



**Upcoming Events:**

- ◆ P.A.C. Meeting 2/12
- ◆ Field trip to Cielo's 2/13  
5th-8th grade
- ◆ Valentines Day 2/14  
Class Parties
- ◆ Projects due 2/15  
No after-care
- ◆ Winter Break 2/18-22
- ◆ National Reading day 3/1  
Dr. Suess Fun Day  
March fundraiser begins
- ◆ Black History Program  
3/1 @ 4:30pm in Gym
- ◆ P.A.C. Meeting 3/5
- ◆ International Day 3/8
- ◆ Reports Cards 3/11  
Science Projects issued
- ◆ Conference Wk 3/11-15  
4:45-5:30 pm  
Money Due for Year bk ad
- ◆ Spirit Week 3/18-22  
Mon~ Green Day  
Tues~ Sports Day  
Wed~ Pajama Day  
Thurs~ Super Hero Day  
Fri~ Celebrity Day



Greetings Family,



Did you not enjoy that wonderful weather we partook in last week? We need more of those wonderful sunny days. The students certainly enjoyed running and playing in the warm Georgia sun.

**Valentines Day**

Classes will be able to exchange valentines and have celebrations for Valentines Day. Look for information from your child's teacher for any specifics.

**Black History Projects**

I am very excited to hear what your young one has learned about our rich history. Students will also share this with you during our program on 3/1. I just want to remind you that these projects are due on Friday and please follow the Rubric sent regarding the project. Projects constitute 20% of their third quarter History grade. To ensure that students can spend quality time preparing, there will be no additional homework assignments except for the class readings. Enjoy spending time with your child exploring our History!

**March Fundraiser**

Each class will feature a special gift basket that will be raffled at our April P.A.C. Meeting. To prepare the baskets, we will ask for a donation from each family to put into the class basket. Your child's teacher will send a list informing you of the theme and items that will be needed. The baskets will have a highlighted theme (ex: car care, dinner and a movie, spa day, etc.). Raffle tickets will be sold for \$1 each and students will be given tickets to sell. The class does not have to sell their class basket, they will have information on all of the baskets. The class that sells the most tickets will receive an ice cream party.

**Year Book Ads**

We are selling ads for our 2018-2019 yearbook. What better way to highlight your special one than to feature them or your business in our book. Available sizes are full page (\$50), half-page (\$25) and quarter page (\$10). Funds and layouts due by March 15th. Please see administration if you are interested. Blessings, Mrs. White

**Teaching Kids to Be Smart About Social Media**

There are plenty of good things about social media — but also many risks and things kids and teens should avoid. They don't always make good choices when they post something to a site, and this can lead to problems. So it's important to talk with your kids about how to use social media wisely.

**What's Good About Social Media:** stay connected with friends and family, enhance their creativity by sharing ideas, music, and art, meet and interact with others who share similar interests, communicate with educators and fellow students.

**What's Bad About Social Media:** cyberbullying and questionable activities, sharing more online than they should, post photos of themselves online or use their real names on their profiles, reveal their birthdates and interests, post their school name and the town where they live (This can make them easy targets for online predators and others who might mean them harm., receive online advertising that are inappropriate for their age.

**Concerns and Consequences**

Besides problems like cyberbullying and online predators, kids also can face the possibility of a physical encounter with the wrong person. Many newer apps automatically reveal the poster's location when they're used. This can tell anyone exactly where to find the person using the app.

And photos, videos, and comments made online usually can't be taken back once they're posted. Even when a teen thinks something has been deleted, it can be impossible to completely erase it from the Internet.

Posting an inappropriate photo can damage a reputation and cause problems years later — such as when a potential employer or college admissions officer does a background check. And sending a mean-spirited text, even as a joke, can be very hurtful to someone else and even taken as a threat. Spending too much time on social media can be a downer too. Seeing how many "friends" others have and the pictures of them having fun can make kids feel bad about themselves or like they don't measure up to their peers.

**What Can Parents Do?**

It's important to be aware of what your kids do online. The key is to stay involved in a way that makes your kids understand that you respect their privacy but want to make sure they're safe.

Tell your kids that it's important to:

- **Be nice.** Mean behavior is not OK. Make it clear that you expect your kids to treat others with respect.
- **Think twice before hitting "enter."** Remind children that what they post can be used against them.
- **Follow the "WWGS?" (What Would Grandma Say?) rule.** Teach kids not to share anything on social media that they wouldn't want their teachers, college admissions officers, future bosses — and yes, grandma — to see.
- **Use privacy settings.** Privacy settings are important.
- **Don't "friend" strangers.** "If you don't know them, don't friend them." This is a plain, simple — and safe — rule of thumb.

Parents also can help keep kids grounded in the real world by putting limits on media use. Keep computers in public areas in the house, avoid laptops and smartphones in bedrooms, and set some rules on the use of technology (such as no devices at the dinner table).

And don't forget: Setting a good example through your own virtual behavior can go a long way toward helping your kids use social media safely.