order forms are available for download at www.windyridgepta.org. Click on the "Bricks for Sale" link under Quick Links on the left hand side of the home page.

Please contact Sherita Teti if you have any questions at cteti@juno.com or 407-297-8295.

Sherita Teti
cteti@juno.com
407-297-8295



The National PTA's 2006-2007 Reflections Program "My Favorite Place..."

Thank you to all the students who submitted entries to this years Reflections Program. **All entries were due to the school by November 30th.** We hope you enjoyed the experience. For additional information regarding the results of this years competition, please contact Karyn Phillips, Reflections chairperson at 407-294-1407 or redkaryn@cfl.rr.com. You may also obtain further information about the program at www.pta.org.

Windy Ridge ADDitions Volunteers Help Our Children Soar!!

We Need You! Our volunteers are the heart of our school and we are grateful for your involvement and commitment to education. Whether it is helping with the health screenings, working in the media center, chaperoning a field trip or volunteering in your child’s classroom. You have made a difference on campus and in the life of not only your child but for their classmates as well. Education is a team effort and thank you for making our team a strong one!

I am sure you have all noticed that the sign-in computer is up and running!!! Thank you Brenda Taylor. Please make sure you sign-in and out on the computer .

Your hours of volunteering are a valuable asset to Windy Ridge. I know many parents do work from home too. All volunteer work done at home on behalf of Windy Ridge needs to be included in our monthly totals. So please email me your at home hours to lupoc@ocps.net.

If you haven’t registered as an ADDitions Volunteer please go to www.volunteer.ocps.net and complete your online application or update your application from last year. Each year your application must be updated so we have accurate information. If you plan on attending a field trip, you can download your chaperone application form now. Please send all completed forms to my attention.

Our volunteers put in many hours on behalf of our students. I would like to announce the Volunteers of The Month:

- August: Arlene Hutchison**
- September: Ann Biro**
- October: Ellen Chabot**



Congratulations and Thank you for all that you do.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to **Donna Botlick** and **Sherita Teti** for taking on extra responsibilities managing the ADDitions Program at Windy Ridge. Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our students and teachers.

Tina Lupo
ADDitions Coordinator
lupoc@ocps.net
407-296-5100 ext. 2233

Student Awards Program for Elementary School

Celebrate your Students Success!

Windy Ridge kids work hard to reach their goals and each 9 weeks the top student in several categories are recognized by their teacher during a special awards ceremony.

Students are acknowledged for Reading, Writing, Math, Science, Social Studies (4th and 5th), Great Leaps (most improved), Teachers Choice (demonstrating The 6 Pillars of Character) and The Principals Award (excellence in academics and good citizenship).

These awards are a very special celebration. They reward the students for their hard work and dedication and encourage other students to try just a little harder.

We had 353 students receive an award this past 9 weeks. WOW!! The students were also invited to a separate celebration—an ice cream social. It was a great afternoon of fun, laughter and Ice Cream!

If your child comes home with an award, please know that this is a special recognition and they worked hard to earn it!

Tina Lupo
Student Recognition Awards Chair
lupoc@ocps.net
407-296-5100 xt. 2233

Birthday Books Help Expand our Windy Ridge Library

Looking for a way to celebrate your child’s birthday or another special event—an award, a new sibling, a good grade, etc.? Consider donating a book to the Media Center through our Birthday Books program and honor the special occasion.

A large selection of new books are available in the Media Center (or see the PTA website for a list of available titles). Simply complete the Birthday Books form and purchase the book at its list price and a personalized inscription will be placed in the book commemorating your child’s special occasion. Your child’s picture will also be posted on a special board in the Media Center. You are also welcome to purchase a book on your own and bring it to the Media Center to donate.

Please help us to expand our library by donating a book in your child’s name today. For more information, visit the Media Center or contact Joanna Bradford at joannabradford@bellsouth.net.

