

# RIDGEBACK REGISTER

## CENTRAL RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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<http://cre.citruschools.org>

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PTA President: Kassie DiMase

Editor/Publisher: Kathy Withrington



### APRIL 2, 2018 DATES TO REMEMBER

4/10-4/11	Grade 3 FSA ELA Sessions 1 & 2
4/16-4/17	Grade 5 FSA Math Sessions 1 & 2
4/19-4/20	Grade 4 FSA Math Sessions 1 & 2
4/20	PTA Movie Night
4/23-4/30	Grade 3 FSA Math Sessions 1 & 2
4/30-5/1	Grade 5 NGSSS Science Sessions 1 & 2

Dear Parents,

The end of every nine weeks prompts a favorite event of Mrs. Homan and mine to occur—honor roll recognition for students in grades 3-5. We visit every classroom in these grade levels and present an honor roll dog tag to the recipients. We call the students one by one to the front of the room, where they shake their teacher's hand as well as ours (We spend time at the beginning of the year discussing the importance of the formal handshake, including eye contact, proper force, etc.), the class celebrates their success, and they receive their very large dog tag. After all honor students have been announced, we talk with the class about what actions they took to earn their honor roll status. They share their strategies with their peers and reflect on their successes. Common strategies include the completion of homework on a nightly basis, focusing on their teacher, asking questions when they don't understand a concept, and finding evidence in the text to support their thinking. We highlight students who are earning this status for the first time, asking them to lift out what they did differently this nine weeks compared to the previous nine weeks. In the context of their learning community, this is a meaningful process we use to celebrate our students' successes. It is heartwarming to see their support of one another and the encouragement they provide their peers.

Florida Standards Assessment in the areas of reading, math and science will begin shortly after our return from Spring Break and runs through May 18 (this includes time for make-up sessions). Free breakfast is available to our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders on test days. Our children are approaching these tests with determination and resolve. Their desire to please their families and us is touching. We are reminded of how fortunate we are at Central Ridge to have such hard-working, dedicated students. We attribute this to our committed staff and families. The honor of being in the top 10% of all title I schools in three areas, comes as no surprise when you see first-hand the quality of instruction our staff provide and the commitment of our children and their families to their education.

We are proud to share that two of our teachers have been recognized by the State of Florida as *High Impact Teachers*. In the elementary world, teachers who instruct 4th or 5th grade students are eligible for this recognition. A *High Impact Teacher* has caused significant learning gains for their students in ELA and/or Math, as determined by the state. Congratulations to Natalie Columbus and Beth Cornelius. Please see their photograph (above/right) in this newsletter.

Please call if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

*Nancy Simon*



*If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in a school event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance. Please contact Kathy Withrington at 352-344-3833, at least 7 days before the event, or immediately upon receiving this notification, if the time before the scheduled appearance is less than 7 days. If you utilize a service animal, please contact the school at least 15 days in advance to complete paperwork.*

Dear Ridgeback Families,

Happy Spring! It's not just the weather that has us skipping—we are overwhelmed at the support of another record-breaking book fair! We put over 1,500 books into the hands of our students, and we were able to fill teachers' wish lists with Scholastic Dollars! It was another great week! Thank you to our parent volunteers that helped all week!

This month we are hosting Family Movie Night on Friday, April 20. We will be showing Ferdinand. The movie and popcorn are free, and we will have food and candy available for purchase.

Next month is shaping up to be another great one! We will be pampering our staff for Staff Appreciation Week, hosting our last General Members PTA Meeting on May 8, and celebrating another great school year with some fun activities! Keep an eye on your students' folders and on our Facebook Page for updates.

Congratulations to the March Box Tops Winning Class:  
Ms. Lent (3rd)

Thank you again for your support!

Kassie, Jen, Nicole, Tiffany and Kimmy  
PTA Board Members



STRIVE FOR  
*progress*  
NOT  
PERFECTION

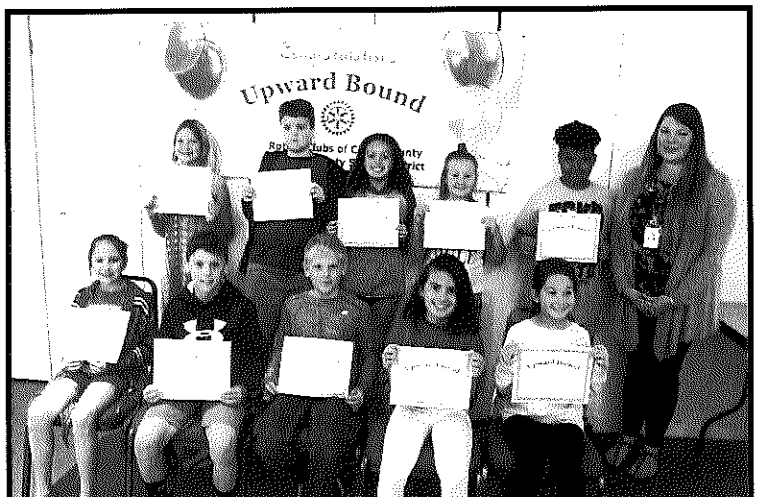


**So proud of CRE's  
High Impact  
Teachers!!**

**Beth Cornelius**  
(REACH Teacher)

&

**Natalie Columbus**  
(5th grade teacher)



### Congratulations to our 4th and 5th grade Upward Bound Students

Front Row: Ashlyn Foley, Connor Sloane, Tye Odom, Nova Armstrong, Avery Espada.  
Back Row: Emily Sharp, Nicholas Williamson, Aliyah Sepulveda, Kristen Mufford, Xannon Currie, Ms. Moore (4th grade teacher).  
Missing from photo: Gabrielle Neel

## COUNSELOR'S NOOK...

FSA (Florida Standards Assessments) testing began the week of March 5. The next round of testing will take place during the month of April and at the beginning of May. Please make every effort to ensure that students are present during testing.



Punctuality is of the utmost importance during the testing windows, as students will not be permitted to take Session 2 of the test until they have completed Session 1. Students who are tardy will not be permitted to test during that session, possibly impacting the student's overall success. Your support and encouragement is greatly appreciated and are vital to our students' success.

### Preparing Your Child For Testing:

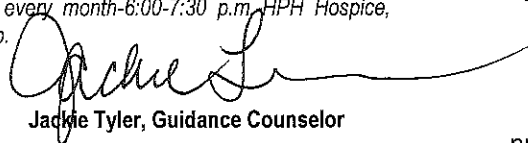
- \* Be certain that your child does not go to bed angry.
- \* Keep the usual routine and rules of your home and provide consistency.
- \* Consider talking about the test to offer positive words of encouragement and reassurance.
- \* Validate your child's feelings that tests can be difficult, but that taking them will provide them a chance to show others what they have learned.
- \* Consider playing educational games to get into the testing spirit.
- \* Avoid talking/arguing about problems within the home before the test, as this could impact the child's performance on the test.

**Middle School Orientation:** Orientation for all 5th graders will be on Tuesday, April 3. Students are required to attend the orientation at the school for which they are zoned, unless otherwise approved by Guidance. Students have already received letters about orientation, iPad agreements, and band sign-ups. Please return the iPad agreements and band slips for any students interested in 6th grade band, as soon as possible.

### HPH Hospice Family Night: Helping Families Cope with the Lose of a Loved One:

The death of a loved one can be a difficult experience, especially for children who may be uncertain how to express their sorrow. Grief impacts the whole family, but families often don't talk about how to grieve together. Grieving children may feel lost, alone, and deeply insecure with no words to describe their feelings. HPH would like to announce the start of Family Nights, providing a special place for families to come together and understand their grief. Families with children ages 5 and up can rebuild family connections, learn about grief, and develop ways to cope as a family in a caring and loving atmosphere. To address the unique needs of young grievers, Family Night encourages healing through art, games, dramatic play, and shared experiences. Adults will learn ways to reconnect with and help their children while understanding their own journey through grief. For more information on HPH Hospice Family Nights, please contact the Bereavement Department at 727-816-3647.

**Family Nights:** Second Tuesday of every month-6:00-7:30 p.m. HPH Hospice, 2939 W. Gulf to Lake Highway, Lecanto.

  
Jackie Tyler, Guidance Counselor

### Art World ...

This is the last chance to sign your second grade Ridgeback artist up for our yearly Ridgeback Art Camp! This is an artistic camp for second graders each morning during the week of April 9, from 8:15-8:45 a.m. We will be learning all about hand stitching and embroidery! Please pick up a form from the front office if your child is interested!

Mrs. Lavoie, Art Teacher



**Fifth Grade Musical is  
Friday, May 11!  
Doors open at 6:00 p.m.  
Curtain call is 6:30 p.m.**

### ESE News

**ESE PARENT SURVEY:** The 2017-2018 Exceptional Student Education (ESE) Parent survey will be open from February 1 to May 31, 2018. While paper surveys were provided for parents of all children receiving special education services, an online version is also available at [www.esesurvey.com](http://www.esesurvey.com). Please take a moment to provide feedback by completing this survey. The valuable information you give us will help us make decisions on the effectiveness of our services in meeting the needs of our students. Thank you for your time!

**SUMMER & FALL VPK APPLICATIONS:** Summer and Fall VPK applications are available at the district website, [www.citrus.k12.fl.us](http://www.citrus.k12.fl.us), or at CRE's front office. To attend **Summer VPK**, your child must be "4" on or before September 1, 2017. To attend **Fall VPK**, your child must be "4" on or before September 1, 2018. Should you have any questions, please contact Marline Soto at 352-344-3833, extension 4014.

### ESOL News ...

ESOL stands for "English for Speakers of Other Languages." ESOL is a program of English language instruction designed to help non-English speakers acquire English. Citrus County Public Schools utilize the mainstream/inclusion model. Central Ridge Elementary has a variety of tools available to students in order to help them achieve an acquired English language. Questions regarding the ESOL program or information on tools that can assist students, can be directed to one of the following:

CRE ESOL Facilitator: Jennifer Homan at 352-344-3833  
District ESOL Elementary Contact: Mollie Chandler  
at 352-726-1931

### TITLE I NEWS ...



Each week our students continue to be introduced to powerful vocabulary words known as "Top Dog Words." Kindergarten through fifth grade students participate in this school-wide practice to increase their schema in their reading competency. The words, along with their meanings, are posted throughout the school and students take part in sharing their creative sentences on the morning show, showcasing the Top Dog Words.

In order to help your child master these robust words, ask them to share their meanings, synonyms, antonyms, sentences, and even visuals that the words might represent. Repeated practice of the Top Dog Words will assist your child in applying them to their everyday language.

#### Top Dog Words – synonyms

evaluate-access, analyze-inspect,  
trace-track-down, formulate-workout,  
describe-report, contrast-difference, summarize-sum up,  
compare-similar, infer-conclude, explain-make clear,  
peruse-study, voracious-greedy,  
luminous-brilliant, apprehensive-worried,  
serenity-quietness, multitude-large quantity,  
pristine-perfect, attentive-alert, persistent-persevering,  
meticulous-precise, stamina-endurance

The Title I Team

### Central Ridge School Advisory Enhancement Council (SAEC)

The School Advisory Enhancement Council (SAEC) met on Tuesday, March 6. The meeting was attended by parents, community members, teachers, school staff, and our student representative. Mrs. Carlucci (5th grade teacher) gave a presentation on Mathematical Practices and our School Board Representative, Mr. Dodd, gave an overview of the proposed school safety bill and additional school safety measures.

Our final SAEC meeting of the school year is scheduled for Tuesday, May 1, at 4:15 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend!

Kassie DiMase & Jen Simmons  
CRE SAEC Co-Chairpersons



Join Central Ridge Elementary at the fifth annual Schoolhouse Hustle 5K-10K-1 Mile Walk on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at the CREST School/Lecanto Complex. The event will feature a free family health expo, YMCA kid zone, food and entertainment. The health expo and kid zone will be open from 7:00-11:00 a.m. with races beginning at 8:00 a.m. Free childcare will be provided by YMCA staff for participants during the event. Attendees are encouraged to wear their school colors and all participants can designate a Citrus County public school run/walk in support of (*participants are not required to be a student or staff member of their designated school*). The school with the most participants takes home the spirit stick trophy and \$1,000\*. To learn more and register, visit [www.schoolhousehustle.com](http://www.schoolhousehustle.com).

\*Two \$1,000 prizes will be awarded: to the school with the most participants and to the school with the highest participant/student ratio (based on enrollment). Limit one prize per school.